Ultimate Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice
READING & RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS
Courtesy of Mary Savina ’72, Linda Rossi, and David Lefkowitz ’85

Here is a selection of favorite books, movies, and websites prepared for your journey. The books should be available at local public or university libraries, and many of them may be purchased and/or downloaded for e-readers through local and online bookstores. The movies may be available online or through a streaming service.

MAPS & GUIDEBOOKS


NATURAL HISTORY

Gudmunsson, Agust. *The Glorious Geology of Iceland's Golden Circle*. Springer, 2017. ISBN-10: 3319551515 / ISBN-13: 978-3319551517. *Note from Prof. Savina: “Although the focus is on the Golden Circle (Geysir, Gullfoss and Thingvellir), the guide also does a decent job covering some basics of the geology. Also, it covers some other areas where we will go in southern Iceland: the Reykjanes peninsula, Eyjafjallajokull and Reynisfjara, and (nearer to Reykjavik) a couple of areas that folks coming earlier or staying later might be able to get to on their own.”*


geologic companion to Iceland covers rifting of the crust, volcanic eruptions and glacial and other geologic activity in detail.

Jordan, Brennan T., Tamara L. Carley, and Tenley J. Banik. *Iceland: The Formation and Evolution of a Young, Dynamic, Volcanic Island—A Field Trip Guide*. GSA Field Guide, Geological Society of America, 2019. EISBN: 9780813756547. *Note from Prof. Savina:* “This field guide can be ordered through the GSA ($40; $28 for members, of whom there are a few on the trip). Easiest way to purchase is online: [http://rock.geosociety.org/store](http://rock.geosociety.org/store)”*


**HISTORY & CULTURE**


**ART**


**TRAVEL & MEMOIR**


Holm, Bill. *The Windows of Brimnes, An American in Iceland*. Milkweed Editions, 2008. ISBN-10: 1571313109 / ISBN-13: 978-1571313102. In these provocative essays, Minnesotan Bill Holm writes about the fate of America from his fisherman’s cottage on the shore of a creek in northern Iceland. *Note from Prof. Savina*: “…Holm [was a] Minnesota writer/educator of Icelandic descent, who taught at Southwestern State University in Marshall, MN. His other books include Coming Home Crazy (about spending a year teaching English literature in China), Box Elder Bug Variations (about, well, box elder bugs) and several others. He died in February 2009.”*


LITERATURE

Versions of the Sagas, Eddas, and the Landnámabók (the book of settlement) are available on the web, or as inexpensive electronic books; http://www.northvegr.org/index.html has links to online versions.

Here are several print copies:


Icelandic spirit.


### FILM & VIDEO

*And Breathe Normally*. Directed by Isold Uggadottir. Zik Zak Kvikmyndir, 2018. (1 hr. 42 mins.)

National Geographic Wild Islands Iceland HD Nature History Documentary (approx. 56 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCGP87LKkIY


Olfur Eliasson traces his artistic practice over the last 25 years, 2019 (approx. 1 hour): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjVO0prc&list=PLnUA0S2tkNBD7pd7wspZJyoCZV1LEORpQ&index=26&t=0s

Olfur Eliasson Interview: A Riverbed Inside the Museum, 2014. (approx. 42 minutes):
Rams. Directed by Grimur Hakonarson. Phase4FilmsUSA, 2016. (1 hr. 32 mins.) Available for rent or purchase on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8s2k4AFlx_E

Woman at War. Directed by Benedikt Erlingsson. Magnolia Pictures, 2019. (1 hr. 40 mins.) Available for rent or purchase on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYw94UfMvvU

Land Ho! Directed by Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens. Sony Pictures Movies & Shows, 2014. (1 hr. 35 mins.) Available for rent or purchase on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKYQp-xyXmc

WEBSITES

https://www.iceland.is/

http://inspiredbyiceland.com/

https://visitreykjavik.is/


https://icelandnaturally.com/explore/

https://www.britannica.com/place/Iceland

https://www.nytimes.com/topic/destination/iceland
The land is so young, lava is bubbling up everywhere, stuff is changing the whole time. Given how well set up Iceland is as an adventure destination, what’s perhaps surprising is how few people come here for adventure sports. Official statistics show that nearly 1.8 million foreign visitors came to Iceland in 2016, a figure that’s been growing at an astonishing average of 25% year-on-year since 2010.