



SVALBARD, THE HIGH ARCTIC ICE AND BEARS WINTER EXPEDITION

23 APRIL - 1 MAY 2023

Ignacio Palacios – Ken Duncan

**SVALBARD
NORWAY**

Svalbard is a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean situated north of mainland Europe about midway between continental Norway and the North Pole.



THE HIGH ARCTIC

It features an Arctic climate, although with significantly higher temperatures than other areas at the same latitude. The flora takes advantage of the long period of midnight sun to compensate for the polar night. It is a breeding ground for many seabirds, and also features polar bears, reindeer, the Arctic fox, and certain marine mammals. Seven national parks and twenty-three nature reserves cover two-thirds of the archipelago, protecting the largely untouched, yet fragile, natural environment. Approximately 60% of the archipelago is covered with glaciers, and the islands feature many mountains and fjords.



SVALBARD THE HIGH ARCTIC

The focus on this expedition will be Arctic winter light, landscape and wildlife. In April the light conditions on Svalbard are magical. The plan is to visit the western and northern areas of Spitsbergen. Usually winter trips to Svalbard are limited to snowmobiles quite close to Longyearbyen. With our expedition ship we will explore a much bigger area.

We expect to meet wildlife like polar bears, walrus, seals and reindeer. Polar bears and walrus are not as numerous as in summer time, mostly because there is more ice to hide on in winter, but we've had some great encounters on our winter expeditions in the past. The seabirds are getting back to their breeding grounds.

The group size is limited to 12 participants plus two photography instructors and our guides giving us plenty of space and time to explore and to photograph the magical Arctic winter.

Svalbard is situated at about 80 degrees N, so we schedule the expedition in accordance with prevailing weather and ice conditions.

“Prior to 1925 Svalbard was known by its Dutch name Spitsbergen, which is still the name of its largest island.”



Sea ice, photographed from the boat

We always recommend arriving Longyearbyen at least one day in advance.

Day 1 | Departure from Longyearbyen through Isfjorden.

Day 2-4 | Western coast of Spitsbergen, visiting Kongsfjorden, Lilliehööksfjorden, Magdalenefjorden, Prins Karls Forland and other areas where we will have great landscape, glaciers and good chances for wildlife as Polar bear, Walrus and seals.

Day 5-7 | North-western coast of Spitsbergen with Smeerenburgfjorden, Raudfjorden and Liefdefjorden, with great landscape and good chances for wildlife on the ice. The weather and ice conditions must be in our favor to get into these areas in April. It is also an option to head south to Bellsund and Hornsund if the northwestern corner is not accessible.

Day 8 | Sailing back to Isfjorden and arrive Longyearbyen late in the evening around 24:00.

DAY 9 | Leaving the ship after breakfast and prepare the travel home. We will have some zodiac excursions and also go ashore near walrus colonies or other interesting places.

Note: We strongly recommend you arriving in Longyearbyen the day before the expedition starts. Sometimes the luggage is delayed and will be sent on a later flight. Book your accommodation in Longyearbyen below to get good rates, and you can easily manage your bookings at the [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) app or website.

Our recommended hotels in Longyearbyen are:

- Hotel Radisson
- Blu Polar Hotel
- Basecamp Hotel
- Svalbard Hotell & Lodge
- Gjestehuset 102
- Funken Lodge
- Svalbard hotel

“There it was, the land under 80 degrees, a land of stern magnificence, where icebergs rear up almost to the very mountaintops, and mountain rises above mountain; there it was, inviolate, alive to the raucous voice of millions of birds, the continuous staccato bark of foxes, the castanet click as the hoofs of great herds of deer fell in a swinging trot; there it was, surrounded by waters whose surface was slashed and sprayed by schools of walrus and whales that had swum there before ever man was born.”

Jeannette Mirsky, To the Arctic: The Story of Northern Exploration from Earliest Times



Arctic fox

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

“Svalbard may appear desolate and barren with large open landscapes, sparse vegetation and huge glaciers. But if you look beyond, you will discover an incredible amount of nature-based experiences – all year round.”



Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Scandinavian adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs you'll share with pride:

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Photography and Camera Skills

All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise any equipment you chose to use; from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So, Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing his unique insight, expertise, and guidance as you shoot. Ensuring you don't just leave the tour with incredible photographs, but with skills that will transform the way you pursue your photography passion.

The Creative Process

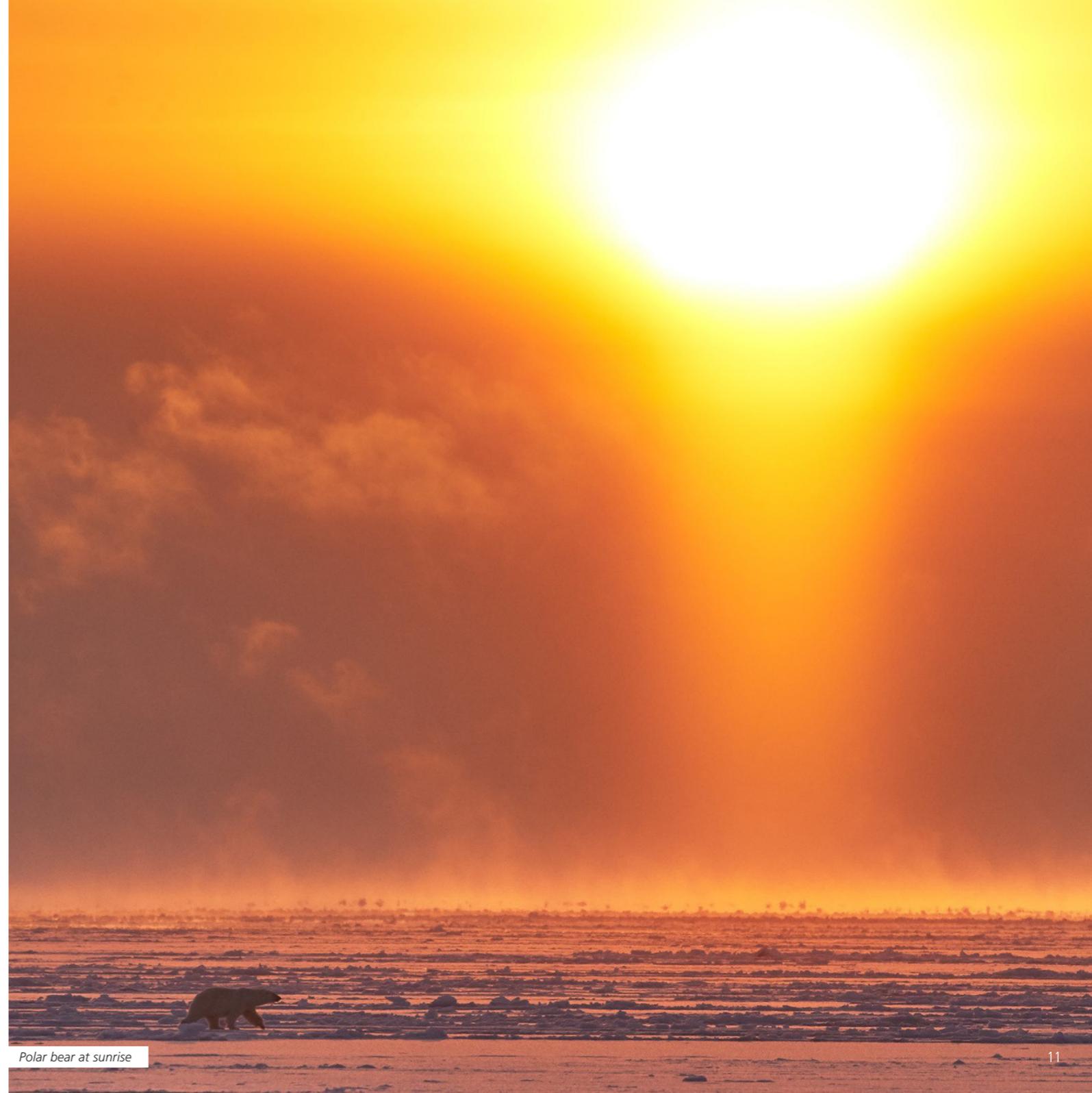
Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One, and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Physical considerations

While you'll be experiencing Scandinavia in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you to share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.



Polar bear at sunrise



IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

www.iptravelphotography.com.au



KEN DUNCAN

Ken Duncan is well known as the pioneer of Limited Edition Photographic Art in Australia. After a visit to New York in the early 1980's, Ken returned home with a dream to have photography widely accepted as an art form in this country. The increasing number of Australian photographers now emulating his panoramic style and finding a market for their work is testimony to Ken's success.

Ken is truly passionate about his craft. Always striving for excellence, he travels extensively throughout the world in search of the stunning panoramic landscapes – or Panographs – for which he is best known. Internationally acclaimed as a gifted and prolific landscape photographer, Ken still chooses to describe himself as "... an average photographer, with a great God – merely an interpreter of God's creation". The art, he says, is in seeing, capturing and presenting these images to others. And this Ken does with his own unique style and his exceptional ability to capture the very spirit of a place at a given moment in time.

His first solo book was published in 1987, and he later went on to become a publisher in his own right. Since 1992, over 60 individual titles have been released under the Ken Duncan Panographs trademark. Although Ken prefers the panoramic format – "that's the way we see", he says – he is well versed in a multitude of formats and media. He has even dabbled in cinematography and would like to do more with this medium in the future. He can turn his hand to any type of photography – from portraits to landscapes to 3-D and everything in between – and produce consistently creative results. Ken Duncan Limited Edition Art Prints grace the walls of many fine homes and businesses right around the world.

www.kenduncan.com



Arctic fox at sunrise

CHECKLIST

“Svalbard is the Arctic North as you always dreamed it existed. The archipelago is a land of dramatic snow-drowned peaks and glaciers, of vast ice fields and forbidding icebergs, an elemental place where the seemingly endless Arctic night and the perpetual sunlight of summer carry a deeper kind of magic. One of Europe’s last great wildernesses, this is also the domain of more polar bears than people, a terrain rich in epic legends of polar exploration.”

– Lonely Planet



Camera equipment

- DSLR or Medium Format (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lenses
- Battery and chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: Please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

What to bring, clothing and other

Our accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided. In terms of clothing you’ll obviously need plenty of warm and weatherproof clothing. The following are very much recommended: A good pair of strong waterproof warm walking boots and ideally those offering some thermal lining or maybe even a pair of thermal

overshoes such as those made by Neos to go over your walking boots. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof over trousers (lined ones are best as they’ll keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well) and dependent on how these 2 items fit together some gaiters can be useful as well. For the top half it is very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You’ll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers. A good hat, some fingerless mittens and then some warm waterproof gloves to go over the top (the former so that when you come to photograph your fingers can still work the camera) should round the piece off.

The temperatures we could be working in are -15 to 5 it is also a dry cold so sometimes it actually feels colder than that.

- Hiking boots (well-worn in) and good socks – Gore-Tex – mandatory
- Snow shoes (optional) – They will be beneficial to walk in the snow (I use Sorel but there are other brands)
- Micro-Spikes – mandatory <https://www.amazon.com/Snowlinestud-Spikes-Chainsen-Pro/dp/B006O5K050> – they are easier and quicker than crampons

- I recommend a down jacket
- Very warm jacket – mandatory (can be Gore-Tex or use a warm jacket and put a thick Gore-Tex ontop). Average mini temperatures are below zero.
- Gloves and hat – mandatory
- Snow trousers/waterproof pants, thermals (both legs and body) – mandatory
- Thin gloves to shoot – mandatory
- Sunglasses (mandatory to walk on the snow)
- Raincoat/waterproof jacket/wind jacket and warm jumper – mandatory
- Head torch – mandatory
- Alarm clock/smart phone.

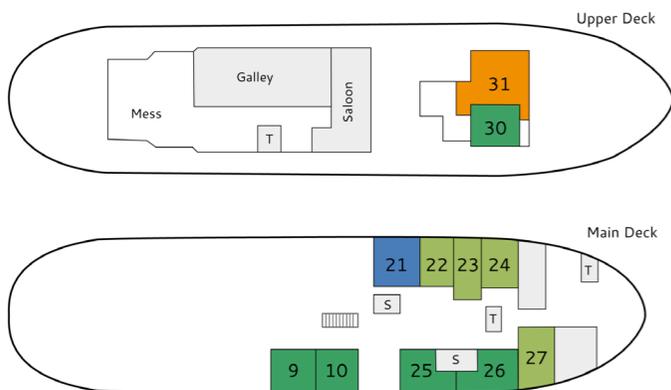
IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

To reserve your place for 2023 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



Icebergs and snowflakes

TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **23 April – 1 May 2023**

The tour commences and ends in Longyearbyen (Norway).

Single cabin with private shower/WC: **USD13,695**

Single cabin with shared shower/WC: **USD12,895**

Twin cabin with shared shower/WC: **USD12,095**

Twin cabin with private shower/WC: **USD13,695**

Maximum 12 participants and two photography instructors.

A deposit of US\$2,000 is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else.

Note: the workshop is quoted in US\$. To calculate the rate in AU\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance (<https://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/services/currency-converter/>). If you are located outside Australia, I accept payments in US\$ through PayPal only.

- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise.
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **1 November 2022**
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 6 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- All nights on board the M/S Origo
- All meals on board the vessel
- Expedition leader, guide, guards and other personnel
- Excursions with two Zodiacs
- Rental of warm survival suite for use in the zodiac

- English speaking guide throughout the tour
- All local taxes
- Entrance fees in the parks/reserves.

What's not included

- Flights to/from Svalbard (Longyearbyen)
- Overnight accommodation prior to and following the expedition
- Travel and cancellation insurance. Please note that Travel insurance with emergency evacuation is mandatory as a condition of booking
- Visas (if required)
- Camera/Equipment
- Insurance
- Optional personal activities
- Alcohol consumption, extra beverages and souvenirs purchased on the boat
- Any other personal expenses
- Tips for the vessel's crew members.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 November 2022 and end of January 2023, 50% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled between 1 February 2023 and before departure, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be nonrefundable

- Bookings made after 1 November 2022 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

A visitor's visa allows you to stay in Norway or other countries in the Schengen area for up to 90 days over a period of 180 days. Citizens of Australia, travelling on Australian passports, do not need a visitor's visa. If you are not Australian, please check your particular situation with the Norwegian consulate or embassy. For nationals of other countries:

- Nationals of EU/EEA countries and of countries that have a visa exemption agreement with Norway do not need a visa to visit Norway.
- Nationals of all other countries need a visitor's visa.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary

- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit.
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd) and Ken Duncan, having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions

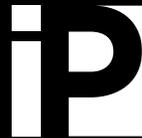
or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2023
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



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TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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