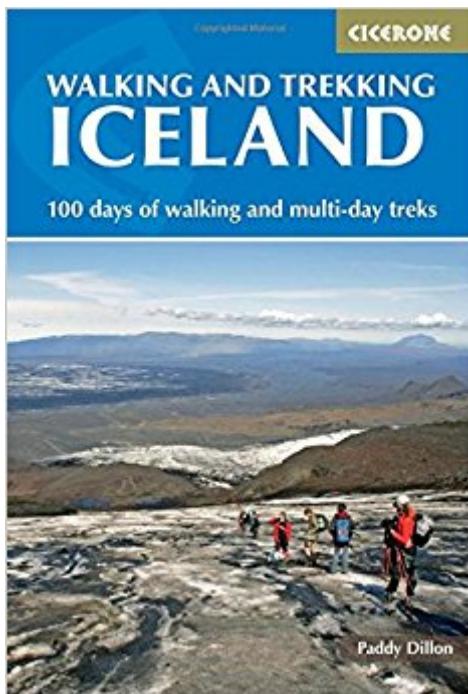


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Walking And Trekking In Iceland



Synopsis

This hiking and trekking guidebook offers a total of 49 day hikes and 10 multi-stage treks set right across the magnificent country of Iceland. With three national parks including the mighty Vatnajökull, it is a country of incredible beauty, and its capital, Reykjavík, is an established and easy-to-get-to destination. Including popular, such as the classic Laugavegur Trail from Landmannalaugar to Þingvellir, as well as lesser-known trails, the guide is split into 12 sections that cover all the best hiking and trekking to be had in and around Iceland's amazing and awe-inspiring volcanic, glacial landscapes. The routes range in difficulty from easy walks to challenging treks and give readers all the information they need to experience this wonderfully unique destination on foot. Venturing inland to the remote interior and captivating ice caps, and across glaciers, past lakes and around coastlines and geothermal areas, Paddy Dillon's guide to this 'Land of Ice and Fire' encourages visitors to explore all that Iceland has to offer, and will inspire lovers of the great outdoors to return time and time again. The guide gives lots of tips for travellers on a budget as well as details on public transport and accommodation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paddy Dillon is a prolific outdoor writer with over 60 guidebooks to his name, as well as more than a dozen booklets and brochures. He writes for a number of outdoor magazines and other publications, and produces material for tourism groups and other organisations. He lives near the Lake District and has walked in every county in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales; writing about walks in every one of them. He has led guided walks and walked extensively in Europe, as well as

in Nepal, Tibet, Africa and the Rocky Mountains of Canada and the US.

Good book.

Detailed guide to leave the adventure!

We have not used the book yet (trip is August 2016) but I have a lot of hiking guide books and this one has great detail, good maps and is made of quality materials. Can't wait to use it!

Difficult to use, the maps did not tie into local areas well.

This book is intended for people who travel around Iceland by bus (and the busses there are pretty nice). However, I drove a 4x4 around the country and found most of the hikes completely useless because they were one-way (from one town to another). It would have been nice if the author had provided turnaround points for those who always wanted to return to the starting point.

Having just returned from Iceland, I think I first have to confess that I used this book very little. However, that isn't too say that I didn't do a fair amount of hiking. Indeed, in my 12 days on the island I hiked 8 of them for what probably averaged out to around 6-8 miles per day. So why didn't I use the book? Mainly because it inundates the reader/user with details that aren't especially useful or helpful and is geared towards those who are venturing to Iceland for very specific multiple day hiking trips. Breaking it down a little, the hikes generally provide rather colorful turn-by-turn-style directions that sound something like this (paraphrasing): "Hike for about a mile on the winding crushed volcanic stone path, passing two open fields usually occupied with sheep behind a wire fence. After the small barn the path will become steeper until you reach the first grove of shrubs, then turning left into a series of hills." At first glance this level of detail seems very impressive, but unless one is actually holding and reading the book while actually on the hike (or has a photographic memory), it's simply not helpful. Moreover, typically absent are points such as elevation gain per mile, how to access the trail head, how weather conditions affect the quality of the trail, appropriate pacing for sections of a hike, etc. Indeed, the author himself provides insight into his writing process and tells us that he writes his reviews more or less in real time by carrying an iPad with him in order to provide his every observation and make us feel as if we were there, but in reality he does so at the expense of the truly useful information mentioned above. The second issue

I had with the book was the manner in which each hike/series of hikes was compartmentalized. For many areas of the country, the author has listed a handful of longer, multi-day backpacking trip broken into daily lengths. For example, one "hike" may be 55 miles long in total, broken into 8-ish mile portions over 7 days. Sometimes sections of these hikes can be done individually, but more often they are linear (i.e. you start one place and end up 50-something miles away in need of a ride), meaning that unless you intend to do the whole 50-ish mile path, it is very hard to use the information provided. Likewise, because of the focus on these long hikes, very few day hikes are included. Indeed, for a country as vast and replete with trails as Iceland, this 300+ page book provides maybe 40 total hikes, with large sections of the country skipped entirely as though no hiking opportunities (short or long) existed in the area at all. Add to these issues shortcomings such as poor overall organization and maps lacking useful levels of detail (or even recommendations on where to find well-scaled maps of the area) and one is left with a rather frustrating volume of hard to access trails and lackluster information about said trails. For me personally, I think the money is better spent on a subscription to something like AllTrails.com, which amazingly has almost every trail in the country marked, often with users who have recorded their own hikes in the area giving useful directions, advice, and even providing photos. Essentially, all one has to do is zoom in on an area of Iceland that looks interesting or search for hikes in the area and the website provides access to detailed topographic and/or satellite maps with well-marked paths and lengths of various loops/sections already marked in miles. In comparison, this is vastly more helpful and expansive in its options and access to Iceland's true bounty of hiking trails. Bottom line: unless you want a smattering of information on a collection of multi-day backpacking "hikes," your money and effort are better spent elsewhere.

Um... just ok. I will say we car camped around Iceland. Expecting to do the "walking" trails. Most of the trails we could do in a day were in the Rough Guide or Lonely Planet or park maps. I guess I was expecting "something everyone else wasn't on" or loops... So we really didn't need this at all. It might be good for multiday "backpacking" in Iceland.

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