ICELAND

WELCOME

Welcome to your upcoming photography expedition!

This tour packet is your go-to reference, loaded with valuable information on photographic gear suggestions, travel and packing tips, and practical details for a fantastic photo tour experience. This tour pack has specifics for your upcoming tour and is also filled with general travel tips regardless of the tour itself.

In the past months, we've sent you emails with essential information. Please note that due to possible changes in planning, some information in this packet may not be the most up to date. Be sure to always read the latest emails sent regarding this tour.

Our aim is to always keep you well informed. Please feel free to reach out to our team with any questions (keep in mind that we might refer you back to the tour packet if we've already covered the subject). We suggest downloading the PDF version of this packet onto your smartphone or tablet, so it's easily accessible during the tour.

Embrace the spirit of adventure as we embark on this photography tour! While we have a planned itinerary, expect the unexpected and be open to change. Our goal is to maximize your photographic experiences by ensuring flexibility for capturing ideal light and weather conditions while accommodating preset commitments with hotels, guides, etc.

Please note that touring in such locations may require adjustments based on various unforeseen circumstances. Trust that our team's commitment is to provide an exceptional experience even if there's a need to alter the itinerary without prior announcement.

Throughout the trip, remember that "flexibility" is our guiding principle. Capture incredible images and immerse yourself in spontaneous moments without fixating on strict schedules. When you embrace flexibility and maintain a positive attitude, you'll discover a photographic adventure like no other!

Do not hesitate to contact us at hello@mckaylive.com for any inquiries or assistance. At McKay Photography Academy (MPA), we are dedicated to offering unparalleled experiences and exceptional photographic education worldwide.

Happy Adventuring! - MPA

THE MPA TOUR TEAM

Toby Gelston – Lead Instructor and MPA Team Member

Páll Jökull – Tour Partner - Instructor – Owner Landscape Photography Iceland

TOUR EXPECTATIONS

Below is a set of guidelines on what to expect on MPA tours. Please review and remember to follow so that we can make sure everyone is on the same page and ready for this wonderful adventure together! ***One thing we can guarantee is that not everything will go according to plan on a tour like this. "F" for flexibility is key and we as a team need the group to understand this and have positive energy throughout the tour.***

MPA has had the pleasure of guiding photography enthusiasts across all corners of the globe, spanning every continent, with a community that has now grown to over 3000 clients! Our journey has been nothing short of remarkable, and we feel incredibly lucky to pursue our passion and share it with those who choose to join us.

Our team at MPA is deeply committed to delivering a memorable and enriching experience on every tour we conduct. While it's a rare occurrence, there are moments when a client's expectations don't align with the services we provide. We understand that for some, embarking on a photography tour with us may be a first-time adventure, filled with uncertainties. Others may have a repertoire of similar experiences to compare with. Then there are many among you who have journeyed with us on multiple occasions, who are well-acquainted with our ethos and approach.

Considering this diversity, we aim to establish clear expectations, to help you understand what we stand for and what we will offer during your time with us.

EXPECTATIONS

- Clients should expect that all MPA instructors will do their very best to help you achieve excellent photography education. We will pour ourselves into you. We do not take that lightly and we ask you to do the same.

- ***Flexibility stands as the cornerstone of our excursions, often fondly referred to as the McKay "F" word. It's crucial to acknowledge that each day brings its own set of unforeseen events and challenges, many times behind the scenes that the team has to deal with very unexpectedly.*** Thus, an adaptable mindset and positive outlook are essential for both the MPA instruction team and our clients during a tour. Embracing flexibility enhances the learning experience and fosters a more enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved. Be prepared for the journey to possibly deviate from the itinerary, have unexpected changes, and the need to be flexible at certain times – it's all part of the adventure!

- We choose to describe our offerings as "tours" rather than "workshops." This is an intentional choice that reflects the depth of our experiences. Yes, photography is the catalyst that unites us, but a tour encompasses so much more. It's not solely about capturing stunning images or honing your technical skills. It's about embarking on an unforgettable journey that enriches your life. These moments have the power to nourish your spirit and enhance your photographic perspective, contributing positively to the world around us. Although photography has united us, it is not our sole purpose in doing what we do.

- At our core, we view the connections with our clients as deeply collaborative and reciprocal partnerships, rather than mere client/instructor/guide interactions. We embrace a shared journey of growth, learning, and appreciation for the wonders of our world. Our collective aim is to enact positive change, leaving an environment that's more enlightened than we found it. Our hope is that MPA transcends the traditional boundaries of photographic educational tours; and our tours become an enriching life adventure.

- Traveling can often be a taxing experience. Especially internationally. It's common for some to become fatigued and encounter moments of stress. We're here to provide support and assistance where possible. However, let's remember to embrace the spirit of exploration and adventure that comes with your journey.

- We'd like to remind you that while we diligently organize your tours, there are aspects like airline timetables, regulations, and various other elements that are beyond our sphere of influence in travel and logistics. We're committed to ensuring you're well-prepared for your journey, yet we urge you to embrace adaptability and maintain a flexible mindset throughout your travels.

- It is not feasible for us to possess knowledge of every camera system or photography product available. Nonetheless, we are committed to doing everything within our power to provide solutions for our clients and to collaborate with our colleagues to achieve this goal.

- We are here to serve, but we are not here to be your servants. This is the same for anyone we encounter such as guides, waitstaff etc. We hold our clients in high regard and request that they reciprocate with respect. not only to us, but all those we encounter on our journey.

- We do not know it all nor do we or others enjoy it when people like to be “know it all’s”.

- We will put in a lot of effort for every tour. However, it is important to note that we cannot be available 24/7. Since photography tours are dynamic in nature, we do not adhere to regular office hours. The instruction time must be flexible, adapting to the unfolding events of each day.

- We will be available to provide instruction and assistance during all photography sessions. We will have various times available for image reviews, editing, and other informal gathering times, depending on the specific tour length. These times will also be flexible, considering the nature of running a tour like this.

- Clients should understand that during tours, there is a mutual exchange of questions and information. We will ask our clients questions, and it is important for our clients to also ask us questions. This applies not only to photography instruction but also to any needs or issues that we may be able to assist with. By doing so, we can ensure that we address any issues and find suitable solutions if possible. Otherwise, without open communication, we won't even know if there is an issue to address. ***Communication is always a "two-way street".***

- ***Having a positive attitude daily is key.*** Overall negative attitudes, complaining, whining, and trying to get others to be a part of negative thoughts and behavior, as well as comments such as "everyone thinks this or that" will not be tolerated and "called out" if need be. Bottom line - this is supposed to be a great, fun, and exciting time together. Let's make sure it is for everyone!

- At MPA, we operate as a cohesive team. We are not only business owners and professional photographers, but we are also good friends. With each of us having extensive experience in the field, we relentlessly focus on enhancing our skills through continuous education and self-improvement, both as photographers and educators.

- We value the fact that each of us has a unique approach to teaching. This allows our clients to benefit from different perspectives and thought processes that aid in their learning. Rather than imposing "our" way, the MPA goal is to assist you in discovering and understanding what works best for you as an individual. Our aim is to help you find "your" way.

- We as human beings possess a strong sense of concern for our actions and strive to achieve excellence. Our utmost effort is all that we can offer, and we anticipate a remarkable collective experience together.

- Our goal is to provide an inclusive experience for all types of photographers with varying skills and personalities on our tours. We strive to cater to diverse photographic abilities within a group setting and accommodate everyone's unique needs. We are passionate about making sure all participants benefit from our tours. We welcome everyone!

Let's have an AMAZING time together! -Thank you - The MPA Team

TRAVELER RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE

Meet our friends at Exito Travel – they're basically your new personal flight concierge. You know how booking flights for photography tours can be a huge headache? Well, that's about to change.

Here's what makes this partnership special: Exito Travel does all the heavy lifting. Just tell them when and where you need to go, and they'll handle everything else. And I mean everything.

The best part? They're like your guardian angel of air travel. **If your flight gets delayed or canceled (we all know how fun that is), they jump into action. Their 24-hour emergency service means you're never stuck at an airport wondering what to do next. They'll work directly with the airlines to sort things out while you grab a coffee and relax.**

They'll take care of all the details – whether you want first class or economy, need to add your frequent flyer number, or have any special requests. All this personalized service for about $50 on average. Pretty sweet deal, right?

We've been searching for a solution like this for ages. After getting hundreds of questions about flight bookings (which we couldn't handle ourselves), we knew we needed to find a trusted partner who could give our guests the VIP treatment they deserve.

Ready to try it out? If you haven't booked your flights yet, just head over to their request form. Check the box for direct communication, and they'll reach out to help you plan everything. Once your flights are locked in, don't forget to send us your flight details using our form. And stay tuned – we're working on making this process even smoother in the future with some integrated possibilities.

The bottom line is that many people struggle with getting their flights, and also deal with all the issues when there are changes. These folks handle it all and after meeting in person with them, we are excited about providing our clients with someone to help them get exactly what they need.

Direct Link for MPA Clients
https://triptoaster.com/mckay_photography_academy/new_request

EXITO Emergency/after-hours contact info – please add this to your documents wherever relevant o US toll-free: 1-800-655-4053 prompt #9

o International/WhatsApp chat: 970-237-4399
o Email: clientservices@exitotravel.com

TRAVEL ITINERARY – ICELAND

PLEASE SEE DETAILED EMAIL that was sent regarding flights

- ***Flight Details Form:***
- Once you've booked your flights, please do the following:
- 1. Fill out the flight form listed on the flight logistics email
- 2. Forward us a copy of your itinerary to hello@mckaylive.com
- **A few key points to keep in mind:**
- **We Are Not Travel Agents:**
  While we provide flight recommendations, you are responsible for booking and managing your international flights. If this feels overwhelming, consider using a trusted travel agent to assist you or Exito.
- **Avoid Third-Party Booking Sites:**
  Never use third-party sites such as Expedia, Travelocity, or similar platforms to book your flights. If something goes wrong, the airlines will often direct you back to the third party, causing delays in resolving issues. Instead, book directly with the airlines—this approach is far more reliable.
- **Adjusting Your Travel Dates:**
  If you choose to arrive early or stay later, that's no problem! However, you'll need to make arrangements for additional airport transfers, hotels, and other logistics. We're happy to provide advice, but you'll need to ensure your plans are squared away.

FLIGHTS

Flight Recommendations: Most major airlines offer great options into Keflavík International Airport (KEF). Depending on your departure city, I recommend looking at:

Icelandair: Usually offers the most affordable flights.

Delta & United: These carriers often have direct flights from major US hubs like JFK, EWR, or MSP.
Arriving Early: As a reminder, our tour officially commences on the morning of September 15th. Because our tour itinerary focuses on the wilder parts of Iceland and doesn't spend much time in the city, I highly recommend arriving on or even before September 14th.

This gives you a fantastic opportunity to get adjusted to the time zone and explore Reykjavík. It's a wonderful city to walk around, with a fantastic food scene and unique culture that you won't want to miss!

If you're looking for things to do while you're right in the city, visitreykjavik.is is a fantastic resource. It's packed with great ideas and tours for exploring Reykjavik, like local food walks where you can try traditional Icelandic dishes or finding the best neighborhood geothermal pools to relax in like a local. It's a perfect way to spend any extra time you have before our tour starts.

Airport Transfer (The Flybus): To get from the airport to downtown and back, the most efficient method is the Flybus. You can book your tickets in advance here: Flybus Iceland Airport Transfer.

Crucial Note: When booking, please ensure you select the Flybus+ (Flybus Plus) option. The standard ticket only takes you to the central bus terminal, but the Flybus+ includes a transfer to a smaller shuttle that will drop you off directly at our recommended hotel, the Hilton Reykjavík Nordica.

Recommended Hotel: Hilton Reykjavík Nordica (You only need to book hotel for your early arrival the 14th and prior, AND departure the evening of the 22nd. Hotels ARE included during the tour dates.

Tour Recap:

Day 1: Sept 15th (Morning start)
Day 8: Sept 22nd (Evening return to Reykjavík) Suggest to book hotel and fly out on the 23rd or later.

ITINERARY

8 days Snæfellsnes, Golden Circle and South

Day 1: Snæfellsnes peninsula. Heading out from Reykjavik in the morning towards the west. Visiting Kirkjufell mountain and Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall and a few more interesting photography locations on the north side of the peninsula. Berserkjahraun lava field, Selvallafoss waterfall, a hidden gem, and Svöðufoss waterfall. Also visiting a stranded ship on the coast. Accommodation at Arnarstapi or Hellnar for 2 nights.

Day 2: Continue with the Snæfellsnes peninsula, visiting Djúpalónssandur beach and Lóndrangar sea stacks. A deserted old farmhouse with a small stream next to it, beautiful cliffs and old harbour at Hellnar and Gatklettur arch in Arnarstapi village. Another night at Arnarstapi or Hellnar.

Day 3: Checking out and heading east towards the Golden Circle. Stopping at Búðir black church and Bjarnarfoss waterfall and Ytri-Tunga beach where it is possible to photograph seals. From there heading to Hraunfossar waterfalls, beautiful pristine water flowing out of an old lava field. From there heading towards Þingvellir National Park, visiting Öxarárfoss waterfall and seeing the fractures and fissures between the tectonic plates. Brúarfoss
„blue“ waterfall at the end of the day. Accommodation one night at Gullfoss waterfall.

Day 4: Visiting Gullfoss waterfall and Geysir geothermal area. From there heading towards the south coast with a series of waterfalls, Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss and Kvernufoss. Also Dyrhólaey peninsula and Reynisfjara black sand beach. Accommodation one night in the Vík area.

Day 5: Checking out and heading towards Jökulsárlón, with a few stops on the way there. Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon, Lómagnúpur mountain and Svínafellsjökull glacier. From there heading towards Jökulsárlón and sunset at Fellsfjara „Diamond beach“. Accommodation 3 nights near Jökulsárlón.

Day 6: Morning session in the area around Jökulsárlón and Fjallsárlón glacier lagoon and Diamond beach. Continue exploring the area and refining your photography skills with the icebergs on the beach.

Day 7: Heading further east from Jökulsárlón to visit Vestrahorn mountain and Stokksnes beach, and from there Eystrahorn mountain range with a couple of stops in the area. Back to Jökulsárlón for sunset at night.

Day 8: Checking out and heading back to Reykjavik with a few short stops on the way back along the south coast, revisiting some locations we might have left out on day 5.

Aurora hunting will be on every night if weather conditions allow us to see some lights.

This itinerary may change due to conditions each day.

HEALTH

Vaccinations

Some international destinations require certain vaccinations such as Yellow Fever. Please check with your doctor or travel clinic as well as the country specific web sites about what vaccinations are required. This can also vary depending on where you are originating your flight from if outside of the US. No vaccinations are required for this tour.

Medications

You should carry an adequate supply of any prescribed medications you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage (not in checked baggage). ***You should have proof of prescription and if you have a narcotic, be sure to have a doctor's note clearly stating you have been prescribed the medication.***

Motion Sickness

You will encounter winding roads, waves, and other situations that can cause motion sickness. As we cannot guarantee front seats in vehicles, please be prepared with your own medications that work for you. Ask your doctor for advice.

CBD Oils / Hemp Products / Ammunition

Please note that YOU are responsible for carrying any products which may be illegal in some states or countries. In many countries, the punishment even for CBD oils or even a bullet is SEVERE!

Fruit, Animals Products, Foods

These products may also be illegal to carry across state lines and from country to country. BE SURE TO DECLARE ANY ITEMS YOU MAY HAVE. Keep in mind, it is very easy to forget that banana that was handed to you on the plane! This can cause great difficulty for you while traveling. Especially abroad!

Physical Disabilities and Mobility Issues

Travelers with physical disabilities and those who require frequent or ongoing medical attention should advise us of their health situation at the time of booking.

Smoking

Smoking is permitted in designated areas only. We kindly ask you to be patient with this feature and respectful of non-smokers. Especially if you have a roommate that does not smoke. Also, PLEASE bring a small disposable bag(s) to place used cigarette butts in. Do NOT under any circumstances throw it away on the ground.

Basic Health and Safety

It is important for your own safety that you are in good health and have taken all appropriate precautions. We cannot be responsible for your own health related issues. PLEASE take all needed precautions.

SAFETY

As participants in our photography tour, we trust that you will exercise caution to avoid putting yourself in danger. It's a universal truth that accidents or health issues can occur anywhere in the world, but deliberately seeking out danger not only endangers you but also burdens the tour guides and fellow travelers. You've acknowledged and accepted these risks by signing a liability waiver agreement, understanding that you are joining this tour at your own risk. This, however, doesn't entitle you to reckless behavior that might jeopardize your safety, disrupt the group, or endanger others.

We urge you to avoid unnecessary risks. Over the years, we have witnessed clients and others in risky environments making unwise decisions—like venturing too close to cliff edges, standing on exposed rocks by turbulent seas, or loitering in the roads. Such actions are not only dangerous; they're ill-advised.

If we, as tour leaders, observe any behavior that we deem unsafe for you or others, we will intervene. Nevertheless, remember that you are primarily responsible for your own safety. It's essential to remain mindful of your environment and not let the pursuit of the perfect photograph cloud your judgment. The pursuit of photography should never come at the cost of your well-being or life. Please prioritize safety above all.

Please avoid these items below and use common sense.

- Standing too close to edges of cliffs or in places, you could easily fall or be swept out to sea, being seriously injured or dying.
- Standing in or too close to the road.
- Carrying too much gear while hiking and/or climbing.
- Hiking trails that are too difficult for your ability.
- Not being aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Not knowing your own limits.
- Wearing shoes that are not meant for the task at hand.
- Using drugs/and or alcohol that alters the mind and your safety.
- Going out alone or without letting the tour leaders know where you are at.

SECURITY & SAFETY

Iceland is VERY safe and crime is rare. But as always, please consider these items.

Documents & Identification

- Make digital and paper copies of your passport, visa, ID, and travel insurance
- Store copies in separate locations (cloud + luggage + daypack)
- Know your passport's expiration date and visa rules
- Carry your passport securely—use a money belt or hidden pouch

Money & Valuables

- Carry multiple forms of payment (credit card, debit, some cash)
- Notify your bank of international travel
- Use RFID-blocking wallets
- Avoid displaying expensive jewelry or electronics (outside of gear)
- Split cash between different bags or pockets
- Use hotel safes when available

Phone & Digital Security

- Enable Find My Phone or equivalent tracking
- Use strong passwords and biometric locks
- Avoid public Wi-Fi for banking or sensitive logins
- Use a VPN when connecting to public networks
- Back up your phone before traveling
- Keep emergency contacts saved offline

Luggage Safety

- Use TSA-approved locks
- Never leave bags unattended
- Use luggage trackers (AirTag, Tile, etc.)
- Keep essentials in your carry-on

SECURITY & SAFETY

Iceland is VERY safe and crime is rare. But as always please consider these items.

Transportation Safety

- Use official taxis, rideshares, or hotel-arranged transport
- Avoid unmarked or unofficial vehicles

Situational Awareness

- Stay alert in crowded or tourist-heavy areas
- Avoid distractions like excessive phone use in public
- Trust your instincts—leave if something feels wrong

Social Safety

- Let someone know where you are going
- Go in pairs or more
- Avoid oversharing your travel plans with strangers

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We are SO EXCITED and are sure you must be as well about your upcoming trip! You are joining us on this amazing photographic adventure! In our experience leading trips, we have seen a lot of things come up, and in many cases, LAST MINUTE. For this reason, it is HIGHLY recommended to have trip insurance**.**

Remember, airfare, hotels, tours, as well as our policies are non-refundable. Trip insurance can help in the event of any unforeseen legitimate issue before OR during a trip. You MUST understand the importance of this and why we constantly tell people to get insurance!

Protect yourself~protect your investment. You would never imagine that you would not be taking the wonderful trip you are planning! Life happens! There are so many things that can change before your travel dates that might prevent you from traveling. There are also events that can change your plans while you are traveling that might require you to alter your trip, return home early or be delayed due to an accident or illness. Lost luggage, lost documents or lost belongings can also hamper your well- made plans!

We are NOT an insurance provider, and we can simply refer you to someone that can help you obtain coverage. There are several trip insurance carriers, and it can be confusing to know where to get the best coverage and rates.

For this reason, we are working with Brandon Hughbanks of Travel Insurance Center. Brandon represents most of the top travel insurance companies and can help you get the best rate for the options you need based on where you live as well.

We LOVE our tours, and we LOVE what we do. For them to be the very best available anywhere, we must clarify once again, McKay Photography Academy polices. To make sure that as a photography tour participant, our policies are understood with-out question.

Due to an influx of people contacting us asking us for help, understanding, refunds, credit and more when something unexpected happens and they are unable to attend, we need to address this once again. This is written notice that if for ANY REASON you are unable to attend, we are unable to refund or credit your trip.

It is very clear as stated in our policies, contracts, web site, emails, and conversations that trip insurance IS your security for the unexpected. We are not and cannot be responsible for doing much when a choice is made by someone to not obtain insurance, especially considering the amount of time we spend informing people to obtain it.

EVERY tour there is a situation, and we cannot stress enough, PLEASE get insurance. **If something happens and you are unable to attend for a variety of possible covered reasons, proper trip insurance will help you. IF YOU WERE TO GET HURT ABROAD, YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE WITHOUT IT!**

Of course, we would never want or expect something like that to happen, but it is best to be covered and prepared!

Any specific questions about insurance coverage, provisions, claims, etc. MUST be answered by your chosen provider, as McKay Photography Academy or any of their team, is unable to do more than give you the facts of our policies and that we highly recommend trip insurance.

travel insurance center®

Mark Reineke - Agent Representative CA

License # 4206943

SMS CA License #0802699

Toll Free: 1-866-979-6753 Ext. 3648 Direct:

402-343-3648

Fax: 402-343-9959

CULTURE AND RESPECT

Culture, Differences, Respect

- Please respect the customs and traditions of the places you visit and be appreciative of any help you are given.
- Treat everyone including those serving you with kindness, grace and without ordering them to do what you need.
- BE FLEXIBLE, because you will NEED to be! It is exciting and fun to have things different from our days at home. The reality of travel is that schedules and time frames WILL change. The more you can just go with the flow, the better off you will be!
- If you are set on getting to know everything two days in advance, you will find that you will be frustrated with the tour and with us.
- For many reasons, we sometimes change itinerary. Please trust that we know what we are doing, we are working on your behalf, and to have the best experience possible for everyone.

Food

- We will accommodate those with food allergies, vegetarians, and various dietary needs if we know in advance. We will do our best to do so, but please understand, sometimes in foreign countries, communication is difficult.
- Iceland serves a lot of Lamb and Fish. It is very fresh and amazing.
- They LOVE hot dogs and can be purchased at fuel stations and they are YUMMY!
- Traveling means trying new things and that includes food!
- Do not under any circumstances say "ewwwww, that's gross, I'm not eating that" when someone brings out food. It is rude and disrespectful. Simply pass and try something else. This may have been special just for us.
- **SNACKS** - There may be times when we go for a bit without food. If you have issues, please purchase snacks for the road. You do not need to pack these unless you have a specific item you need. We will stop at a store where plenty can be purchased.

GENERAL TRAVEL TIPS

Air Travel

- To avoid jet-lag try to stay hydrated on the plane, and if possible, avoid alcohol. Getting up, stretching and muscle flexing exercises can help circulation. Some people find it helpful to bring sleeping pills for the longest flight.
- "Pick me ups" can be helpful such as Vitamin B. Drink mixes like Zipfiz, Emergen-c, Airborn and No-Jet-Lag tabs can be good to have handy as well. Some people experience constipation after long flights so you may want to bring along something for that as well.

Batteries

- **All lithium and camera batteries should ONLY be with you as carry-on.** Do not pack in your regular luggage.
- Keep camera batteries and any lithium batteries in your carry on. DO NOT store in camera in flight as electronics at altitude can result in dead pixels in your sensor.

Change of Clothes

- An extra day or two of change of clothes in a carry on, is also advised in case luggage gets misplaced by the airline.

Extra Collapsible Bag

- If you bring an extra 'collapsible bag' with you then you might have extra room to hand-carry something home with you and/or bring souvenirs. It is not recommended to put any breakables in your checked luggage if it can be avoided.

Extra Glasses

- If you need glasses to function, be sure to bring an extra pair of glasses. Remember your sunglasses.

Weather

- Check the weather a couple weeks prior to travel and again every 3-4 days to see the trend. Weather can always be unpredictable.
- ***The weather in Iceland will vary. We will have some cold days and nights. Layers are key! PLEASE SEE CLOTHING SUGGESTION PAGE.***
- ***A light rain jacket is always a good idea to have along.***
- Please do not ask us each day what the weather will be like. Everyone has their own comfort and temperature levels.

ELECTRONICS

Travel Adapter

We recommend bringing an “ALL IN ONE” adapter that will work around the world in several outlets.

We use the “Epicka” brand and have found it works great. On international tours, there is no need to bring a heavy and bulky power converter, they tend to not work well. Most electronics run between 110 and 220/240 volts. We always travel with a small extension cord with USB outlets as well

PASSPORT / VISA

Passport

- International Travel - Make sure your passport is valid for a minimum of 6 months from the time you depart for the tour!
- Please make sure you have at LEAST two empty pages in your passport for stamps and VISA if needed for where traveling. Please be sure it does not expire with a min of 6 months from departure date left.
- Copy of Passport - ASAP - Please send us a copy of your passport right away to hello@mckaylive.com . We need to have these on file and for the in country flights we book as well as for emergency needs.

VISA

A VISA is not currently required for US Citizens.

ATMS / CASH / CREDIT CARDS

ATMS

ATMs are in most locations in cities now throughout the world though not all ATMs are accessible 24 hours. ATMs generally accept all major debit, credit, and cash-only cards. Cirrus (tel. 800/424-7787; www.mastercard.com) and PLUS (tel. 800/843-7587; www.visa.com) cards are almost universally accepted in ATMs.

PLEASE check with your bank ahead of the tour to make sure your debit/credit card can be used at an ATM and that you have the correct PIN number. A PIN number may also be required with a purchase using your credit card! Let your financial institution know you are traveling and the locations, so they do not place "hold" on your card thinking it is fraud.

If you try to get monies out of an ATM, and it does not work, DO NOT ATTEMPT MORE THAN THREE TIMES as the machine may keep your card.

Debit vs Credit Cards

In Iceland, Credit Cards are the preferred way of purchasing items. You are welcome to exchange a little bit of cash at a local bank if you prefer, but will find it most likely not needed. We recommend avoiding using a debit card whenever possible for security reasons.

ALWAYS travel with at least two different credit cards. One is for back-up if it does not work or if fraud/theft happens. American Express is not as widely accepted in many locations around the world. Be sure to have a VISA and MasterCard.

Cash to Bring

The question of how much cash to bring is asked of us often. This is a difficult question as everyone has different spending habits and preferences of how they spend. This also varies greatly depending on where the tour takes place.

Be sure that your cash on hand is newer bills that have no tears or marks on them as they may not be accepted for exchange.

Currency Exchange

In Iceland, Credit Cards are the preferred way of purchasing items. You are welcome to exchange a little bit of cash at a local bank if you prefer, but will find it most likely not needed. Some cash for gratuities is helpful.

GRATUITIES

Tipping is always done at the discretion of the guest. We receive a LOT of thoughts and feedback on tipping from clients. It seems that the number of opinions on it are as varied as the weather!

We understand the thoughts on tipping can be very sensitive and for us it is as well. As a company, we believe in generosity and honoring those that do work on all our behalf.

There is a lot that goes into why our policies are the way they are. We have tried every possible way and suggestions such as gratuities being included in the tour price, having it paid in advance to us here in the States, and many others.

The reality is we cannot carry personally that much cash ourselves into a country for many reasons. Also, EVERY DIME that we receive as a business, by law, must be accounted for by tourism boards. It simply becomes unmanageable for us.

As mentioned, MPA as a company works to be generous in our own tipping to vendors and those we work with as well that are working so hard to make sure everyone is taken care of. This goes beyond what we are "paying" them.

Please note that pre-paid tipping does not work as we cannot carry that much cash on us in foreign countries without declaring those funds.

Specifics for Iceland

Guide - Please plan on a minimum of $15-$20 per person, per day to be given to the guides at the end of the tour.

Suggested minimum amounts for MPA team members.

• International Tour - We find the average person as a photographer tends to give$150 -$200 per photographer to each instructor for the entire tour depending on the length of the tour. The average international tour is 10 days. If you are on a longer tour or a long extension, please consider this.

• MPA team members can accept digital payments such as Zelle , Venmo and Paypal.

GROUP DYNAMICS

Embarking on a journey with a photography group is often a remarkable experience. It comes with numerous benefits, as we've observed that virtually all group members form strong bonds and lasting friendships. The conclusion of our tours is often marked by heartfelt farewells, underscoring the sense of camaraderie that develops during our shared adventures.

We anticipate that this tour will be engaging, adaptable, and a superb chance for everyone to enhance their photography skills while exploring new places together. Our commitment is to uphold the McKay ethos of Photography, Travel, Friendship, and Adventure.

However, there is an occasional time when someone may struggle with group dynamics or exhibit a consistently negative demeanor. In such cases, we encourage kindness and respect among all participants. It's natural to connect with certain individuals more than others, and that's perfectly fine. Should you find yourself not resonating with someone, we advise maintaining peace and steering clear of confrontations.

The secret to a fulfilling group experience is to embrace the moment, engage with fellow travelers, stay calm, and be adaptable – allowing yourself to enjoy the trip without worrying about minor details like the logistics of transportation or seating arrangements. Letting trivial issues get under your skin not only diminishes your own enjoyment but can also cast a shadow over the group's collective mood. We are committed to preventing such negativity from affecting the tour.

On the flip side, carrying a positive, laid-back, and enthusiastic attitude can have an infectious effect on the group, enhancing the overall experience. Tours characterized by vibrant energy, enjoyable interactions, and a willingness to go with the flow often result in the most memorable and satisfying adventures for everyone involved.

At McKay Photography Academy (MPA), we take pride in delivering outstanding photography tours. With a track record of guiding hundreds of clients across the globe, our passion for what we do shines through. It's important to recognize that not all aspects of touring can be controlled; unexpected changes and unforeseen events are part of the adventure.

This tour is your opportunity to unwind, relish your time with us, and fully immerse yourself in the experience you're about to undertake. Allow the MPA team to assist and educate you in your photography pursuits. In short, cherish the company of your fellow travelers as we embark on this journey of photography and exploration together.

GROUP COMMUNICATION

Group Communication

Approximately 3 - 4 weeks prior to the tour and during our tour we will utilize the app “GroupMe” to stay in touch and provide you with updates throughout our time together. GroupMe provides free group messaging - like a private chat room for a small group.

This is a great way for you to also communicate with your fellow photographers and tour members. We recommend installing the app on your phone and signing up for the free service prior to the start of the tour. We will send out invitations to join the chat in the weeks leading up to the tour.

Saying hello via the Groupme app ahead of time, is an excellent way to start getting to know and bonding with the group ahead of the tour! GroupMe works over cell networks, wifi and via SMS. You can find more information here. https://groupme.com/apps

Communication with MPA

Clients try to reach us in many ways. Please note that we cannot be available 24 hrs a day on all forms of communication apps. Due to our heavy travel schedule, we ask you to use the following protocols to communicate with us to get the quickest response.

- Prior and after a tour - Please use the email hello@mckaylive.com as the primary form of communication prior to each tour. The entire MPA team all have access, and this allows for a quicker response.
- During a tour - Please use the tour groupme messaging. If it needs to be private, please ask the tour leader to reach out to you. They will set up a time to meet with you or to communicate separately via preferred methods of each person.
- Please also note that while groupme allows for PM's. The team does not always see a private message. Those easily get buried in the communication happening with all the various tour groups going on and many times get missed.

Emergency /Flight Delays/ Assistance

1- Use the hello@mckaylive.com email address AND send a message on groupme.

2- Please give your family the hello@mckaylive.com email in case they must reach you and are having any issues doing so.

PHOTOGRAPHY

GEAR SUGGESTIONS AND ADVICE

PHOTOGRAPHY GEAR / BASE LIST

Learning and Fun

For many of you, this may be your first photography tour and not only are you unsure of what to do and how this will go. You may feel overwhelmed with what to bring! Do not worry, we are here to help!

Please understand there will be various levels of photo participants on this trip and we are here to help you at all levels and skill sets!

If you are a beginner photographer, we will help you every step of the way. We are here to help EVERYONE. If all this seems a little daunting to you, no worries, we will help you get what you want/ need for this trip. There is no need for you to feel intimidated or out of place if this is your first trip with McKay Photography Academy.

General Photography Tour Suggested Equipment List

- Camera(s)* (Having a backup body is HIGHLY recommended - at the minimum a point and shoot or a phone if under 2 years old could be used as a backup)
- Camera Lenses (See Lenses page)
- Camera Bag (We love ThinkTank and Mindshift Gear-(See upcoming pages)
- Lightweight Bag for day excursions
- Plenty of Memory Cards (Multiple 256GB and/or 512GB cards)
- Batteries & Charger Minimum 3 batteries
- Sturdy Tripod AND an extra plate.
- Laptop - Optional but highly recommended!
- External hard drive - For images storage & backup
- Small Flashlight/Headlamp
- Lens Cloth

LENS CHOICES

It is important to understand first and foremost, **there is no one lens that is perfect.** We are asked all the time “what lens should I use?” Our answer is always the same. What do you see? How do you want to see it? What do you want to capture in the scene? The answer to those questions will dictate lens choice.

Beyond all the regular gear, you may be considering bringing; your lenses are a huge part of the gear list. Again, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about your gear, what you may be considering purchasing or renting, and in general just any help you need with choosing lenses.

The main lenses to consider bringing are a wide angle, a medium range, and a longer telephoto. In the coming section you will see what we recommend for this tour specifically.

Remember that EVERYONE “sees” differently and there is no wrong choice for a lens. *How you want to capture and interpret a scene becomes the way you choose what lens to use. This can be as unique and personal as each person on a tour.*

Lenses can and will range from a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars each depending on the quality and expectations of performance, focal length, and aperture available. As you develop as a photographer, you will learn what best suits your needs and budget.

When preparing for a tour, weight can be a deciding factor. How much gear do you really want to lug around? Personally, I do not carry everything with me when hiking or walking around cities. However, I do usually bring most of my lenses on a tour with me and if we are not walking a lot and have access to our vehicles easily (most tours this is the case),then I keep them in the vehicle with easy access to get to. It never hurts to bring the gear, except when weight is a major factor when we have very small internal flights in a country.

Each tour is specific as well. If we are doing lots of wildlife, you will need your longest telephoto lens whereas for nighttime star photography, a wide-angle lens is needed with a small aperture is preferred.

All in one lens options: If you are looking for a great versatile "all in one" style lens that will not break the bank and give you the ability to pretty much capture everything except the widest-angle images, in one lens that covers fairly wide to long telephoto, there are many choices available.

Mirrorless System All in one lens options: Many of the new Mirrorless Camera Systems have new “all around lenses”. Canon for example has the excellent 24-240mm lens which is a great option for a tour like this and others. Nikon has the new and also excellent Z 28-400mm lens and Sony has several options.

If you have specific questions on gear, please contact Toby Gelston toby@mckaylive.com and use his links he will provide you with.

LENS ACCESSORIES / FILTERS

Lens Hood/Shade

Don't waste money on UV filters. In general, we are not a fan of UV filters, as they offer little protection from a fall, and they reduce the quality of your lens. People will spend thousands of dollars to have very sharp glass, only to place a $35 filter over it. Use a lens hood!

We prefer lens hoods as they do offer some protection from falls and nicely protect the end of the lens from coming into contact with random objects without degrading image quality. We do prefer camera brand lens hoods/shades,. We have tried a few of the third party lens hoods and they often fit just a bit awkwardly making the putting on and taking off just a bit slower.

Filters

Circular Polarizer filters are useful. The benefits of a CP filter include:

- A reduction of reflections and glare
- A reduction of haze and blue cast in landscapes
- Adds saturation to your sky and greenery

SPECIALTY FILTERS & SYSTEMS

ND Filters: ND (Neutral Density) filters are used to take away light in the middle of the day to create longer exposures. As an example, if you want a waterfall to have that silky smooth look, but it is the middle of the day, it will be difficult to take a long exposure as too much light is coming in over-exposing the image.

By placing a ND filter on, you reduce light and therefore can do longer exposures. You can do this for other images as well such as clouds moving and smoothing out a lake.

We recommend AVOIDING a Variable ND filter. No matter what the store says to get! The reason is that at higher aperture settings, you can see where the variance changes in your image. It tends to look like a weird X through the image.

ND Filters come in all types of numbers that represent how much light is taken away. From very little (1 stop) to totally dark (10 stop). This is why salespeople like to recommend the variable all in one. The darker the filter, the more light you can take away thus creating even longer exposures.

However, rather than that, using just one or two will usually get the results you like. If you want to choose one for now, start with a 6 Stop ND filter. This will take away 6 stops of light and get you results for most situations you may want.

Types of Filter Systems

Thread Mounting – These screw into the front of your lens. Recommended Brands for thread mount to your lens.

- Budget (Tiffen)
- Middle (Hoya)
- High-end (B+W)

With all filters, be sure to get the right size screw on for your lens. Ex 77mm. 72mm etc

Magnetic Mount – The new Magnetic Mount Systems from Maven are excellent. They are expensive but worth it if you start using filters a lot and decide to get serious with your photography.

Order yours HERE!

TRIPODS

A tripod is essential for capturing clear images during night photography and when utilizing long exposures. It's important to choose a tripod that is both light for easy transport and robust enough to ensure stability.

On every tour, we encounter participants struggling with tripods that are too weak to support their cameras properly. It's crucial to have a reliable tripod if you are bringing one, but this does not necessarily mean spending a lot of money. However, inexpensive video tripods, like those for $39 from electronics stores, or second-hand ones that might come from a relative, are inadequate.

The whole point of taking long exposure photos is to keep your camera perfectly still. If you're in need of a tripod or are contemplating getting one, don't hesitate to reach out to us via email for advice.

Here is a budget friendly tripod we recommend:

- MeFoto Road Trip (Titanium) is an excellent and very reasonable priced tripod. It is lightweight and yet sturdy for most applications. There are many options of tripods and we are happy to help.

Tour Specific – A decent tripod is a MUST for this tour! Please reach out to toby@mckaylive.com for many other suggestions

MEMORY CARDS / BACKUP

Memory Cards

You will shoot WAY more images than you would ever expect on this trip. Because we are photographing almost the entire time and you will want to shoot A LOT to get the best images, have EXTRA CARDS!

We will also be teaching you to shoot in RAW mode, which is the highest quality but also uses the most memory. We cannot stress enough the importance of having enough memory cards as there are no stores always available out on the tour! We recommend 256gb and 512gb cards. If the tour is for wildlife, we recommend several as you will shoot thousands of images.

Do not try to shoot everything on a single big memory card UNLESS YOU BACK UP daily to at least two locations. If that card goes bad, your camera gets stolen, and all your images are in one place, that would be a painful lesson to learn! Even if you choose to do this, ALWAYS HAVE A BACK UP CARD ALONG!

We also recommend that until you are certain that your memory card has been backed up in two locations, when it is not in use, turn it over in the card holder case to indicate it has not yet been backed up and should not be used.

Preparing and Formatting Memory Cards

To clean cards, it is best to format your cards in camera vs hitting delete. This entirely cleans the card and leaves no hidden memory. Make sure all cards, including new ones, are formatted and READY BEFORE arriving!

Downloading & Backup tips

- Download your cards each day to your laptop AND to an external drive OR download cards to a computer and save exposed memory cards as is. The key is to have your images in 2 places and packed separately from each other.
- Be sure ALL images have transferred to TWO locations before formatting a card for reuse!
- Your equipment can be replaced, however your memories and images cannot. You will want to back up EVERYTHING each day! Store your external drive in your suitcase and used memory cards in your carry-on.
- Online backup can seem like a good option but can take too long to upload raw images in the field and where no Internet is available.
- Small light weight SSD drives are an excellent way to back up such as the Samsung 2TB Shield Portable as shown.
- **iPad - We have had several guests try to work with their iPads on tour for a backup solution. We have seen a lot of frustration with this and still recommend bringing a laptop.**

ACCESSORIES

Head Lamp

- Bringing a head lamp so that you can work at night/early mornings with your hands free is also invaluable. Be sure to have one that has the red lamp on it as well as this helps keep bring light down to a minimum while we are shooting.
- Make sure you can operate the red-light function easily as you will use this to not distract other photographers as much.

Batteries and Charger

- Make sure your batteries are all FULLY CHARGED before we go out to shoot! We recommend having at least 3 batteries with you.
- Remember, travel with your batteries in your camera bag and NOT in your camera body. They cannot be in your checked in luggage and do not keep them in the camera.
- We always recommend NAME BRAND batteries.

Camera Vest or Jacket

- If your camera gear equates to more than 8kg,(it will) it may be an issue for the flights for carry-on smaller planes you may encounter while traveling. DO NOT stress over it but have a plan. The plan is that they do not weigh what is on you personally. You can stuff your vest with items. Watch these videos!

Carry on Weight Work Around 1 - https://youtu.be/dDSkUmQt4ns

Carry on Weight Work Around 2 - https://youtu.be/k9D8I9bjLAg

TOUR SPECIFIC PHOTO GEAR

- Camera & Back-Up Camera (A must have)
- ALL lens lengths will work on this tour.
- A wide-angle with small f stop such as 2.8 is needed for aurora photography.
- A medium range lens will be useful for many images.
- A longer tele-photo lens will be great for many scenics as well as wildlife we may encounter
- Good sturdy tripod.
- Plenty of memory cards and/or back up options to re-use cards if need.
- Circular Polarizer filter will be helpful but optional.
- Three Camera Batteries – Name brand recommended.
- Battery Charger
- Comfortable Camera strap
- Rain Sleeve for wet weather
- Camera Bag that can be carried over the shoulders and placed in a seat.
- Vest or Jacket you can use to put gear in if carry-on weight is an issue.

TOUR SPECIFIC CLOTHING

Soft Sided Duffel Style Bag- ONLY. No hard cases. There are many companies such as Patagonia, Rei, Northface and L.L Bean that have excellent ones. Duffel's can have wheels . Any size is fine. Weight is your concern. If you go with a large duffel, it doesn't mean you have to fill it to the max. We use 120 liter bags ourselves.

Traveling to Iceland in September means preparing for cool, windy, often wet, and changeable weather — from mild sunshine to cold rain (and occasional near-freezing mornings) all in one day. Layering and waterproof gear are essential to stay comfortable and enjoy the outdoors.

Core Clothing & Layers

1. Base Layers

Moisture-wicking long underwear (tops and bottoms) — synthetic or merino wool keeps sweat off your skin and warmth in.

Avoid cotton as it stays wet and cold.

2. Mid Layers for Warmth

Fleece or wool sweaters/jumpers (e.g., a traditional Icelandic lopapeysa wool sweater if you like) for insulation.

Pack a couple so you can change if one gets damp.

3. Outer Waterproof/Windproof Shell

A good waterproof jacket with a hood is critical — Iceland sees frequent rain and wind.

Waterproof pants or rain pants you can layer over other pants.

Pants & Footwear

Waterproof or water-resistant hiking pants — quick-dry and windproof.

Waterproof hiking boots with good traction (muddy trails, wet ground are common).

Warm wool or moisture-wicking socks (bring several pairs).

Accessories (Very Helpful)

Warm hat/beanie — wind and rain can make it feel much colder than the thermometer says.

Waterproof gloves or warm mittens.

Scarf or neck gaiter for extra warmth.

Sunglasses for brighter days and glare off water or glaciers.

Typical Conditions

Temperatures often range from about 4–10 °C (39–50 °F) in September, with wind and rain making it feel colder.

Bottom line: think warm, waterproof, and layered. With the right clothes, Iceland's spectacular landscapes — waterfalls, coastlines, geothermal areas, and possibly even Northern Lights — are comfortable to explore no matter the weather.

RESOURCES/VIDEOS

Photo Gear

The more you are prepared with your gear, the better your experience will be.

We have many videos and written tutorials to help you prepare and understand getting around your camera and tripod as well as general packing tips and suggestions.

You should be able to adjust your Shutter Speed, Aperture/F-Stop, and ISO ahead of the tour. This does not mean you have to understand it all. However, please have an understanding on where these dials are and how to adjust them. You should also know how to correctly work with your tripod ahead of the tour. This will save crucial time while we are in the field.

We have specific videos to help guests prepare for a tour.

Please visit the MPA preparation tour page at the link below prior to the tour and the videos below.

MPA Tour Preparation Page - https://mckaylive.com/tour-resources/

Exposure and Settings

- Exposure Help Guide – A PDF Downloadable Help Guide!

- Basic Exposure Understanding
- https://mckaylive.com/sony-camera-controls-2-2/

- Canon Exposure Controls (Ex -60-80d, Mk and R Series) 2 Dial Systems
- https://youtu.be/25MYn56Z_z8

- Canon Exposure Controls EOS T Series Systems
- https://youtu.be/DR1vCC3HF7A

- Nikon Exposure Controls
- https://youtu.be/iwNmyDLICJg

- Sony Exposure Controls
- https://youtu.be/GPvfqqsD3gc

- Auto Focus Techniques with Toby
- https://youtu.be/X_pa9YxWbRg

- How to Back Up Images Properly
- https://youtu.be/8pZa88Ry3fU

- Back Up Diversity
- https://youtu.be/cAsaBIK4AGQ

- Star Photography Techniques
- https://youtu.be/-nHSvjUEmVw

- DxO DeNoise Software for those that Edit
- https://youtu.be/tFmzlkkjTTo

Gear

- Gear Prep for a Photo Tour
- https://youtu.be/b1puxVFeciE

- Camera Set up from the Box!
- https://mckaylive.com/basic-travel-tips-international-2/

- Filters Explained Easily
- https://youtu.be/68_ffH-OSgo

- Tripods – Set up and Use
- https://youtu.be/saGKxCZYNf8

- Tripods – How to Use Your Tripod
- https://youtu.be/AGzYb9wcqEE

- Tripods – NEW Tripod Tips
- https://youtu.be/4k4YSAPt-V4

Clothing, Packing and Flying

- How to Pack for A Tour (Safaris and More!)
- https://youtu.be/_pGMktMXvu8

- Packing Tips and Tricks with Ally
- https://youtu.be/2kJ-AwVM0ZQ

- More Packing Tips with Ally
- https://youtu.be/VKch8kcQOA0

- Insights with Ally for Travel Clothing
- https://mckaylive.com/insights-to-clothing-for-a-photo-tour/

- Layering up Clothing with Ally
- https://youtu.be/X2gYedZwLR0

- Organizing your Travel Clothing with Ally
- https://mckaylive.com/more-packing-tips-with-ally/

- Flight Carry on Weight – The Workaround!
- https://youtu.be/dDSkUmQt4ns

- Flight Carry on Weight Workaround – Video 2
- https://youtu.be/k9D8I9bjLAg

Other Needs and Items

- Travel Insurance – A MUST HAVE!
- https://youtu.be/_jD3Mab0-sA

- Get your MPA Swag!
- https://youtu.be/BVRxiLM_Ts

Toby Gelston Photorec.tv and MPA Instructor

We are proud to have a very special friendship and partnership with Tobias Gelston of PhotoRec.tv. Toby has worked with us now for over 10 years!

Toby runs a VERY COOL YouTube channel focusing on camera gear and equipment. He has over 340,000 subscribers!

Toby's goal is simple: He wants to help you be a better photographer by helping you find the gear you need and the know-how to use it.

If you have any questions about gear, you can email Toby directly via Toby@mckaylive.com and he will help you get what you need. He knows TONS of gear info.

Toby is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to amazon.com. Toby also participates with B&H Photo Video.

If you use Toby for advice, and even if you don't, please purchase through his links to either Amazon or B&H. You will get the best prices and help him out as well! This costs no more for you and helps support our friend Toby, which in turn helps us give you an even better photographic education.

Please use these links for your purchases!

Email Toby@mckaylive.com for gear advice!

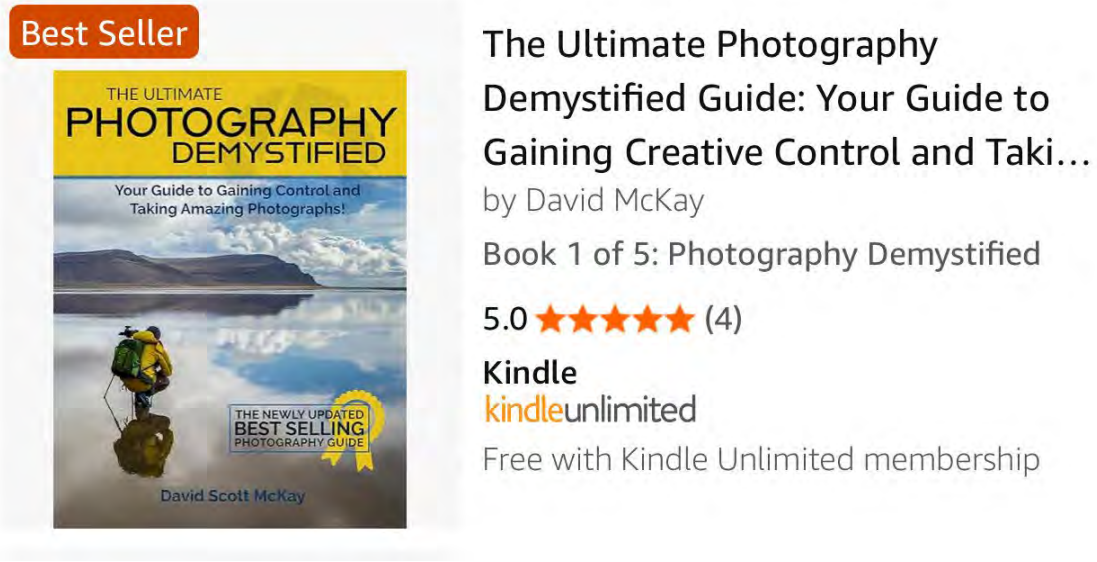
PHOTO ENTHUSIAST NETWORK

Interested in starting your photographic education before the tour and are not yet a member of Photo Enthusiast Network? We encourage you to join today!

This is a great place for you to grow, learn and belong in a wonderful photographic community run by the MPA team! Not only that, as an annual member you receive a tour discount voucher that more than pays for membership! Join today!

Photo Enthusiast Network is an educational and fun photography community run by David and Ally McKay, and Toby Gelston! FILLED with educational tutorials, videos, and weekly education as well as an amazing community of Photo Enthusiast to help share in your passion for photography!

We are SO PROUD of the community of over 500 members we have built, and this is such a great resource. JOIN TODAY - https://www.photoenthusiastnetwork.com/



The number one Best Seller Series by David McKay are available as a digital download and in hard copy. Amazon - Digital Download Print Edition

LENS PRO TO GO

We have partnered with LensProToGo for camera and lens rentals! Can't afford to buy or want to try it out first? Then RENT IT! Visit LensProToGo.com today! You can rent TOP OF THE LINE cameras and lenses and tripods for very little money.

Let them know you will be on this tour with McKay Photography Academy! You can use the code below from Photo Enthusiast Network for 15% off any order. Sometimes, they have a special going as well, so always call, let them know you are going on our tour, and see what they have available. They are always very helpful!

USE CODE PEN15 for 15% off any gear rental at anytime!

Lens Pro To Go - https://www.lensprotogo.com/

We LOVE working with ThinkTank & MindShift Gear and sharing their gear with our clients. When ordering cases and packs through our links you receive a free gift when you purchase at least $50 of gear, free ground shipping, and the best customer service in the industry!

Click here to order directly from ThinkTank and MindShift.- https://www.thinktankphoto.com/?rfsn=141206.b44047

Ally and David currently use the ThinkTank Airport Roller Derby bag to fit all their gear in while GETTING to the location.

Their Roller Derby's have traveled to all 7 continents more than once and continue to stand up to the hardest of travel conditions. Once there, using a bag such as the MindShift 13L to carry what is needed out for a shoot is there go to.

The McKay's prefer to travel lighter and do NOT want to carry everything all the time. They each tend to use smaller back packs while out in the field. These are great , but some times people prefer a larger backpack based on what they are carrying and how it fits their body shape.

The MindShift 26L Back Pack is awesome for those that want to carry more while on the go. The18L is a smaller version.

MCKAY PHOTO TOURS