G! Comes to Gøta

The G! Festival, one of the biggest and most anticipated music festivals in the Faroese summer, takes place each summer in my own home village of Gøta! There’s camping in Norðragøta, a few events in Gøtugjógv and the bulk of the action will happen on the stages of Syðrugøta, just a short walk away.

Preparations for G! in Syðrugøta

The main event begins today, but the festival spirit arrived yesterday afternoon with the most eager of the campers, who line up in anticipation of the opening of the camping area, sometimes 6-7 hours early (even though there is plenty of room for everyone!).

Some of the groups have camp names, like “Flower Power” (who decorate their tents with flowers) and “The G! Spot” (what a pun). This year, like last year, the first campers on the scene were “Skopunhagen” who entertained other early arrivals with beer contests and quizzes before taking their rightful position at the very front of the line.
Herri from Skopunhagen is ready for the Tent Rush at G!

When the gates open, there is a mad rush to select the best spots and pitch your tent as quickly as possible. The frantic, confused efforts made it fairly clear that most of these people had not used their tents before and had also done a fair bit of pre-gaming. But that’s just part of the fun!
Residents of Gøta (except for yours truly, who was out in the field getting trampled to bring you these photographs) watched from windows and streets throughout the village, taking their own photos and videos of the “Tent Village” that springs up over the course of an afternoon to join Gøta every year for G!

G! Tent Village in Norðragøta
Faroese High Summer

High Summer has come to the Faroe Islands. The yellow buttercups and marsh marigolds have been joined by white clover, purple ragged robin and lacy umbels of angelica. The days are at their longest, the hills at their greenest, the weather at its finest — but keep calm, we’re still talking Faroese standards.

The Faroese version of a “Beach Day” at the G! Festival — not exactly for the Miami crowd!

Yesterday the G! Festival began in earnest, my lovely host family finished painting the upstairs and the outside furniture, and Norðragøta was loud with the sounds of seagulls and drunk festival-goers, our house full of guests stuffing themselves on bollar and home-made rhubarb jam, and hundreds of sheep baaaa-ing as they were herded down off of the mountain Tyril to be sheared.
Painting houses in the summer weather.

As Jonhedin Herason Trondheim told me at a G! Festival planning meeting, “Yes, our summer is great. And it’s long. But it’s short and we have to fit in festivals, painting our houses, everything!”

Summer Fun at the G! Festival
This Music Festival On A Tiny, Remote Island Looks Totally Amazing

- Christian Storm

http://www.businessinsider.com/g-music-festival-faroe-island-2014-7#ixzz3HI9UFZ9G

Many people chose to pitch a tent in a field off the beach, surrounded by gorgeous scenery.

Concert-goers saw headlining acts like Swangah, Orka, or Sister Sledge on the beach, and checked out smaller acts on one of the three other stages, like this one, made out of a converted shipping container.
During and prior to the G! Festival, I worked taking photographs for the festival producers and writing and translating news releases, information about the festival, concert and event recaps, and band descriptions for the festival's English-language website and social media platforms:

**G! Tent Village Open**

Eager G! campers rushed through the gates to the camping area as soon as they were opened Wednesday afternoon.

16.07.2014 Eager G! campers rushed through the gates to the camping area as soon as they were opened Wednesday afternoon, scattering in search of the best camping spots and working together to set up dozens of tents for the festival.

The first through the gate were members of the Skopunhagen crew, also the first to arrive to wait in line and entertain other campers with beer contests and quizzes.

Residents of Göta watched through their windows and from the road, many posting pictures and videos to Facebook of the eager visitors' rush to stake their tents, which some call "The Tent Village."

Already, the night before the G! Festival officially begins, there is a special festive atmosphere throughout Göta!