

Project title:	Life at the HI Hostels / Lífið á Farfuglaheimilum
Coordinating and hosting organisation:	HI Iceland / Farfuglar ses.
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HI Iceland, background and experience

Farfuglar ses – Hostelling International (HI) Iceland has a long and positive experience hosting EVS volunteers. Since 2006 HI Iceland has hosted over 20 long term EVS volunteers and gained sufficient experience, confidence and capabilities to coordinate and host at the same time volunteers.

HI Iceland is a non-governmental and non-profit membership organization established in 1939. The organisation is a member of Hostelling International (HI), a global network of Youth Hostel Associations, of over 4000 hostels with members in more than 80 countries. Membership means that the Icelandic hostels fulfil the international standards for HI Hostels. Its mission as stated in its constitution:

Opening the World to Youth: "To promote the education of all young people of all nations, but specially young people of limited means, by encouraging in them a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside and an appreciation of the cultural values of towns and cities in all parts of the world, and as an ancillary thereto, to provide hostels or other accommodation in which there shall be no distinction of race, nationality, colour, religion, sex, class or political opinions and thereby to develop a better understanding of their fellow men, both at home and abroad."

Since its inception the organisation's main goal has been to promote and encourage people of all ages to travel and to increase their knowledge and appreciation of nature and culture.

The Hostel network enables young people of different nationalities, cultures and social background to meet informally, share experiences; learn about themselves, each other and their surroundings. Hostels foster a remarkable international awareness about current issues such as environmental issues, sustainable tourism and sustainable development as a whole.

Hostelling also has a fundamental, but unofficial, role in the development of young people as future employees in a global market. The hostel environment encourages social awareness and the importance of living in a community, plus it develops the kind of self-discipline skills that result from experiencing different situations, having to make individual decisions and learning from them.

The organization has slowly but surely grown, owning now 3 hostels in Reykjavík (Reykjavík City Hostel, Reykjavík Downtown Hostel and Reykjavík Loft Hostel), 1 hostel in Borgarnes, and every year in cooperation with 30 franchised hostels around the country. Additionally, HI Iceland runs the Reykjavík Campsite and Slyppugil campsite in Þórsmörk.

In April 2016, the Board of HI Iceland has adopted a new Mission, Vision and Sustainability Policy which reinforces the organization's commitment to bring its contribution to sustainable tourism in Iceland.

The organization's newly adopted vision is:

„To be at the forefront of sustainable and responsible tourism and the first choice for those who choose to travel with the interests of nature in mind as well as respect for fellow travellers and hosts.“

Additionally, HI Iceland, has already experience in working with Youth and also hosting volunteers during the last 14 years: through an agreement with Dutch, Latvian and Danish Universities – every

year 4 to 8 volunteers arrive to the Reykjavík Hostels for periods of time between 3 and 6 months. These volunteers are in the same age range as within the Youth in Action Program (between 18 and 30 years old) and they are doing their internship in reception, housekeeping, breakfast etc.

The HI Hostels are establishments that provide budget accommodation, promoting the movement of youth throughout the world, with emphasis upon encounters and understanding between people. With a tradition of intercultural exchange and the practice of a communal lifestyle, youth hostels exist as places of learning, listening and discovery. Moreover, HI Hostels offer an environment particularly well suited to school groups with collective dormitories, classrooms/meeting rooms and a board service.

Life at the HI hostels

Objectives and goals

The main aim of the project is to offer effective information-promotion of applied sustainability at the HI Hostels and to emphasize the role of hostelling and youth in sustainable tourism and its contribution to the global movement towards sustainable development.

Previously, the material produced in the project can be categorized into three:

1. Sustainability at the HI Hostels
2. Events in the HI Hostels
3. HI Hostels Introductions

The project is meant to capture the hostel life and the way we apply the concept of sustainability in hostelling through testimonies from both staff and guests, in photos and short introductory videos. This aspect includes activities that refer to all 3 pillars of sustainability: social, economic and environment. In this way we believe we can help and inspire others to shift from a conventional thinking and practices to a sustainable, community based life, in harmony with the surrounding environment. As stated in our mission, HI Iceland seeks ways to increase the knowledge and appreciation of nature and culture of its staff and guests.

HI Iceland aims at passing on the knowledge gained to the national and international public. The hostels have developed throughout the years not only good ecological thinking and practices, but also values and capability in regards to the economic and especially social sector, as the hostel environment is already recognized for its high social impact.

Role and activities

The role of the volunteer is to capture the vibes at the HI hostels that represent the sustainability within their operations.

The project is divided into five main parts:

- a) On arrival training

During the first weeks of the volunteers stay in Iceland he/she will have several introduction and training meetings as well as on-site training by the various Reykjavík HI Hostels. The volunteer will learn about the EVS project, Iceland and the Icelandic culture as well as the operations of HI Iceland.

b) Working at the Reykjavík HI Hostels

This is the main part of the project where the volunteer will use different ways to represent and share the sustainability processes in the hostels:

- Recording interviews with the travelers, guests staying at the hostels, collecting testimonies about their view on Icelandic nature and sustainability practices noticed at the HI Iceland hostels.
- Taking photos, shooting videos with the daily and regular quality and sustainability practices of the Icelandic HI Hostels.
- Recording and promoting concerts as well as other events in the HI Iceland hostels.
- Presenting the HI Hostels as a social place to meet travelers and share life experiences.
- Feeding social media with images and posts from events and operations in the HI hostels.

c) Planning and visiting the franchised hostels (*only possible during summer months*).

In this stage of the project the volunteer will have the opportunity to plan with the project coordinator visits to some of the franchised HI Hostels. They are mostly small hostels, open few months per year and have interesting sustainability projects to share. The main purpose for the visit of the volunteer is to catch the atmosphere in the franchised hostel and to share their character within the HI Iceland as well as outside of the organisation.

d) Reykjavík Campsite (*during the summer months*)

During the summer the volunteer will also be able to grasp the lively spirit of the campsite in Reykjavík and share it through different documentaries.

e) Evaluation and planning stage for the upcoming volunteers

In the final period of the voluntary service, the volunteer will have the time to evaluate her/his whole experience and the results of the work. At the end of her/his stay in Iceland, she/he shall prepare a set of recommendations and/or suggestions to continue with the tasks by a new volunteer, as well as train them. Advice and guidance concerning the stages and possible sources of information, contacts and gathered data should be offered in order to smooth the transfer of responsibilities.

During all these stages, the volunteer will edit his production but closer to the end of the project the volunteer will ensure that her/his material is securely stored within HI Iceland.

Timeline

HI Iceland - Farflugur ses

Life at the HI Hostels - EVS Volunteer 2017-2018

Last updated: 24.03.2017 AMW

Name of the volunteer:	2016			2017											
	October	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. On arrival training and getting to know more about the practical life at the hostels (app. 4 weeks)	█	█	█												
During the first days of the volunteer's stay in Iceland, he/she will have several introduction and training meetings.															
a. On-arrival training with the coordinating and hosting organization, HI Iceland. Here the volunteer will get to know more about the EVS project, Iceland and the Icelandic culture as well as getting to know other volunteers, trainees and staff at the Reykjavik Hostels.															
b. After getting to know the team and practices at the Reykjavik Hostels, the volunteer will get a deeper insight in the hostels work from the Heads of Receptions from all 3 Reykjavik Hostels.															
c. On-arrival training organized by the Icelandic National-Agency.															
After these steps have been completed, the volunteer will get training from the project co-ordinators about the organization and about the chain of hostels. He/She will be given enough information and resources as knowledge on the association, its aims, philosophy and Sustainability Policy. Part of the orientation should be to live in the Hostel, talk to the guests from their side, take part in the activities that are in offer outside of the city and from the Hostel Team, getting to know the Reykjavik Hostels as the main work field.															
In order to get familiarized with the hostel's principles, the volunteer's enthusiasm, curiosity, willingness to engage in conversations and activism are of big importance.															
2. Working at the Reykjavik Hostels (app. 24 weeks)				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
This is the main part of the project where the volunteer will use different ways to represent and share the sustainability processes in the hostels:															
• Recording interviews with the travelers, guests staying at the hostels, collecting testimonies about their view on Icelandic nature and sustainability practices noticed at the HI Iceland hostels.															
• Taking photos, shooting videos with the daily and regular quality and sustainability practices of the Icelandic HI Hostels.															
• Recording and promoting concerts as well as other events in the HI Iceland hostels.															
• Presenting the HI Hostels as a social place to meet travelers and share life experiences.															
• Feeding social media with images and posts from events and operations in the HI hostels.															
3. Planning and visiting the franchised hostels to gather material (app. 18 weeks)															
In this stage of the project the volunteer will have the opportunity to plan with the project coordinator visits to some of the franchised HI Hostels. They are mostly small hostels, open few months per year and have interesting sustainability projects to share. The main purpose for the visit of the volunteer is to catch the atmosphere in the franchised hostel and to share their character within the HI Iceland as well as outside of the organisation.															
4. Reykjavik Campsite (During June- August, app. 2-3 weeks)															
During the summer the volunteer will also be able to grasp the lively spirit of the campsite in Reykjavik and share it through different documentaries.															
5. Evaluation and planning stage for the upcoming volunteers (up to 4 weeks)															
In the final period of the voluntary service, the volunteer will have the time to evaluate her/his whole experience and the results of the work. At the end of her/his stay in Iceland, she/he shall prepare a set of recommendations and/or suggestions to continue with the tasks by a new volunteer, as well as train them. Advice and guidance concerning the stages and possible sources of information, contacts and gathered data should be offered in order to smooth the transfer of responsibilities.															
During all stages, the volunteer will edit his production but closer to the end of the project the volunteer will ensure that her/his material is securely stored within HI Iceland.															
<i>Note: During all these stages, regular meetings will be held with the project co-ordinators. The volunteer will have enough time to develop and implement their own ideas.</i>															

Practicalities

- a) Housing
- b) The volunteers will be living in Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland. The volunteer will be lodged in a house shared by the volunteers and trainees working at the Reykjavik Hostels. The volunteers will share the room with max 1 person during the high season, but for app. 6 months, the volunteer could have his/her own room. They will sleep in a single bed with a comfortable mattress, and will share the facilities (kitchen, bathroom, laundry etc) with the other volunteers and trainees living in the house.
- c) Transport
The volunteer will be given a bus card for the public transport within Reykjavík as well as she/he will have the opportunity to use bicycle as a mean of transport. The accommodation is located 10-15 min by bus from the city centre.
- d) Work place
The work of the volunteer will mainly be based in one of the three Reykjavík HI Hostels but she/he will have the opportunity to work on his editing at the main office of HI Iceland. All are close to the city centre and with good acces by bus and bike.
- e) HI Iceland will provide the volunteer with technical equipment to record/take photos, although the volunteer can use her/his own equipment if she/he would like to.
- f) Catering
Half board during working days (breakfasts and lunches) will be provided/prepared by/at the Reykjavík HI Hostel, while dinner will be prepared by the volunteers themselves in the apartment, provided by an extra monthly allowance from HI Iceland. Close to the apartment is a supermarket, a bus station, a swimming pool and the sea is just 2-3 min walking distance away.
- g) Intercultural learning
The volunteer will be living in a very International environment, both at work and in the apartment; therefore we strongly believe that the significant Intercultural-learning side of the project will be one of the greatest benefits for the volunteers. During free time, on irregularly basis and free of cost, volunteers will have the possibility to join excursion tours and travel for shorter and longer excursions out of the city to explore the country.
- h) Working hours
Volunteers will work 5 days a week around 35 h (not including lunchtime), usually Mon-Fri, and will have 2 days off per week. The schedule of activities will be decided jointly once the volunteer arrives during the first stage. Holidays are foreseen as 2 days/month. Working hours are flexible as some activities will take place out of regular working hours, in evenings or weekends. Also, there can be days which require more working hours but they will be compensated with shorter working hours in other days.

- i) The work involved in this project might be physically demanding as it requires traveling and a reasonable level of physical fitness and health are needed. The work can be intensive and demanding so both commitment and patience are required. The project involves both shooting outdoors sceneries and activities and, as weather conditions in Iceland are variable and often challenging, we recommend volunteers to be prepared for possible harsh situations.

Learning opportunities and Youth Pass

The team working at the HI Iceland Hostels is an international group with different background. Working in such an environment, the volunteers will highly develop their skills in communicating in a foreign language. The volunteers will here get to know environmental practical work applied in the accommodation sector, which is special since it deals with people moving constantly and brings certain issues regarding the modern consuming world. The volunteer will get an insight into life at the Icelandic HI hostels, and explore issues related to the environment and responsible tourism, developing in this way his/her learning to learn abilities and sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

The volunteer will have the chance to organize his/her own learning, self discipline and self motivation, along with the support offered by the project coordinators. Working with flexibility in changing or developing situations will play an invaluable role in their professional life further and provides the volunteer with entrepreneurial skills. Also, a high cultural awareness and expression will be developed as a result of this international environment and through his/her work of capturing visually the vibe of the hostels.

The volunteer will learn to actively engage in conversations, spread values and the sustainability concept through images and videos and create positive change.

Also, being in contact with different international key actors within the Hostelling International network, helps volunteers to broaden their global perspective in relation with environmental and social issues.

Based on the learning opportunities described above, during this project, the volunteer will develop strong skills in the following fields:

- Communication in foreign languages as the daily language used will be mainly English.
- Communication in the mother tongue might not always be applicable but as mentioned above the volunteer will be living and working in an international environment where many languages are spoken.
- Learning to learn as the volunteers will have the chance to organize and develop his/her own learning and will always look for ways to capture/promote sustainability aspects in interesting ways.
- Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship as the volunteer will have the chance to materialize her/his dreams and implement their ideas in an engaging and motivated environment. He/She will have to chance to explore different ways of filming and taking photographs and perfect in this way his/her artistic and professional style. Volunteers can propose and try new ways and visions of spreading the hostelling and sustainability concepts. Done is better than perfect and the volunteers are encouraged to explore their potential, fail and succeed. Learning and self-developing are key concepts in our EVS projects.

- Cultural awareness and expression by living in an international environment and also by learning to integrate step by step in the Icelandic society.
- Social and civic competence will be highly developed through meetings, interviews and daily engagement with staff members, guests staying at the hostels, and other partners.
- Digital competence by compiling and processing the videos/portfolio. During the project, part of the communication will be conducted online, through emails and written materials on the social media.
- Mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology will be mainly developed during the video shooting planning and during the sustainability training.

Profile of volunteer and recruitment process

We would like volunteers applying for this project to have a strong motivation and dedication for working inside an international group in order to capture in inspiring photos and videos the essence of the quality, environmental, social, responsible tourism, educational and practical activities at the hostels.

Volunteer's enthusiasm, creativity and interest in order to engage with people, to work in team but also willingness to accept personal responsibilities are highly appreciated. A readiness to work with flexibility in changing or developing situations is essential, as well as an ability to occasionally work in high-pressure situations.

Particular interest in environmental issues, in sustainability, culture and responsible travelling will be very useful when developing the activities and training staff members. English language skills are of a big advantage, while Icelandic is not a requirement. Artistic skills or digital competences are also highly appreciated but not mandatory. Previous basic background in photography/video recording are needed plus an open minded and enthusiastic attitude.

Volunteers have to be between 18 and 30 years old. Gender is of no importance. Ethnic groups, religion, sexual orientation or political opinions are not taken into account. There are no special, specific qualifications or practical skills needed, as training will be given and constant support offered – the volunteer must be though able to follow up with his/her aims and motivation to learn and develop.

The project's specific requires the volunteer to be active, keep an open mind, be extrovert, be independent and ready to set personal goals and achieve them in order to create an eventful experience.

Candidates will be asked to send us their application via on line portal <http://www.hostel.is/Joinus/>

The following documents are needed to complete the application form:

- CV – Attached to the application form (.pdf document)
- Motivation letter – Attached to the application form (.pdf document)
- Video CV – Upload a short video of you