

Botanical Gardens in Reykjavík**24.04 - 07.05****ENVI / MANU****Age: 20+****Botanical Gardens in Reykjavík****08.05 - 21.05****ENVI / MANU****Age: 20+**

WORK/PROJECT: . The Botanical Gardens in Reykjavík are an outdoor collection of living plants, founded in 1961 and it celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2021. The gardens' main role is to conserve plants for education, research and delight. They conserve some 5000 plant species in eight plant collections. The collections give an idea of the enormous diversity of vegetation in the northern temperate zone. The garden is open to the public and free of charge.

The work will be doing general park maintenance and assisting the horticultural staff tending to the collection of perennials, alpine trees and shrubs in the garden. The garden organises guided tours and events throughout the summer, the volunteers may assist in their preparation. These special events are all related to the general aim and work of the garden and some of them are carried out at short notice.

The work can be repetitive as general gardening tasks tend to be and most of it is outdoors. The project starts early every weekday: working hours are from 8:00 - 15:00, except on Fridays, when work finishes at 12:00 as a part of an ongoing research into shortening the working week. You have to be motivated to start work early in the morning, but in compensation they will have more free time in the afternoon.

No previous experience is necessary. As it is outdoor work, be ready to adapt and be flexible with the working and free-time schedule, as depending on the weather, we may not be able to perform some of the tasks or activities planned.

ACCOMMODATION: in an equipped house, in a beautiful setting in the Botanical Gardens of Reykjavík, which are located about 4 kilometres from the centre of the city. The facilities are basic with a kitchen, showers, and a washing machine. Everyone is expected to show consideration for their companions. Participants will sleep in shared rooms or dormitories. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

Please note that participants from other projects may also be staying in the same house. The participants will receive food supplies and be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Do not forget to bring some traditional/typical food, drinks, recipes, music, games or movies from your country for the international evening. Please be aware some items or ingredients may be expensive in Iceland and you will need to buy them yourselves or bring them from your country.

LOCATION: Reykjavík is a dynamic, modern city which lives in harmony with nature, using renewable energy sources such as geothermal power. About two thirds of the population of Iceland live in Reykjavík including the metropolitan area; over 200,000 people.

The world's northernmost capital bridges the Atlantic, between Europe and North America. Reykjavík is spread across a peninsula with a panoramic view of the mountains and the Atlantic. Visitors easily experience the pure energy at the heart of Iceland's capital, whether from the boiling thermal energy underground, the natural green energy within the city and around it, or the lively culture and fun-filled nightlife.

Island of Viðey**10.05 - 19.05****ENVI / CONS / RENO****Age: 18+**

WORK/PROJECT: Opportunity to work on the historical island of Viðey for the 16th year in a row with our host, the city of Reykjavík.

Viðey is a popular destination during the summer among Icelandic and foreign visitors. The participants will help prepare the island for the autumn/winter season. You will beautify the surroundings by cleaning up the area, especially along the coastline, for instance by hand-picking garbage or collecting trash blown by the wind or brought by the sea to the shores and surroundings.

The participant may carry out some gardening activities as well and possibly make and maintain walking paths. Well maintained paths enable people to visit the area without damaging it and this important work also helps to improve safety for visitors. Depending on the advance of the project and weather conditions, you may have other possible tasks such as checking up and repairing garden furniture.

The working day normally runs from 09:00 - 17:00 with breaks for lunch and coffee; however, please be prepared for some flexibility due to the nature of Iceland's changeable weather.

The weather conditions in Iceland are unpredictable and the temperature in May can drop during the evenings. Be prepared to experience all kinds of weather and be sure of bringing warm clothing, since most of the work will take place outdoors. You should have motivation to work outside and work in all kinds of weather, as it can get cold and rainy. Bring warm and/or waterproof clothes (overcoats, scarves, gloves and hats) walking shoes/boots, as the activities take place outside.

As it is outdoors work, you shall be ready to adapt and be flexible with the working and free-time schedule, as depending on the weather, we may not be able to perform some of the tasks or activities planned.

ACCOMMODATION: You will be lodged in a local house on Viðey Island, in shared rooms. Please bring your own sleeping bag. The house has an equipped kitchen. The participants will receive food ingredients and be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Do not forget to bring some traditional/typical food from your home country for the international evening.

LOCATION: Viðey or "Wood Island" is the largest (1.7 km²) island in the Kollafjörður Bay, just outside Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland. The island is covered by many species of plants and at least 30 species of breeding birds have been counted here. Viðey was inhabited from soon after the settlement of Iceland already in the 10th century and at the beginning of the 20th century around 100 people lived there. Today the island is uninhabited.

There is a regular ferry connection between the island and the harbour of Reykjavík. The island is only a few hundred metres away from the city and the trip takes a few minutes. This makes Viðey so special; it is a peaceful place, very close to the busy city life of the capital. There are hiking and cycling paths around the island and there is no motor traffic allowed. It also features intriguing sculptural artwork, amongst them all nine pairs of basalt pillars that comprise Richard Serra's work "Áfangar" and Yoko Ono's "Imagine Peace" column, a tower of light, which is supported by the widow of John Lennon. Other places of interest on Viðey are related to archaeological research.

Environment & Photography - Spring in Reykjavík

26.04 - 05.05

ENVI / ARTS / STUD

8 - 12 Participants

Age: 18+

PROJECT: During this camp, participants can share their love for (and learn more about) global & local environmental issues, as well as photography. If you are interested in topics such as climate change, waste management, animal protection and sustainability, and you also love taking photographs or want to develop your photography skills, then this project is for you!

While developing artistic and technical photography skills, you will be focusing on environmental and sustainability issues through non-formal activities such as workshops, discussions, presentations and visits facilitated by SEEDS. One of our aims is to help create more environmentally aware consumers & travellers!

You will visit local projects on environment and conservation. These may include hands-on activities or guided visits. Some examples include outdoor cleanup tasks, a community dinner or a visit to a recycling centre, a geothermal power plant, a museum or exhibition. Some of these activities are dependent on conditions such as weather, pandemic-related restrictions, as well as availability of our partner organisations.

You will also have time to put the theory about photography into practice, walking around and exploring the city. At the end of the camp, the best photographs from each participant are selected for an online exhibition on SEEDS' social media. Participants should bring their own digital cameras, lenses, tripods and laptops if possible.

Programme combines learning, sharing, hands-on activities, getting to know Iceland, its culture, having fun, exploring the city and stunning natural attractions in the Golden Circle or other excursions. Participants should prepare to share environmental issues from their countries and should be ready to spend time outdoors walking medium distances during activities and sightseeing.

Note this project is a learning/sharing camp. This project has a smaller work part and puts a bigger emphasis on the personal learning process than on the community impact.

In this project SEEDS will organise a night photography and aurora hunting (Northern Lights) workshop in the countryside near Reykjavík. This will take place during late evening and possibly into the night. **Northern lights are a natural phenomenon depending on solar activity and meteorological conditions; we cannot guarantee you will see northern lights, but the night photography workshop will be organised anyway.**

ACCOMMODATION: SEEDS participants will stay in a house in Reykjavík. The facilities are basic with a kitchen, showers, and a washing machine. Everyone is expected to show consideration for their companions. Participants will sleep in shared rooms or dormitories. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

Participants will receive food supplies and will be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Please note the food SEEDS provides will be **vegetarian**. Do not forget to bring some traditional/typical food, drinks, recipes, music, games or movies from your country for the intercultural evening. Please be aware some items or ingredients may be expensive in Iceland and you will need to buy them yourselves or bring them from your country.

LOCATION: Reykjavík is a dynamic, modern city which lives in harmony with nature, using renewable energy sources. The world's northernmost capital bridges the Atlantic, between Europe and North America. Reykjavík is spread across a peninsula with a panoramic view of the mountains and the Atlantic. It is an international city with a lively cosmopolitan cultural scene surrounded by beautiful nature.

LANGUAGE: English will be the language in the camp; intermediate conversational skills are needed.

TERMINAL: Closest international Airport: Keflavík/Reykjavík (KEF). Bus station: Central Reykjavík (BSÍ).

Environment & Photography - May

11.05 - 20.05

ENVI / ARTS / STUD

8 - 12 Participants

Age: 18+

PROJECT: During this camp, participants can share their love for (and learn more about) global & local environmental issues, as well as photography. If you are interested in topics such as climate change, waste management, animal protection and sustainability, and you also love taking photographs or want to develop your photography skills, then this project is for you!

While developing artistic and technical photography skills, you will be focusing on environmental and sustainability issues through non-formal activities such as workshops, discussions, presentations and visits facilitated by SEEDS. One of our aims is to help create more environmentally aware consumers & travellers!

You will visit local projects on environment and conservation. These may include hands-on activities or guided visits. Some examples include outdoor cleanup tasks, a community dinner or a visit to a recycling centre, a geothermal power plant, a local museum or exhibition. Some of these activities are dependent on conditions such as weather, pandemic-related restrictions, as well as availability of our partner organisations.

You will also have time to put the theory about photography into practice, walking around and exploring the city. At the end of the camp, the best photographs from each participant are selected for an online exhibition on SEEDS' social media. Participants should bring their own digital cameras, lenses, tripods and laptops if possible.

SEEDS' programme combines learning, sharing, hands-on activities, getting to know Iceland, its culture, having fun, exploring the city and stunning natural attractions in the Golden Circle or other excursions. Participants should prepare to share environmental issues from their countries and should be ready to spend time outdoors walking medium distances during activities and sightseeing.

Note this project is a learning/sharing project. This project has a smaller work part and puts a bigger emphasis on the personal learning process than on the community impact.

ACCOMMODATION: SEEDS participants will stay in a house in Reykjavík. The facilities are basic with a kitchen, showers and a washing machine. Everyone is expected to show consideration for their companions. Participants will sleep in shared rooms or dormitories. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

Volunteers will receive food supplies and will be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Please note the food SEEDS provides will be **vegetarian**. Do not forget to bring some traditional/typical food, drinks, recipes, music, games or movies from your country for the intercultural evening. Please be aware some items or ingredients may be expensive in Iceland and you will need to buy them yourselves or bring them from your country.

LOCATION: Reykjavík is a dynamic, modern city which lives in harmony with nature, using renewable energy sources. The world's northernmost capital bridges the Atlantic, between Europe and North America. Reykjavík is spread across a peninsula with a panoramic view of the mountains and the Atlantic. It is an international city with a lively cosmopolitan cultural scene surrounded by beautiful nature.

LANGUAGE: English will be the language in the camp; intermediate conversational skills are needed.

TERMINAL: Closest international Airport: Keflavík/Reykjavík (KEF). Bus station: Central Reykjavík (BSÍ).

SEEDS 016. Construction & Manual work by Mount Esja

01.05 - 14.05

CONS / MANU / ENVI

8 Volunteers

Age: 18+

PROJECT: This is the second year that SEEDS participants support this project in Kjalarnes. Our hosts are developing a holistic and permaculture skill centre aimed towards improving people's connection with nature and themselves. They offer courses, workshops, retreats, ceremonies and events related to permaculture and alternative lifestyle. Under the mountain Esja they offer people a path in which to meet themselves in a unique way within "the arms" of this magical mountain.

Previous groups assisted with the project of transforming some Reykjavík buses into small cabin units. This Up-cycling project was a great success and is a core part of their mission to inspire humanity towards an environmental state of consciousness in a playful, creative manner.

The project that now lies ahead is part of offering experiences that allow for transformation and wellness. The participants will help create an Icelandic style Sweat Lodge, a traditional style turf and rock building that people sit within and experience the heat from rocks (heated on fire) and steam as water is poured on those rocks.

No previous experience is needed but some carpentry skills or experience on earth work to create the rock and turf walls may be helpful. In any case there will be a chief carpenter and team leader.

This is an exciting opportunity for people with passion, interest and stamina to be a part of the development of this unique centre and to get to know the ideology behind it. The project is mostly using natural materials or reusing/repurposing old ones to build up the centre and to beautify the surrounding environment.

SEEDS participants may also help to beautify the surroundings of the farm by landscaping, laying turf, picking up trash and working on paths to protect the area from unnecessary passage and harm. Participants might also do some renovation tasks, such as painting.

Participants need motivation to work outdoors in changeable weather conditions. As most of the project happens outdoors, participants should be ready to adapt and be flexible with the work and free-time schedule, as depending on the changeable weather, we may not be able to perform some of the activities (as) planned.

ACCOMMODATION: SEEDS participants will be sleeping in shared rooms or in the repurposed buses. The facilities are basic with a kitchen, showers, and a washing machine. Please bring your own sleeping bag. Everyone is expected to show consideration for their companions in the shared accommodation.

Participants will receive food supplies and will be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Do not forget to bring some traditional/typical food, drinks, recipes, music, games or movies from your country for the intercultural evening.

Please be aware some items or ingredients may be expensive in Iceland and you will need to buy them yourselves or bring them from your country.

LOCATION: The old farm in Kjalarnes is located about 30 minutes away from the capital Reykjavik with all its attractions. From the location you can walk to the beach or up the mountain, go horseback riding, find Hot Springs, Lava fields, waterfalls and Þingvellir, one of our finest National parks lies within an hour drive. Mosfellsbær, the nearest town, has an excellent thermal pool with a sauna, gym and jacuzzi hot tubs, a golf course, craft shops and food shops.

LANGUAGE: English will be the language in the camp; basic conversational skills are needed.

TERMINAL: Closest international Airport: Keflavík/Reykjavík (KEF). Bus station: Central Reykjavík (BSÍ).