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, Eyjafjallajökull 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”*


**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=WCGP87LKiIY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCGP87LKiIY)


Olafur 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjVO0prc&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](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](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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKYQp-xyXmc)

**WEBSITES**

[https://www.iceland.is/](https://www.iceland.is/)


[https://visitreykjavik.is/](https://visitreykjavik.is/)


[https://icelandnaturally.com/explore/](https://icelandnaturally.com/explore/)

[https://www.britannica.com/place/Iceland](https://www.britannica.com/place/Iceland)

Iceland: Land of Ice and Fire. Natural World 2015-2016. Episode 5 of 10. Documentary. A look at Iceland through the eyes of the animals and people that have made this wild island home. The constant volcanic threat boils over in this explosive year. In what turns out to be an explosive year, witness Iceland through the eyes of the animals and people that have made this wild island home. An arctic fox family must eke out a cliff-top living, an eider farmer has his hands full playing duck dad to hundreds of new arrivals and Viking horsemen prepare to saddle up for the autumn round-up. Water with ice. The basic photographic technique is the same for all waterfalls, with framing a vital consideration for conveying the height and scale of the fall in relation to the background and surroundings. A tripod is vital for this purpose, but even more so for making a variety of exposures that cannot be executed by handholding the camera alone. Iceland is spectacular but this is a wild and volatile landscape of high cliffs, slippery ice and powerful waterfalls. Attempt to recreate images that you have already seen. Some locations in Iceland are among the most photographed places on Earth, so experiment and try to create a picture you haven’t already seen.