

## **U3a Holiday Group – holiday to Iceland, February 2025**

The Holiday Group went on a visit to Iceland in early February 2025. It was very successful: an interesting place, kind weather and the company of good friends. Fourteen of us stayed four nights in a hotel in central Reykjavik, the northernmost capital in the world. The hotel was very welcoming and served a good variety of food. It was within easy reach of the town centre and when we had no planned excursions was an easy way to see some spectacular sights easily accessible on foot.

The preplanned trips included a night-time boat ride to see the Northern Lights. Unfortunately, only a slight green streak appeared but the ride was exciting and the commentary fascinating. Next day we had a visit to a lagoon to indulge in a geothermal spa experience. Then the Golden Circle super jeep tour gave us a real taste of how extensive Iceland is and how appropriate to be classified as a World Heritage Site. We saw Althing, the world's oldest parliament set up by the Vikings, the two tectonic plates that separate North America and Eurasia, boiling water geysers bursting out of the ground and a waterfall cascading 32 metres down a steep hillside.

Then to a tomato farm. What? Yet another unique experience! Hothouses full of lush tomatoes and splendid geraniums grown indoors using geothermal energy. The tomatoes tasted delicious!

Finally, we were able to meet a few members of the local u3a over a pleasant meal in the hotel's garden bistro and learned some more about life in Iceland. A lovely finale for our trip.