

Pack Paddle Ski Corp.

6237 South Lima Rd - Livonia, New York 14487
(585) 346-5597

Info@PackPaddleSki.com

www.PackPaddleSki.com

380706

FIRE AND ICE: PHOTO ICELAND **Saturday, July 14th - Monday, July 23nd, 2018**



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Highlights:

- Visit some of the best photo locations in Iceland. A mecca for those looking to bring home exotic, colorful, spectacular shots. Due to the great variety in its landscapes, Iceland has quickly become a "must-visit" location for photographers worldwide.
- Explore one of the world's most active geothermal areas.
- We'll have a local guide to take us to some of the more intimate and special places known to locals, plus share colorful Viking history.
- Designed to sample a rich array of unique locations such as raging waterfalls, colorful hot springs and geysers, vast deep blue glaciers and incredible otherworldly volcanic features.
- View some of the exotic birdlife that frequents the country, such as puffins.

Limited in size to only 10 people with professional photographer and instructor Reed Hoffmann as your private photo instructor, to make it a more intimate experience. You can learn about Reed and

see his work at www.reedhoffmann.com, as well as his galleries of photos from past trips.



Trip style:

- Short walks to photographic locations.
- Transportation by van.
- 3-star hotels. High standards in Iceland.

Description:

Trip starts and ends in Reykjavik, Iceland

Resting on the edge of the Arctic Circle and sitting atop one of the world's most active volcanic hot spots, Iceland is a striking mix of majestic glaciers, bubbling hot springs, and rugged fjords. Iceland offers a wonderful mix of geology and environments packed into an easily accessed area.

This itinerary allows you to visit some of the most famous areas and photograph their natural wonders. In Iceland it's a very short drive from ocean to mountain tops; you'll visit beautiful glaciers and have the opportunity to soak in hot springs near a geyser on the same trip.

IMPORTANT!

ICELAND IS EXTREMELY POPULAR RIGHT NOW. THE LARGE AGENCIES BOOK THE LODGINGS 2 YEARS IN ADVANCE. THEREFORE, WE ARE ABLE TO SECURE YOU A PLACE ONLY BY HAVING PEOPLE REGISTER BY MARCH 29TH, 2017 WITH A SMALL DEPOSIT (SEE PRICING BELOW).

Natural Wonders

Much of Iceland is still taking shape before your very eyes — raw, dramatic landscapes born from volcanic eruptions and carved out by glaciers.



Culture and Heritage

Icelanders are proud that they still speak the ancient language of the vikings, but they certainly don't just live in the past. Their cherished ancient heritage lives on in harmony with the most exciting innovations from the world of arts and culture today. This refreshing mix of local, traditional, progressive and cosmopolitan culture appeals to almost every taste.

The "Cool" Iceland

Iceland is so close to USA that it's an easy trip, with none of the hassles of traveling to the other side of the world.

Nowhere else is there such a wonderful mix of ancient viking culture, modern world, and exotic natural world!

Interesting Links:

<http://www.visiticeland.com/>

Great Map of Iceland:

http://www.visitorsguide.is/resources/Files/visitorsguide.is/Maps/Iceland_XL_1800x1400.gif

Itinerary- This itinerary subject to change. (Important photo note: below is an idea of what you'll do and when. Actual daily events will be based on what weather is creating for your best photo opportunities. The schedule will vary somewhat because of that)

PREDAY - Friday, July 13th, 2018 TRAVEL/FLY

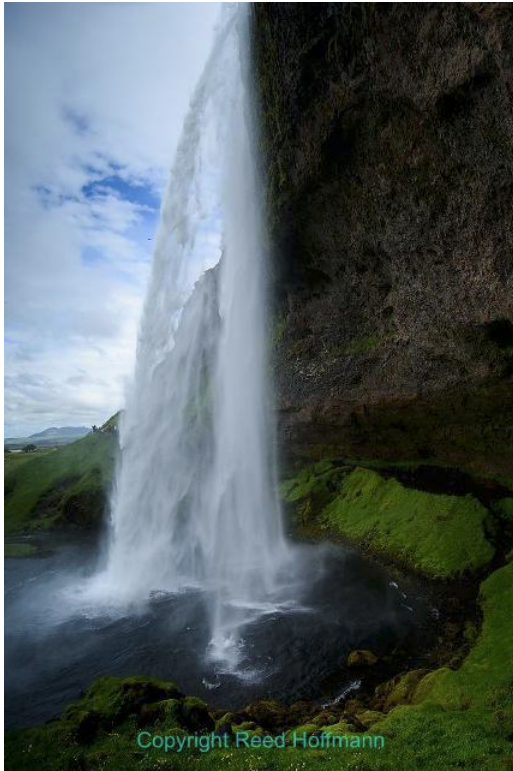
DAY 1 - Saturday, July 14th, 2018 ARRIVE ICELAND

The typical flight to Iceland is an overnight flight starting from the U.S. On Friday afternoon/evening and arriving at KEF the following morning (Saturday). The flight that I looked up on Iceland Air arrived at Reykjavik - Keflavik International (KEF) at 6:20 am local time. When you arrive at the airport in Iceland, we will attempt to group you, ahead of time, by arrival of the flights you take so you can share a taxi to the nearby small town of Keflavik. Here you can rest up from your overnight flight and explore this lovely small town. You may also choose to arrange your own outing to visit the Blue Lagoon.

Lodging in Keflavik (included); transfer by taxi (not included).

DAY 2 - Sunday, July 15th, 2018 BEGINNING OF TRIP - GROUP DEPARTURE

The adventure begins this morning morning with a drive to the Reykjanes Peninsula (lava fields). Then on to Lake Thingvallavatn and the "Parliament Plains." We'll walk through the crack in earth (where the tectonic plates meet) and visit a small Viking-made waterfall there. Lunch, then off to Geysir, and finish the day with a stop at the massive Gullfoss (waterfall).



DAY 3 - Monday, July 16th, 2018 THE SCENIC SOUTH COAST

We'll begin today at Gljúfrabúi, another beautiful waterfall, then walk the path to Seljalandsfoss. It's unique because you can walk all the way around behind it (see above). From there we head to the Reynishverfi coast. Once there we'll visit a to a black beach with dramatic basalt columns, just west of Vik. Often puffins can be seen nesting above the columns.



DAY 4 – Tuesday, July 17th, 2018 SKAFTAFELL NATIONAL PARK

We'll begin this day driving across the Mýrdalssandur floodplains and Eldhraun, the most extensive lava field ever to flow on the face of Earth. The first stop of the day is the scenic Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon. Next we continue over Skeidarársandur, with vast tracts of black sand desert, washed down by numerous torrential glacial rivers. Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe is to the north of here. On the afternoon of May 21, 2011, a sub-glacial eruption started in the Grímsvötn volcanic system underneath Vatnajökull Glacier. Later the same day, the eruption broke the ice cover of the glacier and started spewing volcanic ash into the air. The amount of ash fall was the greatest close to the village Kirkjubæjarklaustur. The eruption went on for about a week. It ceased on May 28, 2011. We'll stop at Skaftafell national park – an oasis wedged between glacier and sand plains. We can also hike to Svartifoss – one of Iceland's most picturesque waterfalls, framed in by beautiful basalt columns.

DAY 5 – Wednesday, July 18th, 2018 JÖKULSÁRLÓN AND STOKKSNES

Today we start the day by visiting some of the most popular locations in Iceland – the glacial lagoons. First will be Fjallsarlo, then on to Jökulsárlón, where huge icebergs, true sculptures of nature, from the Breiðmerkurjökull glacier, float and grind together in the blue waters of the lagoon. You might even be lucky and see seals swimming between the massive icebergs. We'll also visit the beach below the lagoon – Breiðmerkursandur. Each day new ice sculptures are washed up on the black volcanic sand there. From there we'll continue to Höfn town.

DAY 6 – Thursday, July 19th, 2018 EAST FJORDS

Continue from Höfn to Lónsöræfi, a mountainous wilderness traversed by glacial rivers. Drive past towering mountains with bare rock faces that plunge almost vertically into the sea. Continue to the magnificent East Fjords, many are now deserted, - each a world of its own. Several photography stops on the way, including Vestrahorn, where if the conditions are right, we can make mirror images of the mountains rising from the seaside.

DAY 7 – Friday, July 20th, 2018 Borgarfjörður Eystri

All day drive out to Borgarfjörður Eystri and back for puffins. This is an amazing place, designed to allow you to get extremely close to them. Have lunch there, then on to Myvatn Lake. If time, we'll stop at the hot springs area coming into Myvatn.

From Egilsstaðir we head towards the Lake Mývatn area. The first stop is the magnificent Dettifoss – the most powerful waterfall in Europe. A short hike from Dettifoss you'll find another stunning waterfall – Selfoss. Next, we continue to Námaskarð pass, where you'll find sulphurous mud springs (solfataras) and steam springs (fumaroles). The beauty and colorful diversity of this geothermal area is absoluteley stunning. We continue further to Krafla area, where you'll find more hot mud pots and a very well known Víti crater (the icelandic word víti means hell).

DAY 8 – Saturday, July 21st, 2018 LAKE MÝVATN AREA

Today we continue to explore the beautiful surroundings of Lake Mývatn area. The hot springs area will be our first stop, if we didn't photograph it the afternoon before. Then on to Grjótagjá – a small lava cave with a thermal spring inside. It used to be very popular bathing area until the 1970s, but as for now – the water is too hot for bathing. After that we stop at Viti, a large crater by Krafla volcano, and if time, do the hike around it. Next stop, Dettifoss (largest waterfall in Iceland), before driving to the Husavik area for the night.

DAY 9 – Sunday, July 22nd, 2018 GOÐAFOSS

If weather forecast is good, and whales are in the area, we'll take a 3-hr whaling cruise first thing in the morning (additional fee, about \$85 per person). From there it's off to Godafoss waterfalls – one of the most spectacular waterfalls in all of Iceland. In the year 999 or 1000 the Lawspeaker Þorgeir Ljósvetningagoði made Christianity the official religion of Iceland. After his conversion it is said that upon returning from the Alþingi, Þorgeir threw his statues of the Norse gods into the waterfall. After that we'll relax for the 5-hr drive back to Reykavik.



DAY 10 – Monday, July 23rd, 2018 DEPARTURE

It may be possible to have a morning excursion (such as Blue Lagoon, or a tour of Reykjavik, at an additional charge) but this depends on flights. Transfer to the airport (included). Return to the USA in the afternoon/evening.



Detailed Services

Included Services

- Lodging (double occupancy)
- Breakfast each day as per itinerary
- Local guide and driver
- Tours as included in our itinerary
- Entrance fees as listed
- Reed Hoffmann, professional photographer, for personal photography instruction
- Local transport and transfers

Not Included Services

- International airfare to Reykjavik, Iceland
- Transfer from Keflavik airport
- Single Supplement, approx. \$1400 additional (please request)
- Lunches (~\$20) and dinners (~\$50), daily.
- Passport cost
- Drinks
- Tips
- Services not shown or detailed in the program, optional excursions

Arctic countries are some of the most expensive places on earth to travel. Most items are imported and brought in by ship or plane. We have tried to create a program that is high quality but also a good value.

Accommodations

Lodging:

Double occupancy. Lodging in hotels, cottages, and guest houses throughout. Located in beautiful and spectacular settings.

Here are possible examples. Actual lodging will depend on availability when booking.

[Lambastaðir Guesthouse, http://www.lambastadir.is/](http://www.lambastadir.is/), [Brunnhóll, http://brunnholl.is/](http://brunnholl.is/), [Hotel Edda Neskaupsstaður, http://www.east.is/en/what-to-see-and-do/services/hotel-edda-neskaupstadur](http://www.east.is/en/what-to-see-and-do/services/hotel-edda-neskaupstadur), [Sel Hotel Mývatn, http://www.myvatn.is/](http://www.myvatn.is/), [Hótel Rauðaskriða, http://hotelraudaskrida.is/](http://hotelraudaskrida.is/)

Level of Difficulty:

Gentle, with some moderate hiking.

Travel Information: We suggest that you coordinate your travel to arrive with us. We will let you know when it is time to book flights and tell you how. If you would like to meet us at our destination, try to arrange a time close to our flights. These may change as the ones given are from a schedule as of this printing. We suggest that you wait to book your flight until we let you know we have done so by letter to coordinate the flying as much as possible. If you do land at a different time there is a small additional charge for your airport shuttle. We plan to book our airfare about 8-10 months in advance. International airfare approx \$900 at the time of this writing ROC to KEF.,

Group Size:

We have limited the group to 10 participants to make it a more intimate experience, and so that you can also get plenty of personal photo instruction from Reed.

Cost: \$5,490 (based on current exchange rate of 1.098). Your final price at invoicing -at 2 months prior- will reflect the current exchange rate of Euro. \$1400 single supplement. Let us know if you have questions. **\$100 nonrefundable deposit is due by March 29th, 2017 to hold your spot.** Balance of deposit of \$900 due August 25th, 2017.

Nonrefundable deposit required to book and hold your space, and may be paid over the phone or online with a MasterCard or Visa. If you prefer a single room, there is an additional fee for a single supplement. **Final cash balance will be due no later than Monday, May 9th, 2018 and is a cash price payable by check.** An additional 3% service charge will be applied to accept the final balance on a MasterCard or Visa.

Your final balance will be the final price based on the exchange rate at that time minus your \$1000 deposit plus any extra's that we may have booked for you (like rooms or a tour, unlikely) = Final Balance due (60 days prior). Currently the rate is 1.09 on the exchange. Small fluctuation up or down expected in the actual final price based on the exchange rate.

When is more information coming out? We will mail you an airfare letter, a final letter with balance due 90 days prior to departure and call each person prior to departure. Once you register you will receive more information on packing and planning.

Travel Insurance: We highly encourage you to investigate this as way to protect your investment. Details in the registration packet.

PPS Refund Policy

We understand that you may have registered well in advance of your trip. We appreciate that work schedules and plans may change and unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, we have established the refund policy below to try to fairly accommodate such eventualities and yet maintain quality programs. Please realize that once you have registered for a course, we immediately incur expenses on your behalf. Because many people start planning longer trips a year or more in advance, it can be difficult to fill an empty spot at the last minute.

In order to receive a refund for a course, we require you to submit a written notice of cancellation. Your refund comes from your travel insurance. If you elected not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/09

What Next?

Call us or email us to register.

We love talking about this trip! (585) 346-5597 or info@packpaddleski.com