ICELAND - HIGHLANDS

July 23 - August 1 2017

OVERVIEW

Iceland, The Land of Fire and Ice has to be on the bucket list of every landscape photographer around the world. Thorarinn Jonsson, a local Icelandic Professional Photographer, and Rod Thomas Photography, have put together this customised photo tour that will take you to some of Iceland's most iconic locations at the very best possible times of the day. At this time of year we have sunrises at 4am and sunsets at 10:30pm meaning we will be spending most of our time shooting early in the mornings and late into the nights to capture the best available light at each location. In between we will rest, however if conditions are favourable we will of course be outside taking advantage of those conditions.

This tour covers some of the best parts in the Icelandic interior and on top of that we have included the South Coast which is home to many of the most picturesque locations in Iceland like Jokulsarlon, Vik, Skaftafell, Vestrahorn along with miles of black sandy beaches and a host of majestic waterfalls unlike anything you will see here in Australia.

Since the weather can be unpredictable here we always take this into account when deciding what location we will be shooting at any given time. We will be travelling in two 4x4 jeeps and the group is limited to 6 clients, giving us the flexibility to quickly to get to another location if needed and provide ample room for each guest.

This 10 day / 9 night photographic tour is designed purely with photographers in mind and at a time of the year when we should be experiencing amazing light. Thor knows his home country like no other, and this trip is shaping up to be one epic adventure.

ITINERARY

Day 1 : (23rd July)
Arrival day. When you arrive in Iceland at Keflavik International Airport we recommend you take the Flybus. The Flybys is a quick and efficient service which will take you from the airport to the Arnarhvoll Center Hotel in central Reykjavik. The Flybus service from the airport is the most cost effective way to get to the hotel. Taxis are also available but not recommended. Be sure to book flybus + as this will drop you off and pick you up from the hotel. www.re.is/flybus/

We will meet as a group 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 well be doing during the coming week. *Overnight in Reykjavík*. http://www.centerhotels.is/hotelin/arnarhvoll.

Days 2-3-4 : (24th-25th-26th July)
The destination on this leg of the tour is the unspoiled nature of The Highlands .

Hraunayjar Hotel will be our base camp for the time we spend up in the Highlands. From there we will be travelling to several locations in the area, and as always, we base our decision on the weather forecast and conditions at the time.

On our way from Reykjavík to the Highlands we will stop at a few places…. Háifoss (Second tallest waterfall in Iceland with a drop of 122m) and Granni (situated right next to Háifoss) These are situated in Fossá where they drop side by side in a deep gorge.

This is an exceptional place for photography where we encounter lava fields, jet black volcanic sands stretching for miles, mountains covered with bright green moss and colourful craters filled with water. The Highlands are covered in geothermal hotspots and previous volcanic activity is often evident…. A sure sign of the gigantic forces at work. Some are a few hundreds years ago and others only decades old.

The best known location in The Highlands is probably Landmannalaugar where we will photograph colourful rhyolite mountains. This place is like nothing else you have ever seen before. In Landmannalaugar we have the option of do several short hikes into the Grænagil Canyon (green canyon) or even hike up to Brennisteinsalda which

is a Sulphur mountain / hill. Also, there are good photo opportunities right from the parking area.

Hnausapollur
This crater is also known as The Blue pool because of the colour of the water. This 0.3 square klm crater was formed during an explosive eruption about 1130 years ago. The colours here are simply breathtaking, with the red iron gravel inside the crater shining against the bright green vegetation surrounding the outside.

Frostastaðavatn
This is the largest lake in the area covering roughly 2.2 square klms. With lava fields coming at it from 3 sides, this shows off the harsh forces at work in the eruptions that have formed this landscape. We will probably visit some of these places more than once.

On our last day in The Highlands we will drive to a canyon called Eldgjá which holds a beautiful waterfall called Ófærurfoss. We will photograph here before leaving The Highlands and then we will set our course towards Glacier Lagoon. Along the way we will stop in Skaftafell to shoot at least two locations, ínafellsjökull and Svartifoss (black waterfall)

ínafellsjökull is probably best known to be the backdrop of several Hollywood films such as Batman Begins, Interstellar and more. Svartifoss (black waterfall) is a spectacular waterfall surrounded by basalt columns.

Day 5-6 : (27th-28th July)
Glacier lagoon will be our playground for the next few days. This is probably one on the most famous places in Iceland with its floating icebergs. Just below the lagoon is the mystical diamond beach. On one of the days we are staying in this area we will visit Vestrahorn, a raw mountain with many compositional options like sand dunes, reflection and waves.
Accommodation close to the Lagoon

Day 7-8 : (29th-30th July)
From the lagoon we will start to make our way west towards Vík where we will be photographing the stunning seascapes of Dyrhólaey and Reynisdranga along with the majestic waterfalls of Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss amongst other things.
Accommodation in Vik

Day 9 : (31st July)
This is our last day on the road. We will shoot a sunrise near Vik and then checkout of our motel and start making our way back towards Reykjavik. Which way we go is unknown and we will make a final decision based on the weather conditions at the time. Once we arrive in Reykjavik, we will check into our motel and then meet downstairs before heading out for our farewell dinner.

Day 10 : (1st August)
We say our goodbyes and head homeward bound or to the next destination you adventure might be taking you.

What's Included ?

- 9 nights twin share accommodation in comfortable motel style rooms. Each room will have its own private bathroom. Single Supplement is +$800 USD
- All transport while on tour in two spacious 4x4 vehicles including entry into National parks and other locations.
- The services of two guides / drivers.
- A welcome and farewell dinner
- Breakfast Daily

What is not included ?

- International travel to and from Iceland.
- Meals (except where indicated)
- Drinks of any kind.
- Travel and equipment insurance.
- Visas (please check with local authorities. Australians DO NOT need to get a visa)

The cost of the tour is **$4950 USD.** (+ 800 USD if Single Supplement)
A deposit of $500 USD is to be paid with completion of the attached booking form. (Please refer to our cancellation policy in the Terms and Conditions).

This will secure your place and confirmation will be sent to your email address. You are more than welcome to pay the whole amount at this time as well if that is easier for you. ***Minimum number required to run this trip is 6.***

Please read the terms and conditions carefully before completing the form and returning to us. Full payment must be completed no later than the 60 days prior to departure.

Terms and Conditions

Cancellation policy:
Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations must be received via email. Should you need to cancel your place on the tour, we will only refund any amount over and above the deposit you have already paid.. If you cancel less than 30 days before the tour starts there will be no refund of fee or deposit. Should another participant be found to fill the vacant place we will refund the deposit and/or balance you have paid. Final payment is due 60 days prior to the start of the tour unless otherwise specified. Your registration is guaranteed only when we have a deposit payment. Registrations are allocated on a first come first served basis. If the workshop is cancelled by us you will receive a full refund of your booking fees. Tour itineraries may be subject to change due to weather, road conditions or any other other unforeseen circumstances.

Travel insurance:
Travel insurance is MANDATORY and highly recommended for cover of unforeseen circumstances. Camera and equipment insurance is the responsibility of the individual photographer.

Camera experience required:
A modest level of photographic experience would be advisable to get the most out of this trip. Familiarising yourself with your basic camera operations is also strongly advised. Please bring camera manuals in case the tutors need to make adjustments to your camera settings.

Minimum numbers:
All workshops are conducted based on a minimum of participants booking. This may vary from workshop to workshop. If we cancel due to minimum numbers not being reached you will get a full refund of the **tour cost only** that you have previously paid. Other bookings you may make related to this tour are not our responsibility and so we recommend travel insurance to cover this. We will only run this trip if we reach the required minimum number of guests.

Photographers' Availability:
We will be assisting you to take photographs and provide tuition throughout the tour if needed. In the event of a guide being unable to attend due to illness or other circumstances beyond our control we will endeavour to provide another guide of similar experience.

What else do you need to know?
There maybe some moderately energetic walking involved to get to certain locations so please consider this related to your physical abilities. If you have any other medical conditions that might affect your enjoyment of the workshop please let us know. Evening and early morning shoots will form part of the tour. You may choose to not participate in these but we recommend that you do take part.

Early morning shoot times are entirely dependant on the sunrise times so schedules we set for departure will need to be adhered to rigidly. It's not fair to the group as a whole to have to wait for a late riser so we will leave exactly at the times we say.

Please bring clothing suited to early morning or evening shoots that may be a little chilly, sturdy foot wear, hat, sunscreen and camera of course…. Like any trip away from home please bring personal medication requirements. We usually meet the evening before the workshop to have drinks and/or dine together and get to know each other. Please consider this when planning your travel arrangements.

Liability Limitation Statement
We aim to provide every participant with a safe and enjoyable experience during the tour. As there is always an element of risk associated with the outdoors and travel in general we accept no responsibility/liability for injury, death, illness, losses or additional expenses associated with tour participation. By signing the booking form you are agreeing to all the listed terms and conditions.

Privacy Statement:
The information provided by participants will not be released to any other parties.

Trip Investment:
The cost of the trip is $4950 USD. A deposit of $500 USD, or full payment of $4950 + any single supplements, is to be paid with the return of the booking form. If paying just the deposit amount with your trip registration, the remainder of the trip needs to be paid no later than 60 days prior to departure.

Other questions?
If you have any questions about this tour please email: studio@rodthomas.com.au