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Summer Solstice Walk





ROUTE IS 3






Presentation of the route

Mankind has celebrated summer and winter solstices for thousands of years, all over Europe and elsewhere. Even today, while not as important as before, people find the solstices fascinating. They get together and organize all kinds of festivals honoring the turning point in Earth's relation to the sun. In Reykjavik and vicinity summer solstice walks have been taken place since 1985 and for the last 10 years in Videy Island off Reykjavik Harbour. The present Wikiloc path displays one of the two main solstice walk paths on Videy Island. The recent winter photos with text give information on various memorable and cultural sites on this interesting historical island.

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Waypoint 1	Ferry tickets
	<p>How to get to Videy Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://elding.is/tours?type=videy • https://reykjavikcitymuseum.is/viday-island/the-ferry
Waypoint 2	Videy Island is just across a narrow sound
	<p>Unspoiled nature reigns on the island of Videy, which has a unique place in Icelandic history.</p>
Waypoint 3	On board the ferry
	<p>In a about 5 minutes on the ferry we suddenly find ourselves in a different world from Reykjavik City where we are able to enjoy peaceful attractive Nature, during winter as well as summer.</p>
Waypoint 4	Looking back from Videy Island to Reykjavík
	<p>Looking back from Videy Island to Reykjavik.</p>
Waypoint 5	Starting point of the Summer Solstice Walk - in summer!
	<p>It is winter time this time and the surroundings quite different from the summer conditions we are used to during the solstice summer walks in the past.</p>

Waypoint 6	Videy House and Videy Church
	Videy House on the right was the first building in Iceland constructed of stone, one of the oldest buildings in the country, built a few years after 1750 as the official residence of Skuli Magnusson. He had been appointed the Sheriff of Iceland and was for many years the most powerful man in Iceland. The church was built a little later, around 1775.
Waypoint 7	Mountain Esja in the background
	Residents of Reykjavik and surroundings are very fond of Mountain Esja. They find it beautiful to look at and the mountain is frequented by hikers, young and old.
Waypoint 8	Looking towards northeast to Mosfellsdalur on the 'mainland'
	Gljufrasteinn in MOSFELLSDALUR was the home of Noble Price Winner Halldor Kiljan Laxness, his wife Audur and family. Their home is now a Museum, certainly worth visiting. See: http://www.gljufrasteinn.is/en/home
Waypoint 9	Looking towards Reykjavik
	There are no trees in Videy, so you have a nice view in all directions!
Waypoint 10	Midwinter snow covers the island
	Not much is going on in Videy Island nowadays besides tourism but during the time period 1225-1539 there was a wealthy, influential monastery on the island, demanding a large-scale farming. Remnants of a medieval field-wall across the whole island is still visible - if you know where to look!
Waypoint 11	The old schoolhouse



In the early 20th century a small village grew up on the eastern part of Videy around a big fishing company. The schoolhouse was built in 1928, now containing an interesting photo exhibition, displaying old pictures from this lively period. No-one lives in Videy now.

Waypoint 12

Looking towards the old water tank



A water tank, installed by the fishing company in 1908, held 150 tons of water for supplying ships in the harbour. In the 1970s an association of former islanders and their descendants converted the tank into a clubhouse. The tank is just around the small hill on the left, not quite visible on the photo. At the plain in front, the participants of the summer solstice walk usually take a rest to listen to talks on history and nature. More on the phenomena of the summer solstice in general, see:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summer_solstice

Waypoint 13

Looking across the calm sea



Looking across the calm sea.

Waypoint 14

Snow and more snow






Snow and more snow.

Waypoint 15

A view towards southwest



A view towards southwest.

Waypoint 16	Midwinter picnic in Nature
	<p>This is another common location for listening to talks and poems during a summer solstice walk. More on the activity see on facebook: USC (UNIVERSAL SOLSTICE CELEBRATION) / Sólstöðuhátíð.</p>
Waypoint 17	Mountain Akrafjall in distance
	<p>Soon getting around. Mountain Akrafjall in distance.</p>
Waypoint 18	Calm sea
	<p>Final picture from Videy Island. Getting dark.</p>