



ICELAND 2019 - Late Night Lights Tour

Guided Photography Workshop

A photographic journey in the land of fire, ice and magical northern lights

8 days 7 Nights - Tuesday 19th to Tuesday 26th February 2019

Price: \$4200 USD - per person for double occupancy

A \$750 USD single supplement is levied by hotels.

You can choose to share or not when you book.

Bring a friend and share a twin room, you save \$375 USD each

Limited to 12 participants

To reserve a place we request a 50% non-refundable deposit* or payment in full.

Final payment on deposits must be made on or before 30th November 2018.

* Deposits will be refunded in full if we do not meet our minimum of 6 participants by 30th November 2018. Please **DO NOT** book flights before we confirm by email.

Included in the tour price	<u>Not</u> included in the tour price
Accommodation and breakfast	Travel and equipment insurance
All photography tuition and mentoring	Drinks
Transport and entry fees to national parks and other locations	Meals (other than breakfast)
Welcome and farewell dinner	Visas
Access to ice cave or the plain wreck at Sólheimasandur	International travel to and from Iceland
Lightroom workflow - downloadable course (More info when signed up)	Overweight and additional baggage

Feedback

We're not just taking you to pretty places and leaving you to get on with it. We're always on hand to guide and mentor you on location, whatever your level may be.

There will be 2 or 3 opportunities for developing RAW files and feedback sessions during the week so please bring your laptop and we recommend having Photoshop and / or Lightroom.

Exactly when we'll do this depends on weather and other opportunities for shooting. No one wants to be developing images or in a feedback session during a magical sunset, or when the Northern Lights are dancing across the sky!

The Aurora



Obviously, everyone wants to go home with awesome images of the Aurora Borealis or 'Northern Lights' and we will be concentrating on chasing them down in the best possible locations.

Workshop dates have been chosen for the most likely time of year to see this extraordinary phenomenon and to coincide with a bright moon, which will light the landscape and give a sense of place to your images.

Whilst the Aurora cannot be guaranteed or accurately predicted, we will be doing everything we can to ensure you don't miss.

It is entirely likely that hotel owners will wake us at any hour of the night to let us know if the Aurora is happening - so cameras packed and be ready people :-)

What we'll be Photographing

The locations we have chosen are packed with photo opportunities. Throughout the tour we will be concentrating on sunrise, sunset and the best possible light.

In order to set realistic expectations we cannot promise a sunrise/set in any particular place because it depends entirely on the weather, which we will be monitoring closely throughout.

Itinerary

Besides leaving from and returning to Reykjavík, our itinerary has to be flexible because we'll be making location choices based on best conditions for photography. Information on some of the locations we'll be visiting is below...

Thursday 19th 2019 - 6.00 pm. Arrival meeting at Center Hotel Plaza Reykjavik

Center Hotel Reykjavik (<https://www.centerhotels.com/hotel-plaza/>)

Aðalstræti 4 – 6 101 Reykjavík
Tel: +354 595 8550

When you arrive in Iceland at Keflavik International Airport we recommend you take the Flybus service, which will take you quickly to the Fosshótel Reykjavik in central Reykjavik. The Flybus service from the airport (details in Information section below) is the most cost effective way to get to the hotel. Taxis are also available.

We'll will meet in the Hotel Bar at 6.00 pm to go for dinner where we can get to know each other and have a chat about what we'll be doing during the coming week.

Dinner is not included because it's always difficult to know what dietary requirements people have.

Tour Starts: Friday 20th February 2019

Leave Reykjavík early and head east to our first locations, which will include majestic waterfalls, black sandy beaches and seascape scenes (Exactly which will depend on weather conditions).

Overnight will be in Vik.

Saturday

After shooting sunrise near Vík we head further east towards Vatnajökull National Park which includes glaciers, ice caves and Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, famous for its black sand and icebergs. Our hotel is not far from the lagoon and this will be our playground for the next 3 days.



Probable locations along the way include Skaftafell which has many photo opportunities including the Svínafellsjökull glacier.

Sunday & Monday



We continue exploring the lagoon and the surrounding area like the “diamond beach”.

If the conditions allow us we will also go to an ice cave. Either of these days we will go further east and visit Stokksnes with its picturesque mountain Vestrahorn.

Tuesday

After shooting sunrise we start heading our way back to Vík where we will either revisit some of the locations from our outward journey, or other locations we missed.

Light and weather change rapidly so revisiting a location at a different time often yields additional amazing imagery with a completely different look and feel.

Overnight in Vík.



Wednesday

We start our day with sunrise shooting near Vík and later on we head our way closer to Reykjavík. On the way we'll visit what's known as The Golden Circle to photograph the spouting hot spring Strokkur which erupts every 5-10 minutes, ejecting boiling water 25-30 meters into the air.

We will also pay the mighty Gullfoss waterfall a visit and end our journey at Thingvellir national park in the rift valley between Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the largest natural lake in Iceland – Þingvallavatn



We will arrive back in Reykjavík sometime in the evening where we will overnight.



Thursday 26th February – Departure day

This is your last day in Iceland; we recommend you use the FlyBus from your hotel to Keflavik International Airport for return flights, taking with you memories, new friendships and images from an unforgettable adventure.

Locations Include (but are not limited to)



Vik and surrounding area

Though Vik has only a small population it is the largest town in the area and features black sand beach, the famous 'Sea Stacks' headland and isolated red roofed church overlooking the town.



Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon (The 'Ice' Beach)

The retreating Breiðamerkurjökull glacier deposits chunks of ice of all shapes and sizes into the lagoon, which get washed onto the shore. By carefully choosing the time to visit, it is possible to get the low sun behind this beautiful clear glacial ice, which makes it sparkle like diamonds. We will probably visit this location more than once.



Vatnajökull National Park

Vatnajökull National Park features a huge variety of landscape features including Europe's largest glacier, mountains and volcanoes. There are some famous ice caves which we may or may not visit depending on how crowded they are, weather conditions etc.



Thingvellir National Park / Golden Circle

Attractions include the rift valley which is caused by Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the largest natural lake in Iceland - Þingvallavatn

Training and Skill Level



All levels of photographers are welcome. We have had everyone from complete beginners to some very advanced photographers with us on this tour. At each location direction will be given to help you get the best from that location and instruction on how to assemble and think your images through, one step at a time.

Your Guides and Tutors

Thorarinn Jonsson (left) or 'Thor' is an Icelandic landscape photography expert. His knowledge spans many years photographing the Aurora and exploring his native country of Iceland.

With his huge knowledge of low light and night photography, Thor is a gold mine of post production tips and tricks to help you get the very best from your Aurora images.

Thor's an experienced photography tour guide and his knowledge of the best locations, Aurora hunting, the environment and safety within that environment are invaluable. He has a wicked sense of humour and if he offers you an Icelandic delicacy to try – take a small experimental nibble first!

Mike Browne (right) is a Youtube Photography guru with @13 million video views. Ranked number 8 in the world's best photography educators by Petapixel, Mike's approach focuses on training the photographer to pre-visualise the image they want, then think through what they have to do to achieve it in camera.

Mike runs photo workshops and training around the world and his photography / consultancy clients range from private individuals to companies such as Jet Aviation in Switzerland who design and build luxury private jets.

Strangely, he often refers to Thor as 'Wifey'! Oh, and he'll protect you from anything potentially hazardous Thor suggests you try eating!

Booking

At <http://www.photographycourses.biz/iceland>

Click 'Book Now' and enter the required information in the booking form before you click send. You will shortly receive a welcome email and an invoice from our travel agents PTI Iceland with payment details. Balance payments on deposits will be requested end November 2017. Payments are made to PTI Iceland by bank transfer only.

By booking this photography course workshop you are agreeing to the terms and conditions at the end of this document. Please read them.

[PTI Private Travel Iceland](http://www.pti.is). - <http://www.pti.is>

Important Information:

Flights to Iceland

Please do not make travel arrangements to Iceland until we confirm we have the minimum number of participants for the workshop to take place. We will confirm as soon as we have 6 deposits paid. If we do not have 6 participants by the booking deadline 30th November 2017 and the course is cancelled, we will notify by email and refund you in full.

Visas

As far as we know visas are not required to visit Iceland but PLEASE CHECK because things can change and we don't want anyone to be disappointed. Visas are not included and it's the responsibility of participants to find out if they need a visa and obtain one if you do.

Passport

You will need a valid passport for the duration of your intended stay in Iceland.

Insurance

It is the responsibility of participants to arrange their own Travel and Equipment insurance for the trip. Neither Travel nor Equipment insurance is included in the price. Please see terms and conditions below for details.

Fitness

The workshop will involve a few short hikes of maybe 20-30 minutes carrying your camera equipment. You may need to climb a hill for the best vantage point. Surfaces may include sand, snow, ice or rocky ground so a small level of fitness is recommended. We have crampons available, but if you have your own please bring them

Weather / Temperature

Weather conditions in Iceland can change from sunshine to rainstorm in a few minutes (perfect for dramatic skies). Average temperature in Jan/Feb is 3° centigrade but it can range from -10° to +10° centigrade and be very windy so chill factors can make it feel a lot colder.

Clothing

We will be spending **a lot of time outside** in the elements waiting for light to change or photographing the Aurora. You won't enjoy the experience if you're cold and with wind chill there are potential health risks as well. It's very important to bring warm rugged clothing including...

- Thermal underwear, socks and gloves
- Sturdy waterproof hiking boots. (Light shoes will not be sufficient to keep your feet warm and dry)
- Over shoes or gore-tex waders are good to have when we are shooting at the beaches
- Waterproof jacket and over trousers
- Scarf and woolly hat
- A change of clothes is important so you always have at least one set that's warm and dry

Money and Credit Cards

Local currency is the Icelandic Krona and it's worth bringing some with you. Krona may need to be ordered in advance from banks and post offices. Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Iceland. Some card providers charge more for international transactions than others so please check with yours if you need to.

Budget around 85\$ USD per day for food, snacks and souvenirs.

Transport between the Airport and Hotel

The [FlyBus Service](#) is located right outside the terminal building. Cost is around 20\$ USD each way. Book online using the FlyBus + (Plus) service which will drop you off at the Fosshótel Reykjavik. You can book a round trip to take you back to the airport after the tour.

Book FlyBus Online:

1. Visit <http://www.re.is/flybus>
2. Choose the **FlyBus+** service which will ask you which hotel you want to go to
3. Pay online

Service	Route	Price
flybus	From Reykjavik International Airport (KEF) To Reykjavik BSÍ Bus terminal or vice versa.	From 1.950 ISK
flybus+	From Reykjavik International Airport (KEF) To Your hotel, Reykjavik Domestic Airport or vice versa.	From 2.500 ISK

Taxis are also available if you prefer.

Hotels

We will be travelling to some remote areas and facilities vary accordingly when we leave Reykjavik. Some may be more like a shared house or hostel and not have en-suite

facilities, others are excellent and of a very high standard. All are clean, secure, have excellent food and friendly helpful staff.

Food

Important parts of Icelandic cuisine are lamb, dairy, and fish due to Iceland's proximity to the ocean. Produce is usually local and of very high quality.

If you fancy trying some traditional Icelandic fare Hangikjöt (Smoked Lamb) is delicious – whilst Hákarl (Fermented Shark) is an acquired taste.

Vegetarians can usually be catered for, but please bear in mind the range of vegetarian cuisine may be limited outside of the city.

Photography Equipment

You will need the following equipment.

- **A Strong Sturdy Tripod is Vital.** Lightweight carbon fibre is OK - but it **MUST BE STURDY** so it won't wobble and you can hang your heavy camera bag on it to add weight. A plastic tripod head is useless. Please ensure you have a strong, solid head which does not vibrate when your camera and lens is mounted on it. Iceland is a windy place and you'll be making long, slow exposures and your images will all be soft and useless if there's even the slightest movement in your tripod or tripod head during the exposure. There is not time for us to visit a store during the workshop and once we leave Reykjavík, there aren't any
- Digital SLR (recommended) or mirror-less camera system
- Lenses offering a focal length from wide (24mm or wider) to telephoto (70 - 200mm or longer)
- Laptop computer loaded with photo editing software. Shooting RAW is advised for the Aurora so Adobe Lightroom is a good option for processing the files
- We strongly recommend a back-up device such as an external hard drive
- Filters: A polarising filter makes a world of difference for landscapes
- ND filters x4, x8 x10 will help you capture blurred water and clouds. We have a few available from our sponsors Lee Filters, but sharing them between 12 people means waiting around to use them instead of shooting images
- *Spare batteries (2 or 3), battery charger and travel adapter
- Sufficient memory cards
- Camera bag, preferably a backpack type
- Rain sleeve and several lens cloths

*Spare batteries are very important because you don't want the camera to die just as the Aurora makes an appearance or the perfect light breaks through the clouds.

Camera batteries have a shorter charge life in cold weather so keep spare batteries in a pocket near your skin so they stay warm which will prolong their charge.

This is particularly important if you have a mirror-less camera or use live view a lot which uses more power.

We look forward to meeting you...

booking, image gallery and more at...<http://www.photographycourses.biz/iceland>

Terms and Conditions – please read.

- Mike Browne of Picture This (Imaging) LTD (MBPT) and Thorarinn Jonsson of Thor Photography (TJP) shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider; and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against AA for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. • By registering for a MBPT / TJP course, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. MBPT / TJP and its designated tour operator reserve the right in their sole discretion to accept, decline to accept, or remove any participant on a MBPT / TJP expedition. MBPT / TJP reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.
- MBPT / TJP shall not be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket to or from the participant's departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.
- Basis of rates: All prices and fares are quoted in US \$. The rates are based on current tariffs and are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, if it is necessary to levy a surcharge, we reserve the right to do so, and notification will be given at the time of final invoicing.
- Included in expedition cost: Accommodation and breakfast as indicated in the itinerary. Pre-departure information; entrance fees, excursions, and tuition noted as included in the itinerary.
- Not included: Air transportation and related fees (except as indicated in the itinerary); activities noted as optional in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel staff; guides unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; passport and visa expenses; baggage / accident / cancellation insurance; personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone calls, and alcoholic beverages; and any other items not specially noted as included.
- Single/ shared accommodations: A limited number of single rooms may be available at an extra cost (single supplement charge) on a first-come, first-served basis. In most cases double or twin rooms are available and single occupancy incurs the single supplement charge.
- Payments, cancellations, and refunds: To reserve space on MBPT / TJP destination training courses a 50% non-refundable deposit and final payment due on or before the booking deadline prior to course commencement date, or advance payment in full must be made prior to the booking deadline. MBPT / TJP reserve the right to cancel any trip because of inadequate enrolment that makes the trip economically infeasible to operate or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the

participants. If a course is cancelled by MBPT / TJP after the booking deadline confirmation has been sent and prior to departure, we shall provide you with a full refund of monies paid to MBPT / TJP; except in the event cancellation is due to a significant event or Force Majeure that makes it infeasible to operate the expedition as planned such as natural disaster, war or other state of emergency.

If you cancel your participation prior to the booking deadline you will be refunded in full. If you cancel your participation after the booking deadline you will not be refunded unless a replacement participant is found before the start of the course / workshop.

In the event of trip cancellation, we will not be responsible for any refund for non-refundable airline tickets or for any airline tickets purchased by the passenger directly from an airline or travel agent. Please do not book travel to Iceland until we confirm the course / workshop. It is your responsibility to buy travel insurance at this time.

- Trip cancellation and equipment insurance is strongly recommended as is your own personal travel insurance. MBPT / TJP accept no responsibility for this type of cover.
- Itinerary changes: The itineraries and staff presented in this brochure are subject to modification and change by MBPT / TJP. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programmes as planned, but alterations may still occur after final itineraries are sent.
- Health requirements: You must be in good physical and mental health. Any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention must be reported in writing when the reservation is made.
- Photography: MBPT / TJP reserve the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any expedition or part thereof and to use the resulting photography for promotional purposes. By making a reservation with MBPT / TJP expeditions, participants agree to allow their images to be used in such photography; participants who prefer that their image not be used are asked to identify themselves to MBPT / TJP at the commencement of their trip.
- Other: Additional terms and conditions may apply to some expeditions and will be provided with pre-trip mailings.

By registering for a MBPT / TJP expedition, workshop, course, the participant agrees to the responsibility statement and the terms and conditions herein.