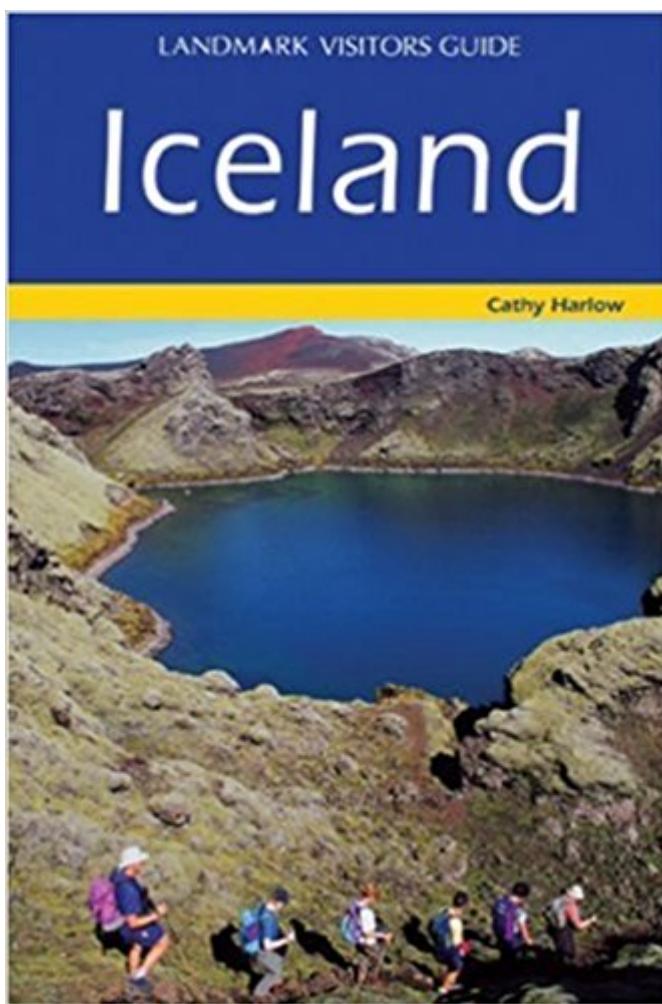


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# Landmark Visitors Guide Iceland (Landmark Visitors Guides)



## **Synopsis**

The Icelandic Tourist Board has reported a steady increase in visitors from North America. No much wonder going by the dramatic colour shots revealing lunar like landscapes, glacial lagoons and rugged coastlines that grace the pages of this guidebook. Information contained in this guide is detailed, concise and current -- just what you need as you travel around an unfamiliar destination.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Icelandic Tourist Board has reported a steady increase in visitors from North America, and the handsome photographs in this book help explain why. Baxter, whose landscape photographs have been seen in countless travel books (e.g., *Portrait of Scotland*; *Glasgow Pocket Guide*), calendars, and postcards, here provides dramatic color shots revealing lunarlike landscapes, glacial lagoons, rugged coastlines, and crystal-clear air you can almost inhale from the pages. Unfortunately, both the short introduction by Cathy Harlow and the "Information About Iceland" section read like tourist board business promotions, heavy on geology and the limitations of the Icelandic economy. Brief captions identify (in Icelandic) what you are looking at but do not elaborate. Is the church in the photograph of historic interest? What can a visitor enjoy at the Bustarfell Folk Museum? The *Insight Guide Iceland*, now in its third edition, includes excellent photographs as well as solid travel advice and would be a more useful purchase for libraries serving potential travelers. For large travel collections only. Linda M. Kaufmann, Massachusetts Coll. of Liberal Arts Lib., North Adams

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"If you've never used a Landmark Visitors Guide, you're in for a treat. These useful guides give more than a gazetteer-style list of things to see and do. They give background information on an area and its sights. The beautiful colour photographs add interest to the guide and give a taste of what's to come.... Full colour maps in each section show the attractions and the recommended driving routes. With a Landmark Visitors Guide in hand, you don't need to plan your trip. An expert has done it all for you."

"This is simply the best guide for the independent traveler yet published. The information is cogent, well organized and well presented - especially for anyone who wants to fly to Iceland, rent a car and just explore the country independently without a set itinerary. The nine chapters divide the country into geographical sections organized around the "Ring Road" (the highway which encircles the country) and are packed with pertinent facts and interesting information. The choices are laid out knowledgably and interestingly. There are numerous maps showing auto routes, hiking trails and places of interest. There are suggested walks and sidebars on Icelandic history and nature in each chapter plus a fact file in the back that tells you everything else you need to know. The chapter on Reykjavík not only includes a multitude of things to do in the capital itself, but outlines suggested interesting day excursions one can make by car or bus with Reykjavík as home base... really great for the first time visitor unfamiliar with distances and the time it takes to travel them. Another chapter focuses on traveling through the uninhabited highlands and includes detailed maps and notes on auto routes, jeep routes, walking trails, mountain huts, camping areas and more. Author Cathy Harlow, lives in Iceland, has trained there as a tour guide and since 1987 has shared her enthusiasm for the country with hundreds of visitors. Perhaps that is why the Landmark Visitors Guide so beautifully intuits exactly what the independent traveler needs to know. This is a wonderful guidebook and long overdue.....

Having just spent more than 2 weeks in Iceland, I've had a good opportunity to see which guides worked and which ones didn't. To begin with, Cathy Harlow's excellent book is more along the lines of the DK Guidebooks: excellent pictures, printed on heavy glossy paper, and short on up-to-date, detailed info on accommodations and restaurants. In other words, this is a book to read and enjoy BEFORE going to Iceland, but it takes up too much weight for the info it conveys. Let's face it, the 20-kilo weight restriction for international flights, together with the even more severe practical

limitations for people who use public transportation where there are no porters or native bearers are strong reasons to travel as light as possible. Nonetheless, I enjoyed reading this book and would strongly recommend both the texts and photographs as an excellent introduction to a fascinating travel destination. Used in conjunction with the Rough Guide to Iceland or, even better, the updated Lonely Planet Guide to Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands, it is a worthwhile book to read and to keep for reference.

Not having seen any reviews or picture of this book, I was a little worried about what I might find when I ordered it. To my surprise, however, I received an absolutely fantastic description of everything Iceland has to offer a first-time tourist. The book is packed with dozens of amazing, beautiful photographs that compel you to fly over there as quickly as possible. The text not only covers a solid description of all the interesting places to visit, but dives into some of the history as well. Most importantly, the author makes available plenty of contact phone numbers and addresses (physical, e-mail, and web) that will help you better plan your trip. Even if you weren't thinking about ever going to Iceland, you would after reading this book.

It's been 4 hours, since I returned from Iceland, and one of my first things to do was to cancel my pending order of this book. Out in Iceland, I could have a look at what's inside, and quite a few of the pictures were disappointing. From someone with a limited amount of time (say, one week) and budget category equipment, this would be a nice book, but not from a professional photographer. Contrast is low in many of the pictures, and some of them were not taken at the right time of day (or right weather conditions). From this point of view, the book 'Lost in Iceland' was way better. I don't recommend it, if you want really nice shots.

Well known for his picture post-card views of Scotland, Colin Baxter has taken his work to a more satisfying level with this book of his Iceland photographs. Accumulated over many years' visits - this book provides an invaluable catalogue of what to see should you be visiting this unique country. Photographers and those with a special interest in landscape will find the map showing the photo locations invaluable. Good design, adequate printing, lots of photos, some very good indeed. Icelandair should be very pleased with its impact on tourism: very low Puffin count too!

I bought this book after I'd been here for a couple of months. Luckily, I already had the Lonely Planet's Guide to Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The Landmark Guide has good

pictures, but not much else. I'd only recommend it if you already have the Lonely Planet Guide and some experience with the island. It will not help you find a good hotel or good restaurant, and for some reasons skips a lot of the good places to see. A big disappointment.

The hardest thing for me to find in a guide book is a good balance between what is written and the pictures. I hate lengthy descriptions. This book does it better than any other I have seen - really outstanding pictures that save many words describing the locations, simple maps but enough to give you an idea and a lot of helpful advice and tips. Really feel that if you are only going to buy one book to plan your trip to Iceland - this should be it.

I recommend this fantastic book to anyone interested in Iceland. Forget the other guide books, none of them compare to this complete guide to Iceland.

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