

ICELAND – Photo tour Icelandic summer light

Western and Southern Iceland with Landmannalaugar in 10 days

Date: 15 – 24 July 2013

Iceland is a magical place of both grand and subtle beauty. A place of dramatic weather patterns, massive glaciers and intricate ice formations. A land where the rugged terrain is carved by ocean, rivers, and cascading falls, and living things inhabit geology forged in volcanic fire and the very forces of continental plates. A country whose engaging people in their coastal towns, farms and fishing villages have a distinctive and legendary heritage long-entwined with the fiercely wild land.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THIS TRIP

Markéta and Royce will lead a small group on a 10-day photography tour of exceptional locations around Southern Iceland, from the Snæfellsnes peninsula through Landmannalaugar to Skaftafell National Park and points between. As a member of this group, you'll experience some of the best photography opportunities found anywhere. And Markéta and Royce will be on hand on to discuss any aspect of photography with those who would like extra input.

You've seen the photographs, now you can share in the experience. Icelandic summer light - Join us in 2013!

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOPICS

Landscape, glaciers, glaciers lagoons with ice rocks, rugged coastlines, waterfalls, geothermal areas, spouting geyser, horses and more.

TERM AND DURATION

15 – 24 July 2013, 10 days and 9 nights

PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTORS

Royce Howland (Canada)



Royce is originally from the USA and since the 1990's has made his home in Calgary, Alberta. An accredited member of the Professional Photographers of Canada, he specializes in landscape and travel fine art photography. Using his camera, he loves to explore the spectacular regions of his home, and is also drawn to the beauty of special places including Iceland and the American Southwest. Royce is a member of the editorial team at the premier nature photography site NatureScapes.Net. He also writes for online and print publications, and leads highly regarded photography tours and workshops.

Website: <http://www.vividaspectphoto.com/>

Blog: <http://blog.vividaspectphoto.com/>

Marketa Kalvachova



Markéta is originally from the Czech republic. When she came first time to Iceland, she immediately fell in love with its nature and stayed. She specializes in nature and landscape photography and has a passion for panoramas. Markéta and her husband Tim Vollmer are professional photographers who enjoy organizing tours and workshops for avid photographers.

Markéta's website: <http://www.marketakalvachova.com>

WHO CAN SIGN UP

A passionate photographer looking for a distinctive travel photography experience, and eager to spend a social & field-intensive time with a group of like-minded individuals. You may be an advanced photographer looking for experienced guiding to get you directly to fantastic locations. Or you may know the basics of exposure and how to use your camera equipment, but have goals to improve your mastery of the craft. Either way, you're keen to make great photographs that tell stories. And to exercise your creative eye in a destination where reality merges with imagination.

SCHEDULE OF PHOTO TOUR

Day 1:

Arrival Keflavik airport Iceland

You will be picked up by our representatives and transferred to a hotel in Reykjavik (D, B).

Orientation meeting at 5 pm. Evening dinner at 7 pm. Evening photo walk in the city. We walk around Reykjavík city centre and see concert hall, the old harbour, the Hallgrimskirkja church and many interesting places.

Accommodation in hotel in Reykjavik (D).

Day 2:

Borgarfjörður – Hraunfossar and Barnafossar waterfalls – Húsafell

Húsafell is a unique natural area covered with forest and closed to the glacier Langjökull glacier. Hraunfossar - Lava Falls - are beautiful and unusual natural phenomena. Clear, cold springs of subterranean water seep through the lava and run in falls and rapids into the Hvítá River. Barnafoss - Children's Falls - takes its name from two children who disappeared many, many years ago from the nearby farm Hraunsas. There was a rock arch over the waterfall and the children are believed to have fallen off it into the river. Their grieving mother destroyed

the arch and put a curse on the falls that nobody would ever be able to cross the river on such a rock arch and live, so don't even try.

Overnight in Snæfellnes area (B, L, D)

Day 3:

Snæfellsnes peninsula – glacier – national park

The peninsula is about 90km long and known for its diverse landscape and magical beauty with the glacier towering over the National Park at the far end. It is believed that Snæfellsjökull is one of seven main energy centre of the earth and here was the setting for the famous work of Jules Verne, Journey to the Centre of the Earth.

Here you have range of mountains, black and light sand beaches, craters, lava fields, fjords, fishing villages, geothermal areas, mineral springs and cliffs with rich birdlife.

Places of interest – decided with instructors.

Búðir church and Búðahraun lava has a romantic air about them and the view is magnificent to the glacier and the sea.

Sönghellir (“Singing cave”), known for its echoes and ancient inscriptions on the walls. It’s on the southeast side of Snæfellsnes glacier.

Arnarstapi was an important trading post in the past and now there is good anchorage for small boats. Here are rugged shore cliffs and abundant bird life. A very interesting old path follows the coastline where you can see old landing places of fishermen, lots of birds, like the kittiwake, the Arctic tern and the fulmar and pass through a lava field.

From Arnastapi to Hellnar is a hiking path (1hour) ending at a nice coffee house.

Bárðarlaug at Hellnar is a crater pool and said to have been the bathing pool of the Bárður Snæfellsás.

Djúpalónssandur is a beautiful pebbled beach, with a series of rocks of mysterious form emerging from the ocean.

Uniquely-formed remnants of ancient basalt volcanic dikes sticking out from the sea.

Lóndrangar and the hill Svalthúfa are the remains of a crater which has been eroded to its present form by the sea.

Saxhóll crater is easy to climb. There is a great view over the area from the top.

Drápuhlíðarfjall Mountain is beautifully colourful. It is composed of sulphur, basalt, jasper, rhyolite and lignite.

Overnight in Snæfellsnes (B, L, D)

Day 4:

Stykkishólmur town – North of Snæfellsnes peninsula

We drive to the northern side of the peninsula too Stykkishólmur where whale watch is an option. Stykkishólmur is beautifully-situated on the northern side of the Snæfellsnes peninsula with beautiful and well-preserved old houses in the town centre.

Kirkjufell is landmark for Grundarfjörður, and it is believed by many to be the most beautiful mountain in Iceland.

Overnight in Snæfellsnes (B, L, D)

Day 5:

Golden Circle – Þingvellir – Geysir hot springs – Gullfoss waterfall

Þingvellir is a remarkable geological site, and the most historic place on the island, where the world's oldest democratic parliament was founded in 930. We visit the Gullfoss waterfall, one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe. A few minutes drive from Gullfoss is the world famous Geysir region, where hot springs are in abundance, such as the famous great Geysir which has given name to hot springs all over the world. We will see one of the most active geysers in the area, Strokkur, spouting up to 20 meters.

Overnight in highlands (B, L, D)

Day 6:

Þjórsárdalur valley – Landmannalaugar –the highlands

Landmannalaugar literally means people's pools and situated in the southern highlands close to the volcano Hekla. The name refers to the natural geothermal pools travellers can bathe in.

There are some unusual geological elements in the area such as multicoloured rhyolite mountains and lava fields. The mountains display a wide spectrum of colours including pink, green, brown, yellow, purple, blue, black and white.

Overnight in the highlands (B, L, D)

Day 7:

Fjallabaksleið nyrðri

Today we leave Landmannalaugar and make our way to our guesthouse in Southeast Iceland. We will travel on Fjallabaksleið nyrðri which means Northern road behind the mountains. Among the sights is Eldgjá canyon (fire canyon). Eldgjá is the largest volcanic canyon in the world, 40km long, 270m deep and 600m wide at its greatest. Ófærufoss waterfall is within the canyon, a magnificent waterfall.

Overnight in the southeast of Iceland (B, L, D)

Day 8:

Vatnajökul glacier national park

Vatnajökull glacier towers over this region and has immensely affected the landscape. We will visit many of Vatnajökull's outlets and outwash areas and the Jökulsárlón lagoon, a famous glacial lagoon full of icebergs were we can take a short boat tour and sail among the huge icebergs, an unforgettable experience! The glacial scenery continues with a visit to the stunning Skaftafell, Iceland's second largest national park where the landscape has been formed in thousands of years by different influences of fire and water (volcanic eruptions and the glaciers).

Overnight in the southeast of Iceland (D, B)

Day 9:

South coast

We head back to Reykjavík. We drive through Mýrdalur, a green and wide valley where farming is the main industry, to Reynisfjara beach and Reynisdrangar sea stacks, a very good location for taking photos. Reynisfjara Beach is a natural black sand and pebble beach with

some larger boulders. By the beach you can see basalt caves which are very interesting for photographers.

Reynisdrangar are basalt sea stacks situated very near to Reynisfjara and the village Vík í Mýrdal. According to legend the Reynisdrangar needles were formed when two trolls were trying to drag a three-masted ship to land. When daylight broke they turned to stone. The Needles can be seen clearly from the village of Vík and are 66 meters above sea level at their highest.

Next stop is Dyrhólaey which is a 120-meter high promontory, not far from Vík and is the southernmost part of the country. The place got its name from the massive arch that the sea has eroded from the headland. The headland is thought to have been made in an underwater volcanic eruption late in the glacial period. The eruption, which formed Dyrhólaey and the pillars around it (originally parts of it), presumably took place in the same way as other submarine and sub glacial eruptions. From the top you have a great photographic view.

After Dyrhólaey we drive to Skógafoss which is one of the biggest and most beautiful waterfalls in the country with a width of 25 meters and a drop of 60 meters. Due to the amount of spray the waterfall consistently produces a single or double rainbow which is normally visible on sunny days.

Next stop is Seljalandsfoss, another spectacular waterfall, one of the most famous one and very picturesque. You can walk behind this waterfall and get a different photo angle.

[Accommodation in hotel in Reykjavik \(D\).](#)

Day 10:

Departure from Iceland

Transfer from hotel to Keflavik airport (B)

PRICE

Accommodation in double/twin room

Minimum 8 persons USD 4.395 per person in a double room

Single supplement USD 530

Included

- Transfer to/from airport upon arrival and departure
- Private bus
- 2 nights in a hotel in Reykjavik
- 7 nights in a hotel in the country (2 without private facilities day 5 and 6)
- Full board from dinner on day one to breakfast on day 10
- Meeting facilities in the evening
- 2 instructors – Royce Howland and Marketa Kalvachova

Not included

- International flights
- Entrances to museums, swimming pools
- Optional tours

REGISTRATION

Reservations must be sent by e-mail kalimarky@yahoo.com or royce@vivaspect.com. To ensure efficiency and good service please include name of tour, names of passengers and your contact information. We guarantee a reply within the day of receipt.

PAYMENT

Deposit USD 500/EUR 380 is to be paid before February 15th, 2013.

Final payment is to be paid before May 20th, 2013.

WEATHER

All kinds of weather conditions, some rain, sunshine, some wind!

MAP
