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

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.”


Note from Prof. Savina: “Some people prefer it to the Hoskuldsson and Thordarson book (below), finding it better illustrated and more suitable for non-geologists.”

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”*


**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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCGP87LKkIY)


Olafur Eliasson traces his artistic practice over the last 25 years, 2019 (approx. 1 hour): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjV00prc&list=PLnUA0S2tkNBD7pd7wspZJyoCZV1LEORpQ&index=26&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjV00prc&list=PLnUA0S2tkNBD7pd7wspZJyoCZV1LEORpQ&index=26&t=0s)

Olafur 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