

European Culture

Your Culture: *Icelander*

Aspect of Culture	Cultural Description
<i>Location</i>	<i>Iceland</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German</i>
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Mixture of descendants of Norse and Celts</i>
<i>Religion/Belief System</i>	<i>Lutheran</i>
<i>Customs/Traditions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>During the Midsummer Night, the longest day of the year (with longest period of daylight), the Icelanders celebrate.</i>- <i>Most people in Iceland believe in elves. They even have “elf town” which was built on lava. There are some strange lava formations.</i>

<p><i>Economic Activity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$38,300 GDP per capita - Main exports: fish processing, aluminum, ferrosilicon, geothermal, tourism - Unemployment rate – 8.30%
<p><i>Political System</i></p>	<p>Constitutional Republic</p>
<p><i>Educational Values</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education is compulsory (required) from the age of 7 to 16, grades 1 to 9. - Swimming is a required part of curriculum. - After 9th grade, the students will take a test to determine where they should go next. - Iceland has 2 universities; both are funded by the government and the tuition is free. - 99% of people in Iceland can read and write.
<p><i>Technology</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ranked 172nd in using mobile phone - ranked 57th in internet hosts - ranked 129th in using internet
<p><i>Food</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish is very popular...including whale blubber, whale steaks, and seal meat. - Fruits/vegetables are raised in greenhouses. - Thorrablót is a festival they celebrated showing that the family has enough food to last until spring.
<p><i>Landmarks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imagine Peace Tower - Volcanic Lava (Myvatn Lake) - The Perlan