

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



LOFOTEN ISLANDS

NORTHERN LIGHTS AND WINTER LANDSCAPES IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Arctic light
- Wild beaches
- Northern lights
- Low light photography
- Scenic accommodation
- Magical fjords
- Snow capped mountains
- Reine Fjord ferry
- Remote lakes
- Unusual fishing villages

INTRODUCTION

The Lofoten Islands provide some of the most remarkable landscapes to be found anywhere on Earth. We have been running early summer workshops in this unique area for a few years now and our visits in winter have convinced us that this is one of THE places for photographers to be in winter! Lofoten is an archipelago off the north west coast of Norway well known for its natural beauty, unusual snow capped mountains rising steeply from attractive fjords and magical light. Anchored above the Arctic Circle, the sun stays low in the sky giving the coastal landscapes a very emotive appearance. The locations on this particular trip are especially suited for those of you that would like to gain more experience in low light photography. We base

ourselves in the village of Ramberg overlooking the Arctic Sea and directly facing the northern sky. At this time of year skies are dark with both the sea and mountains providing a magnificent backdrop to the ephemeral Aurora. As many of our regular photographic guests know, WPH are based in Iceland and are uniquely experienced to judge what constitutes a fine northerly coastal landscape. We also know a thing or two about taking great aurora shots. In our opinion Lofoten ticks all the boxes and more. If you have always wanted to see and photograph the northern lights and explore one of the Arctic's most astonishing regions, then this is the workshop for you!



PHOTOGRAPHIC TUTORS

Contact the WPH office for Information regarding the tutors on your particular trip.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival and Afternoon Transfer to Hotel

Our hotel in Ramberg is half an hour drive from Leknes airport. There are plenty of flights to and from Oslo's Gardermoen airport to Leknes. We will try to coordinate with participants so that we only do a couple of airport transfers. Have a chat with us prior to booking flights. Should the night be clear we will go out locally for our first shoot at capturing the aurora.

Accommodation Hotel Ramberg for all 6 nights of the trip.

Day 2–7

For the following six days we will explore as many locations as possible in the surrounding area. We have chosen to stay close to the northern sky for aurora possibilities and evening light. Most of our locations are between ten minutes and half an hour's drive from our base. At this time of year the sun rises to the south in the Reine area

and it is well worth the half hour drive to this beautiful early morning light spot. There will be plenty of photography hours between sunrise and sunsets. In February the sun will still be very close to the horizon. In March it will rise higher although in both months the winter light can be extraordinary. It is impossible for us to predict where we will be on any given day as much will depend on the weather and prevailing winds, but needless to say, photographically, we will make the most of each day whatever the weather throws our way. There will be lots of opportunity for low light photography. At least one neutral density filter in the range of 4–6 stops would be a good addition to your kit. A good quality sturdy tripod is equally important. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you need advice. We will attempt to photograph the aurora whenever the skies are clear. Take a good look at our image gallery, as this will give you a fair idea of what to expect. Here is a short description of some of our locations.

Skagsanden Beach, Flakstadøya

A fine open beach facing north offering classic landscapes, rich textured sand, interesting rocks and a great aurora spot. This lovely and productive beach is just ten minutes drive from our accommodation. There is a very interesting 'Persian Looking' church close to the beach.

Reine Village, Moskenesøya

Classic Lofoten, Red Rorbuer (fishermen's huts) and snow capped mountains reflected in the fjord with rows of cod hanging out to dry. This is a great spot for sunrise and in March also sunset.



Sakrisøy

The picturesque Reine fishing village affords superb sunrise images of ochre fishermen's cabins and cod racks with a striking mountain backdrop. The energetic amongst you might want to climb the small hill that looks out over Sakrisøy and Mt Olstind, the vista is quite panoramic.

Utakleiv Beach, Vestvågøya

North of Leknes is probably our furthest location. The left side of the beach is rocky, allowing you to get right up into the waves for some dramatic images and, more often than not, wet feet! The rocks here come in lovely smooth shapes of round or oval. En route to Utakleiv is the bright white sand Haukland Beach.

Vikten

The village of Vikten is situated on the outer side of Flakstadøya in Lofoten. In Vikten you find the glassblower's cabin with its turf roof and great vistas across to distant mountains. Here it is possible to wander along a beach of both sand and rocks.



Unstad Beach

The beach allows for a variety of images. There is some sand but the main interest lies with the rocks on either side. They look particularly effective when they are snow covered with a stormy sky.

Fredvang

From Ramberg we drive over the bridges that span the fjord to Fredvang and surrounding areas. En route are many potential locations including fine views down the fjord and a farm with very photogenic sheep (only out in good weather)!

Selfjorden

This remote part of the fjord beyond Fredvang feels very wild and offers fine mountain landscapes with a variety of small derelict stilted cabins for foreground interest.

Reine Fjord

Given suitable weather we will take the scheduled round-trip ferry on one of the Norway's most beautiful fjords. This is a fabulous way to see more of the surrounding and more remote areas.

Day 8: Transfer to Leknes Airport

This morning after breakfast we will transfer to Leknes airport for homeward flights.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 hotel nights
- All meals
- Transfers
- Reine Fjord Ferry

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Items not mentioned

ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodation in Ramberg is scenically located and close to many locations. We sleep in small cabins facing the Arctic Ocean. The cabins are warm and cosy with small kitchenettes, a bathroom and a sitting area where guests can relax or work on their images. The spacious central restaurant and bar is where we take all our meals. The food is locally sourced and of a good standard. There is a comfortable house adjacent to the restaurant/cabins where the tutors are accommodated, we meet here for image reviews and presentations.

Guests will not have to share a bedroom. In the two bed cabins are two equally nice bedrooms and a shared bathroom. In the one bed roomed cabins there is a single bedroom and bathroom. Single cabins are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come' basis. Unless requested otherwise, guests will be sharing a cabin with another guest of the same gender.

FOOD

Breakfast and dinner will be taken at our hotel restaurant. Some days we will have a picnic lunch that will be eaten on location or we will eat at our hotel. Please let us know when you book of any special dietary requirements.

ALCOHOL

This is rather expensive in Norway, during the holiday we can call at the local shop where wine and spirits are sold; it might be worth considering bringing a bottle of your favourite 'tipple'! Wine, beer and spirits are available in the restaurants where we eat. Beer is available in the local supermarket.

SPENDING MONEY

At the moment (winter 2015) you get around 10–12 NOK to 1 GBP. Norway is expensive; a soft drink might be 15 in a supermarket, 27 in a kiosk or 30 in a touristy place. There are supermarkets close to our hotel where you can buy soft drinks/snacks and beers etc.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, death,



repatriation and loss of baggage. We will need a copy of your travel insurance at the time of booking.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please check on the UDI site to see if you require a visa for Norway.

LANGUAGE

Norwegian (norsk) is a North Germanic language spoken primarily in Norway. English is widely spoken and understood.

CLIMATE

Considering their location north of the Arctic Circle – Lofoten has the largest positive temperature anomaly in the world relative to latitude. This is a result of the Gulf Stream and its extensions: the North Atlantic Current and the Norwegian Current. The winter weather in Lofoten often varies dramatically and fluctuates between rain, snow and dry weather throughout the winter. Winds and gales can come from all directions. Having said this, the winters are often characterised by long periods of easterly winds carrying stable weather and calm seas. The temperatures are unlikely to drop much below freezing.

CLOTHING

The best solution to temperature control is to have a number of layers available from lightweight thermal underwear through mid-layer insulation to a windproof/waterproof jacket/trousers. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at anytime before the trip.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING/EQUIPMENT

- Down or artificial fibre duvet jacket, we wear "Rab"
- Warm trousers that allow flexibility of movement
- Long sleeved thermal tops and leggings
- Light fleece/wool jumpers
- Thicker warm fleece type jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers



- Warm socks, a few pairs
- Boots/shoes with good tread
- Warm hat
- Neck warmer such as “Buff”
- Wellington boots for the beaches
- 1–2 pairs warm gloves that enable using camera controls whilst wearing
- Casual clothes, jeans etc for hotel wear
- Indoor shoes/slippers
- Sun cream and sunglasses
- Head torch
- Small basic first aid & any personal medicines
- Small towel
- “Hot Hands”
- Wash kit
- Ice grips, see below...

ICE GRIPS

For your own safety we advise you to bring with you a pair of ice grips to put on your boots. These grips are very straightforward to use and will allow you to walk safely on icy or slippery surfaces. You will hardly know that you are

wearing them unlike spiky crampons. You will be advised when to wear them by our guides.

There is a variety of makes and designs. We have found the rubber ones with coils and a velcro strap to work best. The strap is important as it ensures that you don't lose them. For an example see the [Yaktrax Pro](#). You might want to check in a local outdoor store first. They usually have a selection of suitable models.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT/INFORMATION

- Camera bag or backpack such as the Flipside or Trekker series designed by LowePro.
- Any extra equipment that doesn't fit in your camera bag/hand luggage will need to go in a hard case that can be put in the aircraft hold.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a system camera/mirrorless camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...
For full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.
- Spare camera (highly recommended)
- Sturdy tripod – not only useful for low light photography but also for accurate framing and composition of landscape and close-up images.
- Cable release – mechanical or electronic remote to avoid shake on long exposures.
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. At least one neutral density filter in the range of 4–6 stops would be a good addition to your kit.



- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Lightweight ‘trekking’ absorbent towel for drying cameras and equipment
- Rain cover for camera and camera bag.
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor. All of the places we stay in have Wi-Fi.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are European two-pin, so you might need a travel plug adapter.

MAPS AND BOOKS

An excellent map is the [1:100.000 Lofoten Turkart](#) from Uglund/Nordeca. It covers the whole archipelago, and shows relevant tourist information and hiking trails.

USEFUL LINKS

[Hurtigruten ferry to Lofoten and other destinations](#)

[Flights to Norway Widerøe](#)

[Scandinavian Airlines SAS](#)

[Norwegian Airlines](#)

PARTNERS

Non-photographer partners will be very welcome. Although this is primarily a photography holiday we also visit some very beautiful locations. The cost will be the same for photographers and non-photographers.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

We hope that this information has answered some of your questions about the holiday; it doesn't hope to answer everything. If you have any questions please get in touch.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Contact us [through our website](#), where you can also fill in the [online booking form](#), or phone +44 (0)1630 647828.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

This is an outdoor travel holiday and the itinerary is dependent on the weather, local conditions and other variables. Wild Photography Holidays may use their discretion to change the itinerary should conditions dictate this; your health, safety and enjoyment will always be our primary concern when making such changes.



IMAGE CREDIT

The images in this PDF and on the Wild Photography Holidays website are the work of Martin Sammtleben and Geraldine Westrupp unless credited as otherwise.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.

Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)