

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



SCOTLAND HARRIS & LEWIS

THE OUTER HEBRIDES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Huishnish and Traigh Mheilein
- Luskentyre and Traigh Rosamol
- Mangersta Sea Stacks
- Callanish Stones
- Northton Salt flats
- The Golden Road
- The bays of East Harris

INTRODUCTION

The Outer Hebrides of Scotland epitomise the ephemeral beauty and remoteness of island life. Perhaps the most dramatic and varied of all the Hebrides is Harris & Lewis, a tiny island formed from the oldest rocks on earth, a breathtaking landscape of old parred down mountains, wild lunar moors, vast Caribbean-hued beaches which are shaped by the tireless spirit of the Atlantic. This is where local crofters weave the legendary Harris Tweed, reflecting the strength, durability, and integrity of life there.

We have chosen a time of year that offers low sun with the possibility of stormy weather, snow, hail and fast moving light! This is a place where nature can be raw, uncompromising and truly exhilarating. This endlessly

changing light quickly transforms the landscape with luminous colour ranging from turquoise to deep cobalt. The gentle pastel colours that are typical wash the landscape in a painterly and soulful manner. The pace of this workshop will enable you to find a quiet place to catch your breath, slow down and relax into a more creative space where you maybe inspired to find your own photographic style and voice.

Classic and inspiring vistas are seemingly at every turn as are the smaller, more intimate details to be found within the landscape. We will explore how to create abstract interpretations of the landscapes that we will be immersed in. For at least some of the time we will be encouraging participants to reach out of your comfort zone by trying some new and different techniques. We



will aspire to balance our time in the field with post processing work including preparing images for the web/ printing and reviewing/discussing our images in evening group sessions.

LOCATIONS

Each day we will head out to different locations according to the light and prevailing weather conditions and with the exception of Mangersta and the Callanish Stones on Lewis all locations are very close to our centrally based hotel in Tarbert and they will include:

Luskentyre and Traigh Rosamol

Luskentyre Beach is seemingly endless and is situated on the spectacular west coast of South Harris. The beach has been voted Britain's best beach and also rated as one of the top ten beaches in the world. Luskentyre is famous for its beautiful white sandy beach which runs for miles and the gorgeous green-blue waters lapping or crashing up onto its shores.

Huishnish and Traigh Mheilein

Huisinish lies at the end of a 12 mile long single track road with stunning scenery along the way including Amhuinnsuidhe castle. The settlement of Huisinis is only four houses overlooking a white sandy beach with views to the Atlantic. From Huishnish we walk to Traigh Mheilein one of the most gorgeous and secluded beaches on the island. To the east of the beach is Loch Cravadale with its mountainous backdrop and home to both golden and white-tail eagles.

Seilebost Beach

A little difficult to access although worth it for the timeless views across the Sound of Taransay towards Ben Luskentyre and the North Harris hills. Seilebost Beach is actually in the Luskentyre Bay.

Traigh Scarasta

One of the 'big' beaches of Harris has much to offer. Most of the beach is fully exposed to the Atlantic making it an excellent place to photograph waves as the swell



rolls in. The backdrop is the hills of North Harris and an excellent place for the sunset light.

The Northton Saltings

Here we find some of the most interestingly formed saltings in the Hebrides. The low grass area is frequently flooding and provides an interesting and absorbing exercise in creating a satisfying composition from the small islands and the distinctive backdrop of Ceapabhal.

Mangersta

On the west rocky coastline of Lewis we find an impressive group of sea stacks rising from a secluded bay close to Mangersta. The stacks are backed by sea cliffs and the seas can be gigantic making for some very exciting photography.

Callanish Stones

Located close to the west coast of Lewis, the 5,000 year old Callanish Stones are world famous and pre-date Stonehenge by around 500 years. This is a very satisfying stone circle for photographers especially in early Feb-



ruary/late October when there tends to be few visitors to this famous location.

JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The trip officially starts on Day 1 with a pick up from Stornaway airport for a specified flight with Loganair from Glasgow. The drop off from Stornaway will be on day 7. Please contact the office for all flight details. There is also the possibility of arriving by ferry with [Calmac Ferries](#).

What's Included

- Accommodation 6 hotel nights
- Single rooms with private bathrooms
- All meals
- Transport & transfers for specified flights/ferries
- Photographic tutors/tuition

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights and ferries
- Alcoholic beverages
- Snacks and beverages other than with meals
- Travel insurance

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel in Tarbert. The price is based on single rooms. Double or twin rooms are available for friends and couples who wish to share.

FOOD

We will eat dinner in the hotel restaurant. Lunch will generally be packed and breakfasts will always be at our hotel. Please let us know when you book if you have any special dietary requirements.



ALCOHOL

The hotel has a bar and serves alcohol.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

If you're coming from abroad you will need a valid passport or national identity card to enter the UK. You might also need a visa, see the [UK Government website](#)

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID 19

Due to possible Covid 19 restrictions we advise you to check the [official Covid pages](#) and if travelling from abroad to consult [Entering the UK](#) on the UK Government website.

LANGUAGE

English and Gaelic

CLIMATE

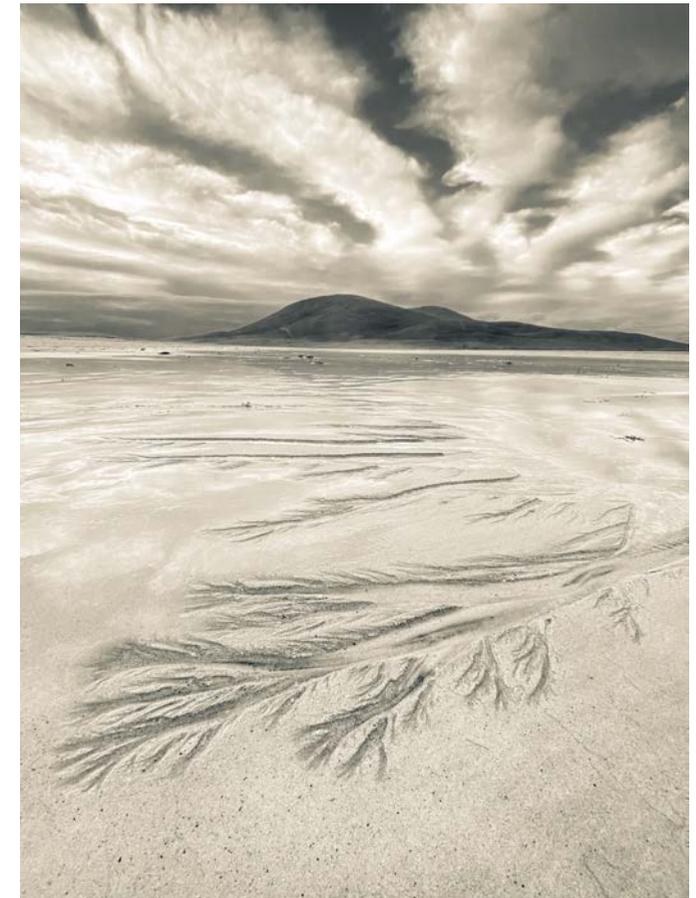
Scotland's climate is tempered by the Gulf Stream. Summers are mild and winters rather cold, the weather is very changeable at all times of the year, there may be rain, sunshine, drizzle and very rarely snow all in the same day. Expect temperatures to be 0°– 7°C in February and around 11°C – 6°C in October. It can be very windy during both months. 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 sometimes be walking in snow and on ice so good quality warm walking boots are recommended. A pair of wellington boots can be useful on the beach but these are not essential if space/weight is an issue. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at anytime before the trip:

- backpack to contain camera gear and few spare items
- pair warm trousers, fleece lined are great





- thermal tops e.g. 'smartwool' (base layer)
- thermal leggings e.g 'smartwool' (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
- small, basic first aid to include plasters and any medications of a personal nature

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- Camera bag or backpack such as the Flipside or Trekker series designed by LowePro.
- 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, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.
- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod for low light photography
- Remote release to avoid shake on long exposures
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. A neutral density filter in the range of 4–6 stops would be a good addition to your kit.
- Lens cloth



- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- 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 or tablet 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.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are UK three-pin. If you're coming from outside the UK you might need a travel plug adapter on sale at airports.

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. The price will be the same.

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

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

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