

“Iceland is hot!”

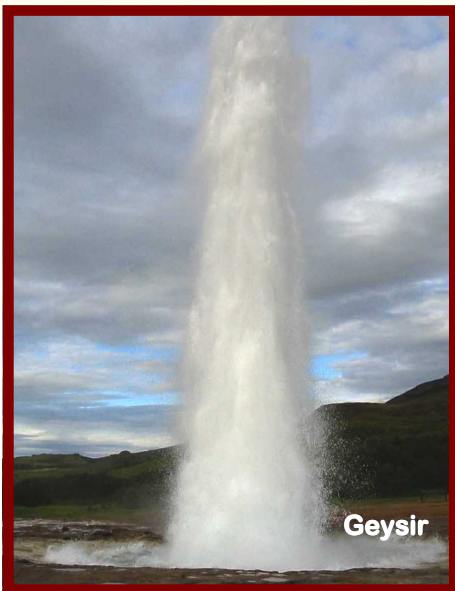


The presence of so much natural energy just below ground makes it possible not just to see the awesome power of nature, but to feel, hear and smell it as well. The limitless reserves of geothermal energy, that have created such a varied terrain, also supply heat and power to Iceland's homes, and the rotten egg smell of the sulphur is unmistakable!

Two different types of geothermal areas are in Iceland. So called High temperature one and Low temperature one. The main difference lays in the location of it while the High temperature ones are closer to the crack and the Hot Spot underneath the island. The low temperature is found all over. High temperature areas are very warm and the activity is visible at the surface. Geysers and stinky mud pits are visible and the rotten egg smell of sulphur is in the air. The temperature in these areas is usually above boiling point. While the Low temperatured areas are not as warm, the activity not as visible and the smell not as strong as in the other areas. Temperature there is usually not above the boiling point.



Icelanders have made the most of this ground heat to make their lives better and easier. Year round, it contributes to the social life of the Icelanders, filling outdoor swimming pools, where they meet to take a little exercise or just to chat in the relaxing hot tubs and steam rooms. This water is taken from the low temperatured areas, it lies deep in the ground, and they drain it up and into the towns and homes. More then 80% of Icelandic homes are heated up with the geothermal water.



The geothermal energy is kept and produced deep in the ground. In 24 other countries all over the world are geothermal power plants. In Iceland are 5 of them. Deep holes are drilled into the ground at the high temperatured areas to get up pure steam from the boiling groundwater underneath, that steam spin turbines and produce

electricity, the green energy of Iceland. Around 24 % of the nation's energy comes from that type of power plants.