



NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Geo-Path around Kirkjubæjarklaustur village



**Northern
Periphery
Programme**
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Innovatively investing
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Geo-Path around Kirkjubæjarklaustur village, Iceland

The Geo-Path is 25 km long and stretches over the area round Kirkjubæjarklaustur village, in South-Eastern Iceland. The biggest tourist attraction of the area is the nature – which the culture is really affected by. Although the Geo-Path stretches over 25 km long way, people can take shorter legs as well.

Kirkjubæjarklaustur and Skaftárhreppur municipality are specially known for their young geology; the earth there is shaping every day because of mud from the glacial rivers, the rivers themselves crossing differently from one time to another etc. Two of the world's biggest volcano eruptions happened there; in 934 – in the end of the settlement of Iceland – and in 1783-4, only 226 years ago – which is only a part of a second in geological calendar. In both of these eruptions, came a great amount of lava and we don't have anything comparable in historical time.

The aim of the Geo-Path is to educate visitors as well as the locals (incl. children) about the core and function of the young geology in an informative and easy-to-understand way.

26 signposts were made and put up along the path. A student teacher (Bachelor-degree) with special interest in outdoor-training, who is also a mountain guide in the area, wrote/designed the text. 14 years old students in the local school also participated in the project. In addition to the geology, tales/local stories were put on the signposts. Simple figures are parts of each sign.

Examples of geology, which is presented on the signs:

- Uplift of land
- Land formation
- Pseudo craters
- Columnar basalt
- Formation of the lava
- Evolution of plants, moss etc.
- The drift of dry mud
- ...and the bottom line is to understand how everything works together 😊



Sýstrastapi, Kirkjubæjarklaustur

