

CULTURE SHOCK - HOW ICELAND SURPRISED POLISH STUDENTS

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SAFETY

- Low criminality
- 200 prisoners on the whole Iceland
- People in small towns don't close their houses and cars because they know and trust each other



FREE TIME

- Because of the cold, windy climate and lack of many cafes and restaurants, instead of going for a walk Icelanders like to drive around the town or meet in houses.
- They have many integrative games and many school festivals and parties that are often held.



STUDENTS WORK

- It's common to see students working after their lessons.
- We can meet them almost everywhere. Petrol stations, restaurants, guest houses, fish factory – these are the places where they work, especially during summer.
- Many of them are also involved in the voluntary work.
- On Iceland the number of lessons is smaller that's why they have more time for working.



NUTRITIONAL HABITS

- Icelanders drink a lot of pure, icy cold water
- A lot of people don't eat breakfast at home, but instead they get free oatmeal at school
- In Iceland typical dinner time is about 8 PM
- It's common to eat more meat than vegetables and fruits



YOUTH RIGHTS

- Age of majority is 18, just like in Poland
- You can get a driving license by 17, but with guidance from your parents you can drive at 16
- Smoking is allowed from 18
- Drinking is not an offence, but it is prohibited to sell alcohol to someone under 20 years old (also, alcohol can't be bought at regular convenience stores, only in those which specialize exclusively in alcohol)



TIME

- Icelandic markets and stores, usually open around 9 or 10 am and close at 5 or 6 pm
- Icelanders don't mind being late. Timing seems to be a stretchy thing for them. Students join classes late without any problems, and apparently it is the same when it comes to other parts of Icelandic life.



SUMMARY

Thanks to our visit we were able to get to know Iceland better and see the habits of people living there. Although we saw many differences between our lifestyles, there were also many similarities and after all we can say that our cultures are not so different as we thought at the very beginning.

Iceland is definitely a beautiful country worth seeing by everyone and we sincerely recommend visiting it ;)