(ABOVE) TAKE IN JAW-DROPPING VIEWS OF ICELAND'S NEWEST CRATERS, COOLED LAVA, AND SULPHUR-STAINED CONES.
(LEFT) MOUNT KEILIR IS A VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN, SOUTHWEST OF HAFNARFJÖRÐUR.

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mud pools form as steam from boiling geothermal reservoir water condenses and mixes with surface water. Accompanied by gases like carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide, the resulting water becomes acidic, leading to the alteration of fresh lava rock into clay. Among the *Gunnuhver group,* the largest mud pool measures an impressive 20 m wide and boils vigorously, captivating onlookers.

For those seeking a vibrant display of colours, Sog is a must-visit location. Situated to the southwest of Trölladyngja, Sog is characterized by fluvial gullies and prows that showcase intense high-temperature alteration of the bedrock. Visitors can witness an array of steam vents, small hot water springs, and bubbling mud pools, creating a mesmerizing and dynamic landscape. The Geopark's lowland areas are predominantly covered by lava fields, where vegetation struggles to take hold. However, the resilient moss manages to thrive on the lava's surface, showcasing a striking contrast of green against the barren landscape. The region is mostly flat, with its highest point reaching a mere 391 m.

The Reykjanes Peninsula represents a relatively young section of Iceland, emerging as a volcanic counterpart of the North Atlantic Ridge. Here, two tectonic plates steadily drift apart at an average rate of 2.5 cm per year, causing a fascinating interplay of geological forces.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Geopark also provides valuable insights into the early settlements in the area. At the *Vogar í Höfnum* geosite, remnants of the oldest occupation on the peninsula have been discovered, dating

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