



## PHIL SHEPHERD WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU ON A PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY THROUGH ICELAND!

Are you looking to perfect your photography technique and experience the majestic landscapes of Iceland? We'd like to help you snap the perfect shot and experience the adventure of a lifetime! Phil Shepherd is organizing an amazing trip for you to join next fall. Please note that these trips allow a maximum of 16 people so space is limited and is based on a first come, first served basis.

### ICELANDIC ESCAPE INTO THE UNEXPECTED

September 15-22, 2017

From \$4,160 CAD pp land-only

#### *Phil Shepherd Bio*

- Owner/operator of Shepherd Photography
- Honours graduate of Humber College Certificate in Photographic Technique
- Member of Professional Photographers of Canada
- Member of Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce
- Member of Richmond Hill Camera Club
- Instructor of Photography Art at Varley Art Gallery
- Permanent exhibit at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- Conducts monthly workshops
- Expedition leader



*Traveling on your own? No problem! We're happy to match you up with a tour member of the same gender. If you'd prefer your own room, optional single supplements are available on request.*



# ICELAND: AN ESCAPADE INTO THE UNEXPECTED

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the 'Land of Ice and Fire'
- Explore the best of volcanic southern Iceland
- Natural phenomena and cultural highlights



Iceland is a vast, evocative country, constantly evolving and changing through the sheer power of the geological forces that created it. This week provides the perfect introduction to the southern half of the country, as we journey from the mountainous Snæfellsnes Peninsula in the west across the dramatic lunar-like landscape of the Fjallabak Nature Reserve to the eastern tip of the massive Vatnajokull National Park. Craters, hot springs, lava flows and thundering waterfalls dot our route, before we travel back along the south coast to Reykjavik.

## ITINERARY

- An exploration into Icelandic culture: the people and the land
- Enjoy fabulous sights, incredible food
- Maximum 16 participants
- 8 days covering Southern Iceland only
- Travel via shuttle bus, 7 nights in farms, simple guesthouses and hotels in convenient locations
- Extensive photographic expertise NOT required - workshops will be conducted daily
- Complicated equipment NOT required - a basic DSLR or equivalent mirrorless, with a single zoom lens 28 to 250

### DAY 1 (FRIDAY SEPT 15, 2017)

After checking into our guesthouse, depending on arrival time there may be the option of a visit to one of the public hot tubs. Remember to bring your towel and swimsuit in hand luggage. *Hotel Klettur or similar.*

### DAY 2 (SATURDAY SEPT 16, 2017)

We drive north to the mountainous Snæfellsnes Peninsula, an enchanting landscape of fishing villages, old lava flows, and abundant birdlife. Snæfellsnes is perhaps best known for the glacier-capped strato-volcano 'Snæfellsjökull' and its literary and mystical associations. Jules Verne in his classic 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' describes this as the start point for the protagonists' journey. New-age followers consider this area as one of the earth's seven major energy centres. With the volcano as a backdrop we visit the cliffs of nesting seabirds at Arnastapi, before a coastal walk to enjoy the birdlife and dramatic blow holes; we then discover the old cod-fishing community at Dritvik. Time allowing there is the option to enjoy a soak in the warm swimming pool of mineral waters at Lysuholl geothermal area. The waters are said to have healing properties. *Guesthouse Langaholt or similar.*

### DAY 3 (SUNDAY SEPT 17, 2017)

Today we walk to the extinct volcanic crater of Eldborg that sits 60 metres above the lava field it created. The walk takes approximately 2 hrs round trip, covering 6km and the terrain is not taxing. At 200 metres wide and 50 metres deep it is well worth the effort. We then continue to the Hvalfjord, or 'Whale' fjord, which was an important harbour for US convoys heading to Britain during the Second World War. From here our next stop is the Thingvellir National Park and world heritage site. It was here that the Icelandic Parliament was first established around 930 AD. The rift valley is a striking reminder of the constant movement of the earth's crust as it is on the Mid Atlantic Ridge. The lake here is also the largest natural lake in Iceland, surrounded by cracks and faults that attest to its volcanic birth. Our day ends with a transfer to the small settlement of Laugarvatn where we may have time for an optional dip in the naturally heated hot pools and steam baths at Fontana. *Hotel Dalsel or similar.*

### DAY 4 (MONDAY SEPT 18, 2017)

Geysir provides an explosive start to the day and needs little explanation, having given the word geyser to the world. Waterfalls in Iceland come in many shapes and sizes, and our first is one of the biggest - Gullfoss. These spectacular falls span the width of the Hvita river, falling a total of 32 metres into the crevice below. The Thjorsardalur Valley then welcomes us with its many treasures. The first is a reconstruction of a Viking farmhouse, that was buried by an eruption in 1104. After its excavation in 1939 the reconstruction was built, some 10km from its original location. A real gem of the area is the Gjain Canyon, which seems like a small oasis in a black volcanic desert, with lush vegetation, small rivers and waterfalls. As if by contrast we then visit Haifoss Waterfall, the second highest in Iceland at a dizzying 122 metres. *Guesthouse Hrauneyjar or similar.*

### DAY 5 (TUESDAY SEPT 19, 2017)

Since J R R Tolkien's trilogy famously hit the big screen, visitors to Iceland have often compared the dark forboding scenery of Iceland's interior to Mordor and it's easy to see why. Continuing east we drive across the Fjallabak Nature Reserve for a day of lunar-like landscape and volcanic deserts, stopping at explosive craters and enjoying this unmissable experience. Emerging from the shadows we encounter the surprisingly colourful mountain scenery in Landmannalaugar where the differing colours of rock striations provide a vivie landscape. We take a walk to see the hot springs and can take a dip in a natural hot pool. Our day continues with a visit to the Eldja Fissure where we walk to the Ofaerufoss Waterfall. We make a short stop at the Holaskjol hut and continue on foot to a particularly beautiful lava flow and waterfall above the hut. We end the day with a long transfer to our accommodation in the foothills of Mt. Oraefajokull, the highest mountain in Iceland. *Guesthouse Hof1 or similar.*



#### **DAY 6 (WEDNESDAY SEPT 20, 2017)**

Vatnajökull National Park is simply immense, covering over 13 and a half thousand square kilometres. We however limit our exploration to the Skaftafell area, known for its more gentle climate and almost alpine contours. We limit our exploration to the Skaftafell area, known for its more gentle climate and almost alpine contours. Our focus then switches to the glacial lagoon, where giant chunks of ice float silently in the water. The lagoon is on the edge of the Vatnajökull National Park and situated at the head of the massive Breidamerkurjökull Glacier, one of the largest outlets from the Vatnajökull Ice Cap. Jokulsarlon evolved into a lagoon around 1950 as the glacier retreated from the coast. The banks of the lagoon today show where the glacier's edge used to be, just 1.5km from the ocean. The river running out of the lagoon is the shortest glacial river in Iceland and the lagoon itself is almost 300m deep, covering an area of 20 square kilometres. Optional boat rides are available here, prices available locally. *Guesthouse Hof1 or similar.*

#### **DAY 7 (THURSDAY SEPT 21, 2017)**

The town of Vik is the southernmost town in Iceland. After a short visit we continue our journey to Reynisfjara, a dramatic black sand beach surrounded by imposing black basalt columns. Our southerly tack takes us to Dyrholaey, a nesting area for puffins, and home to the iconic 120 metre rock arch that defiantly marks the southernmost tip of the country. Turning west we head for Reykjavik, visiting the mighty waterfalls at Skogarfoss and Seljalandsfoss en route. *Hotel Klettur or similar*

#### **DAY 8 (FRIDAY SEPT 22, 2017)**

End Reykjavik. If you want to extend your time, Reykjavik is well worth exploring with a number of monuments of interest including the Hallgrímskirkja Church and the Harpa Concert and Conference Centre. The Old Harbour is a great place to start your exploration, housing some of the oldest buildings in Reykjavik.

**PLEASE READ EXODUS' FULL BOOKING CONDITIONS BEFORE REQUESTING CONFIRMATION:**

[www.exodustravels.com/ca/about-exodus/exodus-booking-conditions](http://www.exodustravels.com/ca/about-exodus/exodus-booking-conditions)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Note:** All prices quoted include accommodation, local bike rental, meals (as outlined), all transportation and listed activities and a tour leader throughout. International flights are not included.

**1. BOOKING**

To confirm your space on this trip, we require a non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person or full payment within 90 days of departure, along with the following passenger details:

- Full name as it appears on passport
- Date of birth
- Passport number
- Passport issue date
- Passport expiry date
- Nationality
- Existing medical conditions
- Dietary concerns
- Emergency contact details

**2. FINAL PAYMENT**

Remainder of payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure.

**3. CANCELLATION (LAND-ONLY)**

- Cancellation 90 days or more prior to departure will result in loss of deposit, unless transferred to a new booking for a different trip departing within 3 years of the original departure date.
- Cancellation between 90 and 60 days before departure date will result in loss of 50% of the trip cost.
- Cancellation between 60 days or less before departure will result in loss of 100% of the trip cost.

**DOCUMENTATION/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

It is the sole responsibility of the traveller to ensure that proper documentation is in place. All countries require a valid passport, with a minimum of 6 months' validity. Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Adequate and valid travel insurance is mandatory for all clients while on one of our tours. You are strongly advised to insure yourself against possible risk that may occur and in particular to ensure that you have sufficient insurance in respect of dependent relatives on whom your trip may depend. You are required to carry proof of insurance with you and produce it if reasonably requested by Company employees or suppliers; failure to do so may result in your being prevented from participating in certain activities without the right to any refund.



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 1131 Nottinghill Gate, Suite 203, Oakville, ON L6M 1K5  
 TICO#: 1576226  
 Direct Line: 778 231 3111 Office: 905 896 6948



**VIRTUOSO MEMBER**  
 SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

**Kirsten Oakes**  
 t. 905 884 1394  
 e. koakes@tpi.ca

**KIRSTEN OAKES**  
 T 905 884 1394  
 E koates@tpi.ca