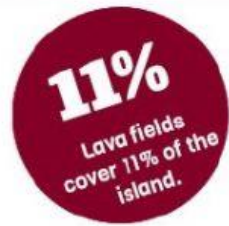


Iceland

Land of ice and fire



Volcanic island

Iceland is one of the most active volcanic regions in the world with 35 active volcanoes. On average there is one eruption every 3-5 years. The eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 produced a giant ash cloud, which caused the disruption of international air travel, affecting economic, political and cultural activities throughout the world.



Iceland consists of a central plateau circled by mountains. However, only 1% of the land is arable.

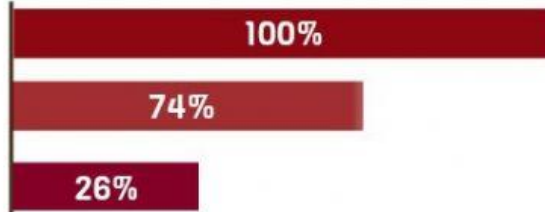


63% of Iceland is wasteland, while 11% is snow fields and glaciers, but only 1% is forested.

Renewable energy

Electricity

100% of Iceland's electricity is produced by renewable energy. 74% is produced by hydropower, while 26% is produced by geothermal power.



Interesting facts:



0°C

Iceland has milder winters than most chilly and frosty European countries—the lowlands average 0°C and the highlands -10°C



40 metres

The most active geyser is Strokkur. It erupts every 4-8 minutes, throwing hot water 40 metres into the air.



60%

60% of the population live in the capital Reykjavik



21 hours

The longest day is in June. The sun rises at 3 am and sets at midnight.

Zero - Iceland has no army, navy or airforce.

Heating:

Geothermal heating meets the heating and hot water requirements of 87% of the nation's households.

ICELAND

1 Work in pairs. Make a list of compound words beginning with *ice*, for example *ice cream* or *ice-skating*.

2 Read the infographic about Iceland and answer the questions.

- How many active volcanoes are there in Iceland? _____
- What effect did the ash cloud have in 2010? _____
- How does Iceland produce electricity? _____
- What is the average temperature in winter? _____
- What kind of heating do households have? _____
- What percentage of the population does not live in the capital? _____
- What time does the sun rise on the longest day? _____
- What armed forces does Iceland have? _____

3 Read the infographic again and find words that mean the following.

- a large flat area of land that is higher than the land around it _____
- hot water and steam that shoot up out of the earth _____
- an area of land that is empty or cannot be used _____
- an area of land covered with trees _____
- land that is suitable for growing crops _____
- energy that is obtained from falling water _____
- energy that is obtained from the heat in the ground _____
- an area of land at a high level and consists of hills and mountains _____

4 The following words are connected to hot and cold weather. What are the differences between each pair?

- mild / bitter _____

- Indian summer / heatwave _____

- frosty / chilly _____

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4. balmy / scorching _____

5. blustery / fresh _____

5 Complete each sentence with words from exercise 4.

1. It is really _____ up there. They could be blown off the mountain.
2. It has been a really _____ winter with the highest temperatures in Iceland since 1998.
3. The weather is unusually warm for this late in the year – it’s almost winter. Can we call it a(n) _____?
4. Be careful not to slip and fall. Remember it is _____ this morning in Reykjavík.
5. He looked out onto the plateau and sat down to enjoy the beautiful _____ summer’s evening.

6 What three pieces of information about your country would you include in an informative tourist brochure? Give reasons for your choice.

- _____

- _____

- _____
