



INSPIRING ICELAND: A PHOTOGRAPHY JOURNEY
WITH BILL FRAKES & LAURA HEALD

Iceland is a living, breathing land that gurgles, rumbles, spits and spews with geothermal and volcanic activity. Set in the North Atlantic Ocean, it is a dramatic island of wild contrasts. Every scene beckons the lens: Imagine green fields with shimmering glaciers as a backdrop, dark black sand beaches with with-flecked waves crashing in the sky-high volcanic peaks silhouetted against the golden light of a languid summertime sunset, where the sun skims the horizon before rising again for another endless day. Packed to the brim with striking scenery, deserted terrain and a variety of fauna, Iceland allows you to shoot unhampered and challenges you to capture the magical atmosphere of this unique land.

DATES:
August 12-21, 2015

PRICE: \$5,695 per person double occupancy. Add 300 for single occupancy
Includes: Tuition, accommodations, internal transportation, all meals.



Iceland is a place that inspires awe in visitors. With every turn, this little-populated nation offers up natural wonders with the power to mesmerize: geysers gush water, volcanic craters smoke and grumble, gases spurt from crevices and fissures, mammoth monolithic glaciers inch along and the twisted remnants of hardened lava decorate large swathes of land.

Elemental forces aren't the only things at play in this captivating country; exquisite wildlife also frolics here. Spruce black-and white puffins are a common sight throughout the summer, as are northern gannets, guillemots, razorbills and various duck species. Whales parade the waters along the coast and dorsal fins can be occasionally spotted cutting through the rippled surface like a sharp knife.

With its sweeping vistas, Iceland offers up a wealth of photographic subjects and scenes. Join us for a photographic journey in this spectacular island.

JOURNEY ITINERARY

August 12 to 13: Reykjavík – Snæfellsnes peninsula

After landing in Reykjavík on August 12, settle in for dinner and stay overnight in the Icelandic capital before venturing out to the remote wilds of the Snæfellsnes peninsula the following day.

Dubbed 'Iceland in Miniature', Snæfellsnes peninsula encompasses many of the country's diverse landscapes. At just 55.9 miles (90 kilometers) in length, it manages to pack

in an astonishing number of sights. Rocky mountain peaks stand tall and proud, while vast stretches of gnarly lava fields lie solid — frozen in time. See calm fjords, quaint fishing villages and mineral springs, as well as stretches of black and light—sand beaches, which contrast against the crisp frothy grey of the incoming Atlantic waves. When exploring near the coast, remember to look up; there are all kinds of stunning birds wheeling around overhead for those who can press the shutter quick enough.

Stay overnight on the Snæfellsnes peninsula.

August 14: Flatey Island, Breiðafjörður Bay – Kirkjufell and Bjarnarhöfn

Rise early to catch the boat across to Flatey Island, a time—warp community located in Skjálfandi Bay. Once an important fishing and commercial center for the region, this car-free island retains the old houses and warehouses of its early 20th—century heyday and it remains a bastion of rural Icelandic culture. Head to the coast to observe the flurry of birding activity and look for flocks of kittiwakes, eider and other seabirds circling the skies.

Return to the mainland, where a drive north will reveal even more of the peninsula's breathtaking terrain. A photographic paradise, this area includes the unusual cone--shaped Kirkjufell mountain, which looms imposingly over the sea and the dazzling Drápuhlíðarfjall mountain, comprised of various stone and volcanic deposits, which combine to

create a colorful marble effect. Afterward, stop at Bjarnarhöfn shark museum to learn about and taste hákarl (fermented shark meat), a commonly consumed local specialty. Although fresh shark meat is poisonous, this fermented snack is perfectly safe to eat — though not to everyone's taste!

Spend the evening in Stykkishólmur, the largest town on the peninsula. The waterside settlement is a charming place with cute, colored harbor—side houses and well—preserved historic homes.

August 15: Látrabjarg cliff – Patreksfjörður

In early morning, travel to the majestic Látrabjarg cliff. Marking the westernmost point in Europe, these rocky outcrops are a magnet for nesting birds. Measuring 8.7 miles (14 kilometers) in length and up to 1,443.6 feet (440 meters) in height, Látrabjarg is one of Europe's largest bird cliffs and up to hundreds of thousands of winged creatures cling to the cliff's edges. Looking down on the precarious ledges and shelves of the cliff face, you'll be able to see countless gulls, northern gannets and guillemots. Playful puffins often congregate near the cliff top; with their comical looks and confident demeanor, these willing posers make excellent subjects for nature photographers.

There may also be the opportunity to see Rauðisandur, a nearby beach with reddish golden sands. Its unusual appearance is complemented by impressive cliff and ocean surrounds.

Stay overnight in PaPatreksfjörður, a small fishing village on the southern shores of the Westfjords.

August 16: Patreksfjörður – Siglufjörður

Today, take a scenic ride across the photogenic country, passing by more idyllic mountain-fringed fjords all the way across to Iceland's central northern region. En route, you'll stop off at the most interesting spots, including the spectacular Kolugljúfur canyon, where sheets of white water gush into the deep ravine below. View the traditional turf farmstead at Glaumbærin Skagafjörður and the turf church of Víðimýri — two fascinating examples of a primitive building method that has been used in Iceland for many centuries. Explore the earthed rooms and learn about the time-honored building technique, which is still practiced by a rare few craftsman in the country.

Later, arrive in the far-flung fishing village of Siglufjörður. A secluded coastal settlement set on a sloping mountain foothill, the village looks over an isolated fjord with which it shares its name. A once-thriving center for herring fishing, this town still has a pleasant marina and offers access to some of the country's wildest and most epic mountain and fjord scenery.

August 17: Siglufjörður and Héðinsfjörður fjords – Mývatn

Leave for Akureyri, Iceland's second largest city. From there, escape to the wilds around Lake Mývatn, a geologically active and extraordinarily beautiful area. Stark, brooding and peppered with strange and curious volcanic features, the land around Lake Mývatn offers up endless photographic opportunities. There is a huge amount of waterfowl — in particular ducks — teeming around the water. Elsewhere, tortured volcanic landforms, mud flats and lunar craters dot the landscape.

Capture the twisted beauty of the mysterious Dimmuborgir lava fields, whose name, — meaning 'Dark Castles' — references the looming fortress-like appearance of the lava formations. See the bubbling Námaskarð hot springs, where mineral-colored mud blisters up through the Earth's thin crust. See the massive Hverfell crater, which provides the rare opportunity to gaze inside a colossal crater — the result a violent volcanic explosion some 2,700 years prior.

After a day of photographing around Lake Mývatn, it's time for utter relaxation. Lounge away an evening in the steaming pools of Mývatn Nature Baths.

August 18: Dettifoss waterfall – Hljóðaklettur cliffs – Ásbyrgi canyon – Húsavík

This morning, leave the Lake Mývatn area for Ásbyrgi. This horseshoe-shaped canyon is pinned in by sheer cliff walls that reach heights of up to 328 feet (100 meters). The site is steeped in Norse mythology; the story goes that the horse of the Norse god Óðinn stepped down on Earth here, leaving a gigantic hoof-print imprint behind.

You'll also get to stop by the roaring Dettifoss waterfall, which is said to be Europe's most powerful waterfall, as well as the Hljóðaklettur rocks, a twisted group of basaltic columns so warped, wild and bizarre in appearance they defy geological classification — another superb photo op.

That evening, the adventure continues in the town of Húsavík, where you can choose to go out and about on a whale-watching excursion. Widely considered to be one of the top whale-watching destinations in the world, Skjálfandi Bay hosts Humpbacks, Minke and Blue whales in its waters, as well as pods of dolphins.

Stay overnight in the vicinity of Lake Mývatn.

August 19: Mývatn – Akureyri

Continue exploring the area around Lake Mývatn, stopping at Sigurgeir's bird museum to learn about the local fauna, before moving on to the astoundingly beautiful Goðafoss (Waterfall of the Gods). Aqua water falls in sheets over the 39.4-foot (12-meter) high falls, which extend some 98.4 feet (30 meters) in width. It is said that pagan carvings of the Norse gods were tossed into these falls upon Iceland's conversion to Christianity. Then take a break from the prevalent fire-and-ice-shaped landscapes in the fertile forest of Vaglaskógur — a rare example of Icelandic woodland.

Continue on to Iceland's second city, the diminutive Akureyri. Home to some 18,000 people, Akureyri is modest in size, but it still packs a punch when it comes to sights, with many attractive old houses, a fantastic open-air swimming pool and several decent museums, as well as a buzz and energy that belies its small size.

August 20: Akureyri – Reykjavík

Enjoy another scenic drive, where the views from the window will make your jaw hit the floor. Cruise through the Öxnadalur valley past shadowy mountain peaks (Hraundranga) and passes (Öxnadalshéið). Steep slopes give way to greener farmlands on approach to Skagafjörður valley. Stop to see the hot water springs of Deildartunguhver and the gentle cascades of Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls, where numerous streams of water trickle and flow over craggy lava rock into a brilliantly turquoise pool below.

Stay overnight in Reykjavík, where you can experience the compelling capital — an appealing city with both urban (great bars, museums and galleries) and natural attractions (the surrounding sea and mountains). Tonight you farewell your photography adventure.

August 21: Departure from Iceland

Depart Reykjavik and transfer to Keflavik International Airport.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The class is for photographers of all levels

REQUIREMENTS

Each student is responsible for bringing their own camera and equipment, including laptop.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT

- Two digital SLR bodies
- One or more wide angle and medium length lens (14-24 mm, 24 mm, 35 mm 50 mm or 85 mm). Any lenses on those ranges.
- One longer lens in the 70-200mm or 300 mm range.
- A sturdy tripod
- Cable release

ABOUT BILL FRAKES



Bill Frakes is a visual storyteller and educator based in Florida who has worked in every US state and in more than 135 countries for a wide variety of editorial and advertising clients.

His advertising clients include Apple, Nike, CocaCola, Nikon, Mars, Manfrotto, Champion, Isleworth, Stryker, IBM, Canon, Kodak, and Reebok. He directs music videos and television ads.

Editorially, his work has appeared in virtually every major general interest

publication in the world. His still photographs and short documentary films have been featured on hundreds of Websites as well as on most major television networks. He is currently on the masthead of Sports Illustrated.

He won the coveted Newspaper Photographer of the Year award in the prestigious Pictures of the Year competition. He was a member of the Miami Herald staff that won the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of Hurricane Andrew. He was awarded the Gold Medal by World Press Photo. He has also been honored by the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards for reporting on the disadvantaged and by the Overseas Press club for distinguished foreign reporting. He has received hundreds of national and international awards for his work.

He has taught at the University of Miami, the University of Florida and the University of Kansas as an adjunct professor and lecturer. During the last five years, he has lectured at more than 100 universities discussing multimedia and photojournalism. Through his production company, Straw Hat Visuals, he prepares educational content that is disseminated in multi touch electronic books and platforms in 22 countries throughout North and South America.

In 2010 and 2013, he served on the jury of World Press Photo.

www.billfrakes.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

To reserve space in this workshop, a \$500 per person deposit is required at the time of making the reservation. Deposits are due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to departure unless indicated otherwise in the description of the tour or workshop. All payments must be made by credit card or wire transfer to Photo Xpeditions, LLC, and instructions for payments will be mailed upon confirmation of participation.

Photo Xpeditions reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has not been received by 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 60 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 90 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee equal to 50% of your deposit will be made. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 90 days prior to departure are as follows:

60–90 days prior to departure: 100% of your deposit amount;

45–60 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost;

45 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the workshop cost.

PhotoXpeditions reserves the right of canceling the workshop at any time if the minimum amount of students required for the workshop is not reached. If a workshop needs to be cancelled for this reason, a full refund will be given to all participants.

If you need more information or have questions, give us a call or drop us an email, we will respond promptly.

Herzen Cortes
 +1-888-741-3974
herzen@photoxpeditions.com
www.photoxpeditions.com