

WELCOME TO THE ICELAND PHOTOGRAPHERS WORKSHOP!



Kirkjufellsfoss Waterfall - Western Coast of Iceland

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- Workshop Begins **Saturday, March 18, 2023 @ Noon** @Happy Campers [\[LINK\]](#)
- Workshop Ends **Friday, March 24, 2023 @ Noon** @Happy Campers

TOURING SOUTHERN ICELAND *The Best Strategy is to be Mobile!*

Happy Campers @ Stokksnes

Iceland is an amazing country with rugged terrain, amazing waterfalls and Northern Lights! With these countless photographic locations and constantly changing weather - the best strategy is to be mobile - and not be tied to a hotel or schedule. Being mobile allows us to follow the auroras, and to stay as long as we need to in order to “get the shot” - even if that means staying all night at some locations! Everyone (or couple) will rent a [Happy Camper](#) [\[LINK\]](#) which will be your mobile home during our workshop in Iceland,



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO TOUR ICELAND? *To Find Auroras but avoid Crowds/Storms!*

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| WINTER (NOV-FEB) | -Few chances to see auroras due to brutal weather / winds. Locals only! |
| SPRING! (MAR-MAY) | -Ice covered landscapes, auroras visible thru changing weather.
Hwy 1 open (around Iceland), but many interior roads closed. |
| SUMMER (JUN-SEPT) | -Crowded / busiest tourist season. Expensive seasonal rates.
Auroras not visible because the sun never fully sets below the horizon. |
| FALL! (SEPT-OCT) | -Auroras visible thru changing weather. “Off Season” with reduced rates and fewer tourists. All roads are open. “Mild” temperatures.
Normal Day-time and Night-time days. |

Iceland Essentials!** *Be Prepared!*

BRING WINTER CLOTHING!

Weather is always changing. Bring layers of clothing - short and long sleeve shirts, down vest and jacket, ski gloves. We will always be near the Happy Campers just in case it gets cold or windy.



HIKING SHOES & SOREL BOOTS

Wear shoes that you are comfortable in. I like Sorel boots, they are nice and warm!

SKI PANTS ARE A MUST! (These are very IMPORTANT!)

Everyone brings a jacket and gloves, but Ski Pants (preferably padded and wind resistant) make all of the difference when you are trekking around on a cold and windy night.



“IPHONE” GLOVES

These are gloves that protect your hands, but are thin enough so that you can keep them on and still use your camera equipment (and phone).

EXTERNAL BATTERY FOR PHONE AND CHARGERS

Power is constantly required in Iceland. These newer batteries (20,000mAh) can keep your phone charged for almost a week!



HEAD LAMP

You'll need a night headlamp (available at REI /Amazon). Preferably it should have a WHITE light (HIGH/LOW) and a RED light. PETZI makes some good head lamps. (If you don't have one, you can always use your cell phone.)

CAMERA PACK / DAY PACK

You'll need something to carry your gear. At most we will walk in 1/4 mile to set up our shots.

UNIVERSAL POWER STRIP / MULTI-PLUG!

You will need a power strip with an EU style cord (Iceland) that accepts US type connectors using universal adapters.



****Visit my [Gear Guides](#) for links to these products
and other Protective Gear**

Equipment Recommendations**

CAMERA(S) - Bring a DSLR/Mirrorless Digital Camera which allows for manual settings of Aperture, Exposure Duration and ISO. Typically these cameras allow for interchangeable lenses. Full-Frame bodies are preferred as they allow for wider lenses - and wider images of the sky. Consider bringing a second camera body with the same lens mount.



Garður Lighthouse - Western Iceland

CAMERAS FOR LOW LIGHT SHOOTING - We will be shooting Auroras in almost complete darkness - and the Auroras move fast - faster than clouds. In order to capture this scene - you need a camera that is good in low light. Here are the premier low light cameras (you can rent these):

HERE ARE MY FAVORITE [FULL FRAME CAMERAS]

FAST / WIDE LENSES - Fast / Wide lenses are best for Auroras (and Landscapes).

- **FAST** F2.8 or faster if possible - [F1.4/F1.8 if you have it](#)
- **WIDE** 20mm or wider, 14mm is preferable (for Full-Frame sensors)
- **HERE ARE MY FAVORITE [FAST / WIDE LENSES]**

TRIPODS & INTERVALOMETERS - You'll need a steady tripod, preferably with a Ball Head (Arca-Swiss style). The Intervalometer is used for both Timelapse and Aurora shooting.

FILTERS - ND filters (variable or fixed) are recommended for creating long exposures at Diamond Beach. Polarizing filters are useful for daytime images.

DRONES - Yes, you can bring a drone. Busier locations have restrictions against the use of drones, but use in isolated locations is OK. [DJI Mavic Pro 2](#) are good because they are portable.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS - This is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity, so make sure you have the best equipment & lenses! I recommend renting very wide/fast lenses - 14mm (for Full-Frame). Fast F2.8/F1.4.

- [LENS PRO TO GO](https://www.lensprotogo.com) - <https://www.lensprotogo.com> - Offers free shipping, great prices.
- [BORROW LENSES](https://www.borrowlenses.com) - <https://www.borrowlenses.com> - Great Selection.
- *Hint: Look for coupons first @ <https://www.retailmenot.com>*

****Visit my [Gear Guides](#) for Links
for Camera Bodies, Lenses and other Equipment**

Equipment Recommendations**

LAPTOP W/LIGHTROOM “CLASSIC” - You will need to bring a laptop to store your images! I also give a few Lightroom training sessions, so download the current version(!) of Lightroom “Classic” - We will use Lightroom De-Haze and Graduated Filters.

DISK SPACE REQUIREMENTS - We will be taking lots of images. It is preferable to have 200+GB available on your laptop (SSD preferred).

EXTERNAL BACKUP DRIVES (1 or 2) - You should bring at least one 2TB external drive (~\$70 each) to make backups of your images. Try to get USB 3.0 compatible drives or get a fast SSD T7!

CAMERA BATTERIES / CHARGERS - Bring as many extra batteries/chargers as you can - they will be in constant use. There are some inexpensive after-market battery “Grips” which take two batteries and bolt onto the bottom of the camera. These are a good accessory to have. There are also good 3rd party batteries available now. (WASABI Power, which comes with an extra charger!) I recommend bringing at least six batteries. 2 in the camera, 2 ready to go and 2 charging.

MEMORY CARDS - Our goal is to fill up your memory cards! Bring multiple BIG cards. 64gb/128gb are getting cheaper. Check your camera for recommendations as to speed. Typically they do not need to be super-fast cards - 600x-800x speeds are fine.

PACKING YOUR EQUIPMENT - *Optionally, get a soft Golf Bag with Wheels!*

If you have lots of gear, I recommend using a soft Golf Bag because they are treated as an exception on some airlines (Check your airline!) - and they are not part of your normal luggage. Purchase a soft golf bag - so that you can carry more equipment. Use the golf bag to pack tripods, sliders, boots, heavy jackets, extra clothes - but not for electronics, cameras or lenses! Keep the weight under 50 lbs! Plus, soft golf bags fold up nicely once you get to Iceland.



Jökulsárlón - Diamond Beach - Southern Coast

****Visit my [Gear Guides](#) for Links
for Recommended Equipment**

Accommodations *Happy Campers, Eating, Restrooms & Showers...*

HAPPY CAMPERS [\[LINK\]](#) - Reserve your Happy Camper for a minimum of these dates:

Pickup: **March 18, 2023 - Noon** Return: **March 24, 2023 - Noon**

-Happy Campers is near the **Keflavík International Airport (KEF)** airport. They will pick you up at the airport.

HAPPY CAMPER OPTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- They offer both Manual and Automatic Transmissions - you need to specify.
- The campers come with a bed(s) / sink (w/water), electric cooler and a heater (No restroom or shower).
- Happy Camper Model 1 (HC1) is good for 1 person, otherwise get HC2 (1 or 2 persons). HC3 is huge!
- HC1 is tight when you have lots of equipment. HC2 is recommended but it costs a bit more.
- Get some insurance, if not all.
 - We generally stay near the main paved highway (Hwy 1)
- Get the Wi-Fi Option (then you can link your cell phone to the Wi-Fi and save cellular download \$\$\$)
- Rent or bring a sleeping bag / No need for a BBQ
- Get an Inverter for charging your equipment (Bring a US power strip and EU -> US converters)

CAMPING EACH NIGHT - We will generally stay at a campground each night (about \$10/person/night) - and sleep in the Happy Camper. Campgrounds have restrooms, showers, and they usually have a kitchen and Wi-Fi.

MEALS - Some nights we will prepare our own meals in the campers. Other nights we will eat at local restaurants - which is about half the time. The food in Iceland is delicious, but \$\$ (But No Tax or Tip!).

FOOD / SUPPLIES - On the first day, we will stop at a local store to stock up on supplies/snacks/beverages and food to be prepared along the way. There are stores along our route, so we can resupply as needed.

RESTROOMS / SHOWERS - There are no restrooms in the campers, but there are many places in campgrounds, hotels & gas stations. Most nights we will stay at campgrounds where you can take a shower - but not every night.

GASOLINE - Gas / Diesel fuel is very important! We will stop at most gas stations and top off the tank when your tank is less than 1/2 full. Bring a card with a chip if you have it - but typically they take swipe cards as well.

CELL PHONES - Phone reception is available, but it can be expensive.

- Check with your carrier. [Get International coverage](#) for the time that we will be in Iceland.
 - Typically AT&T charges about \$10/Day for International Coverage - but it is worth it.
- Turn off most auto-download settings!
- Turn off "Use Cellular Data For" for all but essential apps
 - Use Cellular Data for : WhatsApp, Messenger , Aurora Forecasting apps
- Turn on "Wi-Fi Assist" - Turn this feature on (iPhone "Settings" -> "Cellular") to use Wi-Fi when available.
- Get the Wi-Fi option in the Happy Camper to save on Cellular Data Charges.
- Bring an adapter to mount your Cell Phone on your dash. We will use it for navigation.

WALKIE-TALKIES - We supply Walkie-Talkies so that everyone can easily chat while driving.

Preparation Checklist



Jökulsárlón - Glacier Lagoon - Southern Coast

UPON RESERVING YOUR SPOT IN THE WORKSHOP

- [] Reserve **Happy Camper** [\[LINK\]](#)
(at least) From March 18, 2023 (Noon) to March 24 (Noon)
You can reserve it for more days if you plan to stay longer
If you plan a longer stay in Iceland - I recommend that you stay “after” the workshop, not “before”
(because once the workshop is over, you will know how to travel in Iceland.)
- [] Make sure your **Passport(s)** are valid for at least 60 days after the end of the Workshop
- [] **Start looking at airfare to KEF** - Iceland. I recommend checking “Google Flights”
You do not need to book airfare immediately. IcelandAir is recommended

WITHIN 1-3 MONTHS OF THE WORKSHOP

- [] **We'll determine COVID restrictions.** Most likely NO “Proof of Vaccination”
- [] Notify your **Cellphone** company that you want International Coverage during the trip
- [] Notify any **Credit/Debit Card** company(s) that you plan to travel to Iceland
It is preferred to bring a Credit/Debit card with a ‘chip’ - but ‘swipe’ cards will work
Credit/Debit cards are used at Grocery Stores / Gas Stations / Restaurants / Gift Shops
NOTE: Your cards need a “4 DIGIT NUMERIC PIN” - yes, 4 digits (not more!) and numeric!
- [] Rent (/Reserve) or Purchase **Cameras/Lenses** for the trip
***It is a good idea to bring a backup camera body (with the same lens mount).
- [] Make sure you have enough **Winter Clothes** for the trip
- [] Make sure you have **Luggage** to carry everything:
---> Clothes + boots + jackets + Cameras + Lenses + Tripod(s)
Check air carrier baggage fees
- [] Make sure to pack **memory cards, battery chargers, EU power adaptors for trip**
- [] Pack a **Laptop (optional)** with backup drives and the current version of **Lightroom Classic**
- [] Load recommended **Cellphone Apps** on your cellphone
- [] It is a good idea to photograph your Passport & Drivers License on your cell phone
and make sure your cell phone has a pass code on it!!!!

Useful Apps for Iceland



SOL: Sun Clock - Juggleware, LLC

This app shows the time when the sun rises and sets. It also shows the “twilight” hours - which are very long in Iceland. For Aurora photography it tells us when the sky is TRULY DARK. [\[iTUNES\]](#)



Islandic Horses are found across Iceland!



Moon Deluxe Pro - Sergey Vdovenko

This app shows the phases of the moon so you can determine when the sky will be darkest. [\[iTUNES\]](#)



PhotoPills - PhotoPills S.L.

This App has many features to assist your night photography. Check out their “Augmented Reality” which shows where the Milky Way will be on a future date. [\[iTUNES\]](#)



Dark Sky Finder - Skidmore Properties, LLC

This app shows where the darkest skies are on the planet - which includes most of Iceland! [\[iTUNES\]](#)



Aurora Forecast - TINAC Inc.

This app forecasts the strength and location of the Northern Lights. [\[iTUNES\]](#)



WhatsApp - WhatsApp, Inc.

This app lets you message / call friends and family. We will use this app to share locations / destinations / directions while in Iceland. [\[iTUNES\]](#)

Visit my [Gear Guides](#) for more information on these Apps

Chasing Auroras! *Its our mission 24/7!*



Jökulsárlón - Glacier Lagoon - Southern Coast

FORECASTING AURORAS

The main factor in determining the strength of the Aurora is the amount of solar activity (flares) on the sun within the last 3-4 days. (It takes solar winds 3.5 days to reach Earth).

Aurora Forecast
App [\[iTUNES\]](#)



REALTIME FORECASTS

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast>

BEST CONDITIONS FOR AURORAS

MONTHS - September thru April (Darkest skies)

MOON - Near the New Moon phase of each month

TIME OF DAY - Sunset to Sunrise

CLEAR SKIES - This can be a challenge!

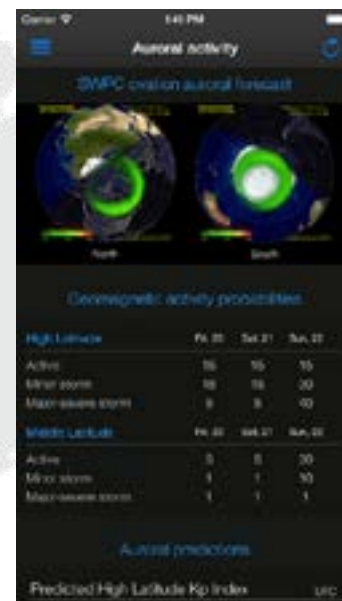
CAMERA SETTINGS FOR CAPTURING AURORAS

YOU WANT THE SHORTEST EXPOSURE TIME!

HIGH ISO - As high an ISO as you are comfortable with. ISO 3200 noise can be removed in Lightroom and Photoshop.

WIDE/FAST LENS - Wide and FAST (14mm & F2.8 / F1.4). Auroras move faster than clouds - and it is dark at night - so we need fast lenses!

SHORTEST EXPOSURE - Use a fast lens (F2.8+) and a High ISO to bring your exposures down to 5-10 seconds or less. This is true for both Timelapse and still images. Shoot RAW! Rely on your Histogram to determine correct exposure!



General Itinerary *(Weather Permitting - Subject to Change)*



Jökulsárlón - Southern Coast

ARRIVAL IN ICELAND

- Fly into Keflavík International Airport (KEF) Iceland.
- Happy Campers [\[LINK\]](#) will pick you up at the airport (20 minutes).
- We will stock up on food and supplies - and then head out!

COVID REQUIREMENTS - *These requirements are changing...*

- For Entering ICELAND - As of March, 2022 - Proof of Vaccination is NO LONGER REQUIRED.
- For Returning to US - A Negative COVID test within 24 Hrs of boarding is required.

OUR ROUTE ACROSS SOUTHERN ICELAND - *From the West Coast to the East Coast - and back!*

- Our first destination will be Kirkjufell, north of Reykjavik.
- Next we will head south to Hwy 1 (via Selfoss) and east to Seljalandsfoss Waterfall.
- We will make our way across the south to Jokulsarlon (Glacier Lagoon & Diamond Beach). We will spend a few days & nights photographing this world-class location!
- Next we will head east to Stokksnes Beach, which will be our furthest eastern destination.
- From there we will work our way back west on Hwy 1.
This gives us another chance to re-visit the spots under different weather conditions/time of day.
- Our last night will be on the West coast at the Garður Lighthouse (Near Happy Campers/KEF Airport). Optionally, there is a hotel nearby where you can stay at on the final night.
- Workshop ends back at Happy Campers at noon.

Destinations *Weather / Road Conditions Permitting / Subject to Change*



WATERFALLS NEAR REYKJAVÍK / GOLDEN CIRCLE *(We visit as many as we can.)*

- Kirkjufell
- Bruarfoss
- Gullfoss
- Öxaráfoss
- Faxi or Vatnsleysufoss

SOUTHERN WATERFALLS

- Seljalandsfoss
- Svartifoss
- Skogafoss
- Gljúfrafoss



Jökulsárlón - Diamond Beach - Southern Coast

SOUTHERN BEACHES / GLACIER LAGOON / DIAMOND BEACH

- Jokulsarlon - Glacier Lagoon/Diamond Beach! (We will spend a lot of time here!)
- Stokksnes - East Coast - Black Sand Beach

*For more information on these locations,
Visit: <https://icelandphotographersworkshops.com/itinerary>*