



## Islands on Top of the World

# ICELAND & GREENLAND

The islands are stunning with huge glaciers, icy fjords, and magnificent northern lights.



For half of the year Greenland and Iceland are frosted with wintery air and live up to their reputations of living in the extreme. During the other half, spectacular lava fields on the lands, fishing boats along coastal shores, and beautiful northern lights in the night skies above make them the most beautiful places on earth. Soaking in a hot geothermal spa of the famous Blue Lagoon or whale-watching (where tour guides can grow hoarse from calling out the many whales within sight) are favorite tourist attractions. One can trek through clefts of volcanic fields and mountains plus enjoy the local fare which includes puffins, Winke whale, Augustine lobsters, and an almost endless supply of Icelandic cod and seafood delights.

*Above, Iceland's lakes mirror the great Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis).  
Below, Vikings from Iceland founded Greenland around Year 1200.*



### THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

Iceland is a volcanic island surrounded by arctic oceans and seas. It is the most westerly country of Europe with pristine glacial lakes and mountainous deserts of lava which cover 80% of the lands. Agricultural areas and cultivated pastures encompass a mere 23% of the usable grounds available, with a scant fraction lying within forested regions. Population density is only eight people per square mile on livable lands.

During the years of 800-1200, Iceland and Greenland were settled by the rough and raw Vikings who kept large farmsteads with cattle and sweeping crops of barley near bird cliffs and inshore fishing grounds. Most islanders are descendants of Norse and Gaelic settlers.

In 2008, Iceland experienced an unprecedented economic and financial crisis in the wake of global financial difficulties as their private banking structures failed and the entire country declared bankruptcy. Reaction was swift and absolute. Its precarious financial position has steadily improved

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and by mid-2011 has actually shown significant recovery. Iceland is moving toward a complete mend of the meltdown with scarcely a trace of the economic disaster of three years ago, except for the much higher than normal interest rates.

A Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States was signed in 2009. The U.S. is by far the largest foreign investor in Iceland, primarily in the aluminum sector. Today, Iceland is ranked as the 17th most developed country in the world. It can boast as one of the freest presses in the world and a virtual literacy rate of 100% for those aged 15 years or older. It may have the smallest population among NATO members and no standing army, but it is also the fourth most productive country per capita.



The Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa in Iceland, is 100°F seawater surrounded by cool mountains and oceans of ice.

## GREENLAND

**A**nchored northeast of the North American Continent with the nation of Canada to the left lies the world's largest island. Greenland is a permanent ice cap flanked by mountains, where glaciers regularly slip off the steep cliffs into the pounding shores of ice-capped seas. The coastal areas are the only regions suitable for human settlement.

When Eric the Red, a notorious Viking from descendants of Norway, was banished from Iceland around 980 AD, he took up residence on the southwestern coasts of Greenland – finding a rather hospitable deep fjord with trees and grasses similar to his homeland. He is famous for founding the country and instrumental in attracting thousands to its cold, virgin territories. Today, exploring Viking ruins is a great tourist draw.

In the southern shores of Greenland, visitors also flock to watch brilliant northern light displays, hiking, and dog sledding. A great draw to this exceptional country is bathing in the geothermal hot springs, with year-round temperatures of 100°F, while shifting icebergs slowly drift by. Majestic whales push through the ocean waters while visitors on tour boats and sea kayaks closely observe a huge diversity of whales. The raw, natural habitat of Greenland is exceptional and considered to be one of the most unspoiled regions that exists today.

In 1979 Greenland was declared an autonomous nation within the Kingdom of Denmark, with most services (from air transport to seal hunting) subsidized by the Danish



Puffin

taxpayer. As recently as 2009, the local Greenlandic government was given more power by the Danish royal government. The country has a population less than 58,000 people, making it one of the least densely populated dependencies in the world. The size of Greenland is enormous but all towns and settlements are situated along the ice-free coast, with most of the population concentrated on western shores. The fishing industry represents 90% of its exports and remains a dominant factor for economic revenue.



The charming village of Husavik. The fishing industry makes for 90% of Greenland's exports.



### GREENLAND

- 836,330 sq. mi (three times the size of Texas)
- Capital: Nuuk (Godthab)
- Population: 57,600
- National Holiday: June 21 (longest day)
- Danish Krone
- Exports: Fish and fish products

### ICELAND

- 39,600 sq. mi (slightly larger than Virginia)
- Capital Reykjavik
- Population: 318,452
- Norwegians and Celts
- 84% Lutheran
- Icelandic language
- Resources: Marine products, geothermal power
  - 2,600 miles from New York
- Averages: 52°F summers, and 30°F winters
  - Exports: ferro-silicon alloys, electronic fishing machinery

## Approval of Switching Power Supplies

from **Shenzhen Fu Jia Appliance Co., Ltd.**

**P**eter Parts Electronics has carefully evaluated over 30 power supply manufacturers in our history. We are pleased to give Shenzhen Fu Jia (Fujia) our gold seal of approval. They specialize in the manufacturing of all types of DC switching power supplies, continuously meeting rigorous requirements



Shenzhen, China

**Fujia** was established in 1993 and has developed advanced technologies, automated manufacturing equipment, and a very sophisticated quality control system. They describe themselves as a one-stop solution as they have the ability to do everything from design, plastic tooling for the case, bobbins, and complete finished product. In addition to continuous work in R&D on designs smaller and more efficient, they are also ISO9001;2000 certified.



Fujia has a fantastic incoming inspection department. One of the difficulties in dealing with Asian manufacturers is the high minimum quantity that most of them require. It is not uncommon to see minimum order requirements of 3,000 to 5,000 pieces. Fortunately, Fujia's minimum is 1,000 and PPE has a great distributor, **Industrial Electronics**, who has the ability to sell quantities as low as one piece!

Whether it is one piece . . . or a million, keep us in mind for competitively priced and superior switching power supply products. Call us with your requirements!

## A New Sales Manager Joins the Team



Tim Sweetland

**T**im Sweetland, Regional Sales Manager, comes to PPE with a vast array of experience and a can-do attitude. As Regional Sales Manager, Tim will be handling sales in Eastern Canada and Northeastern United States regions. He has worked for thirty years in the sales arena, specializing in regional and national distribution of switches, resistors, and various electronic parts. He resides in mid-state NY where he enjoys playing golf and watching college basketball.

*"Peter Parts Electronics has an incredibly diverse product offering from high-quality suppliers. The sky is the limit as to how much we can grow the business."*

We welcome Tim to the PPE team and will do everything we can to help him help you!

## President's Message



Peter Parts

**I** am here in the China office reminiscing as we celebrated our 25th anniversary in business this year! It's a great accomplishment and I credit three things that brought the company to the 25-year mark.

First, an incredible wife that puts up with my crazy schedule. I am in Asia almost four months out of the year. Add to that my annual visits to our favorite customers in Europe and being on the road with our great sales team across U.S. territories, and it adds up. At home are the inevitable phone calls that come between 10:00 at night and 3:00 in the morning that start out with the same question, "Am I waking you up?" The answer is, "No," because it never fails to be an interesting and important conversation. Debbie puts up with this crazy schedule and I am thankful for that!

Second, my number one job at Peter Parts Electronics is to hire great folks. I have a great partner, Steve Crane, who believed in the concept and joined me 25 years ago. Also, we have an incredible staff that makes me look good. There are a lot of folks here who are really, really good at what they do. Many of them have been with me for more than 20 years. They are truly an incredible group of people to work with.

Third, are the teachers who made a huge impact on my life. Mrs. Ackerman, for example, taught speech and debate in my high school. She gave me valuable coaching and a spot on the extemp team. (On top of that, she would get me out of detention at the end of the day on Fridays so I could compete on Saturdays.) I can't tell you how much I enjoyed those competitions and what a difference they made in my life. And, there was Bunnie Robinson who was my speech teacher and extemp coach in college. She taught me great skills, the love of learning, and the passion of continuous improvement! (If there was a teacher in your life that made a great difference, why don't you take time TODAY to say thanks!!)

And of course . . . Many, many thanks to all of you who have helped us reach our 25th birthday. We certainly couldn't have done it without you. I and the PPE staff look forward to serving you for many more years!

*Peter*

### A FAVORITE QUOTE

*"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# World Holidays 2011

## October

1	National Day	China, Hong Kong
2	M. Gandhi 's Birthday	India
3	Unity Day	Germany
3	National Foundation	Africa
10	National Day	Taiwan
12	Columbus Day	Mexico, USA
12	National Day	Spain
15	Tree Planting Day	Sri Lanka
17	Family Day	South Africa
24	United Nations Day	Canada
25	Restoration Day	Taiwan
31	Halloween	Canada, Ireland, Japan, United Kingdom, USA

## November

1	All Saints Day	France, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, Spain
3	Culture Day	Japan
11	Veterans Day	USA
11	Remembrance Day	Canada, United Kingdom
23	Thanksgiving Day	Japan
24	Thanksgiving Day	USA
27	National Flag Day	Sri Lanka

## December

6	St. Nicholas Day	Germany
6	Constitution Day	Spain
10	Constitution Day	Thailand
15	Fast of Tevet	Israel
25	Christmas	Widely Observed
26	Boxing Day	United Kingdom
28	Day of Goodwill	Africa
31	New Year 's Eve	Widely Observed

## Exchange Rates & Metal Prices

Exchange Rates	10/7/11	4/8/11	% Diff	10/8/10	% Diff
British Pounds	0.6399	0.6120	4.56%	0.6270	2.06%
Canadian Dollars	1.0328	0.9566	7.97%	1.0136	1.89%
Chinese Renminbi	6.3753	6.5341	-2.43%	6.6728	-4.46%
European Euros	0.7401	0.6927	6.84%	0.7183	3.03%
Hong Kong Dollars	7.7823	7.7672	0.19%	7.7577	0.32%
Japanese Yen	76.788	85.031	-9.69%	81.874	-6.21%
Mexican Pesos	13.306	11.746	13.28%	12.467	6.73%
South Korean Won	1171.0	1082.1	8.22%	1121.2	4.44%
Taiwanese Dollars	30.484	28.927	5.38%	30.855	-1.20%

Metal Prices	10/7/11	4/7/11	% Diff	10/8/10	% Diff
Copper - \$/lb.	3.2885	4.3985	-25.2%	3.6761	-10.5%
Gold - \$/oz.	1652.0	1469.50	12.4%	1341.50	23.1%
Lead - \$/lb.	0.8827	1.3054	-32.1%	0.9975	-11.5%
Nickel - \$/lb.	8.4867	12.3060	-31.0%	10.7524	-21.1%

## Did you know . . .

- ◆ Bald eagles can swim
- ◆ Black pepper is the most popular spice in the world
- ◆ Cats spend up to 30% of their time awake grooming themselves
- ◆ Shoes were not designated differently for right or left feet prior to the 1800s
- ◆ Fingernails grow 1.5 inches per year
- ◆ The five Olympic rings represent the five continents of the world
- ◆ An iceberg in the South Pacific Ocean measures the same size as Belgium
- ◆ Parrots have been known to live as long as 150 years
- ◆ When stretched out, the Slinky toy measures 87 feet
- ◆ The average woman's handbag weighs 4 pounds
- ◆ You use more calories eating celery than there are in the celery itself
- ◆ It is illegal to catch mice without a hunting license in Cleveland, Ohio
- ◆ In 1993 the U.S. government spent \$277,000 on pickle research
- ◆ Diet Coca Cola was invented in 1983
- ◆ A man is 80% more likely to be hit by lightning than a woman
- ◆ Hippo milk is pink