



Teach at the edge

Customised courses
at the **Svartárkot** Centre
for Research & Education,
Iceland

Subject no object

Much of Iceland's landscape bears witness to a dynamic interaction between humans and nature stretching back over 1,100 years.

As Europe's geologically youngest country, its last to be settled by humans, and most sparsely populated, Iceland provides a unique opportunity to study this fascinating relationship at first hand, and the Svartárkot Centre for Research & Education is dedicated to facilitating these studies in whatever form they may take.

Drawing on the extensive experience gained from conducting our own in-house teaching programmes, the Svartárkot Centre offers academics and universities from around the world a unique opportunity to plan and conduct courses of their own design at any location in Iceland, by utilising the expertise of the Centre's personnel to organise them.

Flexible both in concept and design, each course is custom-tailored to meet the needs of organisers, teachers and students alike regardless of subject matter or scale.

Course materials and curricula are limited only by the needs and imagination of the organiser, and study may be based on any discipline at all, such as anthropology, archaeology, biology, geography, geology, environmental studies, literature, social studies, tourism studies or photography.



Dynamic alternative

Established in 1997, the Reykjavík Academy (www.akademia.is) is a vibrant community of independent scholars that has established a growing reputation for challenging scholarly conventions and providing a dynamic alternative to traditional universities.

In 2005, the Academy joined forces with the local community in one of Iceland's most remote settlements to launch the Svartárkot Centre for Research & Education, an international body dedicated to exploring the intricate relationship between culture and nature, from a fresh perspective.

At your service

Comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of academics, the Svartárkot Centre offers an invaluable additional resource stemming from its close ties with local communities — a deep and profound level of local knowledge.

From initial planning to completion, the Svartárkot team is on hand throughout to provide the complete range of services, facilities and expertise required to ensure smooth course organisation, management and implementation, leaving lecturers and students free to teach and study in a completely unique environment.

While the extent of this assistance is entirely dependent on the needs and wishes of the individual course organiser, the Centre's on-demand package of services can include:

- » Accommodation
- » Advice on useful destinations
- » Travel arrangements within Iceland
- » Assistance with course planning
- » Provision of lecturers and other specialists
- » Provision of course materials

While costs and fees vary according to the package of services selected, highly favourable international currency exchange rates ensure that there has seldom, if ever, been a better time to visit Iceland.

Unlimited locations

Set amid a rugged landscape of sprawling lava fields, active volcanoes and colourful plant and wildlife near the head of the Bárðardalur valley in Iceland's northeast, Svartárkot (Black River Croft) stands on the banks of the Svartá river, from which the farm takes its name.

Located at one of the gateways to the Vatnajökull National Park, Europe's largest facility of its kind, Svartárkot straddles the margins of the inhabitable and uninhabitable worlds, making it an ideal setting in which to explore the delicate relationship between humans and nature, and its impact on culture and society past and present.

Accommodation and teaching facilities are provided at the well-equipped, comfortable Kiðagil guesthouse and community centre situated a short distance to the north in the Bárðardalur valley.

Since its inception, the work begun at Svartárkot has expanded into a network of cultural and educational institutions extending all around Iceland, enabling the project team to organise courses at any location at all within the country.

The Svartárkot Centre works in close partnership with, among others, the University of Iceland (www.hi.is), University of Akureyri (www.unak.is), Hólar University College (www.holar.is), the INOR Group (www.inor.is), and the Icelandic Academy of the Arts (www.lhi.is).

Been there, done that

Since opening in 2005, the Svartárkot Centre for Research & Education has played host to several groups of leading academics and students drawn from Europe, the US, and Canada.

While some have taken part in customised courses designed by external institutions, among them a group of over 30 students and lecturers from the Department of Human Geography at the University of Edinburgh, others have opted for courses designed and operated on-site.

Svartárkot

— WHERE CULTURE MEETS NATURE

For full information on customised course planning, along with a complete prospectus of in-house courses, please visit our website, www.svartarkot.is

For further details or enquiries, contact axel@svartarkot.is. We look forward to hearing from you.

“The spectacular surroundings of Bárðardalur and Svartárkot are unbeatable for undergraduate and postgraduate field study. It is all there; the icecap to the south, moraine landscapes, the lava beds and Lake Mývatn to the east, and the coastal town of Húsavík to the north. The cultural landscape too deserves praise... We're inventing a whole new course at my university so we can use Svartárkot!”

Dr. Chad Staddon, University of West England, Bristol.

“I think Svartárkot will thrive... as the non-urban Icelandic centre for excellence in the all-round study of culture and nature. It must surely become the only place to do this in Iceland, and one of the few in the world.”

*Prof. Richard North, Dept. English Language
and Literature, UCL, London.*

“The centre we stayed in, though it was in the middle of nowhere, was fantastic for all our needs as a group. I thought [the course] was very thought provoking and better for seeing things in reality. It was an intense week and then having to work afterwards but it is definitely worth it!”

*Student comments, Department of Human Geography,
University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Svartárkot Project | Reykjavík Academy | Hringbraut 121 | 107 Reykjavík | ICELAND