

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



ICELAND EXTREME

**WATERFALLS, VOLCANOS &
WILDERNESS LANDSCAPES**

HIGHLIGHTS

- One of Europe's last wilderness areas
- Kverkfjöll & Vatnajökull, Europe's largest Icecap
- Areas seldom visited by other photographic tours
- Spectacular waterfalls: Gullfoss, Aldeyjarfoss, Dettifoss, Selfoss & Goðafoss
- Vast water filled crater of Askja
- Colourful geothermal & volcanic phenomena
- Kerlingarfjöll and Gýgjarfoss waterfall
- Hveravellir hot springs
- Jökulsárgljúfur Canyon
- The Golden Circle
- Sunrises and sunsets in dramatic location
- Lake Mývatn and Dimmuborgir

- Opportunity for aerial photography
- Possibility of Aurora

INTRODUCTION

We are excited to introduce a new and improved itinerary for exceptional summer expedition through some of Iceland's most remote and visually stunning wilderness areas. Whilst the majority of travellers to Iceland remain in the south and west of the country we are inviting you to take the 'road less travelled' by joining us on this breathtaking photographic adventure that will include the remote, vast and uninhabited interior of Iceland. This is a remarkable place for landscape photography and indeed it is only accessible for a few weeks of the year.

Nowhere in Iceland will you find anything to compare with the stark, raw beauty of Europe's last true wilderness. Travelling in sturdy 4x4 vehicles our tour will give us access to areas that are beyond the normal scope of visitors, an untouched desert, remarkable waterfalls, extraordinary volcanic landscapes, national parks, impressive canyons and wild geothermal areas. As always, this adventure allows a certain amount of flexibility. We are always prepared to change our plans to make the maximum use of the prevailing light and weather. Despite travelling to some totally off the beaten track locations, for much of the time we stay in lovely scenically located hotels with excellent facilities. Whilst this is not a trip specifically for the aurora, the nights at this time of year



have become dark again and it may be possible to spot some early shows of this gorgeous phenomena. In all, this expedition is an excellent opportunity for landscape photographers who want to experience and photograph some highly unusual landscapes and to return home with a truly unique portfolio of images.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Akureyri

This trip commences with a single transfer from Akureyri airport to our first night hotel. The transfer will meet the Air Iceland flight arriving from Reykjavík at 20:55. We suggest that you have dinner in Reykjavik before taking this flight. The drive to our first night hotel is through beautiful landscapes and takes around one hour. The hotel is located by the lovely scenic waterfall of Goðafoss. Your flight can be booked on one Icelandair ticket to Akureyri from several international hubs such as London, Manchester, Paris etc.

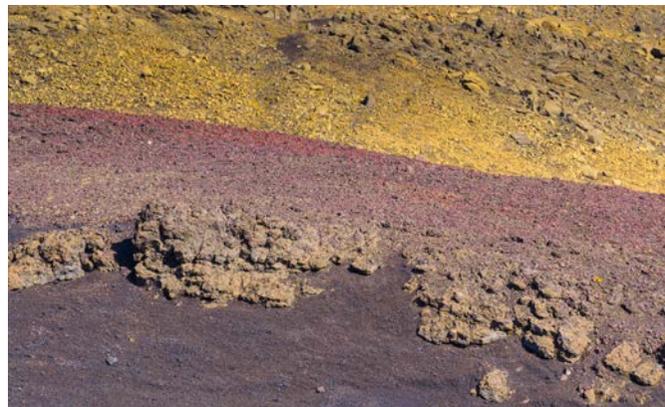
Accommodation: Hotel Goðafoss (B)

Day 2: Goðafoss and Aldeyjarfoss

This morning we will photograph the lovely waterfall Goðafoss, our hotel is right there so we will be able to enjoy some solitude before other photographers arrive. After breakfast we will meet for introductions, a full trip briefing and an inspiring image presentation. After lunch we set off to one of Iceland's most impressive and least photographed waterfalls, Aldeyjarfoss. Few photographers venture here. The location is quite simply stunning. By Icelandic standards this is not a high fall but it is very shapely and there are many different viewpoints that we can use. The waterfall originates from Vatnajökull, Europe's largest icecap. The river passes through the Highlands and plummets into a shapely amphitheatre of basalt columns before flowing down into a steep sided canyon. We will spend the day here before driving to our next accommodation right next to the lovely Lake Mývatn. We spend three nights here.
Accommodation: Lakeside Cottages (B,L,D)

Day 3: Lake Mývatn

Today we will explore this unique 'hot' area right on the edge of Iceland's interior desert. This area is world fam-



ous for its geothermal activity and lies bang on the boundary of the North American and the Eurasian tectonic plates. The plates move apart at a rate of about two centimetres a year. Volcanic lava wells up between them and fills up the rift. The volcanic activity in the area is considerable. Mývatn's surroundings are varied in landscape and amazing geological formations – we will have a busy time fitting them all in! It is likely that we will visit the Mount Krafla area with lava fields, a startling blue crater lake Víti and steaming fissures. The bubbling geothermal area of Námaskarð, black lava pillars and arches at Dimmuborgir and the weird black ash crater of Hverfjall. Photographically the whole area is a kaleidoscope of unbelievable colour and textures. The lake itself is home to a remarkably diverse number of waterfowl.
Accommodation: Lakeside Cottages (B,L,D)

Day 4: Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss

Today we photograph three of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls in the national park of Jökulsárgljúfur. The Jökulsá river flows from Europe's largest ice cap Vatna-

jökull. Our waterfalls plummet into the canyon, which is rather like a miniature replica of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The west banks of Dettifoss and Selfoss are easily reached by well-marked trails and there are several interesting vantage points where we can photograph from. The waterfall Dettifoss was used in the dramatic opening scene of the film Prometheus. Rainbows in the spray of the falls are a common and beautiful sight. Hafragilsfoss is more difficult to access and we will have to be content with photographing this from the cliffs above, this is nonetheless a wonderful view point down into the canyon itself.

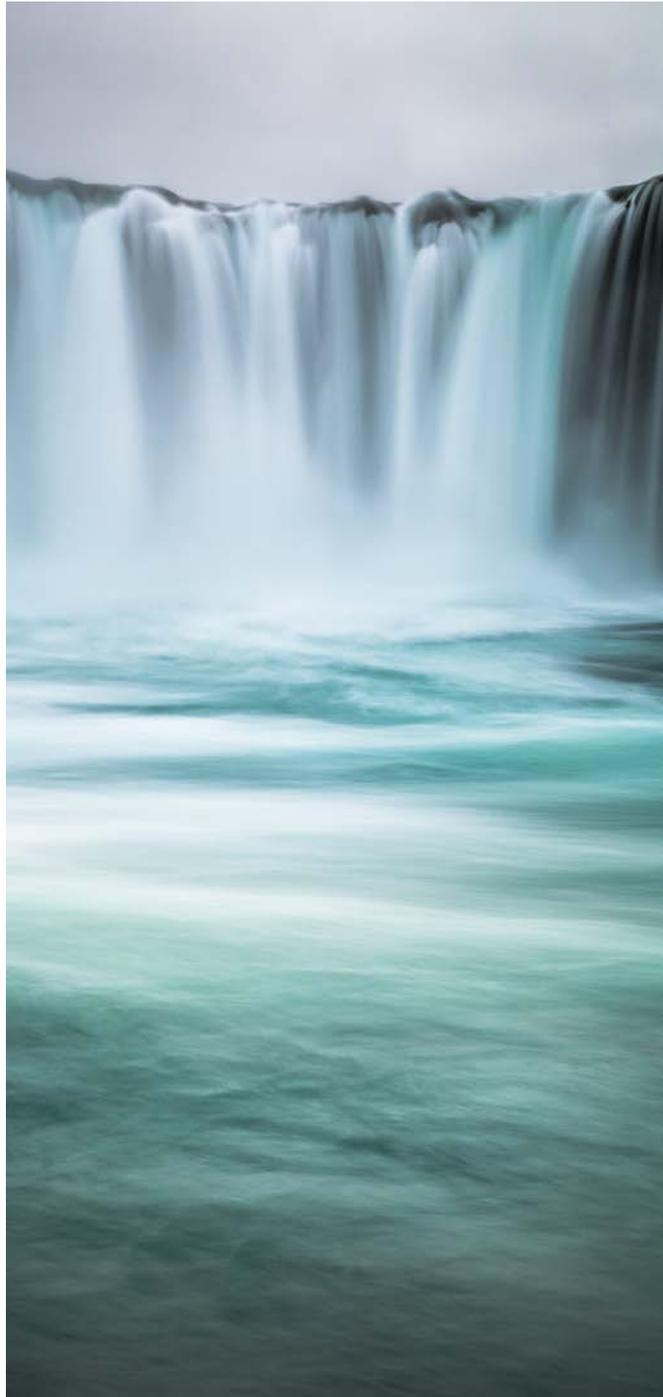
Accommodation: Lakeside Cottages (B,L,D)

Aerial Photography

Whilst aerial photography from a small plane is not included in the price of this holiday, our guides will be able to arrange for you to fly from the tiny airfield in Mývatn if the conditions are favourable. This is a fabulous area for aerial images and past guests have been very happy with their results. We do not include this as the weather can prove unpredictable and we prefer guests not to pay for an activity that may not be possible.

Day 5: Herðubreiðarlindir and Drekagil

This morning we enjoy a good breakfast before packing and setting off on our journey away from civilisation and into the interior, a huge uninhabited wilderness area. Crossing the vast Ódáðahraun we have plenty of photographic stops on the way. Our vehicles usually encounter three or four interesting river crossings before lunch. The whole area lies in the rain shadow of the glacier Vatnajökull so precipitation is minimal. We will probably have lunch beneath the unusually shaped Herðubreið, the



sixth highest peak in Iceland (1677 m) known as the “Queen of Icelandic Mountains”; its top looks like a crown. Here we will find ourselves in a small oasis of greenery surrounded by one of the largest lava flows in the world. The area around Herðubreið was declared a protected area in 1974. The banks of the river and the Grafarlönd area are rich in diverse vegetation contrasting beautifully with the rich earthy colours of the interior desert. We have often spotted Red Throated Divers and their offspring on the ponds here. We continue our drive across the Ódáðahraun to the mountain massif Dynjufjöll. Its highest point is Mt. Þorvaldsfjall (1510 m), rising to the south above the strikingly blue water of Öskjuvatn. Water has filled the caldera that remained following the eruption of Askja in 1875. We are based close to the interesting and foreboding canyon, Drekagil, the Canyon of Dragons. Our accommodation is a modern, warm mountain chalet with alpine style bunks and shared facilities.

Accommodation: Mountain Chalet (B,L,D)

Day 6: Askja and Kverfjöll

We will spend the morning exploring the area around Askja and Öskjuvatn. When the lake originally formed it was warm, but today it is frozen over for most of the year. Öskjuvatn, 220 m deep, is one of the deepest and most stunning lakes in Iceland. Víti is a smaller explosion crater on the northeast shore of Öskjuvatn containing a geothermal lake of mineral-rich, sulphurous, opaque, milky blue water. It is often a comfortable temperature for swimming. The first sighting of these two remote lakes never fails to induce an OMG moment for photographers. The colours are superb. There are remarkable



vistas from the various ridges of the caldera and it is common to see good examples of obsidian, a naturally occurring black volcanic glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock. The area is totally absorbing photographically.

Early afternoon we will travel to our next destination Kverkfjöll. The most recent volcanic eruption in Iceland and this particular area was the Holuhraun volcanic eruption in Bárðarbunga that started in August 2014. This massive eruption lasted until the February 2015 and the lava defines the landscape. We cross this lava desert followed by the raging glacial torrent of the Jökulsá River to arrive in a remote area at the very north most tip of the Europe's largest Ice Cap, Vatnajökull; a true virtually untouched wilderness area.

Accommodation: Mountain Chalet (B,L,D)

Day 7: Kverkfjöll Exploration

The area is a true meeting point of ice and fire and it is one of Iceland's most powerful high-temperature areas. One of the main locations we will visit and photograph today is the edge of the glacier where an ice cave can be

found. The glacier cave here is unique because it is formed by a volcanic hot water spring beneath the Vatnajökull glacier. The terrain around the glacier itself is full of fascinating detail for photographers, plant life and mosses vibrant against the black sand, unusually coloured rocks deposited by the glacier and shimmering rivulets of water. The evening light out in this remote Arctic desert is often very spectacular.

Accommodation: Mountain Chalet (B,L,D)

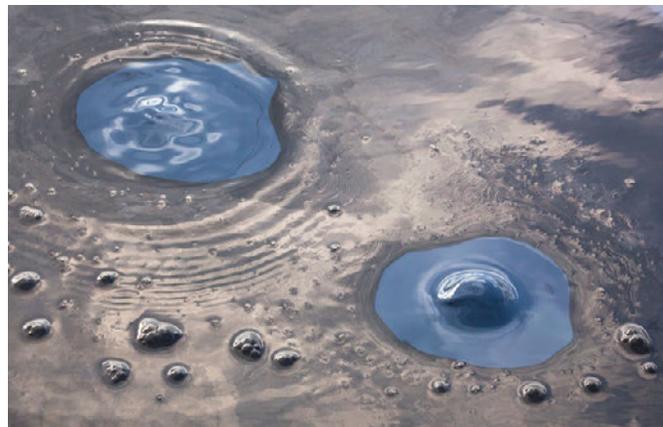
Day 8: Mývatn

This morning we retrace our route across the lava with several river crossings. There will be plenty of stops if the light is good. Back in civilisation again we will no doubt take a long shower or perhaps a visit to the geothermal heated spa. Hopefully we will have time take a look at our latest images and enjoy a convivial dinner together.

Accommodation: Lakeside Cottages (B,L,D)

Day 9–10: Kerlingarfjöll

Travelling north we head for Akureyri, we may well spend an hour here before our next journey into the interior highlands. Soon we leave Iceland's number one road and



head south. Once again 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 in the vastness of Iceland's interior Highlands. Here we will find interestingly shaped smoking fumaroles and sky blue, boiling water. There is a gorgeous geothermal pool here if you fancy a dip in a truly unique place. Our base for the next two nights is around one hour from Hveravellir. The geothermal area around Kerlingarfjöll is where ice and fire meet. The Kerlingarfjöll massif, '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 and snow. The orange mountains enveloped in steam present us with a landscape that is truly Tolkien. This remote area has recently seen the addition of a small, simple hotel with private facilities, we will stay here.

Accommodation: Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 11: Golden Circle and Reykjavík

Leaving Kerlingarfjöll we head back to Reykjavík taking in en route Iceland's famous 'Golden Circle' the National Park of Þingvellir, Geysir and the magnificent waterfall of Gullfoss. Once back in Reykjavík we check in to our city hotel before heading out for a final celebratory dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel, Reykjavik (B,L,D)

Day 12: Homeward Flights

WPH services finish after breakfast. Guests may transfer on this day to Reykjavík's international airport for homeward flights. If you would like to stay at the hotel for an extra night please enquire at the time of booking this holiday.

Accommodation: Hotel (B)

JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Further joining information will be sent out to participants approximately 2 weeks before the start of the trip. The expedition officially starts on Day 1 with a transfer from Akureyri domestic airport to the first night's hotel Fosshóll. Participants should aim to arrive in the afternoon of Day 1. On day 12 guests will be free to depart after breakfast. Transfers to the international airport are not included in the price of this holiday.

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.



It's easiest to purchase your ticket at the Reykjavík Excursions desk in the arrivals hall, but you can also do it [in advance online](#). For hotel transfers you need a Flybus Plus Return ticket. All major credit/debit cards are accepted. If you need any help booking your tickets, please contact our office.

The Flybus transfer is not included in the price of the holiday.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 hotel nights
- 3 mountain chalet nights
- All meals except Day 1 (B,L,D)
- Transfer from Akureyri airport
- All transport
- Photographic tutors/guides

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Transfers from/to Iceland's international airport
- Alcoholic beverages
- Snacks and beverages other than with meals
- Travel insurance
- Mývatn spa
- Helicopter/plane flights for aerial photography

ACCOMMODATION

We will be using a variety of accommodation. In Reykjavík we will stay in a 3 star hotel close to the city centre. Outside Reykjavík we will stay in scenically located hotels. All hotels have twin or single rooms with private bathroom facilities. In the interior highlands we stay for 3 nights in warm mountain chalets with shared



facilities. For the mountain chalets you will need to bring a summer season sleeping bag. The single supplement is only for the hotel nights.

FOOD

We eat well. In 'civilisation' we will eat in local or hotel restaurants. In Askja, Kverkfjöll and also Dimmuborgir all meals will be cooked by ourselves and will be of an excellent standard.

ALCOHOL

This is rather expensive in Iceland; it might be worth considering bringing a bottle of your favourite 'tipple' especially to drink in the remote areas! All the restaurants that we eat in serve alcohol.

SPENDING MONEY

Icelandic Krona can be easily obtained at the airport ATM machine on arrival or later. There are ATM machines in Akureyri and Mývatn. Credit cards are accepted in almost all places for even very cheap purchases.

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 identity 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. Other nationalities please enquire before booking.

LANGUAGE

Icelanders speak Icelandic; they also tend to speak rather good English.

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, in Reykjavík there may be rain, sunshine, drizzle and snow all in the same day. Mývatn and the interior is in the rain shadow of the Vatnajökull and tends to be dry although it can



snow or rain and occasionally be windy. 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 SUGGESTIONS

As we will often be standing around in one location it's important to have some warm clothes. 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. A warm down jacket is great for standing around. For the lower body choose a pair of warm trousers. There are numerous makes and types of warm trousers to choose from, just ensure that the cut is generous to allow freedom of movement. We will frequently be walking in snow and on ice so good quality warm walking boots are recommended.

CLOTHING

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at any time before the trip.



- Pair of warm trousers, fleece lined are great
- Thermal tops e.g. 'smart wool' (base layer)
- Thermal leggings e.g. 'smart wool' (base layer)
- Light fleece/wool jumper
- Duvet jacket, down or synthetic
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Quality warm walking socks
- Leather/waterproof walking boots
- Warm hat
- Fleece neck-warmer
- Light warm gloves
- Warm windproof over-mittens
- Casual clothes for hotel wear
- Sun cream, sunglasses
- Head torch
- Basic first aid items
- Summer weight sleeping bag
- Swimwear and towel

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 mirrorless system 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, 17–70mm 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

Iceland maps can be bought at ferdakort.is

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

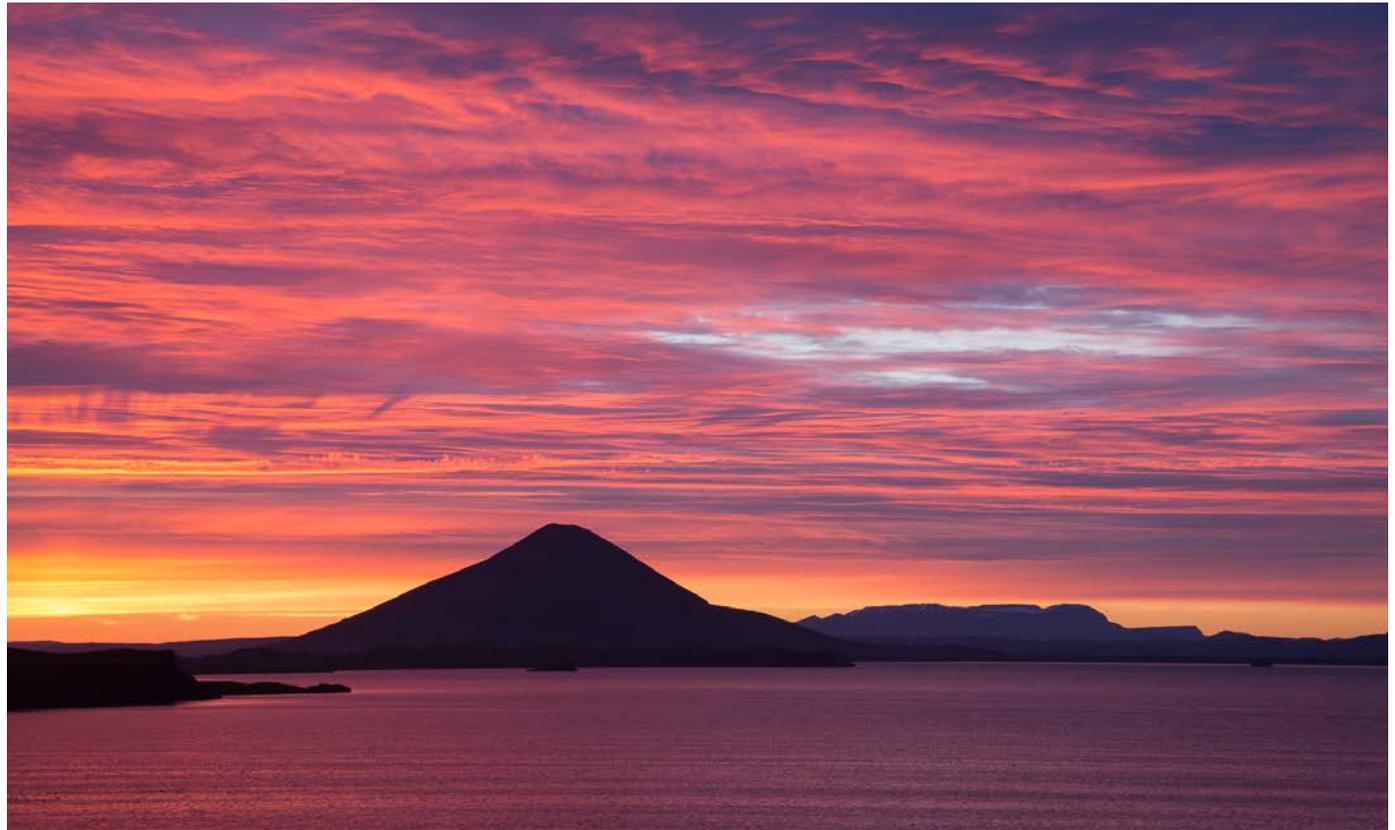
Flowering Plants and Ferns of Iceland, Hörður Kristínsson, ISBN 9979-3-1723-X

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.

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 sessions they will be able to relax in and around the ac-



commodation. The cost will be the same for photographers and non-photographers.

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.

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

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1630 647828.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website. Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)