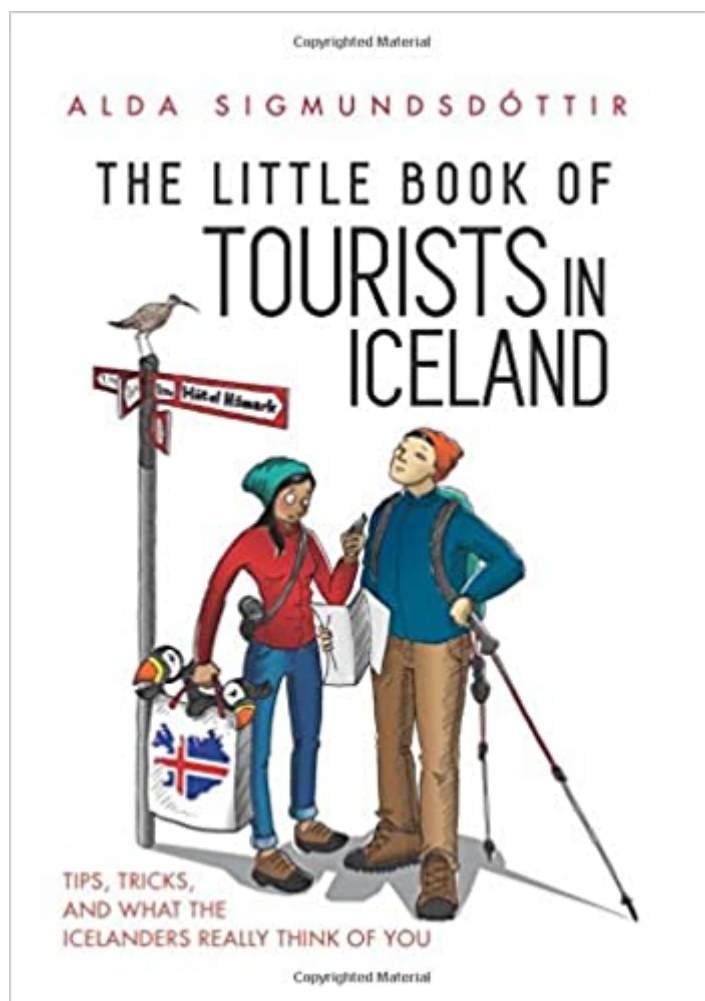


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# The Little Book Of Tourists In Iceland: Tips, Tricks, And What The Icelanders Really Think Of You



## Synopsis

Iceland is in the midst of an unprecedented tourist boom that has brought wealth to the country, but also myriad issues and challenges. This book provides a unique insight into the social and environmental impact that tourism is having on Iceland, and with wit and intelligence offers invaluable tips for touring safely, responsibly, and in harmony with the locals. A fascinating resource for anyone interested in contemporary Iceland, and an essential companion for all visitors to the country. Among the topics addressed in this book:

- Why now? - Reasons for the tourism boom in Iceland
- The impact of tourism on Iceland's housing market, health care system, law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and more
- Klondike fever in the Icelandic tourism industry
- Touring Iceland and staying safe: the main dangers of travel in Iceland
- Out driving: essential things to keep in mind on Iceland's roads
- What they think of us: complaints that tourists of different nationalities have about Iceland and Icelanders
- What we think of them: tourist behaviours that really, seriously irk the Icelanders
- Crazy stories of tourists in Iceland
- The environmental footprint: depletion of natural resources, pollution, and the physical impact of tourism
- Taxing tourists, or not - all about the endless debate
- How the locals really feel about the tourist invasion
- The truth about those Iceland myths: jailed bankers, refusal to bail out banks, believing in elves, incest app, promiscuity, disgusting food
- and much, much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alda Sigmundsdottir is a writer, journalist and translator, and the author of seven other books about Iceland. She has written extensively about Iceland for the international media and is a frequent

commentator on Icelandic affairs. Catch up with Alda on her website [aldasigmunds.com](http://aldasigmunds.com), where you can also sign up for her monthly newsletter. You can find Alda on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

I was considering a trip to Iceland. However, if the infrastructure ( especially law enforcement and medical, not to mention the roads), is as unable to cope with the increasing number of tourists as portrayed in this book, it may be best to look elsewhere. Agree- crowded parking lots won't keep me from going to our national parks, so this is a non -issue.

Returning for a second visit, this book was recommended by friends. I learned a lot even though I thought I already was familiar with the country. It's well written, presenting the many times uncomfortable facts with a blend of humor, some resignation to the challenges and a dash of hope for the future. I hope to be at least better informed about what I see and experience, and to appreciate my time there as a visitor.

If the author is correct tourism at recent levels is a social and ecological disaster for Iceland, profiting a small group of corrupt oligarchs at the expense of the public patrimony. Iceland: the banana republic of the North. One wonders why a small closely knit society allows such base behaviour.

Helpful on recent trip to Iceland.

This is a good read even if you will never go to Iceland. Tourism is the springboard Alda uses to help explain how Iceland's political and economic system works (or doesn't) and the way landscape has driven culture and values in ways outsiders cannot always appreciate. My favorite part was about questions tourists ask, or the things they think they know about Iceland. People who live on small island nations are often besieged in these times of rapid globalization. Alda helps outsiders see things from an insider's view without being too hard on the outsiders. Clear, conversational, and often funny.

I read this book after I returned from a short layover in Iceland, and in an odd way I am glad I didn't read it beforehand! It lays bare the dark side of Icelandic politics and government, and also many of the dubious practices fueled by the country's new cash cow, tourism. It was dispiriting to read that Iceland has the same 1%er issue with shady governmental tactics that we have here in the U.S. I

didn't have a need to believe in Icelandic Elves, but found I had really wanted to believe that Icelanders were more egalitarian, feminist and noble than my own compatriots. But, the truth is that people are people, the world over! Disillusioning as that is, it really is good to be reminded of this. I really do recommend that everyone going to Iceland read this book! The author writes well and entertainingly. I expected this book to be set up with more Q & A and FAQs. There were some, but there were also long digressions explaining intricacies of political events and the recent financial crisis, on which the author is clearly an expert. However, many tourists are not actually all that interested in that stuff. Of course, a brief overview, and mention when germane is good. But I'd have liked a bit more "Touristy Lite" info. Pretty sure many tourists don't care much about the evil machinations of former Prime ministers, and just want advice on how to have fun without causing offense, and more explanations of local customs and traditions. One area where the author did an amazing job on that kind of thing is when she explained the natural dangers of the land and the enormous rise of Search And Rescue calls, due to the huge increase of tourists and their lack of information and preparedness. Her anecdotes about how to avoid causing offense by camping, bathing or bathrooming willy nilly, are both hilarious and useful! Also the information on how to wash before going into the pool was excellent! I somehow figured this out on my own, just copied the women around me, but I firsthand witnessed a group of teenage girls sent shame-faced back to the showers by the ever-watchful shower police. For all these reasons alone, this book is invaluable! To sum up, while a bit heavy on politics and economics, this little book is entertainingly written and extremely informative on many other subjects important to the average tourist's experience of this beautiful country. Please read it before you go there!

This is the book I was looking for seventeen years ago when I first started visiting Iceland. It is well written, concise, and packed with information about Iceland and its current "tourism situation" as well as ruminations on what a tourist in Iceland can expect and how a tourist should behave to maximize his or her experience. This is a far cry from the usual guide book. If you are even just thinking about going to Iceland, get this book!

This should be a mandatory reading upon coming to Iceland as a tourist at the present. Everything is analysed with wit and objectivity and might serve well those who want to have a safe travel there and not pissing off the locals in any way. That being said, what you read between the lines in there is probably.... if you really love Iceland, don't go, at least not right now, and if you cannot restrain yourselves from going, please try to make the decisions that will affect the less the country and it's

population. like all other Alda Sigmundsdóttir book, this is regal.

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