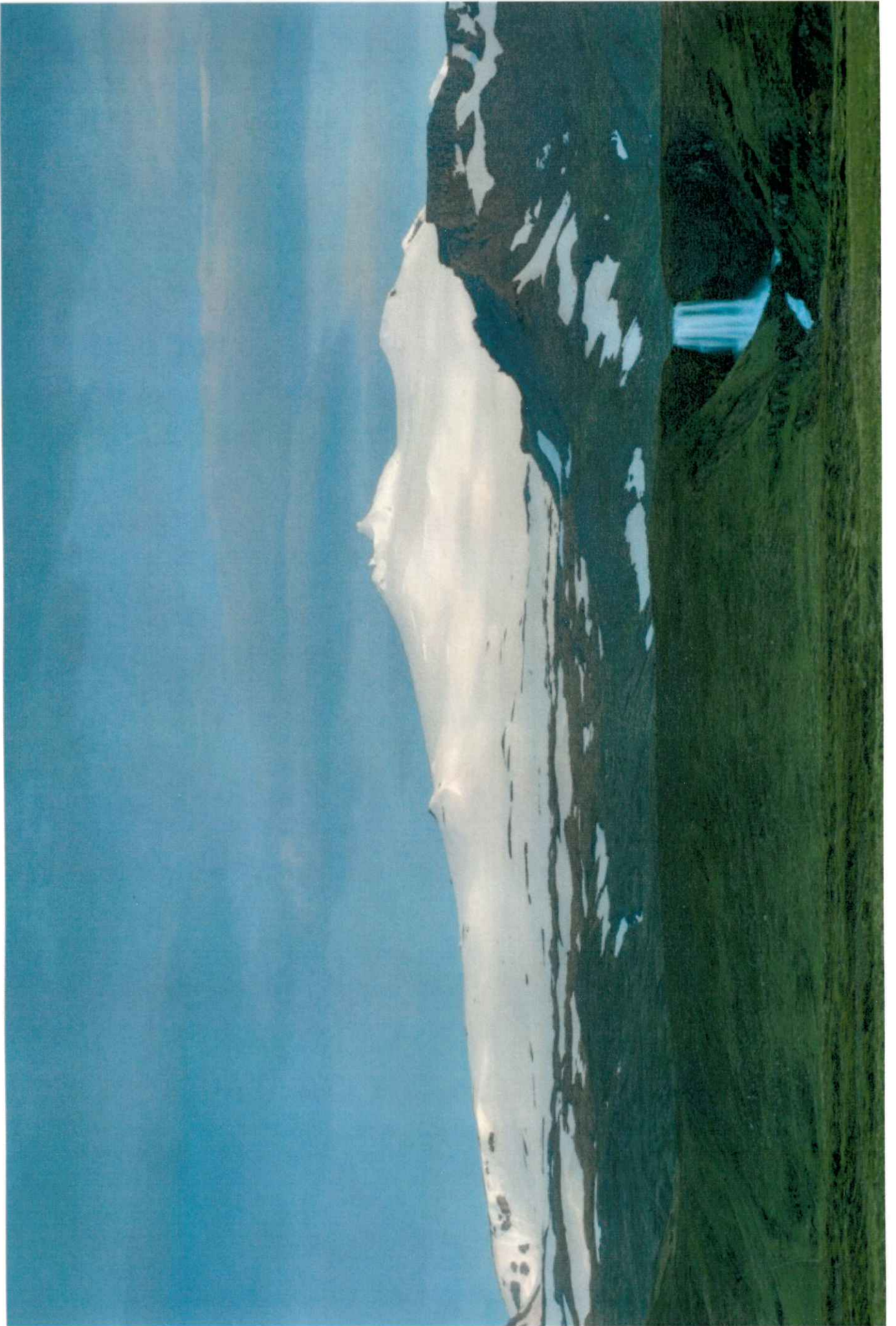


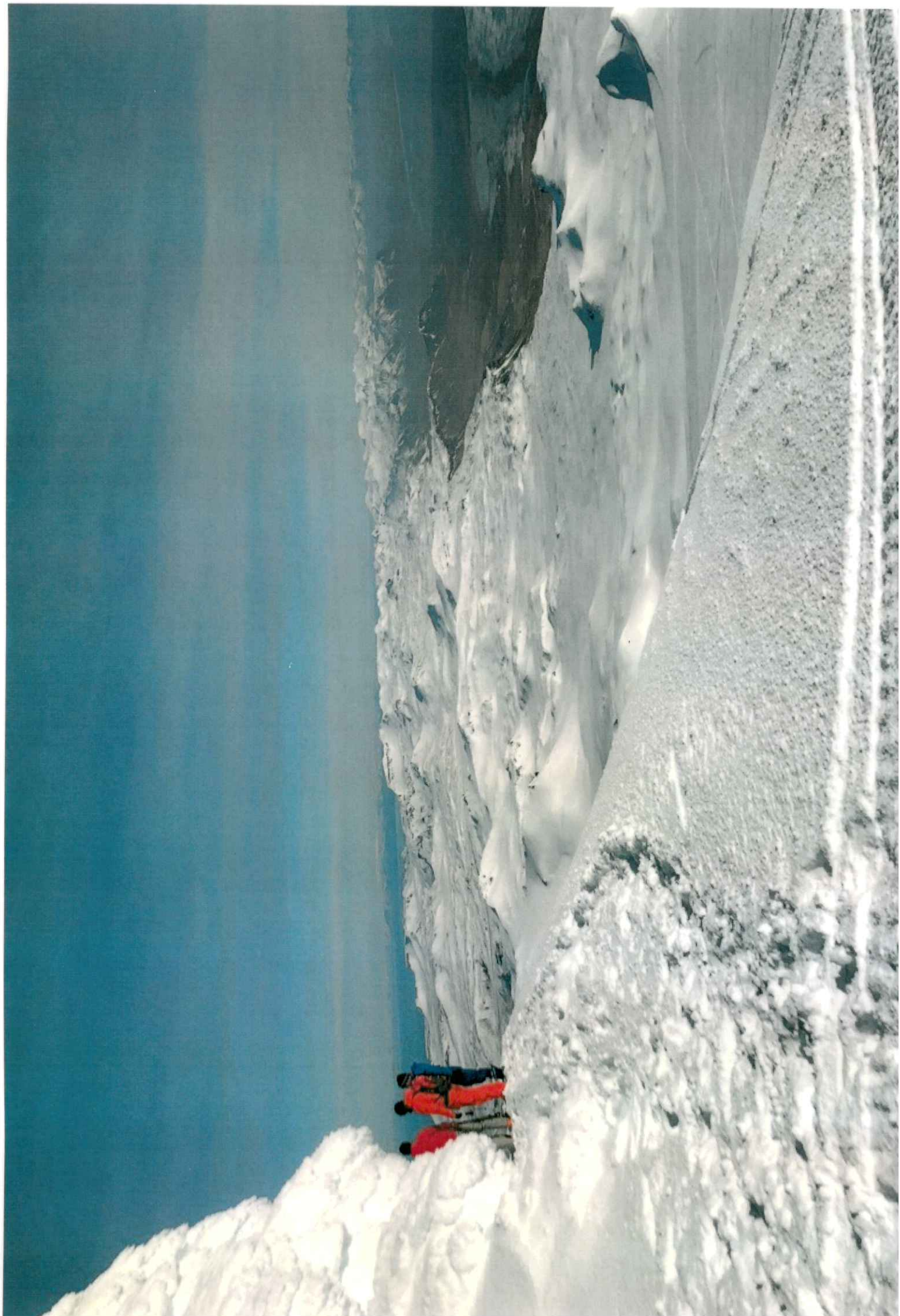
Snæfellsjökull

Snæfellsjökull is said to be one of the most beautiful mountains in Iceland and can be seen from a far place, like the capital and the westfjords.

Snæfellsjökull is a stratovolcano and all around the mountain lava can be seen which has come from its crater. The lava has flowed into the sea and spread over a big area of the peninsula. Northwest on the top of Snæfellsjökull lies a 200 meter deep crater filled with ice. It's not completely known when Snæfellsjökull had its first eruption, but it has erupted a few times over the last 10.000 years. All those eruptions happened before the man stepped his foot for the first time in Iceland.

From the top of Snæfellsjökull you can see over the whole peninsula.

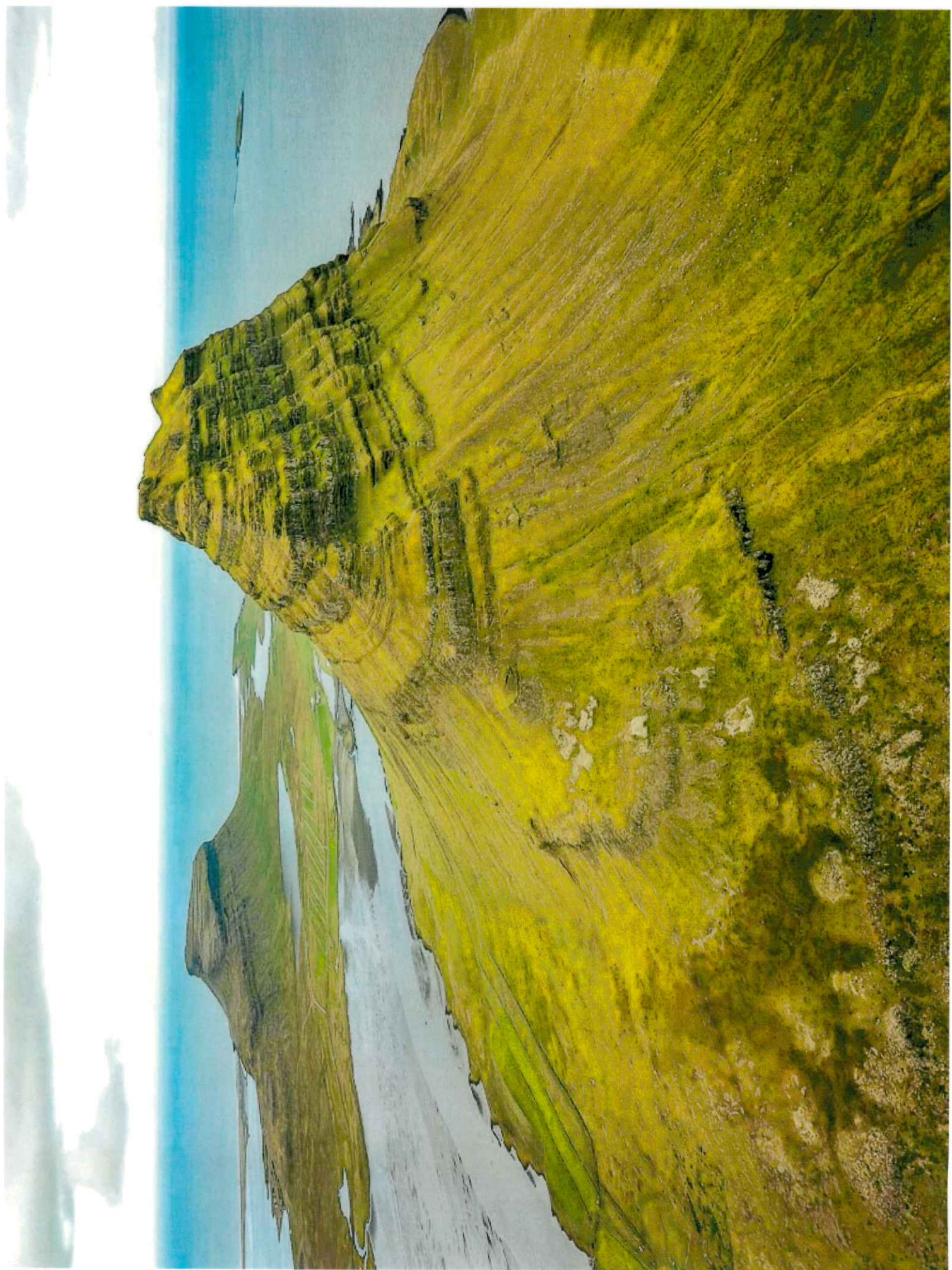




Kirkjufell

Differing from the volcanoes, this mountain is actually intermixed with glacial and interglacial-stage sedimentary rocks full of fossils, as well as layers of lava. The lowest part of the mountain is composed of sediments containing fossils. These sediments are believed to have been formed early in the Ice Age more than a one million years ago. They contain the remains of different organism that lives during either the cold or the warm periods of the Ice Age.

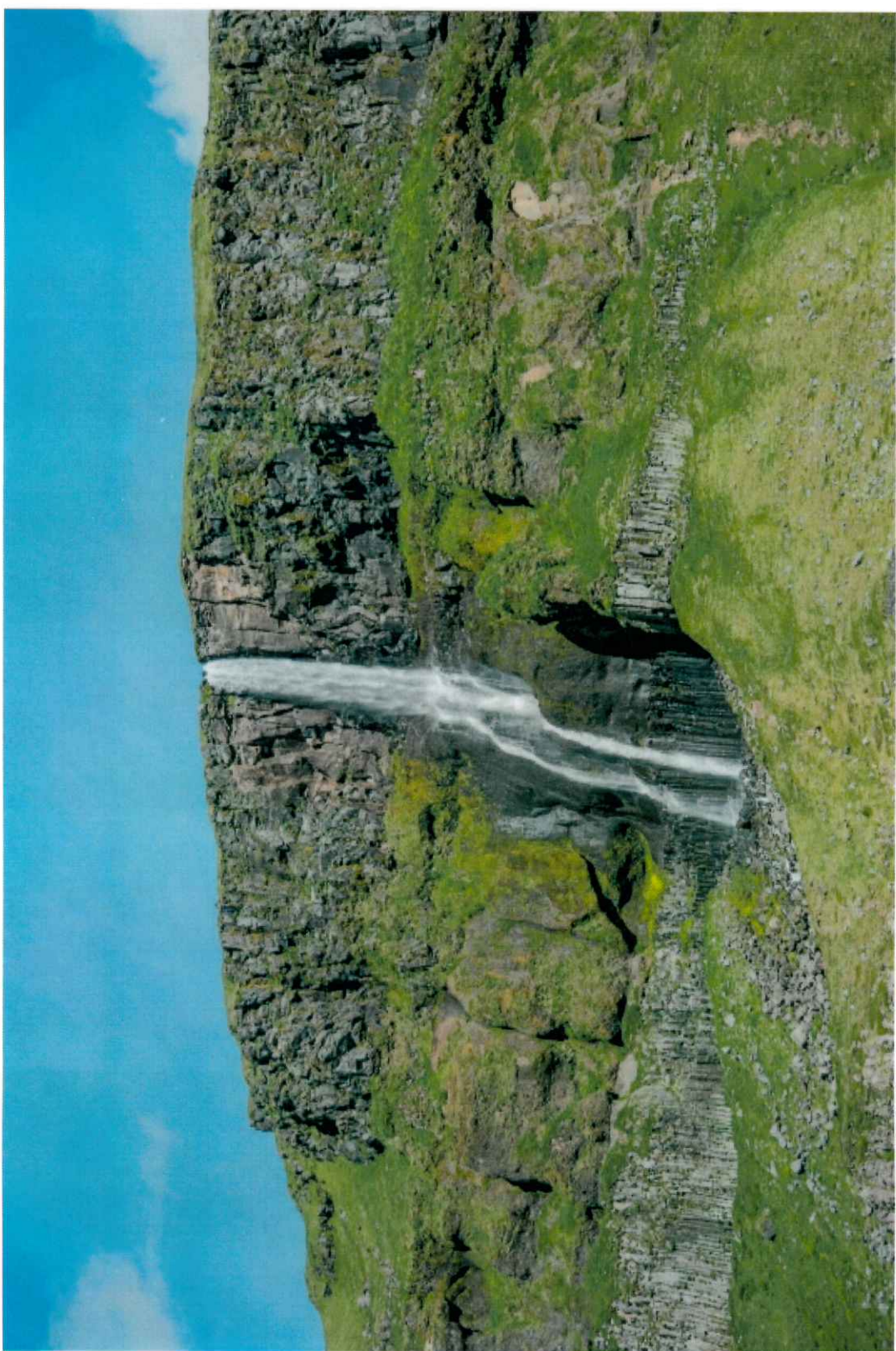
The upper part of the Kirkjufell mountain was formed during the last one million years during volcanic eruptions. The lava layers were formed during the warm periods of the Ice Age, while the hyaloclastite was formed beneath the glacier during the cold period of the Ice Age. Hyaloclastites are light pyroclastic stones which mostly consist out of volcanic glass.



Bjarnarfoss

Bjarnarfoss: Is a waterfall on the south coast of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. Bjarnafoss comes from the river Bjarnaá which lies on the mountain Mælifell. Mælifell is 566 meters high and lies in the middle of the Búðahraun Lava fields. Mælifell is a basalt mountain which makes the cliff that Bjarnafoss fall down from a basalt cliff. At some parts of the waterfall you can still see the basalt columns.

There is also a nice story about Bjarnafoss: Under the waterfall stands “Fjallkonan” (Lady of the Mountain), a national personification of Iceland, the spray from the waterfall falling on her shoulders and bosom. The Lady of the Mountain symbolises what Icelanders consider to be genuine and purely Icelandic, and she represents the national vision, the nation’s ultimate dream.



Berserkjahraun

Berserkjahraun: The lava field was created after four scoria craters erupted in short intervals around 4000 years ago. The lava ran from the mountain slopes of Bjarnarhafnarfjall and out to the sea at Hraunsfjörður and Hraunsvík.

The four scoria craters form a row from west to east from Kerlingarskarð

pass. Rauðkúla is the largest one and was the first to erupt.

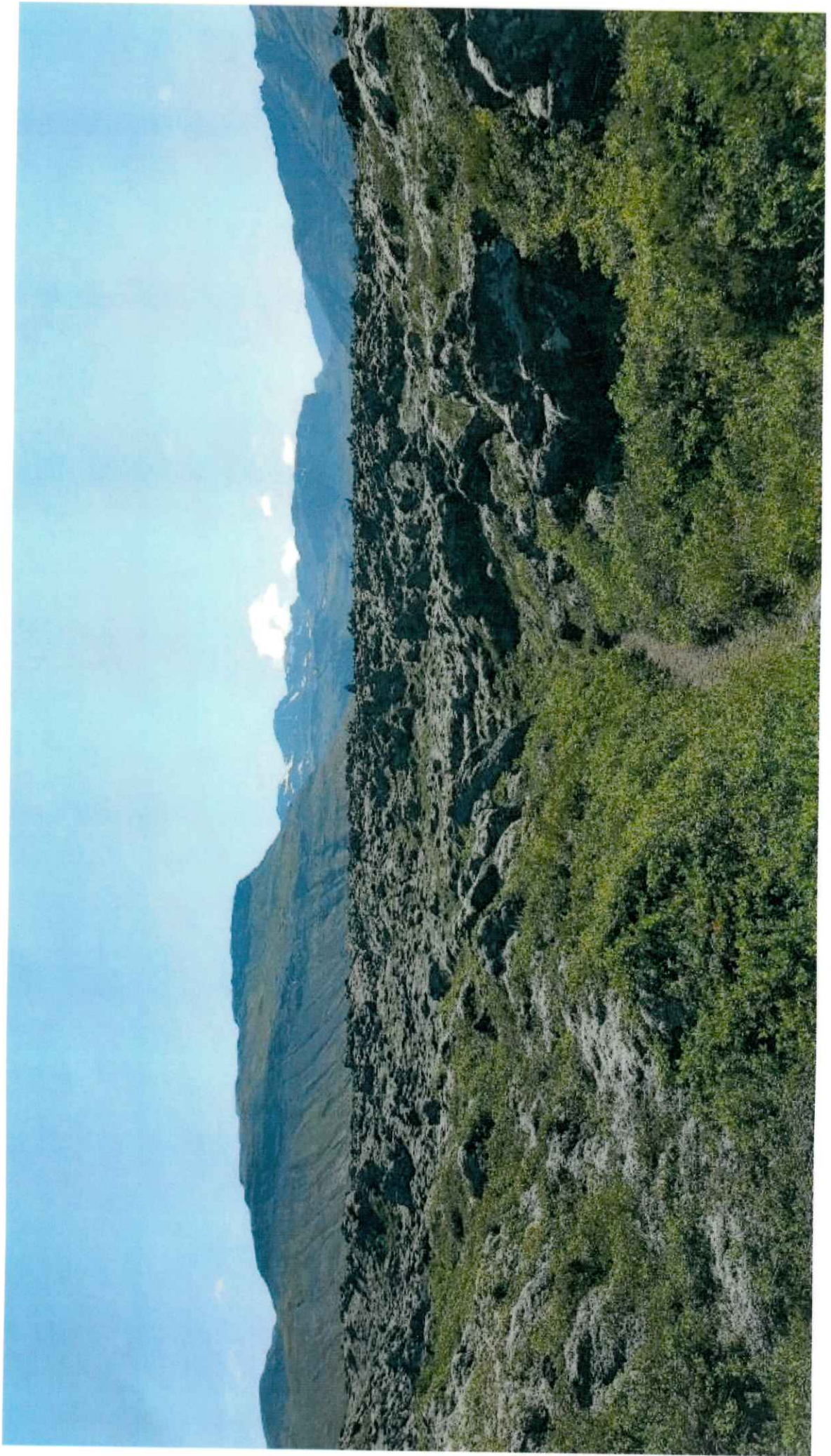
Kothraunskúla was next, then Smáhraunskúla and finally Grákúla. The eruption from Grákúla created Selvallavatn lake, just south of the crater.

Kothraunsvatn was also created in these eruptions.

Saga: The name Berserkjahraun comes from Eyrbyggja-Saga. According to the saga a farmer brought two berserkers from Sweden to the Snæfellsnes

Peninsula. He later gave the berserkers to his brother, Víga-Styr, who lived on the other side of the lava field. One of the berserks fell in love with Víga-Styr's daughter and asked for her hand in marriage. Víga-Styr made a deal with the berserker, he could have his daughter's hand if the two berserks could clear a path through the lava field, connecting Víga-Styr's farm to his brother's. The feat was considered impossible, but the berserkers managed to complete the path quite quickly. Instead of keeping his promise, Víga-Styr had the two berserks killed and buried them near the path.

Four landmarks from the saga can be found in Berserkjahraun. Those are Berserkjagata, the path itself, Berserkjadys, where the two Berserkers are supposed to be buried, Landamerkjagarður, a boundary fence and Fjárrett, a sheep den.



Saxhóll

Saxhóll is a 40m-45m high crater located in the Snæfellsnes Peninsula about 9km south of Hellissandur. It's one of the most popular tourist destinations on the peninsula because it's a beautiful sight-seeing for people that don't want to hike too far.

Saxhóll is actually two craters, but most guests will only go to the first one because it's much closer to the road. The crater is a so called slag crater and is estimated to be 2000-4000 years old. Slag craters are made from two types of volcanoes, effusive and explosive. The difference in these two types is that an effusive volcano is mostly just lava, but with an explosive volcano there also comes a lot of ash.

