Ultimate Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice

READING & RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS

Courtesy of Mary Savina ’72, Linda Rossi, Bill North, 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.”*


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”*


Jon Steingrimmson, Fires of the Earth (Reykjavik, 1998). Out of print but email wnorth@carleton for a pdf.


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](http://www.northvegr.org/index.html) has links to online versions.

Here are several print copies:


**Mysteries and Thrillers Set in Iceland**


**Novels**


**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=WCGP87LKk1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCGP87LKk1Y)


Olafur Eliasson traces his artistic practice over the last 25 years, 2019 (approx. 1 hour): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjVO0pc&list=PLnUA0S2tkNBD7pd7wspZJyoCZV1LEORpQ&index=26&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEuVjVO0pc&list=PLnUA0S2tkNBD7pd7wspZJyoCZV1LEORpQ&index=26&t=0s)

Olafur Eliasson Interview: A Riverbed Inside the Museum, 2014. (approx. 42 minutes): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLUX3Al2Uic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLUX3Al2Uic)

*Rams*. Directed by Grimur Hakonar. 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)

*Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* (movie; the film didn’t get great reviews, but the promotion from the town of Husavik is marvelous (link below) and the movie is fun). See also (related to the Eurovision movie): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0b2PS40Fgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0b2PS40Fgg) (Husavik promotional video for Oscars; also linked from the “Oskar for Husavik” site: [https://www.oskarforhusavik.com/](https://www.oskarforhusavik.com/))

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjuphuG3ndw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjuphuG3ndw) (official video of the song)

WEBSITES

https://grapevine.is/ Web site for the Reykjavik Grapevine, an English language website and news outlet in Iceland, featuring wonderful short on-location videos with Valur, the editor, and his dog Polli. Excellent and quirky gift store, too.

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