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2<sup>nd</sup> Circular

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# Surtsey 50th Anniversary Conference

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Geological and  
Biological  
Development of  
Volcanic Islands

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Reykjavik 12 – 15 August 2013

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[www.surtsey.is](http://www.surtsey.is)

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**The Surtsey Research Society** is pleased to invite you to participate in the **Surtsey 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference** that will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland from **12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2013**. The conference will be an open, international event with English as an official language. Researchers studying geological and biological processes as well as conservation of volcanic islands and related systems around the world are encouraged to participate and present their research at the conference.



Aerial photo of Surtsey 2012  
Photo: Loftmyndir ehf.

[On-line registration and abstract submission opens on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2013](#)

### Important dates in 2013

<b>February 15</b>	Registration and abstract submission opens
<b>April 1</b>	Early registration deadline
<b>May 1</b>	Abstract deadline
<b>August 12-15</b>	Conference days
<b>August 16-17</b>	Post-conference excursion (optional)
<b>October 1</b>	Deadline for submission of manuscripts for publications

### Conference fees

Early registration, before April 1	77,500 ISK	approx. 485 EUR
Registration after April 1	90,000 ISK	approx. 530 EUR
Student fee	61,000 ISK	approx. 380 EUR

This fee includes all conference material, refreshments during the conference, the excursion to Vestmannaeyjar archipelago and a banquet dinner on August 15.

## Venue

The conference will be held at the [Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel](#).

The hotel is a 4 star deluxe hotel and one of the most popular places to stay in Reykjavik. It has excellent conference and meeting facilities. The hotel is situated approx. 20 - 30 minutes walk from the town centre. Laugardalur, the city dweller's outdoor activity park, which boasts one of Reykjavik's best swimming pools, is within 10 minutes walk. A botanical and zoological garden, amusement park and sports center are amongst other things found in the area.



## Conference web site and office

### [Conference web site](#)

**Iceland Travel Conferences**, Skútuvogur 13A, 104 Reykjavík, Iceland.

Contact: Kristjana Magnúsdóttir, Project manager, E-mail: [kristjanam@icelandtravel.is](mailto:kristjanam@icelandtravel.is)

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Pioneer vegetation on the Surtsey lava-field in 2012. Photo: Erling Ólafsson 2012



## Scientific Program

### Theme and topics

The main theme of the conference is "**Geological and biological development of volcanic islands**". The Scientific Program covers a broad variety of fields in geology and biology of volcanic islands and related systems. There will be two parallel sessions split between four different main topics (A, B, C and D):

<b>A</b>	<b>Geology and Geophysics</b>
	Island and submarine volcanism
	Volcanic processes
	Geomorphology
<b>B</b>	<b>Biology, ecology and evolution</b>
	Island biogeography
	Biological colonization and succession
	Genetic variation
<b>C</b>	<b>Ecosystem functions</b>
	Biogeochemistry
	Ecosystem processes
	Soil formation
<b>D</b>	<b>Policy and conservation</b>
	Protection of volcanic islands and areas

### Key Note Speakers

**Dr. Nemesio Perez:** *The 2011-2012 submarine eruption off El Hierro, Canary Islands*

**Professor emeritus Haraldur Sigurðsson:** *The volcanological significance of the Surtsey eruption*

**Dr. Sveinn P. Jakobsson:** *The Surtsey tephra: palagonitization and lithification*

**Professor Patrick Mc Kever:** *Earth Science in UNESCO: World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks – A Comparison*

**Professor Robert Whittaker:** *Volcanic island biogeography: development and evaluation of dynamic models for dynamic platforms*

**Professor Stephen C. Jewett:** *Recolonization of the intertidal and shallow subtidal community following the 2008 eruption of Alaska's Kasatochi Volcano*

**Professor emeritus Tim New:** *Colonisation, succession and conservation: the invertebrates of Anak Krakatau, Indonesia*

**Dr. Borgþór Magnússon:** *Plant succession and ecosystem development on Surtsey*

## Schedule and preliminary program

### August 12 - Monday

Arrival in Iceland, foreign participants

18:00-19:30 Early registration and Icebreaker at the conference Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel

### August 13 - Tuesday

07:45 Registration opens

08:30-09:00 Welcoming ceremony and address

09:00-10:00 Plenary session I: **Sveinn P. Jakobsson & Borgþór Magnússon**

10:00-10:30 Coffee break and posters

10:30-13:00 Two parallel sessions - Topics A & B

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Plenary session II: **Nemesio Perez & Robert Whittaker**

15:00-15:30 Coffee break and posters

15:30-17:00 Two parallel sessions - Topics A & C

17:00-18:00 Posters and refreshments (cash bar)

### August 14 - Wednesday

7:15-20:00 **Field excursion to Vestmannaeyjar archipelago**

### August 15 - Thursday

09:00-10:00 Plenary session III: **Haraldur Sigurðsson & Stephen C. Jewett**

10:00-10:30 Coffee break and posters

10:30-13:00 Two parallel sessions - Topics A & B

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Plenary session IV: **Tim New & Patrick Mc Keever**

15:00-15:30 Coffee break and posters

15:30-17:00 Two parallel sessions

17:00-18:00 Posters and refreshments (cash bar)

18:00-18:30 Closing of conference

20:00-23:00 Conference banquet at the Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel

### August 16-17 – Friday and Saturday

Optional field excursion to the Volcanic Zone of Southern Iceland or departure from Iceland.

## Conference abstracts and publications

### Abstracts

Presentations should preferably be related to the topics listed above. Communications may be presented orally or as posters. To submit your abstract, it is necessary to [pre-register at the Conference Office](#). The abstract template can be downloaded from the registration page. You will receive a confirmation by E-mail when the abstract has been accepted for the conference. The Scientific Committee will evaluate all abstracts before finalizing the conference program. Some abstracts submitted for an oral presentation may be accepted for a poster presentation if necessary. The abstracts will be printed and distributed at the conference. The conference language is English.

[On-line registration and abstract submission will be open on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2013](#)

### Post-conference publications

Authors of all oral and poster presentations will be offered to publish their results in special issues from the conference. There will be two venues for the publications:

#### BioGeoSciences

A special "Surtsey 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue" in the [ISI-journal BioGeoSciences](#). This is an open-access, peer reviewed, international journal with an impact factor of 3.859. It's editorial board has tentatively accepted a special issue from the conference.

#### Surtsey Research

An issue in the Surtsey Research series, published in Iceland by [the Surtsey Research Society](#). Extended abstracts (4 pages) and full research papers will be considered for publication in Surtsey Research.

For format see: [http://www.surtsey.is/pp\\_ens/report/report\\_XII.htm](http://www.surtsey.is/pp_ens/report/report_XII.htm).

**Deadline for submission of manuscripts is October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013**

Further details will be given during the conference and on the conference web site. You may also contact Professor Páll Einarsson, chair of the Scientific Committee, E-mail: [palli@hi.is](mailto:palli@hi.is), for more information.

## Conference field excursions



A map of South Iceland showing the routes of the two planned excursions.

In the **conference excursion** on August 14 the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago will be visited by bus and a ferry ride from Landeyjahöfn, returning to Reykjavik in the evening.

In the two day **post-conference excursion** (optional) on August 16-17 there will be a bus tour through the volcanic zone of southern Iceland with an overnight stay at Hotel Laki by Kirkjubæjarklaustur, returning to Reykjavik on the second evening.

Further descriptions of the field excursions are given on following pages.



The aa-lava from the Laki eruption 1783 near Kirkjubæjarklaustur, covered with the woolly fringe-moss, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. Photo: Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir 2011.



## The Vestmannaeyjar archipelago – August 14

Guided by Ingvar Atli Sigurðsson and Erpur Snær Hansen



Vestmannaeyjar archipelago, a view from Surtsey. Photo: Kristján Jónasson 2011.

The bus will leave from Reykjavík at 7:15 in the morning and be back to Reykjavík at around 20:00. The trip to Landeyjahöfn harbour takes about two hours and the ferry crossing to Heimaey is 30 minutes.

[The Vestmannaeyjar archipelago](#) is one of the most scenic areas in Iceland, displaying beautiful volcanic landscape on grassy islands with millions of seabirds. Over 800.000 pairs of Atlantic Puffins and virtually all of the Icelandic population of Manx Shearwater, Leach's Storm-petrel and European Storm-petrel nest on the islands.

The trip includes a guided tour around Heimaey the site of the 1973 eruption and a visit to the Surtsey visitor centre on Heimaey. Arrangements have also been made for an optional sight-seeing flight over Surtsey and adjacent islands from Heimaey airport. This will depend on weather conditions, the flight which will take about 30 minutes is not included in the registration fee.

Heimaey is the largest island in the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago and the only one inhabited with a population of just over 4,000. The northern part of Heimaey was formed in at least five subglacial eruptions approximately 40,000 years ago while most of the south and central part was formed in two submarine eruptions 5-6,000 years ago. Lava flow from the Helgafell crater then connected the southern part to the older part in the north. The most recent activity on Heimaey is the Eldfell eruption in 1973 on the outskirts of town. The Eldfell crater was active for about 5 months. The new lava covered an area of 3.2 km<sup>2</sup> adding 2.2 km<sup>2</sup> to the size of Heimaey. During the eruption one third of the houses were destroyed by lava or ash while a further one third was damaged. Lava also threatened the harbour and over six million tons of seawater was pumped on the advancing lava to halt its progress and divert from the harbour.



## Optional post-conference field excursion:

### The Volcanic Zone of Southern Iceland – August 16-17

Guided by Páll Einarsson, Ármann Höskuldsson and Bjarni D. Sigurðsson



Mt. Hekla is a stratovolcano, 1491 m high. Photo: Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir 2012

A two day bus trip to the volcanic flank zone of southern Iceland, including volcanoes Hekla, Eyjafjallajökull, Katla and Laki. The area visited on the tour is within [Katla Geopark](#), the first geopark in Iceland, established in 2011.

**Day 1:** Bus leaves Hotel at 9:00. Drive across the Western Volcanic Zone at Hellisheiði, view to normal faults and eruptive fissures of the rift, geothermal power plant, lava fields, and to the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago with Heimaey and Surtsey.

The trip takes you across the South Iceland Transform Zone to Hekla, one of the most active volcanoes of Iceland. Hekla is presently inflating, so ... Stop at tephra deposits from Hekla and strike-slip faults active in the 1912 earthquake (magnitude 7). Then jökulhlaup deposits of the 2010 disruptive eruption of Eyjafjallajökull will be visited, also the eruption exhibit at [Þorvaldseyri](#). Overnight stay at [Hotel Laki](#) at Kirkjubæjarklaustur.

**Day 2:** The Síða-hyaloclastites will be observed, presumed to be flood basalt deposited in the presence of water. The massive 1783 lava flows from [Laki](#) will be crossed and observed, also historic and prehistoric jökulhlaup deposits of Katla. Stop at Vík village, jökulhlaup threat and possible defences discussed. Return to Reykjavík via Þingvellir and Nesjavellir graben landscape in the Western Volcanic Zone.

The main emphasis during the trip will be on geology but biology will also be covered and examples given of communities and succession on lava fields and glacial deposits.

[Further information is on the conference web site](#)

## Other information

### Hotels and accommodation

The conference organizers have reserved rooms at **Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel** the conference hotel, and at **Hotel Bjork** and **Hotel Cabin** which are both within a 15 minutes walk from the conference location. Further details are given on the conference web site. We advise you to book your accommodation in good advance as you will be staying during the busy tourist season.

### Airport transfer

The distance from Keflavík International Airport to Reykjavík is 55 km, or 45 minutes drive. The Flybus airport shuttle will take you from Keflavik International Airport to Reykjavik city and vice versa. The Flybus is connected to all arriving and departing flights at Keflavik airport. Seats are always guaranteed. See conference web site for further details.

### Passports and Visas

Travel between countries participating in the Schengen cooperation is allowed without formal passport control including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Germany. For additional information on passport and visa requirements see [Icelandic Directorate of Immigration](#) website.

### Currency and Exchange

The national currency is the Icelandic Krona (ISK). 1 EUR is approx. 180 ISK. Money can be easily exchanged at the airport, bank and currency exchanges in Iceland. All major credit cards are accepted and can be used to pay for virtually anything – except the public buses. ATM/Bank machines are found in most banks and many other locations throughout the country.

### General Information

The official time in Iceland is GMT throughout the year. The power supply is 220-240 V, AC. Participants are advised to take out travel and health insurance. The weather in Iceland is cool and changes frequently. In the middle of August daytime temperatures are in the range of 10 - 15 °C. For excursions you are advised to take warm and rainproof clothing and footwear. See conference web site for further details.

### Program for accompanying persons

Accompanying persons staying in Reykjavik can get information regarding tours and activities at the conference desk at the Hotel Nordica where a representative from Iceland Travel Conferences will be stationed during the conference. See also information on „Optional day tours“ at conference web site. Accompanying persons wanting to take part in conference excursion to the Vestmannaeyjar islands and/or the post-conference excursion through the volcanic areas of southern Iceland have to register on the conference web site.

## National Organizing Committee

Borgþór Magnússon (chair), Icelandic Institute of Natural History; E-mail: [borgthor@ni.is](mailto:borgthor@ni.is)

Bjarni D. Sigurðsson, Agricultural University of Iceland

Ingvar Atli Sigurðsson, South Iceland Nature Centre

Karl Gunnarsson, Marine Research Institute, Iceland

Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir, Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Ólafur A. Jónsson, Environment Agency of Iceland

Páll Einarsson, University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences

## International Scientific Committee

Páll Einarsson (chair), University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences; E-mail: [palli@hi.is](mailto:palli@hi.is)

Haraldur Sigurðsson, University of Rhode Island, USA

Henning Adersen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Nemesio Perez, ITER, Canary Islands, Spain

Patrick Mc Keever, UNESCO, Paris, France.

Stephen C. Jewett, University of Alaska, USA

Tim New, La Trobe University, Australia

Ármann Höskuldsson, University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences

Bjarni D. Sigurðsson, Agricultural University of Iceland

Borgþór Magnússon, Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Kesara A. Jónsson, University of Iceland

Karl Gunnarsson, Marine Research Institute, Iceland

Sveinn P. Jakobsson, Icelandic Institute of Natural History

## Conference Hosts and Sponsors

Surtsey Research Society

Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Marine Research Institute, Iceland

University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences

Agricultural University of Iceland

Environment Agency of Iceland

South Iceland Nature Centre

The Icelandic Centre for Research

IAVCEI, International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior

