
ICELAND 2016 PHOTO TOUR

July 2nd 2016 - July 16th 2016

with Rob Brown, Mark Watson & Andy Dennis

Join photographers Mark Watson and Rob Brown on a once in a lifetime tour of Iceland's remarkable landscape. Rob has photographed many of these landscapes before and will offer many photographic insights on everything from composition to post processing tips for landscape photographers. As well as being a skilled landscape photographer, Mark has a wealth of knowledge on advanced Lightroom and Photoshop techniques. Both Mark and Rob will work with all participants on this Iceland tour to help them realise their creative goals.

Joining us will be Andy Dennis who with more than 15 years guiding in Iceland, and his unique knowledge of Iceland's language, history and culture, is able to turn any photographic tour into the complete Iceland experience.



On this expedition we'll be using a mixture of camping, hostels and hotel accommodation at places we have used before. Accommodation is chosen to give the best opportunities for photography so there will be four nights camping in the highlands to make the most of being on location. This expedition is mainly about photography and being out in the best light so we'll often be up early and eating on the run during the day.

PRICE \$8,495 NZD ex Reykjavik including meals, accommodation and transport



ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrive in Iceland where our guides will pick you up from Iceland's International airport at Keflavík. It's a 45 minute journey into the capital where our accommodation is right in the city and handy to get out and explore the sights of Reykjavík before dinner. After dinner Rob, Mark and Andy will outline the coming 2 weeks expedition and what is in-store photographically.

If you are travelling from New Zealand it is recommended that you arrive in Iceland a couple of days earlier to give yourself time to recover from jet-lag and spend a couple of days exploring the wonderful capital city of Reykjavík.

DAY 2

We leave Reykjavík after an early breakfast and head along the southern coast to the small town of Kirkubæjarklaustur.

Along the way we'll stop at the impressive Skögafoss waterfall and explore the moss covered lava fields just before we reach our accommodation for the night.



Moss covered lava field near Edgja Canyon

DAY 3

An early start sees us driving inland along the F206 to the Laki Craters. We'll spend all day exploring this amazing area, the scene of one of Iceland's biggest eruptions in 1783.

In the 230 years since the fissure and craters have been colonised by moss and small plants and are a surreal landscape for the photographers eye. We'll return late in the day from here back down the same road and head up to Skaftafell National Park where we camp for the night.



Polished ice on the south coast near Jökulsárlón Glacier

DAY 4

We have all day to explore the glacier country at Skaftafell and walk up to Svartifoss waterfall and the surrounding alpine area. Late in the day we leave to travel along the coast to the Jökulsárlón Glacier area. We stay two nights here in our accommodation and get a chance to catch up on laundry and downloading and processing pictures from the previous few days.



Jökulsárlón Lagoon

DAY 5

The day begins again at 2.00am to photograph the sunrise at the Jokulsarlon Glacier. There will be time in the middle of the day to relax and catch up on some rest or the option of a boat trip out onto the glacier. There is much to explore in this area with both the lagoon itself and the ever changing black sand beach where icebergs from the glacial lagoon are washed back up onto the beach.

DAY 6

After another morning at the glacier, we leave to drive up to Hofn where we do a small food shop before a night in the old farmhouse at Stafafell. In the afternoon we'll head up to the Havannagil Canyon area and photograph the braided river of Jokulsaraurar River. If weather conditions allow in the evening there is also the opportunity to photograph the impressive coastal mountain of Stokkness.

DAY 7

An early start from Stafafell sees us leaving the South Coast and turning inland over the Oxi Saddle and heading inland behind the East Iceland mountains. We reach Borgarfjörður Eystri by mid-afternoon and here we stay for two nights. There will be plenty of time here to photograph the puffins and stunning local environment.



Puffins near Borgarfjörður

DAY 8

We spend the whole day exploring Borgarfjörður. If weather allows there will be the choice of doing one of the many day walks in the area. In the evening we get a further opportunity to photograph puffins out near the coast.

DAY 9

This is the first of two long travelling days as we head inland to the highlands via the wonderland of Mývatn. Before reaching Mývatn we'll make a detour to see Dettifoss. The most powerful waterfall in Europe, this awesome sight never fails to impress. After a short stop at the Námafjall Geothermal area we will head to our accommodation.



Námafjall, Mývatn Geothermal Area

DAY 10

Our 4WDs take us overland along a highland road through a desolate volcanic landscape unlike anything else in the rest of Iceland. Late in the day we reach the spectacular rhyolite mountains of Landmannalaugar where we will camp for two nights.

DAY 11

We get a full day to walk in the mountains of Landmannalaugar, photograph the 'painted mountains' or simply relax in one of the finest natural hot pools in Iceland.



Aldeyjarfoss

DAY 12

We head for the coast once more on the F208 4WD road. We'll get the chance to explore more of the locations at the Fjallabak Nature Reserve before arriving at our campsite near the Edgja Canyon.

DAY 13

We head down out of the highlands on the F208 to Vík. Here there is one of the most photogenic churches in Iceland as well as the dramatic coastline near Dyrhólaey and Reynisfjara Beach. If time permits we will do a side trip out to a remote beach to see the slightly strange sight of an abandoned DC3 plane on a black sand beach.

DAY 14

We will start early from Vík to give ourselves time to photograph the wonderful Skögar River and waterfalls before heading back to Reykjavik and our last night of the expedition.

DAY 15

Our guides will transport you to the Airport at Keflavík for international flights.



Cotton grass, Landmannulaugur, Fjallabak Nature Reserve



Red-necked Phalarope, Landmannulaugur, Fjallabak Nature Reserve



Landmannulaugur, Fjallabak Nature Reserve

YOUR GUIDES

ANDY DENNIS

Andy Dennis first went to Iceland in the early 1970s when he was studying for his Phd in Law at Cambridge University. While there he developed an interest in old Norse languages and the Icelandic Sagas. For the last 15 years Andy has been guiding in Iceland for High Places and his knowledge of Icelandic history and culture as well as grasp of the language make any journey in Iceland a richer experience.



MARK WATSON

Mark Watson is a Lyttelton-based photographer with over 30 years experience in the New Zealand outdoors. Landscape photography is Mark's mainstay as a photographer but he also shoots adventure and travel. His images have been published internationally and are represented by a number of stock agencies.

His latest book *Te Araroa, Photographs from New Zealand's Long Pathway* features photographs collected on a six month journey on foot from Cape Reinga to Bluff (Publication date Nov 2015). Up until 2009 Mark spent the better part of a decade working for the NZ Alpine Club as editor and designer for their various publications, including *The Climber* magazine.



ROB BROWN

Rob Brown has been a leading New Zealand landscape photographer for over 25 years. During this time he has been widely published in calendars, magazines and books.

He runs a small publishing and photography business in Wanaka and continues to photograph the New Zealand landscape in his evocative style. In the last few years he's also been heavily involved in logistics and location work for the New Zealand TV and film industry where the same skills are used to bring together groups of people to achieve a creative goal.

