

# WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



## ICELAND ULTIMATE MIDSUMMER LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Luminous icebergs floating in a turquoise lagoon
- Game of Thrones locations
- Stokksnes and Vestrahorn
- Skaftafell and Vatnajökull's glacial landscapes
- Sea washed ice on black volcanic sand
- Sunrises and sunsets in dramatic locations
- Hours of ambient light
- Peak time for birds in Iceland
- Lake Mývatn and Dimmuborgir
- Colourful geothermal areas and volcanic landscapes
- Waterfalls Dettifoss, Selfoss, Goðafoss & Gullfoss
- Kerlingarfjöll and the Highlands
- Iceland's Golden Circle including Þingvellir

### INTRODUCTION

During the month of July it is light all day with the sun disappearing only briefly. There are several hours of ambient light with endless sunrises and sunsets, a superb time to be in Iceland! For those who might be interested this trip takes in all of the locations that were used to film the latest Game of Thrones. Our locations are well chosen and photographically rewarding and they take us to three totally contrasting areas of Iceland. Down in the south east we will be central to some iconic locations such as Iceland's huge Vatnajökull ice cap, Skaftafell National Park, Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon and the black beaches festooned with sparkling sea washed ice sculptures. In the north we are based in one of Iceland's

premier photographic locations, Mývatn. From desolate craters to bubbling mud pools and geothermal caves, the area around Lake Mývatn is a microcosm of all the natural wonders that Iceland has to offer. It is also a fabulous location for bird enthusiasts. Our last base is in the remote interior Highlands of Iceland the geothermal area around Kerlingarfjöll; this is where ice and fire meets. The massif Kerlingarfjöll, 'Ogress Mountains' is part of the Kjölur area. During our explorations here we will encounter geothermal phenomena such as bubbling mud pools, fumaroles, hissing fissures, snow and a landscape that is truly Tolkien. Several locations on this Ultimate Landscape trip are secret to us, a real advantage when travelling with guides who know the landscape in-



timately. Expect to return from this workshop with an understanding of modern image processing techniques, a portfolio of remarkable, creative images and a bunch of great memories!

## LOCATIONS

This remarkable summer workshop concentrates on three main locations...

**Southeast and South Iceland:** Photography against a backdrop of mountains, glaciers, icebergs and black sand beaches.

**Mývatn:** A remarkable area renowned for its dramatic geothermal and volcanic landscape, fabulous waterfalls and amazing birdlife.

**Kerlingarfjöll:** A wild landscape located in the very heart of Iceland's remote Highlands which are only accessible for a couple of months a year.

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive Reykjavík

Arrive at Keflavík, Reykjavík's international airport. A Flybus transfer to our city centre hotel is included. If you arrive on an early flight you will have time to wander around the small but vibrantly buzzing city centre. We meet at 19:00 for introductions and a trip briefing before going out into town for dinner.

### Day 2–4: Southeast Iceland

Following a leisurely breakfast at our hotel, we depart for our drive to southeast Iceland. En route we will photograph several locations on Iceland's south coast including waterfalls, basalt columns and sea stacks at Vík plus the gorgeous lupin fields that are famous on this drive. Our comfortable base is very well situated for many stunning locations. To get the best light for our subjects we have a flexible itinerary often revisiting worthwhile locations. These will include...

**Stokksnes and Vestrahorn:** the jagged rocks and ridges of Vestrahorn make a fine backdrop to a black sand beach.



**Jökulsárlón:** ethereal icebergs of all shapes and sizes float serenely in the turquoise waters of this world famous lagoon. There is a massive Arctic Tern colony here.

**Breiðamerkursandur:** a black sand beach with sparkling ice formations, a totally unique experience.

**Fjallsárlón Glacier Lagoon:** a remote less visited location combining lush green vegetation, silvery winding streams, black sand with a big sculptured glacier that catches the light in a surreal fashion.

Accommodation: House and Cottages

### Day 5–8: Lake Mývatn, North Iceland

Today we make our way through an increasingly scenic and remote landscape skirting the vast interior Highlands to our comfortable accommodation located right by Lake Mývatn. Our journey will be punctuated by photography stops for we will travel through some very wild and attractive scenery. Over the next days we will make the most of the long hours of daylight by exploring the best of what this area has to offer both in terms of birdlife and the unique landscape. The area is starkly beautiful,



an otherworldly landscape of spluttering mud pots, weird lava formations, steaming fumaroles, volcanic craters, serene pools, huge flat topped mountains, spring flowers and birds. For those of you requiring a little rest and relaxation there is the option of visiting the deliciously warm geothermal lagoon of Mývatn's nature baths.

Accommodation: Cottages Lake Mývatn

### **Days 9,10: Kerlingarfjöll**

Leaving Iceland's number one road we head south. Now we are truly in the wilds travelling along the famous Kjölur highland route towards Kerlingarfjöll. En route we will explore and photograph the interesting geothermal 'hot' area of Hveravellir, a steamy and green oasis midst the vastness of Iceland's interior Highlands. Here we will find interestingly shaped smoking fumaroles and sky

blue, boiling water. Our next base for the next two nights is around one hour from here. The geothermal area around Kerlingarfjöll is where ice and fire meets. The massif Kerlingarfjöll, 'Ogress Mountains' is part of the Kjölur area. During our explorations here we will encounter geothermal phenomena such as bubbling mud pools, fumaroles, hissing fissures, waterfalls, snow and a landscape that is truly Tolkien.

Accommodation: Hotel

### **Day 11: Golden Circle and Reykjavík**

Leaving Kerlingarfjöll we head back to Reykjavík taking in the national park of Þingvellir, Geysir and the magnificent waterfall of Gullfoss.

Accommodation: Hotel Reykjavík

### **Day 12: Homeward flights**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport for homeward flights.

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 11 nights accommodation
- Flybus airport transfers
- All Meals
- All transport
- Photographic tutors/tuition

#### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- International flights
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel Insurance



### JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The trip officially starts on Day 1 with a meeting at the first night hotel in Reykjavik for introductions and a trip briefing followed by dinner together. Wild Photography Holidays services finish after breakfast on the final day of the trip.

### Flybus Airport Transfer

The Flybus is the most convenient way to get from Iceland's international airport to your hotel and back. The buses run all day and the bus stop is right outside arrivals. The bus takes you to the BSÍ central bus station. There you will be directed to a smaller bus that will take you to your hotel. The Flybus transfer is included in the price of the holiday. It is important that you let the office know the timings of your international flights so that Flybus tickets can be sent to you in plenty of time.

### ACCOMMODATION

Our accommodations are without exception beautifully located and a good standard. In Gerði we are based in a beautifully located hotel close to all our locations and

just ten minutes drive from the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. Single rooms and double rooms are available with private bathrooms. In Mývatn we stay close to Dimmuborgir right next to the lake. Here guests will have single rooms in well appointed cottages. Each cottage will have two bedrooms, a sitting area, a small kitchen and a bathroom. In Kerlingarfjöll and Reykjavík we stay in hotels with private rooms and bathrooms. If you have any questions relating to the accommodation then please feel free to contact us. The price of this trip is based on two people sharing a room. If you are a single traveller choosing this option you will be teamed up with another participant of the same gender. If you prefer a single room throughout the trip then please make this clear at the time of booking. There will be an extra charge for this, the price is shown on our website.

### FOOD

Generally we will eat our evening meal together at our accommodation. The food in our first Highlands trip will be prepared and cooked by our guides. In Reykjavík and



Kerlingarfjöll we will eat dinner in a local restaurant. Lunches will usually be 'Al Fresco' to allow for maximum time in the field, occasionally if the weather is poor they may be eaten at our accommodation. Breakfasts will always be at our base. Please ensure that any special dietary needs are mentioned on the booking form.

### ALCOHOL

This is rather expensive in Iceland, you may want to buy some when coming through the Duty Free at the international airport, it is relatively cheap here. Wine, beer and spirits are available in the restaurants where we eat.

### SPENDING MONEY

Icelandic Krona (ISK) can be withdrawn at the airport ATM machine. These are plentiful throughout Iceland. There will be opportunities to buy presents and souvenirs in some of our locations. Credit cards are accepted in all places for even very small purchases.



### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation and loss of baggage. We need a copy of your travel insurance at the time of booking.

### **PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS**

A passport valid for at least three months beyond length of stay required by all except nationals of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden who are only required to produce national iden-

tity cards issued by the authorities in their countries of origin.

Visas are not required but a return ticket will need to be shown by Australian, Canadian and USA nationals.

### **LANGUAGE**

Icelanders speak Icelandic; they also tend to speak rather good English. The workshop will be conducted in English. Depending on the tutors other languages such as German and Spanish may be spoken.

### **CLIMATE**

Iceland's climate is tempered by the Gulf Stream. Summers are mild and winters rather cold, the weather is very changeable at all times of the year, there may be rain, sunshine, drizzle and snow all in the same day. As far as we can make a guess, expect weather that is probably similar to May in the UK. Most importantly for us, the lack of pollution means that the clarity of the light is often exceptional with phenomenal 'big skies' and really atmospheric cloud patterns.

## 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 jacket. Different layers will cope whatever the weather. For the lower body choose a pair of trousers that you can move in easily rather than jeans as the latter take a very long time to dry should we be caught in a shower and provide little protection against wind-chill when wet. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at anytime before the trip.

## SUGGESTED CLOTHING/EQUIPMENT

- Warm trousers (not jeans)
- Wellington boots for the beach (optional)
- Long sleeved thermal tops and leggings
- Long sleeved shirt/tee-shirt
- Light fleece/wool jumper
- Warm fleece type jacket
- Waterproof Jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellington boots
- Warm socks
- Lightweight walking boots/shoes
- Light warm hat
- Gloves
- Casual clothes for hotel wear
- Sun cream, sunglasses & sun hat
- Swimwear
- Small basic first aid to include plasters, needle/cotton & any personal medicines



## 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 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.
- Although not essential camera filters such as neutral density, graduated filters and polarisers can be useful. 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

Skaftafell Map scale: 1:100,000 and 1:25,000 provides a good overview of the area surrounding Skaftafell National Park. There is also a more precise map of the area around Skaftafell and Morsárdalur on the reverse of the map.

Touring Map of West and South Iceland scale 1:25,000 shows Snæfellsnes, Southwest Iceland, all of South Iceland east of Skaftafell to the area north of the glacier.

The map has contour lines and shading at 50 m intervals. Visit [ferdakort.is](http://ferdakort.is) for information about these and other maps.

There will be maps for sale in the local shops/garages. Small maps for around 400 ISK are available locally in the different areas we visit.

Flowering Plants and Ferns of Iceland, Hörður Kristínsson, ISBN 9979-3-1723-X

This is the definitive guide to almost all the plant life in Iceland; it is in English and can be ordered from Amazon. This book is popular and often out of stock here in Iceland.

Icelandic Bird Guide, Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson is also in English and available from Amazon.

[The Icelandic Birding Pages](#)

### PARTNERS

Non-photographer partners will be very welcome although this is primarily a photography holiday. We also visit some very beautiful and relaxing places. If any participants do not wish to join the walks/photographic ses-



sions they will be able to relax in and around the accommodation. The cost will be the same for photographers and non-photographers.

### OUTDOOR TRAVEL

This is an outdoor travel photography holiday and the itinerary will be dependent on the vagaries of 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.

### 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

Contact us [through our website](#) where you can also fill in the [online booking form](#), or phone +44 (0)1270 440222

#### LINKS

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

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