

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



WEST GREENLAND AUTUMN

ICEBERGS, GLACIERS AND INUIT SETTLEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

- Sunset by boat in the Ice Fjord
- Disko Island
- Possibility of aurora borealis
- Traditional village settlements
- Colourful wooden houses
- Qeqertarsuaq ice beach
- Stunning autumn colours
- Various boat excursions
- Aerial photography (optional)
- Hotel overlooking the Icefjord
- Greenlandic culture
- World class sunset locations
- Humpback Whales

INTRODUCTION

Wild Photography Holidays are excited to offer a newly designed trip to Greenland. This destination has been at the top of our own personal 'bucket list' for a while. When we finally made it to explore this location we were blown away by the incredible sights that we encountered. The dates of our two autumn departures have been chosen to make the most of the stunning late tundra colours when the big arctic skies are dark enough for the possibility of aurora. Our main Greenland base, Ilulissat (formerly Jacobshavn) means "Icebergs" in the West Greenlandic language. Each year, the massive Jakobshavn Glacier calves some 35 billion tons of icebergs into the sheltered waters of Disko Bay and the Icefjord.

It is the only UNESCO World Heritage Site on the world's largest island. Towers, arches, and walls of ancient blue ice thrust skyward from the water's surface. The whole fjord gives an ever-changing vista as huge icebergs float past in dramatic light en route to open sea. It's believed that an iceberg that calved from this magnificent glacier sank the Titanic itself. A first sighting of this unique arctic wonderland is guaranteed to make your photographic heart beat faster. A huge country, it is populated rather sparsely only around the coast. Indeed, there are no roads to anywhere except in and around the towns or settlements, the only way to travel here is by boat, air, dog sledge and foot. Travelling by boat, we navigate the ice filled waters at sunset. We sail to small settlements



still alive with ancient traditions with a culture still very much tied to the ocean and prevailing weather conditions. We walk through the tundra to some spectacular viewpoints. Brightly coloured wooden houses sit on rocky bluffs surrounded by gorgeous autumnal tundra, small fishing boats bring in Halibut, Crab plus the occasional Seal. There will be an optional opportunity to experience some aerial photography. We start and finish this trip in Ilulissat Greenland giving participants the possibility of choosing their own route, generally via Copenhagen, Denmark or Reykjavík, Iceland. The start/finish dates coincide with the Air-Iceland Connect flights operating only out of Reykjavík and Air Greenland who fly regularly from Copenhagen. This is a truly an inspiring adventure exploring locations that are only now becoming more accessible to photographers. This will be the fifth year that we have been running our Greenland departures and it is fair to say that we have a great sense of all the best locations to photograph.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TUTORS

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

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Ilulissat Greenland

A flight north over Greenland's vast Ice Cap brings us to Ilulissat on the west coast where an airport transfer is included. Our hotel is perfectly situated and directly overlooking the Ice Fjord. The hotel is modern and well run with a great selection of food including many vegetarian options. If you are early you may choose to take an initial stroll to the nearby locations for photography. Our first meeting as a group will be at 16:00 in the reception of Hotel Icefiord for introductions, an image presentation and a trip briefing. We will have an early evening meal followed by a spectacular sunset sailing on board a private boat to photograph icebergs at close quarters in the dramatic evening light. Whale sightings, particularly Humpbacks, are common.

Hotel Icefiord (D)



Day 2,3: To Qeqertarsuaq – Disko Island

After an early breakfast we leave by boat through an iceberg choked sea for a journey to remote Qeqertarsuaq (Godhavn) a town on the Disko Island founded in 1773 by the Danish whaler Svend Sandgreen. For two centuries, whaling was the main trade here. These days it's fishing and hunting. The landscapes are dramatically different than most of Greenland. The settlement comprises colourful wooden houses spread randomly over rocky bluffs. The area is littered with all the paraphernalia of a community whose main occupation is making a living from the land and sea. Small fishing boats come and go from the tiny harbour, the locals bring in Halibut, Crab, Seal and the occasional Whale, this is not a trip for the faint hearted! The small town has an unusual and dramatic backdrop of basalt mountains reminiscent of Iceland. At this time of year the colours on the mountain and around the settlement are very striking. Just ten minutes walk from our accommodation we often encounter huge icebergs stranded in the shall-



low water around the settlement, they often dwarf the nearby houses and sea cliffs. Colourful strata found on the black beach rocks make fine foreground for the sea ice or indeed excellent macro subjects by themselves. Whilst in Disko we will walk along to coast to photograph some remarkable basalt architecture including sea arches. A further excursion will be made to a lush valley with a striking waterfall and gorgeous autumnal colours. Two nights here will allow us to explore all possible locations fully.

Hotel Qeqertarsuaq (B,L,D)

Day 4: To Ilulissat

After lunch we make the return journey to Ilulissat and our Icefjord Hotel. We will be back in time for dinner and sunset photography over the Ice Fjord. It is possible to photograph the ice fjord from many places around the town; indeed some photographs in the accompanying trip gallery were taken from the hotel veranda!

Hotel Icefjord (B,L,D)

Day 5: Around Ilulissat

Following a sunrise shoot and breakfast we set off to walk through the tundra to some fabulous view points overlooking the ice fjord. We will take it slowly as it

seems that there is something worth photographing at each corner. The tundra at this time of year is magnificent, reds, yellows and greens interspersed with attractive bog cotton spread over the attractive rocky bluffs. If the day is fine we may take a packed lunch. The energetic may want to extend this walk by exploring the ancient settlement area around Sermermiut. For 4000 years, different Inuit cultures lived in the settlement sustained by the rich fishing in the ice fjord. Even today, you can still see the mounds of the dwellings indicating times gone by. Today is when it may be possible to try out some optional activities that are not included in the

price of the trip. For example some aerial photography over the ice cap or an official Whale watching excursion. Hotel Icefiord (B,L,D)

Day 6: Sail to Oqaatsut

After lunch we board a small private boat sailing to the tiny settlement of Oqaatsut where we spend the afternoon and evening exploring. Oqaatsut, formerly Rodebay, is a settlement in the Qaasuitsup municipality; it had 46 inhabitants in 2010. The modern name of the settlement is Kalaallisut for “Cormorants”. There is not a single road here, just colourful wooden houses on stark rounded rocks and wheelbarrows! Each little house is uniquely built and painted in a different colour. Ice from the fjord makes it's way here and is often lit up with a spectacular light. To the north of the settlement sloping down into the ocean are rocky slabs covered with attractive low vegetation and small pools. To the south is a tiny harbour where a multitude of small fishing boats are moored. The splendid autumn colours here provide great foreground for the Icebergs floating in the sea. Our hotel is in the middle of the settlement, near to the quayside. Settlement Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 7: To Ilulissat

After a sunrise shoot and breakfast we will explore the Oqaatsut settlement further. There is so much of interest to photograph here and it is all very accessible by foot. After lunch we board our boat for the return journey to Ilulissat and the ice fjord. Arriving back mid afternoon we are in plenty of time for dinner and a presentation of images taken during our fabulous Greenland adventure. Some participants may choose to take a second optional



sunset cruise.

Icefjord Hotel (B,L,D)

Note: during our stay in Ilulissat we can organise optional activities such as a whale watching trip or some aerial photography. We have not included these outings in the price of the trip as often in the past the weather has proved inclement and participants have been disappointed. This is the ‘aurora’ time of year and wherever possible we will try to capture these incredible phenomena. All the tutors are experienced ‘aurora’ shooters and will be passing on their expert knowledge to ensure that you go home with some good high quality images. We will need clear skies for aurora photography.

Day 8: Homeward flights

After breakfast participants will be free. Transfers are included to Ilulissat's small airport for homeward flights whenever these maybe. Check out will be around 11.00 am. You may be thinking of extending your stay in Greenland for a few days or perhaps a few days in Iceland, if this is the case just get in touch and we may have some ideas to help you plan this!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers from/to Ilulissat airport
- All meals
- All accommodation
- Boat tours in as per itinerary

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to and from Iceland
- Beverages or additional items ordered during meals



- Anything not mentioned in the included list

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is included in the price of the holiday and all have en suite facilities with the exception of the settlement hotel in Oqaatsut. Here, there may be two to a room with shared bathroom facilities. There are hot showers next door to the hotel and a shared toilet in the hotel. The standard of rooms and furnishings on the settlement are cosy and comfortable. A single supplements is available for this trip but this does not include the Oqaatsut Settlement.

Our main base in Ilulissat is the Hotel Icefiord. Check out their website for images and videos.

FOOD

We enjoy a good standard and variety of food, indeed the hotel in Ilulissat boasts both Thai and Greenlandic chefs who have worked there for many years. Between them they manage to produce an amazing array of excellent menus using local produce including some Thai variations and several vegetarian options. There will be an opportunity to try local food such as Whale, Seal, Reindeer, Halibut, berries, Crab, Lobster etc. all is optional! The price of the holiday includes breakfast, lunch and dinner (two courses) and tea/coffee with meals.

ALCOHOL

This is expensive, maybe consider bringing along a bottle of your favourite tippie, this can be purchased at the Iceland airport.



SPENDING MONEY

You will need money for Wi-Fi. This will cost around 10 UK pounds for 2 hours and can be used over a long period of time. It will not be available at Oqaatsut Settlement. Snacks, sweets and gifts are expensive. Special purchases include bone and soapstone carvings, skin products and beadwork. Credit cards are accepted; there is a bank and ATM in Ilulissat.

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 with the appropriate authorities to check if you require a visa for Greenland. There is also some further information on Visas and Greenland generally here <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/greenland/passport-visa>





LANGUAGE

The official languages are Greenlandic, an Inuit (Eskimo) language and Danish. Greenlanders connected with tourism will normally speak some English.

CLIMATE

Greenland has an Arctic climate, but owing to the size of the country there are great variations in the weather. Winters can be severe and the summers comparatively mild, particularly in areas which are sheltered from the prevailing winds. Precipitation, mostly snow, is moderately heavy around the coast from October – April. September can be milder but expect temperatures from around freezing to 7°C.

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

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’
- 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

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND 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 compact 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.



PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography holiday, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs.

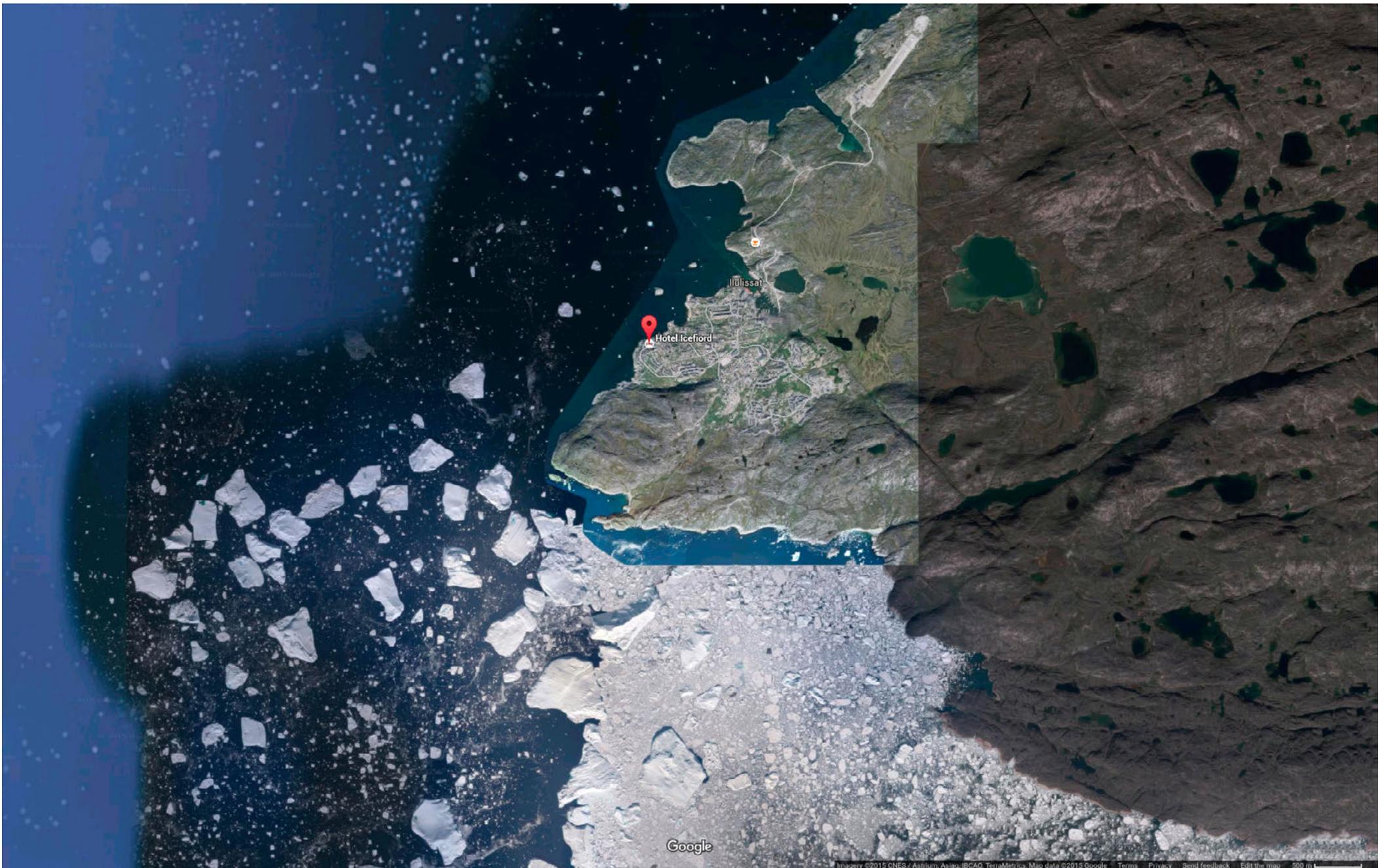
MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the

phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.



LINKS

[Hotel Icefiord](#) – our base in Ilulissat

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

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

Map of Ilulissat and surroundings, Hotel Icefiord at the centre.