



## **Pack Paddle Ski Corp.**

Trip# 450202

### **Winter Iceland Photo Adventure**

February 16th - February 25th, 2025

#### ***Highlights:***

- Iceland in winter – sunrise and sunset times makes this a photographer's dream!
- Waterfalls, black sand beaches, ice caves, Icelandic horses, glaciers, the diamond beach and more.
- Our local guide, Einar, will take us to some of the more intimate and unique places known only to locals, plus share colorful Viking history. He's guided several of our past photo trips there, summer and winter, and as a former professional photographer, understands our unique needs and interests.
- View the Northern Lights during high solar activity, at the best time of year to see them.

Limited in group size with photographer and instructor Reed Hoffmann as your private photo instructor.. You can learn about Reed and see his work at [www.reedhoffmann.com](http://www.reedhoffmann.com), as well as his galleries of photos from past trips. All photos used here are from the 2019 trip he led.

***Trip style:***

- Mostly moderate walks to great locations.
- Transportation by private vehicle.
- 3-star hotels, which are of relatively high standards in Iceland.



***Description:***

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.

Iceland is so close to the U.S. that it makes for an easy international trip.

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

Trip starts and ends in Reykjavik, Iceland.

### 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 and erosion.

### 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. Einar will tell you all about Icelandic trolls, and make you believe they really exist!



Interesting Links:

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

Great Map of Iceland:

[http://www.visitorsguide.is/resources/Files/visitorsguide.is/Maps/Iceland\\_XL\\_1800x1400.gif](http://www.visitorsguide.is/resources/Files/visitorsguide.is/Maps/Iceland_XL_1800x1400.gif)



***Itinerary - This itinerary is 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's happening with the weather for your best photo opportunities. The schedule can vary somewhat because of that.)***

**PREDAY – Sunday, February 16th, 2025 TRAVEL/FLY**

**DAY 1 – Monday, February 17th ARRIVE ICELAND**

The typical flight to Iceland is an overnight flight starting from the US on Friday afternoon/evening and arriving at KEF the following morning (Saturday). Depending on arrival times, there is the possibility of arranging an optional guided tour of Reykjavik. Once we have flight details, we will provide you with options for the day.

Lodging in Reykjavik (included); transfer from airport (not included); possible guided tour (not included)

**DAY 2 – Tuesday, February 18th SOUTH COAST**

Today we head south and then turn east along the coast. There are magnificent views around every corner and the main subjects are the waterfalls, black beaches and sea cliffs with the Atlantic crashing into them.

**Seljalandsfoss**, one of the most elegant waterfalls on our trip, it's 200ft from an old sea cliff and fed by the famous glacier/volcano Eyjafjallajökull. You can walk behind this one and get some backlit shots of the curtain of water.

**Skógarfoss** is a powerful waterfall with much more water than Seljalandsfoss. It is also fed by Eyjafjallajökull as well as Mýrdalsjökull glaciers. It stands at around 200ft. There are multiple ways to catch the beauty of Skógarfoss, whether it be the wide-angle close-up or the long lens from afar.

**Dyrhólaey** is a free standing promontory with black sand beaches on each side and vertical cliffs all around. It used to be an island, hence the name Door-hill-island. The "door" is one of its main features, an arch under the cliff, eroded by the ocean. Here the ocean bashes into the metamorphic rock to expose some beautiful basalt sculptures. It is the most southern point of Iceland.

**Reynisfjara**, a black sand beach with a mix of beautiful basalt pebbles, columnar basalt and the needle-like basalt sea stacks just off the shore. There are endless compositions from this area, with Dyrhólaey in the distance.

**Vík** is a cozy little village that developed around trade and fishing in the late 19th century. The church up on the hill and the basalt sea stacks at Reynisfjara are popular shots in this area.

Accommodations in Vík.

### **DAY 3 – Wednesday, February 19th SKAFTAFELL**

After possibly doing some sunrise shots from Vík, we head further east towards the Skaftafell area. Mýrdalssandur is 270 sq. miles of vast sands. Flash floods from the glacier **Mýrdalsjökull** left the area barren and uninhabitable. The feeling is of being on another planet when you stand in the midst of odd lava formations and vast expanses of black sand.

**Eldhraun** is a lava field created by one of the greatest volcanic eruptions recorded in history. It is rough and uneven but covered with pillow-soft moss.

**Fjaðrárgljúfur** is a beautiful canyon sculpted by meltwater carving its way into the landscape when the last ice age came to an end. The metamorphic rock has curves that make the canyon almost poetic.

**Svartifoss** – the waterfall spills from a wraparound of dark basalt columns which give it its name, Black Falls. It's right in the middle of a wedge of a vegetated area surrounded by glaciers, mountains and black sands. We'll hike a mile to get close but it can also be enjoyed from afar.

Accommodations in Skaftafell area.



#### **DAY 4 – Thursday, February 20th ICE CAVES**

Today we visit the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull, for one of the highlights of our journey. Here we'll make our way into ice caves carved by rivers running underneath the glacier. This is a photographer's dream. The solid ice with veins of ash inside makes for some otherworldly shots. It sometimes feels like you are submerged in water due to the blue light channeled through the ice from above.

Accommodations in Skaftafell area.

#### **DAY 5 – Friday, February 21st GLACIAL LAGOON & DIAMOND BEACH**

Now we explore the spectacular ice lagoons by Vatnajökull and the black sands and beaches.

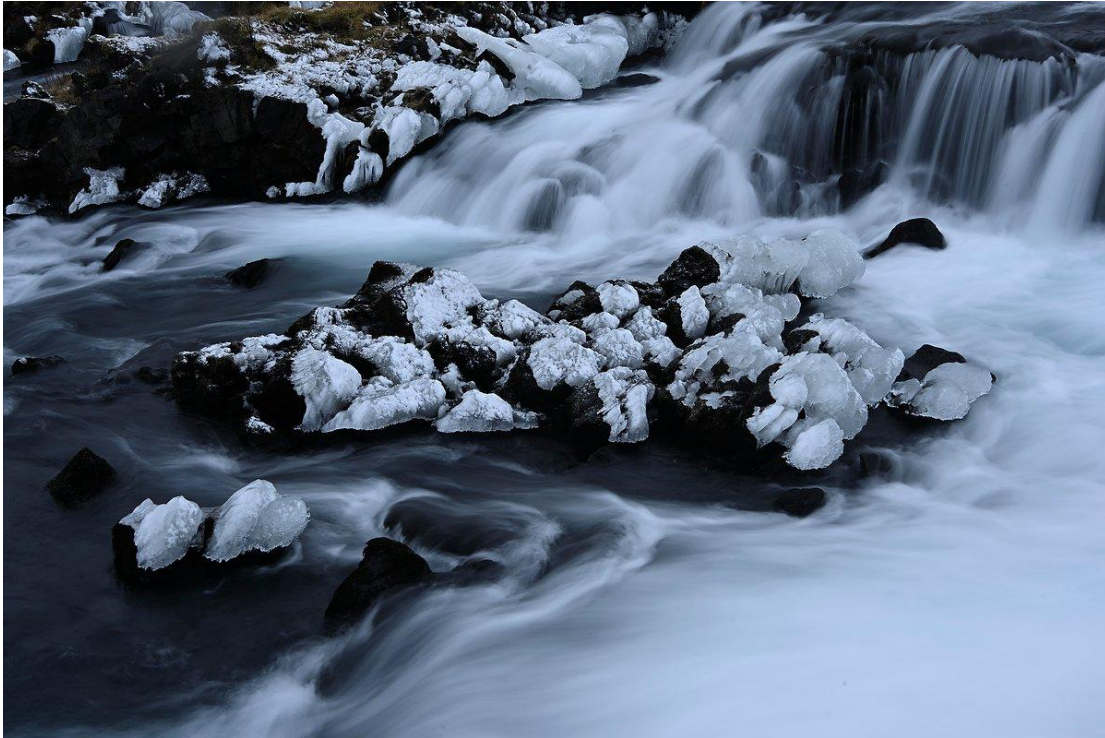
**Svínafellsjökull** is one of the countless glacial tongues drooping down from the main glacier. It is full of deep crevasses and striking ice formations. You may have seen it on the silver screen while watching *Interstellar*, *Batman*, or *Game of Thrones*, to name a few.

**Fjallsárjökull** is also quite open with many crevasses and the odd iceberg floating around on the lagoon in front of it.

**Jökulsárlón** is the largest glacial lagoon in Iceland, and growing because of ice receding when big pieces calve from it to begin their life as icebergs. The lagoon is connected to the Atlantic ocean via a channel which makes the water brackish and home to fish and seals.

**Diamond Beach** is the black sand beach on either side of the channel from Jökulsárlón. Pieces of ice float down the channel and out to sea only to be washed ashore, looking like diamonds lying on the beach and making for some wonderful photos.

Accommodations in Skaftafell area.



**DAY 6 – Saturday, February 22nd VESTRA HORN**

Today we drive further east out to Vestra Horn, an area a bit different from what you have been seeing previously. The combination of black sand dunes, surf on the shore, a shallow lagoon which often is mirror-like and beautiful mountains in the background makes this another one of Iceland's unique locations.

Accommodations in Skaftafell area.

**DAY 7 – Sunday, February 23rd HELLA**

Today we head west and will be passing the same areas that were mentioned when we drove east. We'll be catching the ones we didn't see on our way east, and more.



Accommodations in Hella area.

### **DAY 8 – Monday, February 24th GOLDEN CIRCLE**

Now we get off the south shore and go inland up to where there are geysers and more.

**Geysir** is a geothermal area with the whole flora of geothermal activity and the most active geyser on earth. It's name is Strokkur, and it erupts just about every five minutes, so you're guaranteed to get a few fabulous shots.

**Gullfoss** is probably the best known waterfall in Iceland. It is very photogenic. The water runs down two steps that are perpendicular to each other as it makes its way down into the canyon that it's created over thousands of years.

**Pingvellir** is a national park and where the heart of Iceland beats. This is where their parliament began in 930 ad. It is the best place on earth to see how the two tectonic plates, that Iceland is on, are moving away from each other. No wonder it is on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

**Öxarárfoss**, a little gem of a waterfall coming off the edge of the North American plate down into the rift valley.

Accommodations in Reykjavík.



## **DAY 9 – Tuesday, February 25th DEPARTURE**

Transfer to the airport (not included). Return to the USA in the afternoon/evening.

### ***Detailed Services***

#### **Included Services**

- Lodging (double occupancy)
- Breakfast most days as per itinerary
- Local guide Einar, who's also our driver
- Tours as included in our itinerary
- Entrance fees as listed
- Reed Hoffmann, professional photographer, for coaching and personal photography instruction
- Local transport and transfers

#### **Not Included Services**

- International airfare to Keflavik, Iceland
- Transfers between airport and Reykjavik
- Single Supplement, approx. \$1,000 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 must be brought in by ship or plane. We have tried to create a program that is high in quality but also a good value.

### ***Accommodations***

#### ***Lodging:***

Double occupancy. Lodging in hotels and guest houses throughout. Located in beautiful and spectacular settings. Accommodations are very limited in some areas, and we have chosen the best options. Here are possible examples. Actual lodging will depend on availability when booking.

[Hotel Exeter](#)

[Hotel Dyrhólaey](#)

[Hotel Skaftafell](#)

[Hotel Lækur](#)

#### ***Level of Difficulty:***

Moderate, with some hiking over uneven terrain.

**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 suggest how. If you would like to meet us at our destination, try to arrange a time close to our flights. Airlines often make changes to international flights booked well in advance. 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.

**Group Size:**

We have limited the group size to 13 participants to make it a more intimate experience, and so that you can also have the opportunity for plenty of personal photo instruction from Reed.

**Cost: \$6,490 (based on current exchange rate of 1 USD to 138.36 ISK).** Your final price at invoicing – 2 months prior – will reflect any change to the exchange rate at that time. \$1,000 single supplement. Let us know if you have questions. **\$1,000 nonrefundable deposit to register.**

Nonrefundable deposit required to book and hold your space, and is payable by check mailed to the address at the end of this packet or by clicking the “Buy Now” button at the bottom of the [WINTER ICELAND PHOTO](#) page on our website. **Final cash balance will be due no later than Friday, December 20th, 2024 and is a cash price payable by check.** An additional 4% convenience charge will be applied to accept the final balance by credit card.

Your final balance will be the final price based on the exchange rate at that time minus your \$1,000 deposit plus any extras that we may have booked for you (like extra room nights or an additional tour). A small fluctuation up or down expected in the actual final price based on the exchange rate.

**When is more information coming out?** We will email you an airfare letter when Reed books his, and a final letter with balance due 60 days 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 a way to protect your investment.

**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. Be sure to choose your travel

insurance carefully so you can choose what type of COVID travel challenges you want to cover. If you elect not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/22

***What Next?***

**Contact Reed Hoffmann at [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com) if you are interested in joining him!**

