



Mare and foals

CUE Photo

GENERAL INFORMATION/ CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS: A \$500US per person deposit and a signed application is required to confirm any reservation. Balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Visa and Mastercard are accepted for deposits.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Minimum cancellation fees, shown below, are in addition to any non-recoverable deposits made to suppliers and are based on the number of days prior to departure that we receive written notice of cancellation. More than 120 days--\$200. 60-120 days--\$500. Less than 60 days--50% of Land Costs or per person fixed operating costs plus non recoverable deposits, whichever is greater. Within 30 days, 100% of Land Costs is forfeited.

CANCELLED EXPEDITIONS: Close-Up Expeditions retains the right to cancel any trip which does not have the stated minimum number of participants. Deposits will be refunded. Deposits collected for Expeditions cancelled due to events beyond our control will be refunded minus unrecoverable expenses.

EXPEDITION COSTS INCLUDE: unless stated otherwise in the brochure, Accommodations based on two people sharing one room. Meals--usually table d'hôte breakfasts and dinners. Lunches as indicated. Land Transportation by vehicles appropriate to group size, expedition goals and local availability. Sightseeing and Admissions--as indicated in the brochure. Baggage and Personal Equipment: Handling of one medium size suitcase, not to exceed 27" X 21" x 9" (or combined dimensions of 57") and 45 lbs is included. Guides may refuse to carry luggage exceeding these limits. Hand-baggage and camera equipment should be of a size convenient to carry and be kept with you in the van without inconvenience to others, and is entirely the responsibility of the client.

SMOKING & CELLPHONES are not permitted in Vehicles and at Meals.

GUIDE SERVICES & PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION: The services of your CUE leader are included from arrival at the Meeting Point on Day One, terminating on the last day as indicated in the brochure. Photographic advice and instruction is included on a group basis and individually as time permits.

EXPEDITION COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE: Air transportation, passport, visa and airport fees, inoculations, medical expenses and items of a personal nature such as beverages, laundry, tips for special services, excess baggage charges, gratuities to guides and drivers and expenses due to events beyond the control of Close-Up Expeditions.

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION:



**CLOSE-UP
EXPEDITIONS**

don@cuephoto.com

tel: (541) 466 5969

352 Kirk Avenue
Brownsville, OR 97327

PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURES

Nature of ICELAND

July 1-15, 2009



**Wonderful Nature Photography in
a pristine land with Don Lyon.**

Maximum 7.



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July 11 To Vik and the South Coast: Drive through Skaftafell National Park, including Jokulsarlon, filled with picture perfect icebergs. Photograph from the shore and cruise through the bergs in a WWII Duck. Svarttiffoss is a short hike but worth it. This is one of the wildest and least inhabited regions of Iceland--yet grand and powerful. Continue to colorful Vik on the south coast. **Guest House Vik**

July 12 & 13 To Hella: The Folk Museum at Skogassandur is a wonderful collection of 19th C. turf houses, rural school house and church as well as an incomparable museum of 19th and 20th C. daily life (and much more). We are welcome to photograph--even with our tripods! Nearby Skogafoss is one of the most stunningly photogenic waterfalls. Seljalandsfoss is picture worthy, too. From our base in Hella we explore into the interior to Gullfoss (the Golden Waterfall) and nearby Geysir--Iceland's two most popular natural areas. Colorful fishing villages of Eyrbakki and Stokkseyri are nearby. **Guesthouse Brenna--2 nights.**

14--Drive to the SW peninsula to near Grindavik to soak in the iconic Blue Lagoon--a vast hot spring. We spend the night in Reykjavik and explore the colorful capitol with it's sculpture, mixture of colorful tin roofed buildings and ultra modern structures. **Fourth Floor Hotel--1 night.**

15--Flight's home or onward: We have the morning to explore and photograph colorful Reykjavik before midday transfers to the airport. I'm glad you could join me for the Nature of Iceland.



Shhhh--Puffins at 3'

CUE Photo

The Nature of Iceland--experience the wild pristine glacial landscapes and stunning misty fjords. Man is just a visitor here despite 1100 years of settlement. Nature is master but we have guest privileges--sea bird rookeries, shaggy maned Icelandic horses, powerful waterfalls and thermal springs are ours to enjoy. **Your guide, Don Lyon**, has 30 years experience guiding photographers around the world. He traveled this same route in July 2008 with a group of photo-explorers and is ready to share the treasures of that trip. Don drives the **9 passenger Van (limit 7)** and prepares many of our **tasty healthy meals** in this country where cafes are both expensive and dull.

Accommodations are a mix of guest houses and cottages. We often picnic and your guide prepares breakfasts and dinners when kitchen facilities are available. This homey style of travel is appropriate for Iceland and really very comfortable. Even though the value of the kroner dropped dramatically recently services in Iceland are still Scandinavianly expensive as well as limited and simple. Roads are mostly unpaved. Prospective travelers should keep the above information in mind and only join this trip with their spirit of adventure intact.

15 Day Land Cost	\$4461*.
Meal Budget	\$490.

*Includes share accommodation, transportation by 9 passenger Van, services of your driver/guide. Unused funds in your meal account will be refunded. Single rooms and/or private baths are often available for a supplement but cannot be guaranteed.

Clockwise around Iceland

July 1 & 2--To Stykkisholmur and Snaefellsnes Peninsula: Arrive Keflavik Airport in the early morning after overnight flights from home. After a short stop in the capitol city of Reykjavik for breakfast we drive north long the coast--villages and farms--to Akranes, former fishing town, for lunch. On to Stykkisholmur with its colorful harbor, fishing boats and old houses from colonial days. Next day we explore the length of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula -- meadows of lupines, red steepled churches, light houses, typical villages such as Grundarfjordur and miles of coastline. The highlight is a remote bird rookery on barren black lava where you can get up close to nesting kittiwakes and other sea birds. Accommodations in town in a historic building. **Sjonarholl Hostel--2 nights.**

July 3 & 4--To Latrabjarg and West Fjords: 9am Ferry to Brjanslaekur--gateway to West Fjords. Four hour ferry ride past Flatey Island then it is a beautiful drive surrounded by high hills and fjords showing the mighty forces of ancient glaciers. Our cozy modern cabins are at Breidavik Bay (vik = harbor) on a working farm with many photo ops in itself but nearby is the reason we are here--vast sea bird rookeries cling to the spectacular coastal cliffs. The opportunity to capture Puffins and other sea birds at very close range is unparalleled--and never more comfortable as you lay on soft grassy hummocks at the cliff's edge. The colorful adults have eggs or chicks in their burrows and stand proudly at the burrow entrances just 2-3 feet away from the admiring photographer. Here are wonderful opportunities for birds in flight, too, as they wheel and turn on the thermals 20' away before landing on their nests. **Breidavik Farm--2 nights.**

July 5--To Saudarkrokur: Drive half-way across north Iceland following the coastline around fjords for much of the way. Midday, we'll strike the Ring Road to picturesque fishing village of Saudarkrokur. **Guesthouse Mikligarour--1 night.**

July 6 & 7--Lake Myvatn: The jagged crags of Horgardalur might well be trolls turned to stone. This region is picturesquely bleak and uninhabited except for the occasional red-roofed whitewashed farmhouse.



Nature's power

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Next is the Godafoss--overwhelming, powerful and dynamic. Our cottages are on the shore of of Myvatn--a large shallow lake sheltering many bird species. A nearby geothermal area has scenic natural pools of steaming water as well as geysirs capped to harvest their heat and energy. Dettifoss and Selfoss are two great waterfalls on the river flowing down from the ice covered mountain tops. Lake Myvatn is a Nature Park with many photogenic sites, including a resident gyrfalcon pair, cindercones and bucolic landscapes as well as bog orchids and other tundra plants. **Dimmuborgir Cottages--2 nights.**

July 8-9 Skalanes Eco Lodge: Drive to the East Fjords over glacier carved mountains where winter's snow still lingers. Seydisfjorder is an attractive village on a scenic fjord. Oli--in his 4-wheel drive takes us in to remote Skalanes Eco lodge where eiderducks are nesting. We'll nest in, too--very casual and relaxed--hikes to bird cliffs through meadows of lupine. Arctic Foxes, seals, colorful Oystercatchers and European plovers. **Skalanes Eco Lodge--2 nights.**

July 10 To Hofn: We hate to leave the serenity of Skalanes but we have more delights ahead as we work our way along the southeast coast. Swans and Phalaropes congregate in the fjords and ponds ignoring our cameras. Waterfalls are everywhere. Hofn, our home for the night, is a fishing village in a scenic and sheltered site. **Guesthouse Hvamur--1 night.**