



Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel



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Trip Details:

Days
12 Days /
Jun–Sep

Price
From
\$18995
(+Air)

Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel

Iceland holds so much awe for nature photographers, with geological drama and raw natural beauty on an epic scale. This small island nation tucked just beneath the Arctic Circle rests at the nexus of two tectonic plates—creating a dynamic environment of volcanic and glacial forces sculpting the landscape with fire and ice. Iceland abounds with stunning subjects: stark mountains, lava fields covered in velvety moss, black sand beaches, steaming craters, iceberg lagoons, and glacier-fed rivers that thunder over basalt cliffs in raging waterfalls. Arctic foxes roam the tundra, and shaggy Icelandic horses graze in lush meadows. Offshore, whales ply the fjords and seabirds nest in noisy summer colonies, including the world's largest population of Atlantic puffins. And when autumn arrives and the birds fly south, the tundra becomes a photogenic tapestry of gold and russet. No other Iceland photography adventure offers as in-depth an immersion as this one!

Trip Highlights

Travel by custom 4x4 into Iceland's interior backcountry, a volcanic wilderness of multicolored rock, moss-covered mountains and glacier-carved canyons

On an exhilarating small plane flight over Skaftafell, get a rare angle on Iceland's glaciers, braided rivers, and an inactive volcano that is the country's tallest mountain

Spend a half-day photographing these whimsical, charming seabirds on a visit to one of the world's largest Atlantic puffin colonies (summer departures only)



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Trip Details:

Days

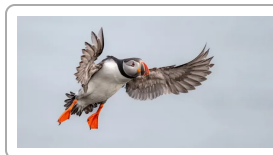
12 Days / Jun–Sep

Price

From \$18995
(+Air)

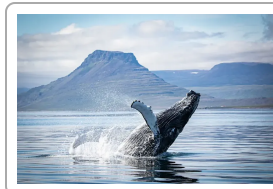
Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition Itineraries

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel



2026 Itinerary

Our itinerary gets you well off the conventional track for unique photo opportunities in a wide range of settings. From the little-visited East Fjords with its bustling puffin colony to the rugged Highlands and thundering South Coast waterfalls, we showcase Iceland's most dramatic features. And our mix of exploratory modes—scenic flightseeing, private marine safaris and 4x4 exploration—offers multiple perspectives for exciting and evocative shots.

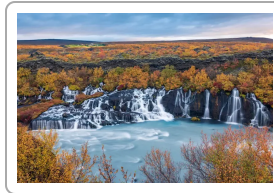


2027 Itinerary

In addition to the many diverse locations and subjects on our 2026 itinerary, we have revised our route for 2027 to include additional highlights: We've added a day in the Westman Islands, with a RIB marine safari to view prolific seabirds, including a large puffin colony (making a total of two on this trip). We have also added a day in the Lake Myvatn geothermal area and extended our Skaftafell aerial photography flight from one hour to two hours.



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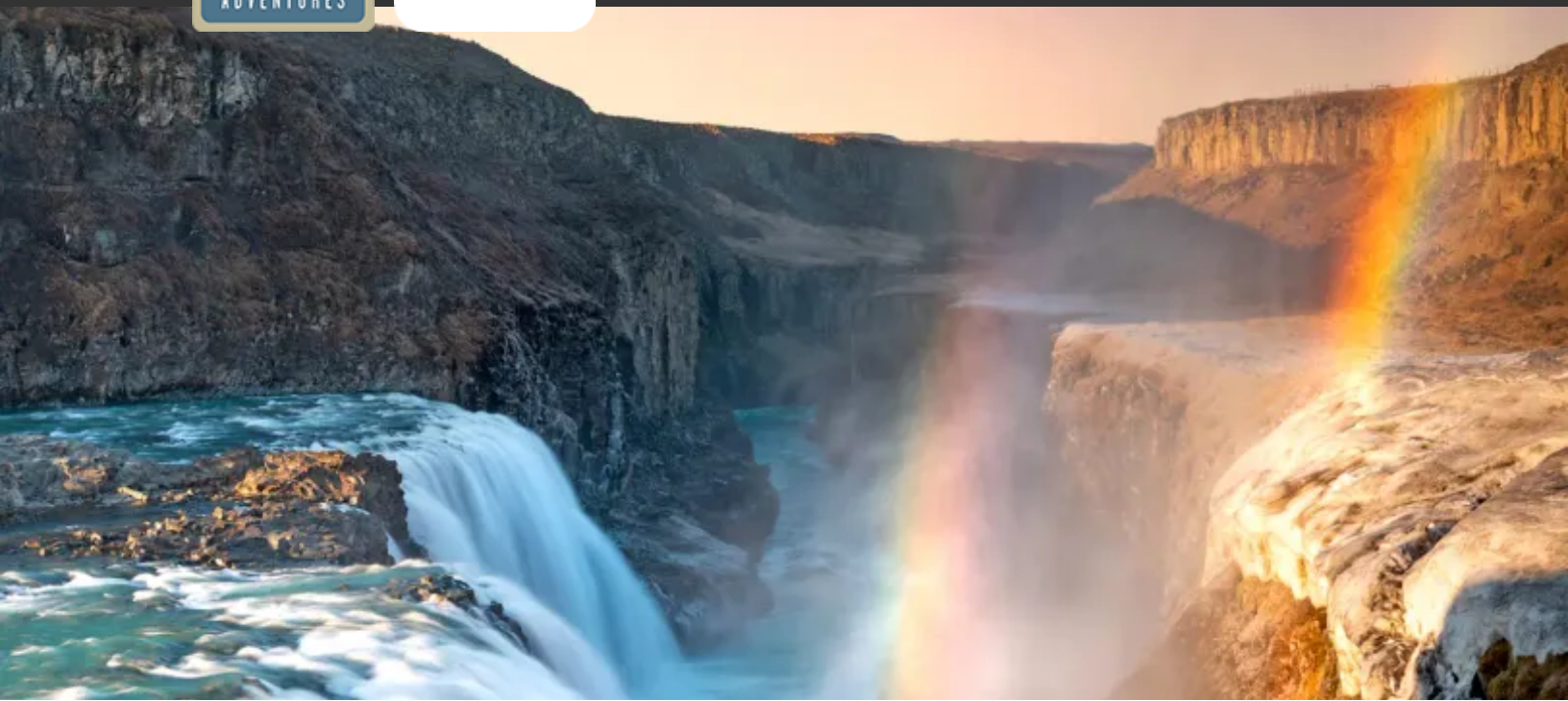


2027 Autumn Itinerary

When the crowds of summer are a distant memory and the seabird colonies have headed south, photograph Iceland's wild wonders in solitude amid a palette of fall colors. And with dark night skies returning, we may even get a chance to capture images of the northern lights!



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Keflavik, Iceland / Reykjavik

Day 2

Egilsstadir / East Fjords—Mjoifjordur

Day 3

Lagarfjot Valley / Borgarfjordur
Eystri—Puffin Photography / Private
Marine Safari

Day 4

Exploring the East Highlands by
Custom 4x4 / Egilsstadir

Day 5

East Fjords / Vestrahorn &
Eystrahorn / Jokulsarlon

Day 6

Skaftafell Flightseeing / Svinasfell
Glacier / Diamond Beach

Day 7

Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon—Private
Zodiac Cruise / Exploring the South
Coast

2026 Itinerary

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel

KEFLAVIK / REYKJAVIK

Day 1: Arrive in Reykjavik to begin a photo expedition

- Explore compact, walkable Reykjavik on your own
- Meet your Expedition Leader over a welcome dinner and photo orientation

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the photography adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Katla Geopark / Reynisdrangar
Rocks / Waterfall Photography

Day 9

Fjallabak Nature Reserve by Custom
4x4

Day 10

Landmannalaugur—Sigöldugljúfur
Canyon

Day 11

South Coast Waterfalls / Strokkur
Geyser / Thingvellir National Park /
Reykjavik

Day 12

Reykjavik / Keflavik / Depart

EGILSSTADIR / MJOIFJORDUR

Day 2: Into the remote East Fjords for fjord reflections

- Fly to Egilsstadir on Iceland's little-visited east side
- Photograph mirror-calm reflections in the narrow Mjoifjordur fjord
- Shoot Klifbrekkufossar, a seven-step cascade through a green chasm

Fly this morning to Egilsstadir, the largest town on the little-visited east side of Iceland where we spend the next three nights. Our first destination is one of the most photogenic of the East Fjords, the slender finger of Mjoifjordur, which means "narrow fjord." Carved out by successive ice ages and protected from the elements along the outer coast, the water is often calm as glass, making for beautiful reflection photography. We occasionally spot whales in the fjord as well. This is one of the most remote destinations in Iceland, accessed by a road that is open for only about four months a year, when it is snow-free. The steep, winding gravel road that descends to the sea extends to the end of the 11-mile fjord. Mjoifjordur's setting at the head of the fjord is stunning, surrounded by an amphitheater of waterfalls. A highlight is Klifbrekkufossar, a seven-step cascade that terraces down through a rugged chasm carpeted with green vegetation. A trail hugs the side of the waterfall, allowing access to varied angles and closer views.

Please note: The Eclipse Specialty departure in August 2026 will stay one more night in Reykjavik to view the eclipse. Travelers will fly to Egilsstadir on Day 3, visiting Mjoifjordur upon arrival and forgoing Lagarflojt Valley, Borgarfjordur Eystri and the marine safari due to migratory bird patterns.



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LAGARFLOJT VALLEY / BORGARFJORDUR EYSTRÍ

Day 3: A puffin photography intensive at Borgarfjordur Eystrí

- Photograph Icelandic horses and canyons in Lagarflojt Valley
- Shoot Atlantic puffins up close from a boardwalk through the colony
- Cruise the coast by private RIB for puffins, seals and seabirds

Travel inland today for an in-depth exploration of scenic Lagarflojt Valley. We stop for photos of Lagarflojt Lake, where local lore holds that a sea monster inhabits its waters. We are surrounded by an evocative wild, rural landscape, offering opportunities to photograph Icelandic horses, rarely seen waterfalls, and impressive canyons.

On a scenic drive through a massive valley and over a mountain pass, continue to Borgarfjordur Eystrí, a fjord that is reputedly home to one of numerous “elfin communities” that thrive in Icelandic mythology. The fjord takes its name from the Icelandic elf-queen, Alfaborg, who is said to live nearby. But it is the fjord’s puffin residents that capture our attention for the bulk of the day: Here we find one of Iceland’s largest Atlantic puffin colonies, and we spend a full afternoon among them on a puffin photography intensive. A boardwalk weaving through the colony allows easy access, and since the puffins are accustomed to human presence, we are able to get exceptionally close shots. Then, gain another angle on puffins as we head to sea on a private RIB safari, exploring the coastline from a rigid inflatable boat. Capture shots of puffins in their cliffside dens, plus many other seabirds, seals and dolphins. Return to Egilsstaðir for a second night.



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EAST HIGHLANDS / EGILSSTADIR

Day 4: An otherworldly interior few travelers reach

- Drive deep into the East Highlands by custom 4x4 mini-bus
- Photograph peaks, glaciers and braided rivers in a stark, dry interior
- Shoot Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon's 650-foot gorge walls from the rim

Today we head into a remote and little-traveled region of Iceland that's huge on scenic drama and very low on other visitors. Traveling in Nat Hab's customized 4x4 mini bus, we are able to get deep into the interior of the East Highlands, a desolate landscape of austere beauty. Lying in the rain shadow of Vatnajökull, this region's rugged, dry terrain is evocative of being on another planet, in stark contrast to the vibrant green expanse of the southwest highlands. Photography subjects include imposing peaks, glaciers, canyons, and braided rivers spreading like veins across broad gravel plains.

Our first destination is Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, a deep gorge with 650-foot walls that stretches almost 5 miles from the Vatnajökull ice cap toward the sprawling Jökuldalur Valley. We stop to get photos from various vantage points along the rim. Powerful rivers originate in this region, and we view the upper reaches of Lagarfljót as well as Jökulsá á Bru, the longest river in East Iceland, which has a vast and dynamic effect on a broad swath of the landscape including the coastline, being reshaped by the river's massive volume of silt. Eroding one of the wildest and deepest canyons in the country, the river deposits about 120 tons of silt in the delta area per hour, fed by Bruarjökull, the largest glacier tongue of the Vatnajökull ice cap.



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EAST FJORDS / VESTRAHORN / JOKULSARLON

Day 5: Signature peaks along the southeast coast

- Drive the fjord-riven coast past rocky coves and fishing villages
- Shoot the iconic Vestrahorn profile from the Stokksnes Peninsula
- Photograph the jagged Eystrahorn peaks above a black sand beach

Departing Egilsstaðir, we pass through the glacial valley of Lagarfljót, then cross a mountain pass to drop into the peaceful Breiddalur Valley, with stops along the way to photograph burbling creeks, lakes and striking mountains. Continuing south, traverse classic U-shaped glacial valleys to reach the coastline of the little-visited East Fjords, which has some of the oldest rock in Iceland, with layer upon layer of basalt from ancient eruptions slowly carved away by 2.5 million years of successive ice ages. The ocean is always close as the road winds along the fjord-riven coast, unveiling rocky coves and picturesque fishing villages. Soon, we reach the Stokksnes Peninsula on the southeast corner of Iceland, where we have a chance to shoot the iconic profile of Vestrahorn. We also photograph the jagged range of Eystrahorn, a lesser-known set of peaks surveying a wild black sand beach. We spend the next three nights at a hotel near Jokulsarlon with a stunning setting on a vast coastal plain backdropped by rugged mountains.



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SKAFTAFELL / DIAMOND BEACH

Day 6: Aerial views over the wild reaches of Vatnajokull

- Fly low over roadless Skaftafell and Europe's largest ice cap
- Walk Svinafell Glacier's ash-veined ice for abstract ice patterns
- Photograph icebergs on black sand at Diamond Beach in evening light

Get a stunning aerial perspective on some of Iceland's most dramatic scenery from a 2-hour private fixed-wing plane flight over the Skaftafell region of Vatnajokull National Park. Known for its rugged landscapes, stark mountains and vast braided rivers, Skaftafell contains about half of the Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest ice cap. No roads penetrate the park's wild recesses, but our extended low-altitude flight reveals aerial shots of Landmannalauger—a truly spectacular sight—amid an artistic landscape of intriguing patterns, contrasts and colors. Photograph the plain of Skeidararsandur (the largest glacial outwash plain on the planet), an expanse of black sand and ash sliced by braided glacial rivers that resemble an intricate network of veins. Other highlights include striking shots Maelifell with braided riverbeds wrapping around the lonely green mountain, the Laki volcano crater row, a 15-mile-long fissure in the highlands that erupted in 1783, creating a chain of 130 craters, and the jagged expanse of Skeidararjokull Glacier. This glacier drains off Vatnajokull, Iceland's largest ice cap.

We also spend time on the ground, walking around the scenic outflow of Svinasfell Glacier, a large outlet glacier of the Vatnajokull ice field. Its surface is especially jagged, with many sharp ridges that lend drama to images, as well as its varied coloration—deep blue ice, white snow and veins of black ash left over from volcanic eruptions in centuries past. The ash patterns create remarkable abstract designs in the ice, a phenomenon not readily found anywhere else in the world.

After dinner, head to Diamond Beach, where icebergs wash up on shore to create a sparkling contrast with the volcanic black sand. The late evening light offers excellent photography conditions, with the sun's sinking rays gleaming on the scattered icebergs, littered on the beach like chunks of glass. Seals also frequent the beach, and humpback whales are sometimes visible offshore.



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FJALLSARLON GLACIER LAGOON

Day 7: Private Zodiac among the icebergs of Fjallsarlon

- Photograph drifting icebergs from a private Zodiac on the lagoon
- Frame blue ice calved from Vatnajokull, Europe's largest glacier
- Hike hidden trails among terminal moraines along the coast

On a private Zodiac cruise at Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon, we have extended time to photograph the glittering icebergs floating atop the meltwater lake. The lagoon is fed by the massive Vatnajokull Glacier, the largest in Europe. The ice cap covers more than 3,100 square miles—8% of Iceland—and the glacial tongues that flow from it calve the huge chunks of blue ice that litter the surface of the lagoons, drifting like a flotilla of whimsically shaped ships. We spend the remainder of the day exploring this exceptionally scenic region, stopping for striking shots of black sand beaches and rugged mountains as we follow the coast and hike hidden trails among terminal moraines, the end point of glaciers fed by the ice cap. Our exact itinerary is guided by weather and light, as we chase the best of both.



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KATLA GEOPARK / REYNISDRANGAR

Day 8: Fire-and-ice geology and the south coast's great falls

- Explore glaciers and lava fields across Katla UNESCO Global Geopark
- Photograph the basalt sea stacks of Reynisdrangar off the coast
- Shoot Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss, two of the south's great falls

Continuing our encounters with the fascinating geological features on Iceland's south coast, we investigate the dynamic relationship between fire and ice, examining the largest glacial outwash plane in the world. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark contains roughly 9% of Iceland's total landmass, encompassing massive glaciers and active volcanoes that have shaped the land for millennia, including the powerful eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 and Grimsvotn in 2011. The geopark also holds glacial rivers, lakes, meadows of purple lupine, black sand beaches, vast lava fields and caverns. Lomagnupur Mountain is an impressive subject, with steep cliffs and a flat top that we may find reflected in nearby ponds.

Other subjects include the Dyrholaey Peninsula, with its picturesque lighthouse on the most southerly point of mainland Iceland, and Reynisdrangar Rocks. Legend holds that this trio of columnar basalt sea stacks was formed after two trolls were out fishing in a three-masted ship. When the trolls did not return to their cave before sunrise, they and their vessel turned into needles of stone, since trolls cannot tolerate daylight. The South Coast is also known for some of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls, and today holds an opportunity to photograph three of the largest and most famous: Kvernufoss, Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss. Continue to our hotel outside Hella in southwest Iceland where we spend the next three nights.



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FJALLABAK NATURE RESERVE

Day 9: A near-solitary day in the Fjallabak Highlands

- Follow a 4x4 track through rhyolite and obsidian-tinted peaks
- Photograph green moss against black sand among jagged ridges
- Frame Myrdalsjokull Glacier above the volcanic cone of Maelifell

Return to the remote Highlands of central Iceland with a full day of exploring the rugged interior. Moving inland from the lush coast, witness a rapid change in vegetation as we enter the mountains. Here in the southern sector of Fjallabak Nature Reserve, we find a stunning landscape to entrance photographers. Rugged peaks in an array of shapes, forms and colors flank the 4x4 track we follow, the rock palette tinted by rhyolite and obsidian. A vivid blanket of green alpine moss and lichen adds a bright accent, while black sand expanses lend contrast, filling the gaps between jagged ridges, volcanic summits and dramatic canyons and valleys. At times, the setting is evocative of a moonscape, stark and breathtaking. The region is laced with braided riverbeds, which we cross multiple times. A view of Myrdalsjokull Glacier—one of Iceland's largest, which conceals Katla, one of its most active volcanoes—is a highlight, as is the volcanic Maelifell. While Fjallabak is a popular hiking destination, we're still mostly alone here, rarely encountering other people or vehicles.



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LANDMANNALAUGUR

Day 10: Multicolored Highlands and the Valley of Tears

- Photograph the multicolored rhyolite mountains of Landmannalaugur
- Shoot Sigöldugljúfur Canyon, its walls streaming crystalline falls
- Frame Haifoss, Iceland's third-tallest waterfall, off a basalt cliff

Return today to the Highlands, this time to photograph the Landmannalaugur region via an excursion by 4x4 van. Located on the edge of the Laugahraun lava field formed by an eruption in the late 15th century, the area is renowned for its unique geology, including vibrant, multicolored rhyolite mountains, obsidian caves and geothermal hot springs. The scale of the landscape is astounding, with stark ranges rising high above glacier-carved river valleys, volcanic craters and fields of lava covered in lime-green moss. Sigöldugljúfur Canyon, also known as the Valley of Tears, is a highlight. Like a scene from a fantasy, the winding canyon is fed by spring-sourced streams that pour off its vertical walls in crystalline waterfalls, filling the turquoise river below. Previously very difficult to access, a new road constructed in 2021 now allows most 4x4 vehicles to reach this impossibly picturesque spot. We stop at various vantage points to photograph the canyon and waterfalls, as well as at other vistas of the colorful mountains and steaming geothermal features. The landscape has an aura of magic about it, and Icelandic folklore holds that the valley is home to fairies and elves. Nearby Haifoss is Iceland's third-tallest waterfall and one of its most spectacular, pouring in a thundering column off a vertical basalt cliff.



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STROKKUR / THINGVELLIR / REYKJAVIK

Day 11: Geysers, waterfalls and a continental rift

- Photograph Strokkur, Iceland's most active geyser, erupting on cue
- Shoot powerful Gullfoss plunging through its glacier-carved canyon
- Photograph the rift fissures of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge at Thingvellir

More of Iceland's most greatest waterfalls await this morning as we make our way back to Reykjavik. Bruarfoss is one of the most beautiful, where dozens of cascading streams from the Bruara River fall in a semi-circular pattern, converging again in the rushing blue river below. Our next stop is Strokkur, Iceland's most active geyser, erupting about every 10 minutes. Then, photograph powerful Gullfoss—"Golden Falls"—one of Iceland's most dramatic cataracts. It was formed during the last ice age when glacial runoff carved out a deep canyon, creating a series of drops over which the Hvita River plunges. Our final stop, Thingvellir National Park, offers an on-the-ground perspective on Iceland's geological origins. Here on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the epicenter of where the Icelandic landscape is forming, we can actually photograph fissures where Earth's crust is separating. Thingvellir is also the site of Iceland's political founding, when Norse settlers formed the world's first parliament in 930. On this site, 30 ruling chiefs met to discuss law and order on the island and to create a government. Reykjavik is just a short drive away, and we return for a final night, including our farewell dinner.

REYKJAVIK / KEFLAVIK

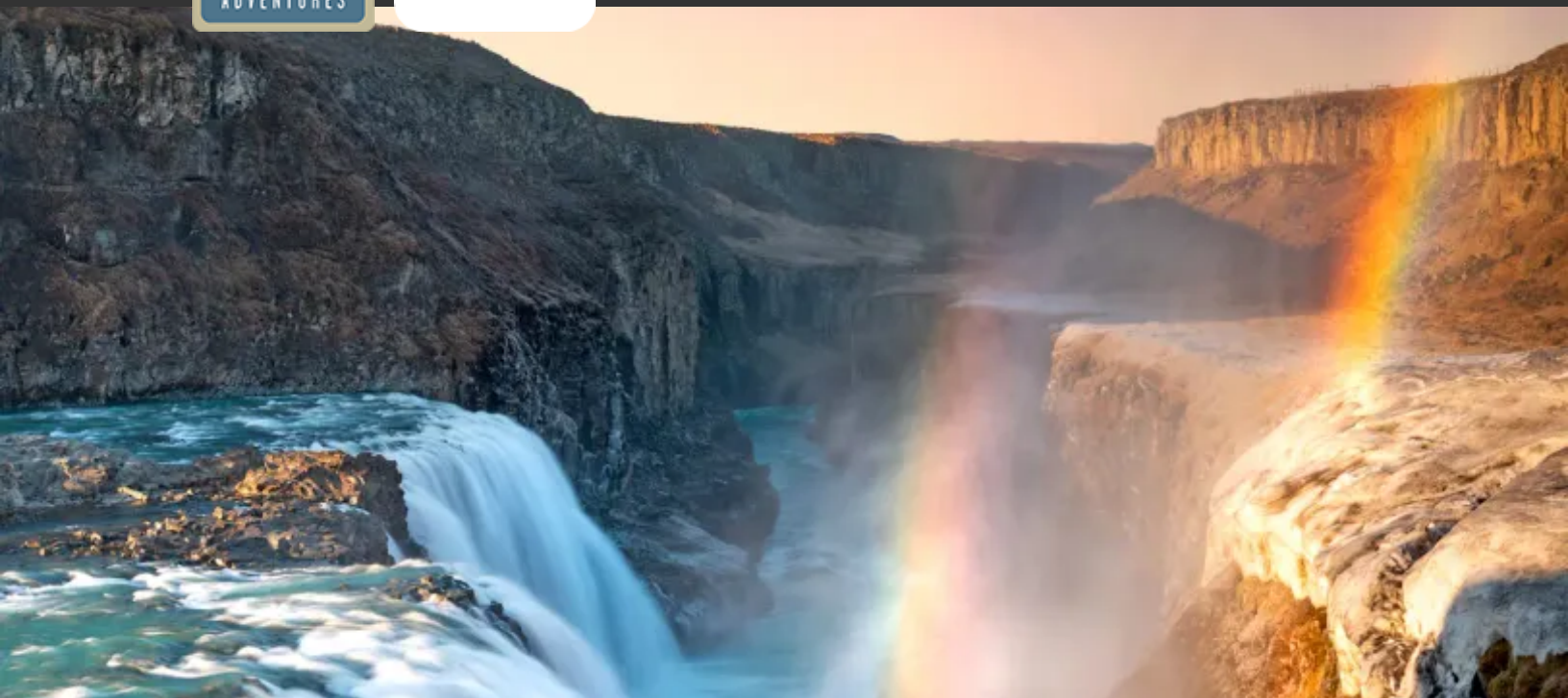
Day 12: Depart Reykjavik as the expedition closes

- Transfer from Reykjavik to Keflavik for homeward flights
- Close your Iceland photo expedition

Depart Reykjavik this morning for the 45-minute transfer to Keflavik Airport to meet departing flights.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Keflavik, Iceland / Reykjavik

Day 2

Westman Islands—Private RIB Safari
/ Coastal Walks—Puffin Viewing

Day 3

Highlands Photography—
Landmannalaugur Private 4x4 Tour

Day 4

South Coast Waterfall Photography /
Katla Geopark

Day 5

Skaftafell Flightseeing / Svinasfell
Glacier / Diamond Beach

Day 6

Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon—Private
Zodiac Cruise / Exploring the South
Coast

Day 7

Stokksnes Peninsula—Vestrahorn /
East Fjords—Egilsstadir

2027 Itinerary

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel

KEFLAVIK / REYKJAVIK

Day 1: Arrive in Reykjavik for your Iceland photo expedition

- Explore Iceland's compact, walkable capital
- Join your Photo Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the photographic opportunities ahead

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the photography adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Lagarfjolt—Icelandic Horses /
Borgarfjordur Eystri—Puffin
Photography

Day 9

East Fjords—Mjoifjordur /
Modrudalur

Day 10

Private Highlands 4x4 Tour /
Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon /
Modrudalur

Day 11

Dettifoss & Selfoss / Lake Myvatn /
Hverarond / Akureyri / Reykjavik

Day 12

Reykjavik / Keflavik / Depart

WESTMAN ISLANDS

Day 2: Photograph seabird colonies and volcanic landscapes in the Westman Islands

- Cruise by private high-speed RIB to remote seabird islands
- Capture images of one of the world's largest northern gannet colonies
- Walk Heimaey's rugged coast among puffins and young volcanic landscapes

Depart late this morning for a rare inclusion on any Iceland itinerary: the remote Westman Islands. From Landeyjahofn, we make the 45-minute crossing to the main island of Heimaey. The Westman Islands—Vestmannaeyjar in Icelandic—were formed between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago from submarine eruptions. The land here remains very young, active and dynamic, shaped afresh with the 1973 eruption of Eldfell volcano that forced the entire Westman population to evacuate to the mainland via the islands' fishing fleet. Heimaey was covered in ash and lava as the eruption continued for months, but eventually the stalwart islanders returned to dig out their homes and settle anew. After lunch on arrival, we board a sturdy high-speed RIB (rigid inflatable boat) for a 2-hour marine photo safari, cruising to several remote islands to view colonies of northern gannets, Atlantic puffins, black guillemots, common murres and more. The northern gannet population is among the largest in the world, with 1-2% of global numbers—some 26,000 breeding pairs—nesting in the Westmans. They thrive, along with other seabirds, due to a lack of predators on the islands—most notably Arctic fox. Coastal walks offer more views of puffins and rugged volcanic scenery. After dinner, return to the mainland by ferry and check in to our hotel late this evening, where we spend the next two nights.



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LANDMANNALAUGUR HIGHLANDS

Day 3: Capture the vivid colors of Iceland's remote Highlands

- Venture deep into the Highlands by 4x4 vehicle
- Photograph multicolored rhyolite mountains and obsidian-streaked terrain
- Explore Landmannalaugar's geothermal valleys and hot springs

Today's journey takes us deep into Iceland's remote Highlands. Traveling in Nat Hab's customized 4x4 mini bus with giant all-terrain tires, we traverse a colorful and otherworldly landscape. Rugged peaks in an array of shapes, forms and hues flank the primitive tracks we follow, the rock palette tinted by rhyolite and obsidian. A vivid blanket of gold and green alpine moss and lichen adds a bright accent, while black sand expanses lend contrast, filling the gaps between jagged ridges, volcanic summits and dramatic canyons and valleys. At times, the stark setting is evocative of a moonscape. The region is laced with braided riverbeds, which we cross multiple times. We spend the day making short photo stops and taking several walks for optimal vantage points.

Our main focus is the Landmannalaugar region. Located on the edge of the Laugahraun lava field formed by an eruption in the late 15th century, the area is renowned for its unique geology, including vibrant, multicolored mountains, obsidian caves and geothermal hot springs. The scale of the landscape is astounding, with stark ranges rising high above glacier-carved river valleys, volcanic craters and fields of lava covered in lime-green moss.

Please note: Weather will dictate our exact plans today. If conditions are better in the Fjallabak region of the highlands, we will explore Fjallabak Nature Reserve. A view of Myrdalsjokull glacier—one of Iceland's largest, which conceals Katla, one of its most active volcanoes—is a highlight in this little-visited area.



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SOUTH COAST / KATLA GEOPARK

Day 4: Waterfalls, glaciers and black sand along Iceland's South Coast

- Photograph Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss and Kvernufoss
- Frame the Reynisdrangar sea stacks above Vik's black-sand beach
- Explore Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, where glaciers and volcanic terrain converge

The South Coast is known for some of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls, and this morning offers a chance to photograph three of the largest and most famous: Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss, and Kvernufoss. We'll spend some time in the area around Vik, known for its volcanic black sand beaches and dramatic rock formations including Reynisdrangar Rocks. Legend holds that this trio of columnar basalt sea stacks was formed after two trolls were out fishing in a three-masted ship. When the trolls did not return to their cave before sunrise, they and their vessel turned into needles of stone, since trolls cannot tolerate daylight.

Continuing our encounters with the fascinating geological features on Iceland's south coast, we investigate the dynamic relationship between fire and ice, examining the largest glacial outwash plane in the world. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark contains roughly 9% of Iceland's total landmass, encompassing massive glaciers and active volcanoes that have shaped the land for millennia, including the powerful eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 and Grimsvotn in 2011. The geopark also holds glacial rivers, lakes, meadows of purple lupine, black sand beaches, vast lava fields and caverns. We'll get glimpses of outlet glaciers flowing down from the Vatnajökull ice cap, and Lomagnupur Mountain is also an impressive subject, with steep cliffs and a flat top that we may find reflected in nearby ponds.



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SKAFTAFELL / SVINASFELL GLACIER / DIAMOND BEACH

Day 5: Aerial glacier views and glowing icebergs at Diamond Beach

- Fly by private fixed-wing aircraft over Vatnajökull National Park
- Photograph the jagged ice and volcanic ash of Svinasfell Glacier
- Walk Diamond Beach in the evening as icebergs glow on black sand

Get a stunning aerial perspective on some of Iceland's most dramatic scenery from a 2-hour private fixed-wing plane flight over the Skaftafell region of Vatnajökull National Park. Known for its rugged landscapes, stark mountains and vast braided rivers, Skaftafell contains about half of the Vatnajökull Glacier, Europe's largest ice cap. No roads penetrate the park's wild recesses, but our extended low-altitude flight reveals aerial shots of Landmannalauger—a truly spectacular sight—amid an artistic landscape of intriguing patterns, contrasts and colors. Photograph the plain of Skeidararsandur (the largest glacial outwash plain on the planet), an expanse of black sand and ash sliced by braided glacial rivers that resemble an intricate network of veins. Other highlights include striking shots Maelifell with braided riverbeds wrapping around the lonely green mountain, the Laki volcano crater row, a 15-mile-long fissure in the highlands that erupted in 1783, creating a chain of 130 craters, and the jagged expanse of Skeidararjökull Glacier. This glacier drains off Vatnajökull, Iceland's largest ice cap.

We also spend time on the ground, walking around the scenic outflow of Svinasfell Glacier, a large outlet glacier of the Vatnajökull ice field. Its surface is especially jagged, with many sharp ridges that lend drama to images, as well as its varied coloration—deep blue ice, white snow and veins of black ash left over from volcanic eruptions in centuries past. The ash patterns create remarkable abstract designs in the ice, a phenomenon not readily found anywhere else in the world.

After dinner, head to Diamond Beach, where icebergs wash up on shore to create a sparkling contrast with the volcanic black sand. The late evening light offers excellent photography conditions, with the sun's sinking rays gleaming on the scattered icebergs, littered on the beach like chunks of glass. Seals also frequent the beach, and humpback whales are sometimes visible offshore.



Discovering Our Planet Together

FJALLSARLON GLACIER LAGOON

Day 6: Photograph floating icebergs beneath Europe's largest glacier

- Cruise by private Zodiac among the icebergs of Fjallsarlón Glacier Lagoon
- Hike hidden trails through glacier-carved terminal moraines
- Seek dramatic compositions along black-sand beaches and rugged coastal mountains

On a private Zodiac cruise at Fjallsarlón Glacier Lagoon, we have extended time to photograph the glittering icebergs floating atop the meltwater lake. The lagoon is fed by the massive Vatnajökull Glacier, the largest in Europe. The ice cap covers more than 3,100 square miles—8% of Iceland—and the glacial tongues that flow from it calve the huge chunks of blue ice that litter the surface of the lagoons, drifting like a flotilla of whimsically shaped ships. We spend the remainder of the day exploring this exceptionally scenic region, stopping for striking shots of black sand beaches and rugged mountains as we follow the coast and hike hidden trails among terminal moraines, the end point of glaciers fed by the ice cap. Our exact itinerary is guided by weather and light, as we chase the best of both.



Discovering Our Planet Together

STOKKSNES PENINSULA / EAST FJORDS

Day 7: Vestrahorn and the ancient basalt landscapes of the East Fjords

- Photograph Vestrahorn rising above the black dunes of Stokksnes
- Follow Iceland's dramatic basalt coastline into the East Fjords
- Walk to secluded Flogufoss in Breiddalur Valley

Today marks a transition in our itinerary, moving from Iceland's youngest and most dynamic landscapes along the active rift zone toward older regions along the east coast. Along our eastward route, we seek out Icelandic horses, intricate riverbeds and more rugged landscapes to photograph. The Stokksnes Peninsula is full of enticing subjects, from beaches of jet-black sand to 10-foot-high sand dunes covered in bright green beach grass, and the ragged profile of Vestrahorn, one of Iceland's most stark and distinctive mountains. The sheer-sided massif is comprised mostly of rare gabbro rock, a plutonic magma nearly 11 million years old. We also photograph the jagged range of Eystrahorn, a lesser-known set of peaks surveying a wild black sand beach on the southeast corner of Iceland. Then follow the coast into the little-visited East Fjords, which has some of the oldest rock in Iceland, with layer upon layer of basalt from ancient eruptions slowly carved away by 2.5 million years of successive ice ages. The expansive coastal plain transitions to classic U-shaped glacial valleys flanked by weathered basalt mountains. The ocean is always close as the road winds along the fjord-riven coast, unveiling rocky coves and picturesque fishing villages. After dinner in Breiddalsvík, capitalize on the evening light as we meander our way through the peaceful, less-traveled Breiddalur Valley, with stops along the way to photograph burbling creeks, lakes and striking mountains. A short walk leads to Flogufoss, a hidden waterfall deep in the valley. Then, we drive across a mountain pass and drop into the glacial valley of Lagarfljót, continuing to Egilsstaðir, East Iceland's largest town, where we spend two nights.



Discovering Our Planet Together

LAGARFLJOT / BORGARFJORDUR EYSTRÍ

Day 8: Icelandic horses, puffins and East Fjords folklore

- Meet Icelandic horses on a private countryside farm
- Spend extended time photographing puffins from a colony boardwalk
- Visit Lagarfljot Lake, home to Iceland's enduring lake-monster legend

Travel inland from Egilsstaðir for an in-depth exploration of scenic Lagarfljót Valley, including a photo stop at Lagarfljót Lake, where local lore holds that a sea monster inhabits its waters. We are surrounded by a wild, rural landscape, and a visit to a farm in this evocative setting offers a private opportunity to photograph Icelandic horses.

Continue to Borgarfjörður Eystrí, a fjord that is reputedly home to one of numerous “elfin communities” that thrive in Icelandic mythology. The fjord takes its name from the Icelandic elf-queen, Alfaborg, who is said to live nearby. Here we find one of Iceland's largest Atlantic puffin colonies, and we spend several hours among them this afternoon on a puffin photography intensive. A boardwalk weaving through the colony allows easy access, and since the puffins are accustomed to human presence, we are able to get exceptionally close shots. Return to Egilsstaðir for a second night.



Discovering Our Planet Together

MJOIFJORDUR / MODRUDALUR

Day 9: Mirror-like fjords and Iceland's highest inhabited farm

- Photograph reflections in the remote waters of Mjoifjordur
- Hike beside the seven-tiered Klifbrekkufossar waterfall
- Stay at Modrudalur, Iceland's highest inhabited farm

Our focus for the first half of the day is one of the most photogenic of the East Fjords, the slender finger of Mjoifjordur, which means "narrow fjord." Carved out by successive ice ages and protected from the elements along the outer coast, the water is often calm as glass, making for beautiful reflection photography. We occasionally spot whales in the fjord as well. This is one of the most remote destinations in Iceland, accessed by a road that is open for only about four months a year, when it is snow-free. The steep, winding gravel road that descends to the sea extends to the end of the 11-mile fjord. Mjoifjordur's setting at the head of the fjord is stunning, surrounded by an amphitheater of waterfalls. A highlight is Klifbrekkufossar, a seven-step cascade that terraces down through a rugged chasm carpeted with green vegetation. A trail hugs the side of the waterfall, allowing access to varied angles and closer views. Climbing into the highlands, we follow Iceland's original Highway 1 over two remote passes to reach Modrudalur. This is one of the oldest farms in Iceland, with evidence of its presence since the original settlement by the Vikings. The site was an important crossroads where two historic cross-country trails intersected, and its location is referenced in the famous Sagas that date to the 10th and 11th centuries. Modrudalur is also the highest inhabited place in Iceland, at 1,539 feet above sea level. We spend the next two nights here at Fjalladyrd, a hospitable family-run farm.



Discovering Our Planet Together

HIGHLANDS / HAFRAHVAMMAGLJUFUR CANYON

Day 10: Explore Iceland's remote Highlands by 4x4 vehicle

- Travel deep into the lunar Highlands by 4x4 vehicle
- Stand above the 650-foot-deep Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon
- Visit a traditional Icelandic turf house

Set out in our custom 4x4 vehicles to explore more of the hidden wonders of Iceland's little-visited Highlands. These rugged high-suspension mini buses have been modified with big tires and extra shock absorption to provide a more comfortable ride over off-road terrain, allowing deeper access into this remote region. On our adventurous journey through the lunar-like landscape, we make multiple stops to photograph impressive landmarks that may include 5,501-foot Herdubrid, a peak known as the "Queen of Iceland." Plant life grows where water flows, craters pock the terrain, and old lava flows from the active Askja volcanic system create an wondrous landscape. Marvel at Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, a dramatic gorge more than 650 feet deep, from high grassy slopes overlooking the chasm. We also visit one of Iceland's traditional turf houses—historic dwellings constructed from earth, stone and timber. Return to Modrudalur for a second night at Fjalladyrd.



Discovering Our Planet Together

DETTIFOSS / LAKE MYVATN

Day 11: Photograph Iceland's most powerful waterfalls and geothermal landscapes

- Capture Dettifoss, one of Europe's most powerful waterfalls
- Explore the pseudocraters and steaming geothermal fields around Lake Myvatn
- Frame Godafoss spilling over a volcanic ledge

Photograph mighty Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall by volume and the most powerful in Iceland. This thundering curtain of water, spanning 330 feet and churning spray into the sky, is fed by the giant Vatnajökull Glacier, which spawns the Jökulsá á Fjöllum River, the second-longest in Iceland. Dettifoss is contained inside a massive canyon carved out by ancient glacial outwash floods, where four times the volume of the Amazon River once tore through this landscape. We frequently see rainbows over the falls, which make for dramatic photos. We also stop at Selfoss, a striking U-shaped wall of rushing cataracts fed by the same river originating in Vatnajökull.

Continue to Lake Myvatn, located in the rift zone of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. The lake was formed during a massive eruption 2,300 years ago and is still a site of geothermal activity, with lava flows coming most recently from the 1984 eruption of Krafla volcano. Numerous lava formations are found in and around the shallow lake, and we photograph the pseudocraters of Skútustadir on a short hike. These phenomena are formed when lava flows over wet ground, pushing it down and trapping steam. As pressure mounts, steam explosions create these fascinating "false craters." One of the premier birdwatching areas in the world, Lake Myvatn's marshes provide habitat for huge numbers of migratory birds in summer. More than 115 species have been logged here, including 15 species of nesting ducks, horned grebe, great northern diver, common loon, red-throated loon, whooper swan, Barrow's goldeneye, and many more seasonal visitors.

Nearby, we photograph the striking turquoise lake that fills Krafla Viti Crater. More of Iceland's simmering subterranean energy is on display at Hverarond, hissing with steam vents, bubbling mud pots and pungent sulphur. Driving west, we photograph Godafoss, one of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls, which originates deep in the highlands. Shaped like a crescent, it drops 40 feet over a sheer volcanic cliff. Ultimately, we arrive in Akureyri for a farewell dinner before our evening flight back to Reykjavik.

REYKJAVIK / KEFLAVIK

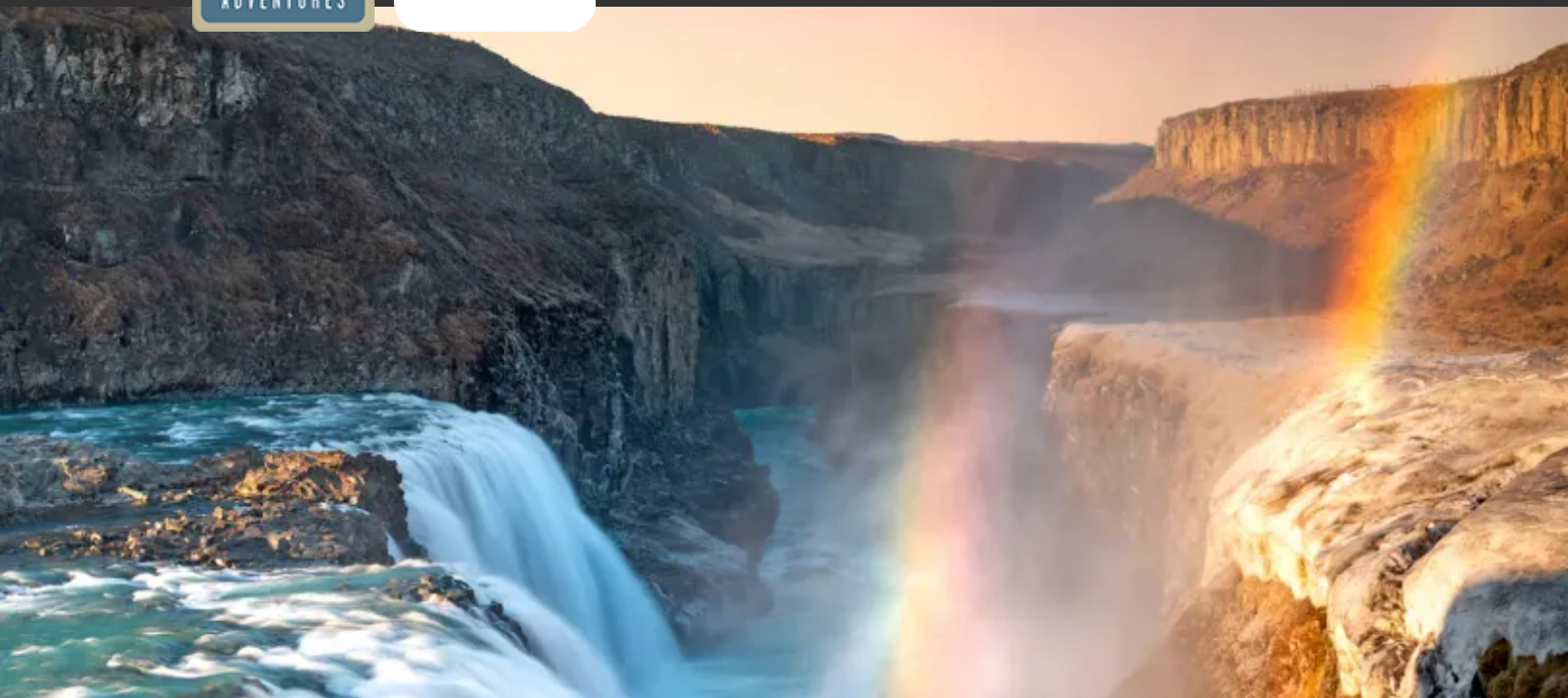
Day 12: Depart Reykjavik after your Iceland photo expedition

- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

A transfer is included from our hotel in Reykjavik to Keflavik International Airport—about a 45-minute drive—to meet departing flights.



Discovering Our Planet Together



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Keflavik, Iceland / Reykjavik

Day 2

Thingvellir National Park / Strokkur
Geyser / Waterfalls

Day 3

Highlands Photography—
Landmannalaugur Private 4x4 Tour

Day 4

South Coast Waterfall Photography /
Katla UNESCO Geopark

Day 5

Skaftafell Flightseeing / Svinasfell
Glacier / Diamond Beach

Day 6

Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon—Private
Zodiac Cruise / Exploring the South
Coast

Day 7

Stokksnes Peninsula—Vestrahorn /
East Fjords—Egilsstadir

2027 Autumn Itinerary

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel

KEFLAVIK / REYKJAVIK

Day 1: Arrive in Reykjavik for your Iceland photo expedition

- Explore Iceland's compact, walkable capital
- Join your Photo Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the photographic opportunities ahead

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the photography adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.



Discovering Our Planet Together

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Lagarfjolt—Icelandic Horses /
Borgarfjordur Eystri

Day 9

East Fjords—Mjoifjordur /
Modrudalur

Day 10

Private Highlands Super Jeep Tour /
Hafravammagljufur Canyon /
Modrudalur

Day 11

Dettifoss & Selfoss / Lake Myvatn /
Hverarond / Akureyri / Reykjavik

Day 12

Reykjavik / Keflavik / Depart

THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK / STROKKUR GEYSER

Day 2: Photograph Iceland's tectonic rift, waterfalls and erupting geysers

- Stand between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates at Thingvellir
- Photograph Bruarfoss and Gullfoss in the warm evening light
- Watch Strokkur erupt beneath the autumn sky

Our adventure begins in Thingvellir National Park for an on-the-ground perspective on Iceland's geological origins. Here on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge where two plates meet, we are at the epicenter of where the Icelandic landscape is forming—we can actually see fissures where Earth's crust is separating. Thingvellir is also the site of Iceland's political founding, when Viking settlers formed the world's first parliament in the year 930. On this site, 30 ruling chiefs met to discuss law and order on the island and to create a government.

Later today, after most day trippers have left, we'll photograph waterfalls in the evening light. Bruarfoss is one of Iceland's most beautiful, where dozens of cascading streams from the Bruara River fall in a semi-circular pattern, converging again in the rushing blue river below. It's an optimal time of year to photograph Bruarfoss, surrounded by fall colors. After dinner, we visit Strokkur, Iceland's most active geyser, erupting about every 10 minutes. Then, in the golden-hour light, photograph powerful Gullfoss—"Golden Falls"—one of Iceland's most dramatic waterfalls. It was formed during the last ice age when glacial runoff carved out a deep canyon, creating a series of drops over which the Hvita River plunges. Late this evening, we arrive at our hotel on the South Coast to spend the next two nights.



Discovering Our Planet Together

LANDMANNALAUGUR HIGHLANDS

Day 3: Capture the vivid colors of Iceland's remote Highlands

- Venture deep into the Highlands by 4x4 vehicle
- Photograph multicolored rhyolite mountains and obsidian-streaked terrain
- Explore Landmannalaugar's geothermal valleys and hot springs

Journey by 4x4 deep into Iceland's remote Highlands where we find a colorful and otherworldly landscape. Rugged peaks in an array of shapes, forms and colors flank the primitive tracks we follow, the rock palette tinted by rhyolite and obsidian. A vivid blanket of gold and green alpine moss and lichen adds a bright accent, while black sand expanses lend contrast, filling the gaps between jagged ridges, volcanic summits and dramatic canyons. At times, the setting is evocative of a moonscape. The region is laced with braided riverbeds, which we cross multiple times. We make multiple stops and take several walks for optimal vantage points.

Our main focus today is the Landmannalaugar region, which we explore via 4x4 Super Jeep. Located on the edge of the Laugahraun lava field formed by an eruption in the late 15th century, the area is renowned for its unique geology, including vibrant, multicolored mountains, obsidian caves and geothermal hot springs. The scale of the landscape is astounding, with stark ranges rising high above glacier-carved river valleys, volcanic craters and fields of lava covered in lime-green moss.

Please note: Weather will dictate our exact plans today. If conditions are better in the Fjallabak region of the Highlands, we will explore Fjallabak Nature Reserve. A view of Myrdalsjokull Glacier—one of Iceland's largest, which conceals Katla, one of its most active volcanoes—is a highlight in this little-visited area.



Discovering Our Planet Together

SOUTH COAST / KATLA UNESCO GEOPARK

Day 4: Waterfalls, glaciers and black sand along Iceland's South Coast

- Photograph Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss and Kvernufoss
- Frame the Reynisdrangar sea stacks above Vik's black-sand beach
- Explore Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, where glaciers and volcanic terrain converge

The South Coast holds some of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls, and this morning, we photograph three of the biggest and most famous: Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss and Kvernufoss. The the area around Vik is known for its volcanic black sand beaches and dramatic rock formations including Reynisdrangar Rocks. Legend holds that this trio of columnar basalt sea stacks was formed after two trolls were out fishing in a three-masted ship. When the trolls did not return to their cave before sunrise, they and their vessel turned into needles of stone, since trolls cannot tolerate daylight.

Continuing our encounters with the fascinating geological features on Iceland's South Coast, we investigate the dynamic relationship between fire and ice, examining the largest glacial outwash plain in the world. Katla UNESCO Global Geopark contains roughly 9% of Iceland's total landmass, encompassing massive glaciers and active volcanoes that have shaped the land for millennia, including the powerful eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 and Grimsvotn in 2011. The Geopark also holds glacial rivers, lakes, meadows of purple lupine, black sand beaches, vast lava fields and caverns. We'll get glimpses of outlet glaciers flowing down from the Vatnajökull ice cap, and Lomagnupur Mountain is also an impressive subject, with steep cliffs and a flat top that we may find reflected in nearby ponds.



Discovering Our Planet Together

SKAFTAFELL / SVINASFELL GLACIER / DIAMOND BEACH

Day 5: Aerial glacier views and glowing icebergs at Diamond Beach

- Fly by private fixed-wing aircraft over Vatnajökull National Park
- Photograph the jagged ice and volcanic ash of Svinasfell Glacier
- Capture Diamond Beach in the evening as icebergs glow on black sand

Get a stunning aerial perspective on some of Iceland's most dramatic scenery from a 2-hour private fixed-wing plane flight over the Skaftafell region of Vatnajökull National Park. Known for its rugged landscapes, stark mountains and braided rivers, Skaftafell contains about half of the Vatnajökull Glacier, Europe's largest ice cap. No roads penetrate the park's wild recesses, but our extended low-altitude flight offers aerial shots of Landmannalaugar—a truly spectacular sight—amid an artistic landscape of intriguing patterns, contrasts and colors. Photograph the plain of Skeidararsandur (the largest glacial outwash plain on the planet), an expanse of black sand and ash sliced by braided glacial rivers that resemble an intricate network of veins. Other highlights include striking shots of Maelifell, with braided riverbeds wrapping around the lonely green mountain; the Laki volcano crater row, a 15-mile-long fissure in the highlands that erupted in 1783, creating a chain of 130 craters; and the jagged expanse of Skeidararjökull Glacier, which drains from Vatnajökull.

We also spend time on the ground, walking around the outflow of Svinasfell Glacier, a large outlet glacier of the Vatnajökull ice field. Its surface is especially jagged, with many sharp ridges that lend drama to images, as well as its varied coloration—deep blue ice, white snow and veins of black ash left over from volcanic eruptions in centuries past. The ash patterns create abstract designs in the ice, a phenomenon not found anywhere else in the world.

After dinner, head to Diamond Beach, where icebergs wash up on shore to create a sparkling contrast with the volcanic black sand. The late evening light offers excellent photography conditions, with the sun's sinking rays gleaming on the scattered icebergs, littered on the beach like chunks of glass. Seals also frequent the beach, and humpback whales are sometimes visible offshore.



Discovering Our Planet Together

FJALLSARLON GLACIER LAGOON

Day 6: Photograph floating icebergs beneath Europe's largest glacier

- Cruise by private Zodiac among the icebergs of Fjallsarlón Glacier Lagoon
- Hike hidden trails through glacier-carved terminal moraines
- Seek dramatic compositions along black-sand beaches and rugged coastal mountains

At Fjallsarlón Glacier Lagoon, a private Zodiac cruise offers extended time to photograph the glittering icebergs floating on the meltwater lake. The lagoon is fed by the massive Vatnajökull Glacier, the largest in Europe. The ice cap covers more than 3,100 square miles—8% of Iceland—and the glacial tongues that flow from it calve the huge chunks of blue ice that drift atop the lagoons like a flotilla of whimsically shaped ships. We spend the remainder of the day exploring this exceptionally scenic region, hiking hidden trails among terminal moraines, the end point of glaciers fed by the ice cap, and seeking striking shots of black sand beaches and rugged mountains edging the coast. Our exact itinerary is guided by weather and light, as we chase the best of both.



Discovering Our Planet Together

STOKKSNES PENINSULA / EAST FJORDS

Day 7: Vestrahorn and the ancient basalt landscapes of the East Fjords

- Photograph Vestrahorn rising above the black dunes of Stokksnes
- Follow Iceland's dramatic basalt coastline into the East Fjords
- Walk to secluded Flogufoss in Breiddalur Valley

Today marks a transition in our itinerary, moving from Iceland's youngest and most dynamic landscapes along the active rift zone toward older regions along the east coast. Along our eastward route, we seek out Icelandic horses, intricate riverbeds and more rugged landscapes to photograph. The Stokksnes Peninsula is full of enticing subjects, from beaches of jet-black sand to 10-foot-high dunes covered in green beach grass, and the ragged profile of Vestrahorn, one of Iceland's most distinctive mountains. The sheer-sided massif is comprised mostly of rare gabbro rock, a plutonic magma nearly 11 million years old. We also photograph the jagged range of Eystrahorn, a lesser-known set of peaks surveying a wild black sand beach on the southeast corner of Iceland.

Then follow the coast into the little-visited East Fjords, which has some of the oldest rock in Iceland, with layer upon layer of basalt from ancient eruptions slowly carved away by 2.5 million years of successive ice ages. The expansive coastal plain transitions to classic U-shaped glacial valleys flanked by weathered basalt mountains. The ocean is always close as the road winds along the fjord-riven coast, unveiling rocky coves and picturesque fishing villages. After dinner in Breiddalsvik, capitalize on the evening light as we meander our way through the peaceful, little-traveled Breiddalur Valley to photograph burbling creeks, lakes and striking mountains. A short walk leads to Flogufoss, a hidden waterfall deep in the valley. Then, we drive across a mountain pass and drop into the glacial valley of Lagarfljot, continuing to Egilsstaðir, East Iceland's largest town, where we spend two nights.



Discovering Our Planet Together

LAGARFLJOT / BORGURFJORDUR EYSTRÍ

Day 8: Icelandic horses, rhyolite peaks and East Fjords folklore

- Meet Icelandic horses on a private countryside farm
- Visit Lagarfljot Lake, home to Iceland's enduring lake-monster legend
- Capture the colorful rhyolite mountains above Borgarfjordur Eystrí

Travel inland from Egilsstaðir for an in-depth exploration of scenic Lagarfljót Valley, including a photo stop at Lagarfljót Lake, where local lore holds that a sea monster inhabits its waters. We are surrounded by a wild, rural landscape, and a visit to a farm in this evocative setting offers a private opportunity to photograph Icelandic horses. Developed from ponies brought to Iceland by Norse settlers in the 9th and 10th centuries, the breed is mentioned in various documents throughout Icelandic history. Small and hardy, with shaggy manes and thick tails, Icelandic horses are the only breed permitted in the country. They thrive here with few diseases, and strict rules are in place to prevent other horse stock from outside Iceland from entering the country and affecting the native horses' health.

After lunch in the countryside, descend through a broad glacial valley leading to the coast as we follow the meandering Lagarfljót River, then traverse a mountain pass to reach the superbly scenic region around Borgarfjordur Eystrí, a fjord that is reputedly home to one of numerous “elfin communities” that thrive in Icelandic mythology. The fjord takes its name from the Icelandic elf-queen, Alfaborg, who is said to live nearby. The mountainous terrain above the fjord comprises some of the oldest rock in Iceland. Rhyolite mountains, rich in silica, dominate the landscape in an earthy palette of beige, gold, rust, pink and even blue, contrasting with dark basalt intrusions. If the weather cooperates, we may catch the sunset over the colorful peaks.



Discovering Our Planet Together

MJOIFJORDUR / MODRUDALUR

Day 9: Mirror-like fjords and Iceland's highest inhabited farm

- Photograph reflections in the remote waters of Mjoifjordur
- Hike beside the seven-tiered Klifbrekkufossar waterfall
- Stay at Modrudalur, Iceland's highest inhabited farm

Our focus for the first half of the day is one of the most photogenic of the East Fjords, the slender finger of Mjoifjordur, which means "narrow fjord." Carved out by successive ice ages and protected from the elements along the outer coast, the water is often calm as glass, making for beautiful reflection photos. We occasionally spot whales in the fjord as well. This is one of the most remote destinations in Iceland, accessed by a road that is open for only about four months a year, when it is snow-free. The steep, winding gravel road that descends to the sea extends to the end of the 11-mile fjord. Mjoifjordur's setting at the head of the fjord is stunning, surrounded by an amphitheater of waterfalls. A highlight is Klifbrekkufossar, a seven-step cascade that terraces down through a rugged chasm carpeted with green vegetation. A trail hugs the side of the waterfall, allowing access to varied angles and closer views.

Climbing into the Highlands, we follow Iceland's original Highway 1 over two remote passes to reach Modrudalur. This is one of the oldest farms in Iceland, with evidence of its presence since the original settlement by the Vikings. The site was an important crossroads where two historic cross-country trails intersected, and its location is referenced in the famous Sagas that date to the 10th and 11th centuries. Modrudalur is also the highest inhabited place in Iceland, at 1,539 feet above sea level. We spend the next two nights here at Fjalladyrd, a hospitable family-run farm.



Discovering Our Planet Together

HIGHLANDS / HAFRAHVAMMAGLJUFUR CANYON

Day 10: Explore Iceland's remote Highlands by 4x4 vehicle

- Travel through the lunar Highlands by 4x4 vehicle
- Stand above the 650-foot-deep Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon
- Visit a traditional Icelandic turf house

Set out in 4x4 Super Jeeps to explore more of the hidden wonders of Iceland's little-visited Highlands. These large SUVs have been modified with big tires and extra shock absorption to provide a more comfortable ride over off-road terrain, allowing deeper access to this remote region. On our adventurous journey through the lunar-like landscape, we make multiple stops to photograph impressive landmarks that may include 5,501-foot Herdubrid, a peak known as the "Queen of Iceland." Tiny plant life grows where water flows, craters pock the terrain, and old lava flows from the active Askja volcanic system create a wondrous landscape. Marvel at Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, a dramatic gorge more than 650 feet deep, from high grassy slopes overlooking the chasm. We also visit one of Iceland's traditional turf houses—historic dwellings constructed from earth, stone and timber. Return to Modrudalur for a second night at Fjalladyrd.



Discovering Our Planet Together

DETTIFOSS / LAKE MYVATN

Day 11: Photograph Iceland's most powerful waterfalls and geothermal landscapes

- Capture Dettifoss, one of Europe's most powerful waterfalls
- Explore the pseudocraters and steaming geothermal fields around Lake Myvatn
- Frame Godafoss spilling into its turquoise pool

Photograph mighty Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall by volume and the most powerful in Iceland. This thundering curtain of water, spanning 330 feet and churning spray into the sky, is fed by the giant Vatnajökull Glacier, which spawns the Jökulsá á Fjöllum River, the second-longest in Iceland. Dettifoss is contained inside a massive canyon carved out by ancient glacial outwash floods, where four times the volume of the Amazon River once tore through this landscape. We frequently see rainbows over the falls, which make for enticing photos. We also stop at Selfoss, a striking U-shaped wall of rushing cataracts fed by the same river.

Continue to Lake Myvatn, located in the rift zone of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. The lake was formed during a massive eruption 2,300 years ago and is still a site of geothermal activity, with lava flows coming most recently from the 1984 eruption of Krafla volcano. Numerous lava formations are found in and around the shallow lake, and we photograph the pseudocraters of Skútustadír on a short hike. These phenomena are formed when lava flows over wet ground, pushing it down and trapping steam. As pressure mounts, steam explosions create these fascinating "false craters."

Nearby, photograph the striking turquoise lake that fills Krafla Viti Crater. More of Iceland's simmering subterranean energy is on display at Hverarönd, hissing with steam vents and bubbling mud pots, the air scented with pungent sulphur. Our next stop is Godafoss, one of Iceland's most stunning cataracts, whose name means "waterfall of the gods." Shaped like a horseshoe, it drops 40 feet over a sheer volcanic cliff into a huge turquoise pool. Ultimately, we arrive in Akureyri where we gather for a farewell dinner before our evening flight back to Reykjavik.

REYKJAVIK / KEFLAVIK

Day 12: Depart Reykjavik after your Iceland photo expedition

- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

A transfer is included from our hotel in Reykjavik to Keflavik International Airport—about a 45-minute drive—to meet departing flights.



Discovering Our Planet Together



Accommodation Details:

Hotel Jokulsarlon

Landhotel

Lake Hotel Egilsstadir

Fjalladyrd Guesthouse

Hotel Reykjavik Saga

For detailed descriptions, visit
nathab.com/europe/iceland-photography-tour/accommodations

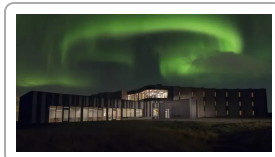
Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition Accommodations

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel



Hotel Jokulsarlon

This new luxury property features contemporary Nordic design along Iceland's southeast coast, spacious rooms, a restaurant with local cuisine and outdoor hot tubs and cold plunge.



Landhotel

Surrounded by rolling hills and with views of the distant volcanoes Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull, the Landhotel's modern exterior incorporates banks of windows and glass doors for a seamless indoor/outdoor transition.



Lake Hotel Egilsstadir

A charming, family-run hotel on the shores of Lagarfljot in East Iceland, blending historic character with modern comfort. Guests enjoy cozy rooms, a lakeside setting, an on-site restaurant, spa facilities, and easy access to the region's natural beauty.

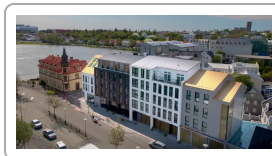


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Fjalladyrd Guesthouse

In remote Modrudalur, on the highest farm in Iceland at 1,539 feet, two separate guesthouses with traditional sod roofs accommodate seven guests each, with a restaurant on the premises.



Hotel Reykjavik Saga

This elegant new 4-star hotel in the heart of Reykjavik features sleek contemporary design elements and is just steps from all the city center attractions.



Crafted for the Most Immersive Photography Experience in Iceland

We've put enormous effort into designing an Iceland photo itinerary that far surpasses any other. This is the most comprehensive, most immersive, most all-encompassing encounter with Icelandic nature you'll find—including rarely visited destinations where crowds are nonexistent. If you're an avid photographer who wants to get the most out of your Iceland trip, here's how we accomplish that:

1

Photograph So Much More on Our Unique Itinerary

Going well beyond conventional highlights, we have included far more places, experiences and activities for a comprehensive immersion in the diverse destinations and subjects Iceland has to offer. You'll cover a wider range of Iceland, including the remote Highlands and little-visited east coast. With us, you'll get to places few others offer access to.

2

Spend Time in Wild Nature, Not Crowds

Iceland is popular—there's no avoiding that. Yet there are plenty of places in Iceland that most visitors never get to...but you will! We follow much of the outer edge of Iceland while making inland forays into areas where people are few and elements of traditional culture endure.

3

Private Flightseeing Tour

There is nothing like an aerial vantage for capturing the scale and power of Iceland's landscapes. On a fixed-wing plane flight over Skaftafell, you'll get shots of glaciers winding down from the Vatnajökull ice cap, dramatic mountain peaks, broad glacial valleys, and volcanic plains laced with braided rivers.

4

World's Best Place for Puffin Photography (Summer Trips Only)

Iceland is famous for its puffins, but few visitors get to the spots where they are most prolific. We spend hours at one of Iceland's largest Atlantic puffin colonies in rarely visited Borgarfjörður Eystrí, for unhurried and entertaining encounters with the world's most charming seabirds. *Please note that puffins are seasonal and only on view in the summertime; our autumn itinerary will not see them.*

5

Private Boat Tours for Watching Marine Life, Plus a Glacier Lagoon

Two private boat trips include a marine safari among seals and huge colonies of seabirds, and a cruise among floating icebergs on a glacial lagoon.



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6

Private Highlands 4x4 Tour

On board our customized 4x4 mini buses, explore the hidden wonders of Iceland's little-visited highlands. These rugged vehicles have been modified with giant tires and extra shock absorption for off-road terrain, allowing deeper access into this remote region. On our adventurous journey through the lunar-like landscape, we photograph geographic landmarks that few Iceland visitors ever see, from a dramatic gorge and waterfall to one of Iceland's most stunning peaks.

7

Shoot Alongside a Naturalist Guide Who Is Also a Photography Pro

Your photography adventure is guided by a supremely qualified Expedition Leader: not only is your guide deeply versed in Iceland's natural history, your guide is also an accomplished photographer in their own right, attuned to all the elements that will maximize your chances for the best possible photos (reading the weather, chasing the best light, adjusting a route to enhance photo opportunities, etc.).

8

A Small Group—Capped at 9—Offers a More Immersive Experience

A superlative photo tour requires a small group. Our group is limited to just nine photographers, allowing the flexibility that's imperative for serious photography. We are able to travel in small vehicles—vans, aircraft and boats—ensuring a more intimate encounter with nature and access to more remote places. It also means you'll have plenty of personal time with our Expedition Leader for serious photography conversations.

9

A Local Guide Joins Us, Too, for the Fullest Experience

Our trip is led by a Nat Hab Photo Pro Expedition Leader, but we're joined by a local guide who adds an essential insider perspective, not to mention an even higher level of personalized service.

10

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Iceland Adventure

When you travel with Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

11

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

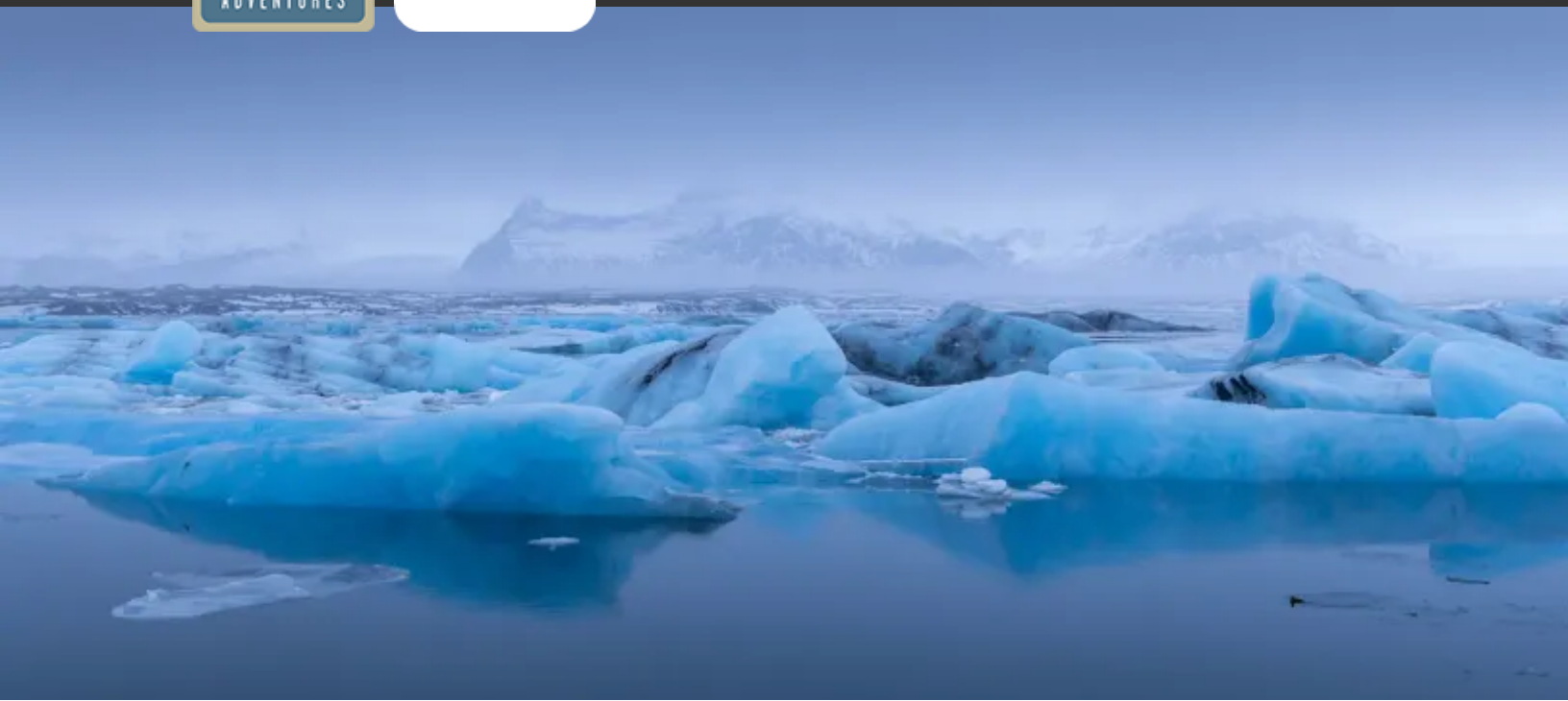
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Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, we have been chosen by World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$18995
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 9
Travelers

Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel

2027 Departures

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Jun 23 - Jul 4, 2027	\$19495 +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Jul 2 - Jul 13, 2027	\$19495 +internal air	
Jul 6 - Jul 17, 2027	\$18995 +internal air	
Jul 14 - Jul 25, 2027	\$19495 +internal air	
Aug 26 - Sep 6, 2027	\$18995 +internal air	
Aug 31 - Sep 11, 2027	\$18995 +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Sep 7 - Sep 18, 2027	\$18995 +internal air	



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Dates & Pricing

Summary:

Prices:
From \$18995
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 9
Travelers

2028 Departures

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jun 22 - Jul 3, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Jun 28 - Jul 9, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Jul 6 - Jul 17, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Jul 10 - Jul 21, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Aug 25 - Sep 5, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Aug 30 - Sep 10, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	
Sep 7 - Sep 18, 2028	From \$18995 +internal air	

Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/europe/iceland-photography-tour/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and departing by air on the final day, all activities, flightseeing and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet at hotels, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

- **Internal air:**

- 2026: Flight from Reykjavik to Egilsstadir (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).
- 2027: Flight from Akureyri to Reykjavik (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).



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Important Information About This Trip

It's crucial to understand that weather in Iceland is highly changeable. Mountainous terrain near the Arctic Circle, impacted by marine weather systems, means Iceland can get plenty of clouds, rain and wind year-round. While we time our trip to capitalize on the best season for weather, it's always unpredictable. Adverse weather could affect our itinerary, including activities we can offer, such as flightseeing. But fortunately, we've built some flexibility into our plans, and since we travel in a very small group, it's often quite manageable to deal with weather contingencies, adjusting details here and there to maximize our best photography opportunities. In the event we must cancel a particular activity due to weather, we will do our best to substitute another appealing photography experience.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Reykjavik. **You must arrive at Keflavik International Airport (KEF) no later than 3:30 pm on Day 1** in order to be ready for a welcome dinner and briefing beginning at 5:30 pm. Upon arrival at KEF, you will be met by a Nat Hab representative and transferred approximately one hour to the hotel.

You may depart at any time on the final day of the trip.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



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Extension Details:

East Greenland Arctic Adventure
\$14195

Ultimate Iceland Photo Expedition Extensions

An In-Depth Photography Adventure via Chartered Scenic Flight, Private Boats & 4x4 Overland Travel



East Greenland Arctic Adventure

Encounter raw Arctic beauty on Greenland's remote east coast near the edge of the ice sheet. From our deluxe expedition camp, explore by boat, kayak and on foot, where very few travelers venture.

\$14195 (+air)



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.