

2.9.

Coming from the airport, the landscape was flat. I expected a mountain in the middle of the ocean.

3.9.

The sky is very big.

3.9.

It is raining. Nobody bothers to take an umbrella. They just put on a grumpy face and walk on.

3.9.

Everybody seems to have children.

3.9.

Hot water stinks.

3.9.

I met an artist who went to collect sheep on the weekend. On a horse. Wow!

4.9.

To unlock a door, you have to turn the key the other way of what I would expect.

4.9.

I heard some clowns sing a song to children in front of a supermarket. It went: "hocky poky" something. I heard it before from a five year old in Zagreb. Is that an international toddler hit?

4.9.

A surname is the name of the father with an ending (Nika Tomislavsdottir?), meaning a surname is not passed from one generation to the other. I suppose it kills the idea of "old" families.

5.9.

Although the country is not covered in ice, a lot of people are blond and the majority seems to have blue eyes.

5.9.

When there is a building site, the dug out earth and the sand lying around are black.

5.9.

The seagulls come to the lake and eat the ducklings, so I was told.

5.9.

At the end of the harbour, behind the warehouses and rusty ships, there is a small park with cut grass, bushes and benches.

6.9.

The price of eggs is calculated by the weight.

6.9.

People have a way of expressing affirmation by saying "já" while inhaling at the same time. I noticed something similar in Berlin.

6.9.

There are a lot of video stores in the city.

7.9.

There are a lot of sculptures in the city.

7.9.

There is a Camper store exactly the same as the one in Soho NY, only smaller.

8.9.

There are many cats around. Most of them have name tags.

8.9.

Also in the industrial outskirts of the city, there is a paved pedestrian path.

8.9.

Across the bay from the harbour there is a mountain. The summit is always covered by a cloud.

8.9.

I read that over twenty people were burned for witchcraft here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Only one was a woman.

9.9.

Plumbers don't come on time here either.

9.9.

Dogs are not allowed on the main shopping street.

10.9.

A shop is selling soft canvas boots/socks filled with down.

10.9.

Many people bring children to exhibition openings.

11.9.

Whale meat tastes spicy.

11.9.

People seem to be quite relaxed. When I say that, nobody agrees.

11.9.

The houses in the city centre are rather small. Some of them have an even smaller house in the back yard.

12.9.

The sheep have very long fleece.

12.9.

The sheep sometimes stand in the middle of the road and are not frightened by approaching cars.

12.9.

The moss is thick and very soft to walk on.

13.9.

I have seen a flock of ducks swimming in the sea. One seagull was with them.

13.9.

The first sunny day. The clouds are gone from the mountain tops.

14.9.

The blueberries are just ripe.

14.9.

Although there are many sheep, there is no sheep milk or cheese.

15.9.

Although there are dogs in the country, I have seen the first dog in the city today.

15.9.

I haven't seen a single policeman so far.

15.9.

The art school is full of armchairs.

15.9.

The art school is technically very well equipped.

16.9.

The sea is very cold but still quite salty.

16.9.

There are trees, it seems, only near houses.

16.9.

When people say "in Europe", they mean someplace else.

17.9.

In the house where I live, people downstairs have glass doors to their apartments. It is difficult not to peep in when passing.

17.9.

Off road cars are very popular. Many seem to have been raised higher than normal.

18.9.

Caramelized potatoes are eaten with lamb.

18.9.

At the far end of the city there is a peninsula. When the tide is high, the tip becomes an island.

19.9.

Walking paths in the countryside have a sheet of cloth under the top layer of soil to prevent the weather from destroying the paths.

19.9.

Sometimes, people just stop their cars in front of a house and honk until they get the attention of someone in the house.

20.9.

People will use a credit card to pay for just one drink.

20.9.

Tips are not customary.

21.9.

Many houses are painted in quite bright colours.

21.9.

Appointments are apparently being made on very short notice.

22.9.

When people say third floor, they really mean second floor because they count ground floor as first floor.

22.9.

Cursing in English is apparently not uncommon.

23.9.

Horses have a way of walking fast without really getting into a trot.

23.9.

People work on building sites quite late in the evening.

24.9.

Music stores sell same CDs as any place else in the world. Except perhaps for a bit more Björk.

24.9.

Artists read the same books as anyplace else in the world.

25.9.

All the films in a film festival are subtitled in English.

25.9.

When young people have a band, it seems not to be unusual for their parents to come to their concerts.

26.9.

It's a Sunday and the film festival is down town. I seem to be the only person in the building where the studios are.

26.9.

It seems it is quite common to divorce and marry again resulting in a lot of people having very big and complicated families.

27.9.

The national shipping company used Thor's sign as their logo. It looks the same as the hackenkreuz later used by the nazis. It seems the company has recently changed the logo.

28.9.

It seems to be very normal for apartment buildings to have carpets in the stairways.

29.9.

When people tell you about history, they speak of the 10<sup>th</sup> century as if nothing happened in between.

29.9.

Someone called the city the “global village” the other night. I think that describes it very well.

30.9.

Wine is not only expensive but also hard to buy because it is sold only in special stores that close rather early.

30.9.

I was told that there is no prostitution here. I find it hard to believe.

30.9.

People leave bags visible in their cars. There must be very little crime here.

30.9.

An army doesn't exist here.

1.10.

Scaffoldings are not made out of prefabricated elements but out of wooden planks and beams.

1.10.

Telephone numbers don't have area codes.

1.10.

I ate purple sea weed. It tasted good. The fishmongers sell it.

1.10.

When people put a number in their cell phone, they never use the country code.

2.10.

I have seen a house with a hot spring in the back yard. The spring was fenced off because the water is dangerously hot.

2.10.

Greenhouses have artificial light but use heat from the ground.

3.10.

I've seen the first policeman today. The word written on his back didn't resemble the word police at all.

3.10.

It seems it is not considered shameful to be seen very drunk.

3.10.

Many roofs are painted.

4.10.

The wind is so strong today that it was blowing my legs away when I lifted them off the ground. People were giggling when they couldn't walk.

4.10.

All windows have metal parts that hold them tight even when they are open. That way the wind doesn't break them.

5.10.

I've met the first person who doesn't speak English today.

6.10.

Heimskur means stupid. Literally it means someone who is always at home.

6.10.

Swimming pool tickets are cheap. I find the hot pools somewhat scary.

7.10.

I can't get rid of change and my wallet keeps getting very heavy.

7.10.

Thursday, I have been told, means Thor's day. Here, however, it is called fimmtudag.

7.10.

I have seen an old woman wear little felt caps on her ears.

8.10.

I have seen a children's playground that had large rocks placed all over it.

8.10.

Every supermarket has a large supply of fresh fish.

9.10.

Buses to the airport operate at very irregular hours.

9.10.

Artists set up their shows at the very last minute and seem proud of it. It reminds me of Croatia.

10.10.

Most coffee shops have books or press for the customers to read.

11.10.

There's a nice stone building in the center of the town. It's a prison.

11.10.

I have seen the first snow on top of the mountains across the bay.

12.10.

The only people on public busses are teenagers, elderly and foreigners.

12.10.

There are still quite a few wooden boats to be seen at the harbour.

13.10.

Every time someone mentions ghosts, which is quite often, people spend a lot of time telling me they don't believe in them.

14.10.

I have seen very small whales and very big dolphins.

14.10.

It took me a long time to realize that there is no railroad in the country.

15.10.

It is very easy to end up on a gravel road while driving from one small town to the other.

15.10.

I was bathing in water so full of minerals that it was milky white.

16.10.

It seems that the people about whom jokes are told in the north, are the Finns.

17.10.

I went to a very fancy restaurant last night. It was the first place where I didn't see anyone wear a fleece jacket.

17.10.

Although the city is small, the airport is 50km away.

18.10.

It was snowing last night and the wind is quite strong today. To me it feels like February.

19.10.

Some stores have posters as advertisements in front of the entrance. They are mounted on special panels that are made to bend in the wind.

19.10.

Ever since I went swimming in a very healthy spa, I can't untangle my hair.

20.10.

The wind did cause some accidents after all. I am not surprised.

20.10.

The wind brings a lot of salt making all windows look dirty.

21.10.

It's cheaper to call a doctor to come and see you at home than to go to the hospital on your own.

22.10.

When people park cars parallel to each other they never back up but always go with the front in first.

22.10.

There is a traffic sign on a fast road in the city saying that tractors are not allowed on certain hours.

23.10.

Parking lots are planned with a very generous amount of space.

23.10.

Only a small portion of the windows actually opens.

24.10.

Raisins are put in blood sausage.

24.10.

Although the air is very dry, humidifiers don't seem to be popular.

25.10.

There are quite a few small casinos around.

25.10.

Sometimes, when people push a child in a pram, it is so well wrapped up that it is not really possible to say whether there is a child inside.

26.10.

A coffee shop is in a small house with a slanted roof. The roof is covered with well kept grass.

26.10.

I have seen a waterfall blown backwards and frozen.

26.10.

Ice is forming at the very edge where the sea touches the shore.

27.10.

When one drives a bit further away from the city, it is possible to be the only car on the road.

28.10.

There are not many radio stations.

29.10.

Today, I have seen the second car with foreign license plates since I arrived.

30.10.

Fermented shark actually tasted ok but I found the brandy that went with it appalling.

31.10.

I have heard a lot of talk about defining the national identity. It seems to be a fate of small nations.

31.10.

It seems that all artists have a second job.