

NORTHERN LIGHTS & WINTER LANDSCAPES EXPEDITION

ICELAND

December 8–17, 2026

Led by Kelvin Yuen & Matan Sharon



MW PHOTO TOURS

Expedition Highlights

A Masterclass in the Elements

1 Dedicated Nocturnal Photography

Maximizing December's extended darkness to track and capture the Aurora Borealis whenever solar activity and skies align.

2 Elite Small Group

Limited to 8 participants, ensuring high mobility and direct, 1-on-1 access to our lead photographers

3 Prime Strategic Locations

Exclusive focus on Iceland's most dramatic winter venues, specifically the Snæfellsnes Peninsula and the Glacier Lagoons.

4 Real-Time Critique & Mentorship

On-site professional guidance, including post-processing sessions and portfolio building throughout the expedition.

5 Strategic Luxury Accommodations

Hand-picked lodges situated near key shoot locations to minimize transit and allow rapid response to changing weather.

Expedition Essence



Duration: 10 Days



Group Size: Max 8 Participants



Accommodations: Premium Hotels & Lodges

In December, Iceland transforms into a unique natural studio. The combination of long nights—maximizing our Aurora window—and a sun that remains low on the horizon all day, creates lighting conditions found nowhere else on Earth. This expedition is engineered for these exact conditions: we are here to master the light, the ice, and the vastness at their absolute peak.



Iceland in Winter: **A Study in Contrast**

Winter in Iceland is a theater of extremes: volcanic black basalt, ethereal blue ice, and pristine snow. The dynamic weather—a blend of fierce winds, shifting clouds, and sudden precipitation—is the very soul of dramatic landscape photography. We don't just look for clear skies; we seek the moments where the elements collide to create powerful, once-in-a-lifetime compositions.

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Where the Vision Unfolds

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark jacket and a Bose headset, sitting in the pilot's seat of a helicopter. The cockpit is visible, with various instruments and controls. The helicopter is flying over a body of water, and the view through the windshield shows a dramatic, rugged mountain landscape under a clear blue sky. The mountains are dark and rocky, with some snow or ice patches. The lighting suggests it might be early morning or late afternoon, with long shadows and a warm glow.

1 Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Dramatic fieldwork against the basalt cliffs of Arnarstapi and the iconic peak of Kirkjufell

2 The South Coast

Documenting colossal waterfalls and vast black sand beaches under a winter mantle

3 Glacier Region

Capturing the surreal "Diamond Beach" and floating icebergs in the glacier lagoons, offering endless opportunities for long-exposure work

The Mission

Documenting the Aurora

Photographing the Aurora Borealis requires technical precision and logistical readiness. We continuously monitor solar activity data and local cloud-coverage forecasts. We deploy to the field the moment conditions converge, whether in the late hours of the night or the early dawn. Our goal is not just to capture the Aurora, but to weave it into a perfectly balanced, professional-grade landscape composition.



Expedition Timeline

Day 1

Arrival

Arrival in Reykjavik & Logistical Orientation.

Days 2–4

Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Coastal landscapes and basalt formations

Days 5–6

The South Coast

Mastery of waterfalls and open expanses

Days 7–8

Glacier Region

High-winter lagoons and ice formations

Day 9–10

Conclusion

Portfolio Review, Final Wrap-up, and Return to Reykjavik. Expedition Conclusion & Departures.

Shooting Conditions & Technique

Fieldwork in Iceland during December tests both gear and photographer. It demands mastery of long exposures, precision focus in total darkness, and resilience against strong winds and snow. We will practice advanced techniques such as Exposure Bracketing and the professional use of filters to capture the full dynamic range of the scene as it unfolds before the lens.





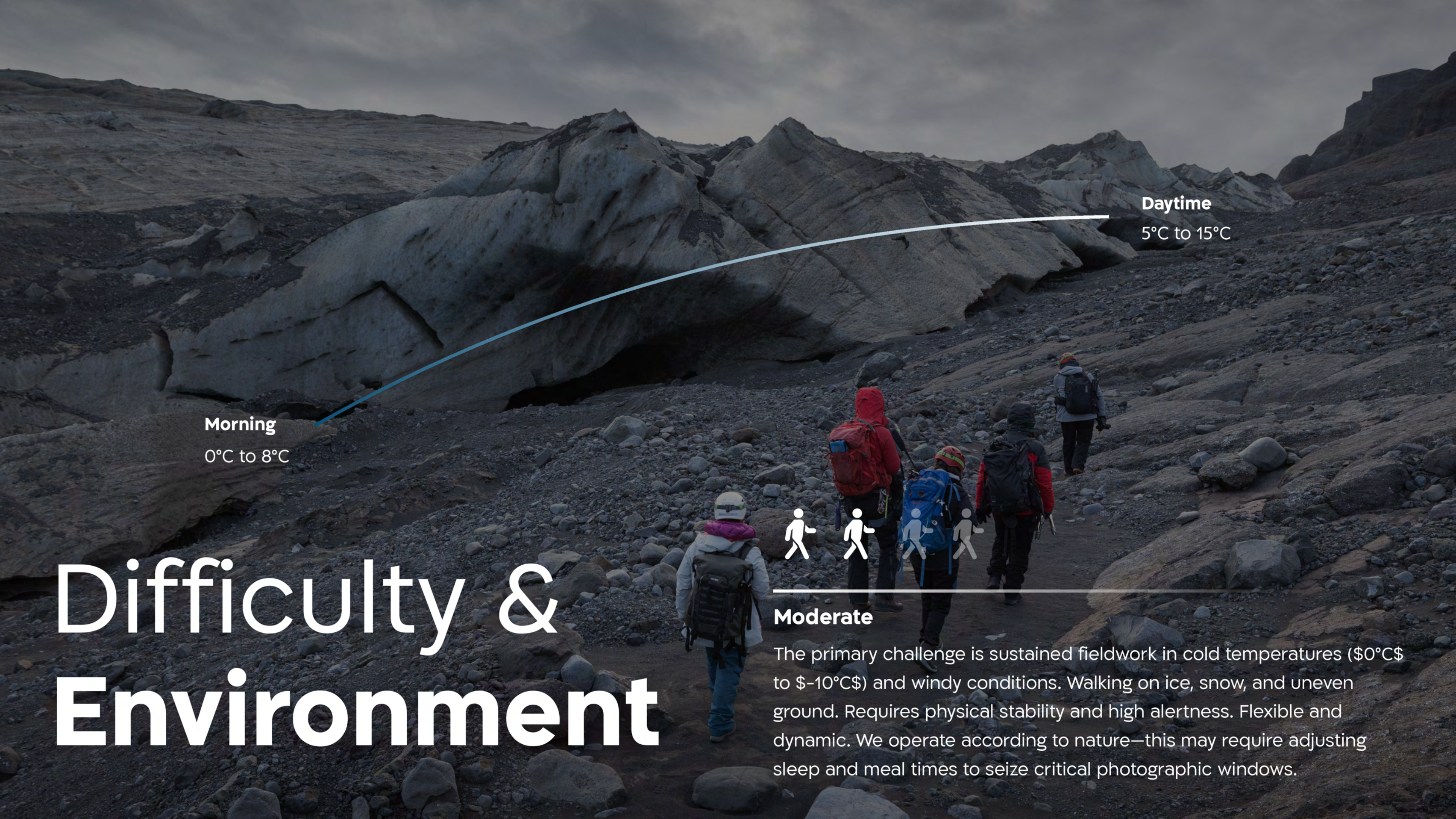
Expert Mentorship

World-Class Landscape Photography

Kelvin Yuen: International Landscape Photographer of the Year. Kelvin brings a unique artistic vision and an absolute mastery of composition and lighting.

Matan Sharon: Founder of MW Photo Tours and a specialist in complex destination logistics, with extensive experience leading photography groups across Iceland.





Morning
0°C to 8°C

Daytime
5°C to 15°C



Moderate

The primary challenge is sustained fieldwork in cold temperatures (0°C to -10°C) and windy conditions. Walking on ice, snow, and uneven ground. Requires physical stability and high alertness. Flexible and dynamic. We operate according to nature—this may require adjusting sleep and meal times to seize critical photographic windows.

Difficulty & Environment

Accommodations



Hotels

Carefully selected for their high standards and strategic proximity to our shoot locations.



Transport

A modified 4x4 expedition vehicle designed for Icelandic winter conditions, operated by a professional local driver. The vehicle is spacious, ensuring secure and accessible storage for all camera gear.

Apparel & Personal Comfort

Recommended Colors

Please arrive with clothing in natural, muted tones



Layering System

Merino wool base layer, insulation (down or fleece), and a waterproof/windproof outer shell



Footwear

Fully waterproof and insulated hiking boots



Accessories

Photography gloves (allowing button operation), hand warmers, and thermal socks

Your ability to focus on the shot depends on your core temperature

Recommended Photography Gear

- ⦿ Cameras A primary body and a backup are essential for cold and damp environments
- ⦿ Lenses Ultra-wide (14-24mm) for Aurora and vistas; Standard (24-70mm); and Telephoto (70-200mm+) to isolate details in the landscape
- ⦿ Tripod Mandatory. A heavy-duty, stable tripod capable of withstanding Icelandic winds.
- ⦿ Power Minimum of 4 batteries and a high-quality headlamp for night operations

There is no need to be a professional photographer to take part in the expedition. Even without advanced equipment, it is possible to enjoy the encounters with wildlife and capture special moments in a personal and simple way.

Included

Expedition Tuition

€7,150

- ✓ 9 nights of premium accommodation
- ✓ Professional driver and 4x4 vehicle
- ✓ Expert leadership and photography instruction
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner throughout the route
*(excluding Reykjavík)
- ✓ Post-processing workshops

Important to Know

About three weeks before the expedition, we'll send a detailed preparation guide with everything you need to know – recommended gear, expected weather conditions, suitable clothing, electricity and plug information, and general guidelines for working in the field and inside the hides.

Not Included

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Travel and equipment insurance
- ✗ Meals in Reykjavík
- ✗ Personal expenses



Payment & Cancellation Terms

Registration and Payment Schedule

- ❄ Upon Registration: A non-refundable registration fee of 20% is required, plus an additional 30% to finalize the reservation for the journey.
- ❄ 120 Days Before Departure: An additional 25% must be paid (depending on the specific journey).
- ❄ 90 Days Before Departure: The final 25% must be paid.

Cancellation Policy

- ❄ Cancellation up to 90 days before departure: Eligible for a refund, minus the non-refundable registration fee and any non-recoverable expenses already paid to suppliers.
- ❄ Assistance with Replacements: In the event of a cancellation, MW Photo Tours will act, as much as possible, to assist in finding a replacement participant; however, this does not constitute a guarantee.
- ❄ Participant-Proposed Replacements: If a participant proposes a suitable replacement after the deadline, the possibility of approving the transfer will be considered at the company's discretion and based on availability.
- ❄ Force Majeure: In cases of cancellation resulting from circumstances beyond the company's control, the option to defer participation to the same journey in the following year will be examined, subject to terms and availability.
- ❄ Within 90 days of departure: No refunds will be issued.

Insurance

It is the personal responsibility of each participant to independently purchase appropriate travel insurance. Medical insurance must be purchased immediately upon registration for the trip. It is highly recommended to also purchase coverage that includes "Cancel For Any Reason" (CFAR) insurance, baggage insurance, and property damage insurance. Each participant bears full responsibility for any expenses incurred due to the cancellation of the trip for any reason that may occur prior to departure or during the trip, including bodily injury, property damage, and loss of luggage.



Let's talk

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📷 [MW_Photoshoots](https://www.instagram.com/MW_Photoshoots)

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The Northern Lights appear above **the landscape only for a fleeting moment**. Our mission is to ensure you are there at the right time, with the right gear, and the expert knowledge required. Limited to 8 participants only.