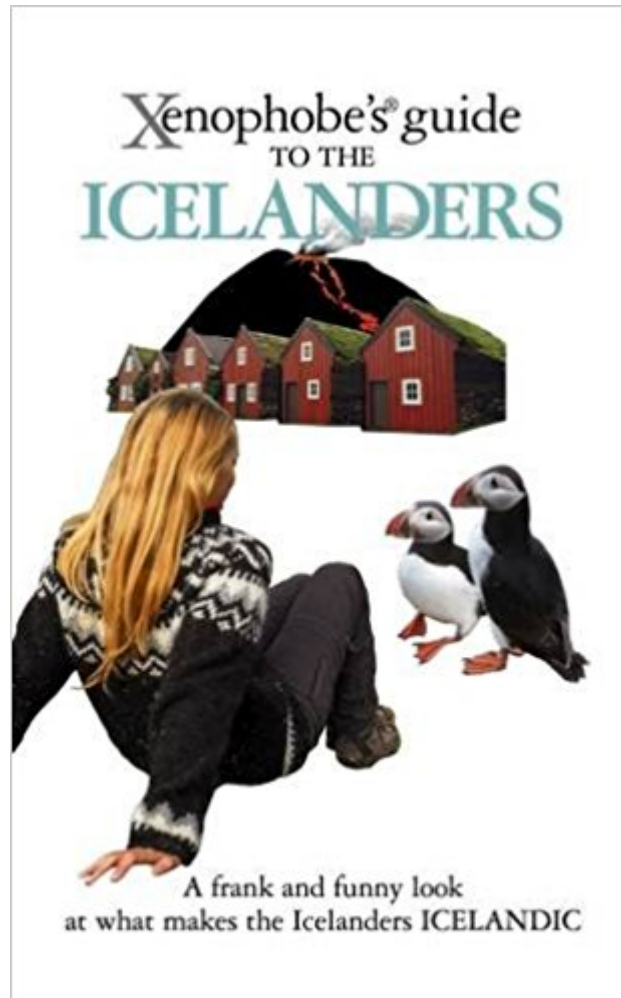




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# Xenophobe's Guide To The Icelanders



## Synopsis

"Not only has an Icelander held the title of World's Strongest Man, but there have been several Icelandic Miss Worlds. There have also been a surprising number of Icelandic chess grandmasters, and Iceland has more writers and artists per capita than any other country on earth. These facts reinforce the Icelanders' belief that they are a nation of strong, beautiful and intelligent people." "The essence of Icelandic conversation is the insult. Icelanders are born with a talent for it and use it with ease from an early age. Because of their farming and fishing ancestry the most telling jibes involve sheep and fish. It is a very serious matter to refer to someone as a sheep or a codhead."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Xenophobe's Guides raise a smile and give you an understanding of the beliefs and foibles of nationalities." [Glasgow Evening Times](#)  
"Xenophobe's Guides aim to help us understand our differences." [Daily Express](#)

'As proof of their innate superiority Icelanders point out that Iceland is the navel of the world. If you doubt the veracity of this claim you need only consult the Viking Sagas, the greatest of all literary achievements, where this view is expressed countless times during the course of long meandering tales of murder and revenge.' Xenophobia is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable. Xenophobe's Guides - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

This book has a disturbing number of inaccuracies.

funny, funny, very apropos.

Silly book

Brief, pointed, sarcastic, funny, informative

I have only skimmed several sections of this book, but I found it very entertaining, much more so than the XG for the Danes. The Icelanders are even odder than I had imagined, and I learned many curious facts from this book. Icelanders are fiercely protective of their language, and go to great lengths to avoid borrowing foreign words, so cognates are not much help if you want to learn to speak Icelandic. A comment I found very amusing: "The Icelanders are pleased to the point of embarrassment if a foreigner learns their language." I don't want to spoil other readers' pleasure: check out the charming anecdote that follows this comment! My only criticism of this book is the small map showing Iceland's place in the Northern Hemisphere. The text is too small to read comfortably, even on my 15" monitor, and the map is slanted 90 degrees. No harm done: I know where Iceland is and what it looks like.

Could have been better of written by a real native Icelandic. More of an external perspective from some who has lived here.

I loved this book it was humourous, and quite likely a correct summary. I have found the Icelanders so much fun to be around. it is true they are stoic, but not arrogant, they are friendly, (but it takes time) they are intelligent, they are stubborn, and they are, as Halldor Laxness describes them in his book 'the Independent People - Independent. Read it, I think you will enjoy it if you like a good laugh, but I think you need to know a little about Iceland and the people, - also read some Halldor Laxness. Just enjoy

This is a great tongue-in-cheek primer for preparing to be a tourist in Iceland. Didn't stay long enough to know how accurate it is, but I would guess it's pretty on-target. Fun to read, some good

laughs.

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