

From Vikings to Volcanoes: An Introduction to Iceland

Tutor: Dr Alaric Hall

Synopsis

Iceland was settled by Vikings, people who also brought their ships and their language to Yorkshire. That language still echoes in English today, but in Iceland it's living and breathing. We'll learn to speak some Icelandic—equally useful for reading tenth-century poems or for ordering drinks in Reykjavík—and study some of the myths and sagas of medieval Iceland. We'll look at how old and new beliefs grew together in the folklore of Christian Iceland, and explore how history and tradition flourish in Icelandic culture today as Icelanders deal with financial crisis, reshaping their democracy...and volcanoes!

Biography

Dr Alaric Hall teaches medieval English, and medieval and modern Icelandic, at the University of Leeds. He has also worked at the Universities of Helsinki and Iceland. He is best known for his research on beliefs in elves in medieval England and Scandinavia. And the stripy jumpers his mum knits him.