

# NORWAY

## LANDSCAPES + AURORAS

### PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

**EWEN BELL**  
**IAN ROLFE**  
**GUIDE GUNNAR**  
**SHELLIE FROIDEVAUX**

Join us for two weeks of winter wonderland in Arctic Norway, immersed in winter snow and the dancing light of auroras. Charming fishing cottages and dramatic coastal scenery will be your reward for this adventure.

A unique and charming exploration across the rugged landscapes of Tromsø, Senja & Lingen, with the help of local experts and two professional photographers.

February 12 - 25, 2024

February 10 - 23, 2025

14 days @ AU\$17,880













# NORWAY

## ITINERARY

### Day 1-3 | Kvaløya (Tromsø)

Our home for these three days are some lovely cabins to the west of Tromsø, right on the water. It's a remarkably peaceful part of the coast and ideal for chasing auroras should we get clear conditions at night. Tromsø is a great airport to fly into with lots of connections to Oslo and some international cities as well.

We've picked out some exceptional locations to photograph around the islands of Kvaløya and Ringvassøya, plus we'll traverse into the city of Tromsø and explore some of the fjords to the east of the hills. We want to ensure that everyone on the workshop has a chance to practise their night photography and adjust to shooting in the cold. We walk through the basic techniques for auroras, star trails and discuss how moonlight and twilight will affect your creative options.

### Days 4-7 | Senja

We have a 4 hour drive to reach our next location, the remote coastline of Senja. Along the way we pass sweeping hills and quiet coastal communities, before hitting those dramatic plunging fjords that we love so much. The weather here can be equally dramatic, with sudden bursts of snow or breaking sunlight giving us different charms to photograph. We have also picked out some locations for Aurora photography on the nearby coastline. Senja is lesser known than Lofoten and a lot less crowded, but still has the dramatic peaks that plunge down into the fjords. It's very special.

### Days 8-9 | Grov

This little fishing village is out of the way but worth the diversion. Not only is there some magnificent scenery to be enjoyed from the water, but also some pristine frozen lakes that we can explore with the help of local experts. The local cooking is excellent here too :) This stop lets us enjoy some mountain auroras as well as on the coastline.

### Day 10-13 | Lyngen

Of all the places we have travelled in the Arctic for aurora photography, Lyngen is our favourite. It's a very quiet part of Norway and has not been overrun by photographers yet. It is peaceful and rich in steep mountains and open skies. We have some local friends in the region who will help us make the most of the scenery, and get us deep into the terrain by snowmobile. We stay in the same cabins for the duration of our Lyngen visit for maximum comfort, and maximum opportunity to shoot auroras.

### Days 14 | Departure

We leave the cabins at 9:00am to head to town and catch our flight from Tromsø. We have a ferry and some icy roads to cover on the way but nothing we haven't done before.

# NORWAY

## ITINERARY

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1

### Slow Travel

We take the time to fully enjoy every location and wait for the right light.

2

### Single Rooms

Because we use remote cabins instead of hotel rooms, we offer single rooms for all guests.

3

### Private Chef

The ultimate luxury for aurora chasers. Enjoy the very best of local cuisine, from reindeer to fresh cod.

4

### Education

Two weeks of dedicated assistance from two professionals.

5

### Auroras

Landscapes by day, auroras by night. Dedicated itinerary in the world's best location for auroras.

6

### Personal

Very intimate tour with just 8 people and two guides.











# PRIVATE CHEF

All meals are included in this trip and they're fabulous!  
Meet Shellie Froidevaux.

The most valued member of the leadership team for this tour is Shellie Froidevaux, a wonderful photographer and recipe developer, who will be our private chef for the journey. No other tour can match our ability to stay in remote locations, because no other tour has Shellie. She's friends with a few local cafes too, so we also get to enjoy some strategic stops for freshly made cinnamon buns with the locals.

We've heard horror stories from our travellers about other Arctic workshops that do not include any meals, and leave you to either self cater from a local supermarket or pay extra for meals at a very expensive restaurant. If you're spending time sorting basic meals it means you're not spending time enjoying your photography.

With the help of Shellie Froidevaux we not only make sure you get great meals along the way, but expect a few special treats for those cold nights standing out in the cold waiting for an aurora. Shellie loves to go the extra mile.

[ironchefshellie.com](http://ironchefshellie.com)













# NORTHERN LIGHTS

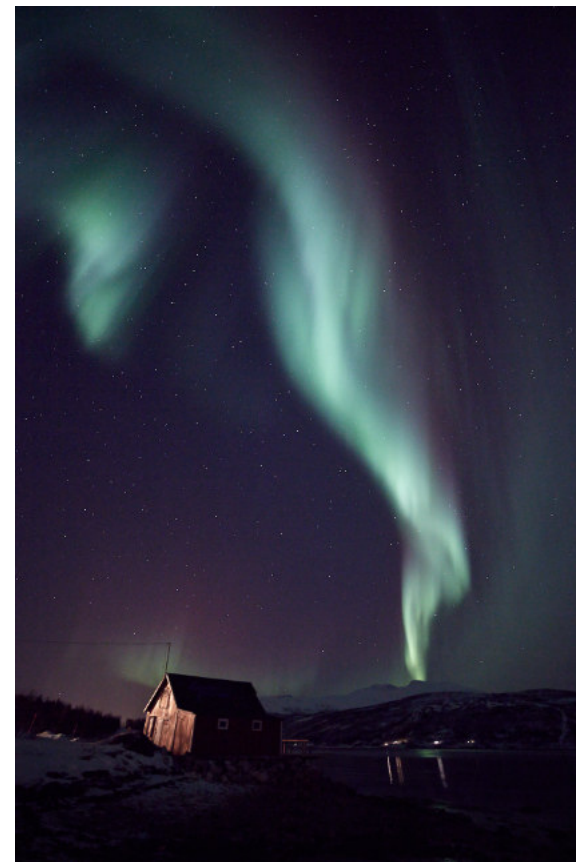
Over a decade of experience shooting the Aurora Borealis is behind this tour design.

This is the very best opportunity to see and capture this phenomenon.

Every detail of the tour is designed to take full advantage of clear skies at night, with immediate transport available to head out to special locations if conditions look promising. Accommodation along this journey has been selected to give us the best chance to act quickly and go out shooting when the aurora is on.

There are no guarantees with Aurora activity however. You need high solar activity as well as clear skies to get a good show, although even a low grade intensity Aurora over the city of Tromsø is something spectacular to see and photograph. That's why we stay close to this part of the coast, where the aurora circle meets beautiful scenery.

We will also have dedicated sessions to plan for the Northern Lights and explain how to photograph them.



# AURORA GUIDE

Local outdoors guide and aurora  
chaser, Guide Gunnar.

Gunnar has been working with us in Norway for over a decade now, but his career in Aurora chasing goes back decades. His knowledge of the weather and terrain in northern Norway is unmatched.

Gunnar does a lot more than drive the bus for us. He helps us plan the itineraries to stay ahead of changes with roads, ferries and avalanche conditions. Every year is different. Local knowledge is essential.

He's pretty handy with a camera, but even more handy with a fishing line and an axe. If the schedule allows we'll ask Gunnar to take us onto the frozen fjords, catch some fish, and cook it on the spot. We can't promise a 2 metre cod, but he'll make sure you stay warm and have some fun.

[guidegunnar.no](http://guidegunnar.no)





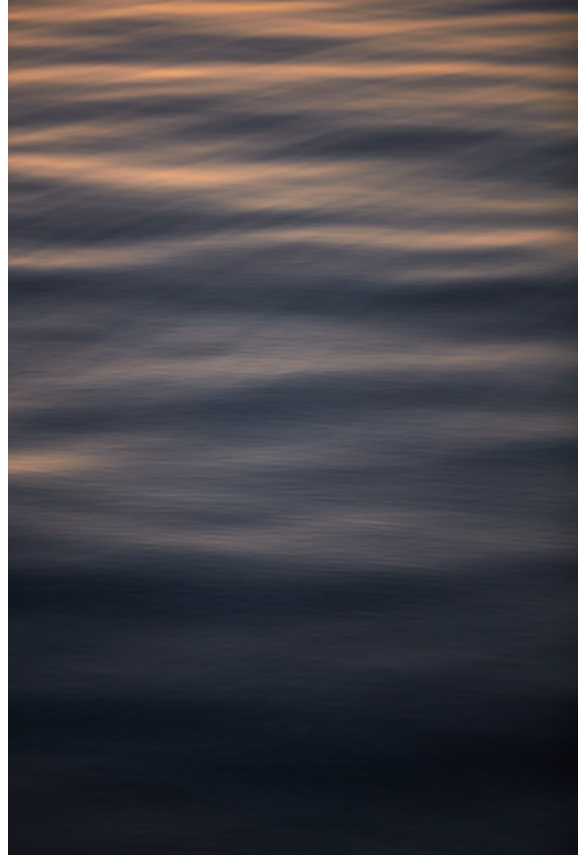
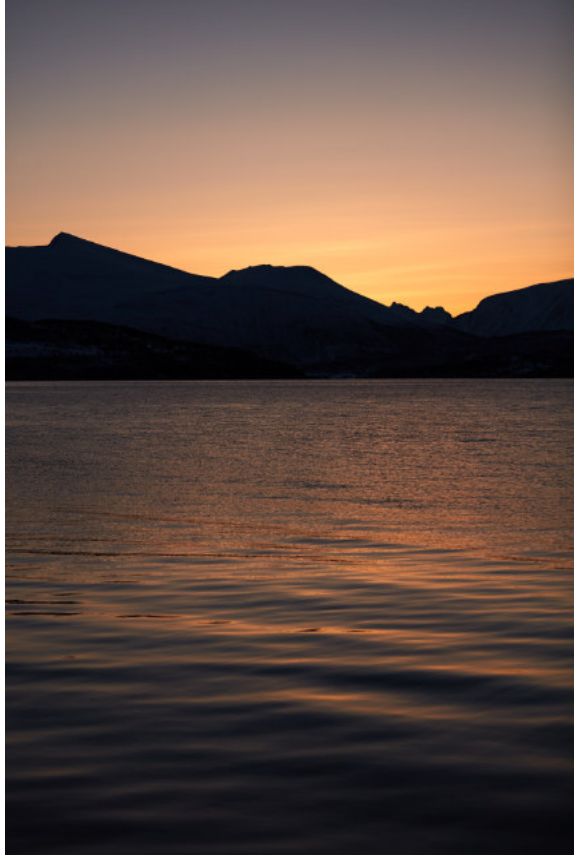
# MOONLIT NIGHTS

We schedule our tours so that we enjoy a variety of night time conditions, from pure darkness to full moonlight. Each has it's own benefits, but if the objective is to capture beautiful compositions then a moonlit night allows for both aurora activity as well as the amazing Norwegian fjords.

The key moonlit auroras are to pick the right place. Locations too far away from the aurora circle get weaker events, but close to Tromsø is the perfect combination of longitude and latitude to give you brilliant events high in the sky even when the solar activity is otherwise modest.

The colours of a moonlit aurora are different also. With the blue sky coming through the brilliant green really shines, without the need of massive manipulation in Photoshop that leads to a very fake looking scene. With the moonlight on your side, you get the real colours, better tonal range and more creative options.















## MEET EWEN BELL

Photography Guide

My name is Ewen Bell and I'm the guy who designs these tours so you can get great photos and experience a marvellous adventure.

My work is published all over the world in travel brochures, the travel media and photography magazines including National Geographic in the USA and Food & Travel in the UK. My depth of experience with leading tours is impressive, with over 50 tours and workshops completed in recent decades across Asia, The Himalayas, Australia, Antarctica and Scandinavia.

“A hidden gem in the world of photography, Arctic Norway is beautiful in all kinds of light. Bright sunshine in winter makes it bright with colours, heavy overcast skies make it moody and powerful. Northern lights above at night make the skies dance with electric hues.”

It's kind of weird talking about myself and “selling” myself to you here! But really, I do know a thing or two about photography and how to teach photography. Perhaps most importantly, I care about making sure YOU go home with great photos.

[ewenbell.com](http://ewenbell.com)



## MEET IAN ROLFE

Photography Guide

Ian has been a regular companion for my photo tours in many parts of the world, but we share a special connection with the Arctic landscape. Ian always manages to bring a generous schedule of clear skies plus a wonderful enthusiasm for the winter light this far north. Ian is a great teacher as well, coming at photography from a different angle to myself and with a talent for getting the very best out of a RAW file.

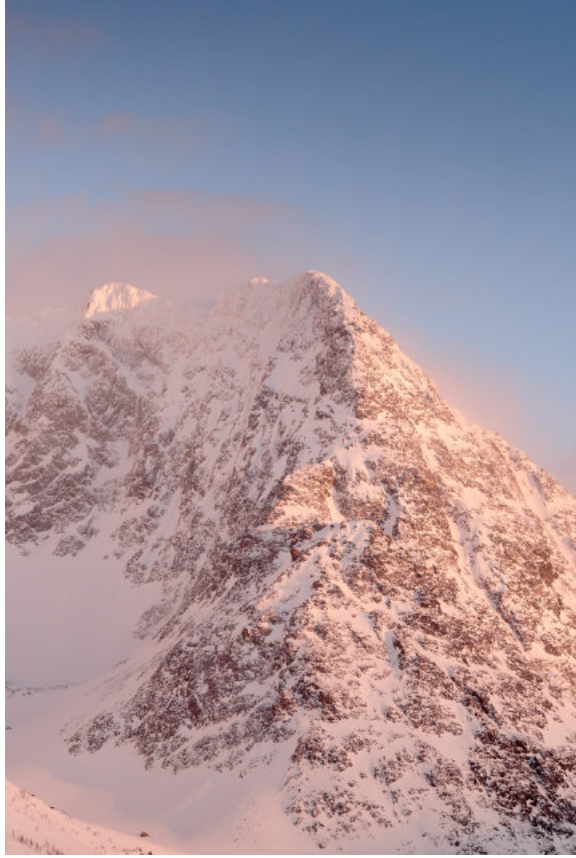
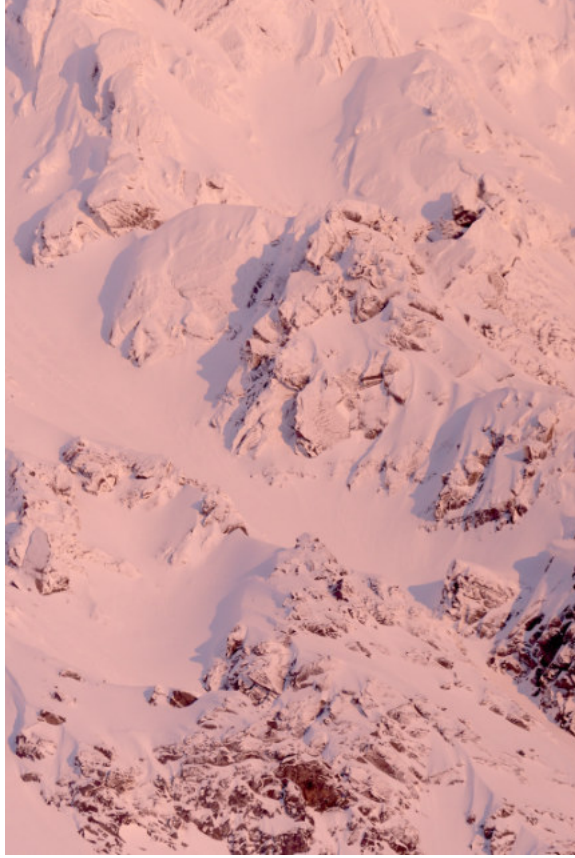
Ian's work has been published in countless books, photography magazines and travel brochures and his panoramic photos are currently used in a European Image Library. Ian also conducts a handful of his own workshops each year and gives lectures at camera clubs to help members advance their photographic knowledge and skills.

He's a great companion for our Norway adventures. You'll see why after two weeks on tour :)

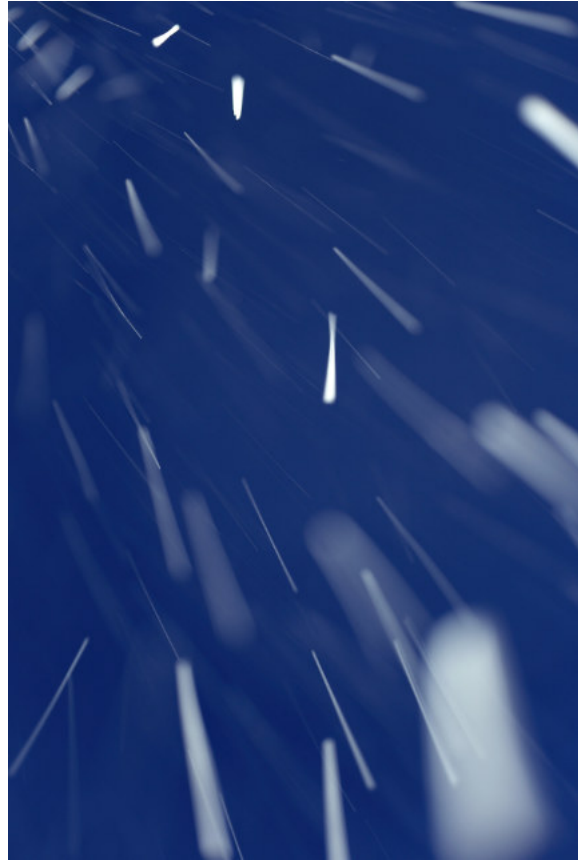
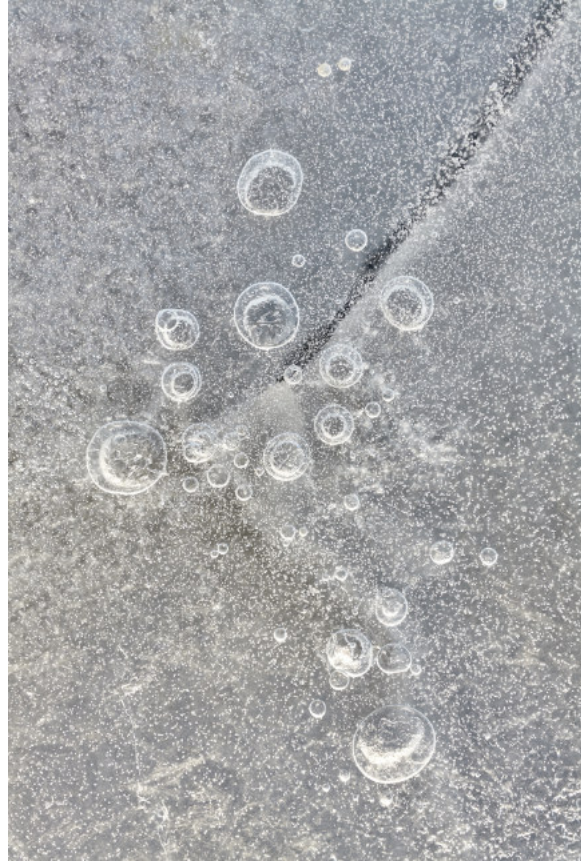
[www.ianrolfelightscares.com](http://www.ianrolfelightscares.com)  
[www.ianrolfephotography.net](http://www.ianrolfephotography.net)













# CABIN LIFE

This tour is based on cabin accommodation. They tend to be very cosy, very warm and very practical for these journeys. Sometimes they are stand alone cabins stretching across a beach, sometimes they are the top floor of a Bryggen with stunning views across the harbour at night.

Always they are hand chosen by Ewen and Shellie as great places to step outside and photograph. We visit the Arctic every year and visit the latest places to stay, often with tips from our local friends. Cabins mean everyone is offered a single room for this trip, although please do not expect to have a private ensuite.

Sometimes our cabins are very very remote. That is why we have Shellie for the duration of the tour, to keeps us well fed and run a flexible kitchen that allow us absolute freedom to chase the sunlight and the northern lights.



# DRESS FOR THE COLD

This is not an expedition to the North Pole – you will not freeze to death when visiting Arctic Scandinavia. There's always a warm cabin and a hot cup of chocolate just around the corner, we make sure of it.

A full guide of warm gear to pack is supplied before the tour, but here's a sneak peak of what will get you through the journey:

**A big puffy down jacket:** You can quickly go from toasty temperatures inside the cottage to mega minus degrees outside. The hood is great in windy conditions, and fluffy edges help keep your face warmer too.

**Windstopper gloves:** Essential for operating your camera on sub-zero days.

**Big boots:** Leave room in the boots for extra air and you'll always have warm feet. Buy a bigger size and then stomp through knee deep snow without a worry.

**Dry pants:** We often romp through fresh snow to reach a shot, so a thin layer of dry pants simply keeps the snow and wind off your legs.

**Thermals:** A layer of thermals will keep a warm core close to your skin on the coldest of nights.

“There is no bad weather, only bad clothing.”













# LEARN AND EXPLORE

Anyone who loves photography can join this tour.

Skills and experience is not a prerequisite. Enthusiasm is essential. There is ample one on one time so that your questions can be answered, your photos can be reviewed and your expression can be encouraged. With such a small group size we can ensure everybody gets the encouragement and guidance they desire.

If you're a confident photographer or already work at a professional level, then this journey will simply assist with getting great shots. We encourage everyone on tour to share ideas, to discuss their experiences and learn from each other as well.

Partners are also welcome on these photo tours, but they may need to exercise a little patience with the desires of photographers to make the most of special moments. These photography adventures put the photographers first :)





# ART & CREATIVITY

The camera is like a paintbrush, and in the hands of different people it will produce very different images.

I specialise in teaching people about the creative potential of photography, to go beyond the technical issues of a camera and start taking creative control. Expression is at the heart of great photography, sharing your perspective, your view, your experience.

I'm also the author of the book "ReIMAGINE - changing your photography by changing your perspective"

A few basic principles underpin the art of travel photography. Go Slow. Get Closer. Look for the Light. Find out for yourself how much inspiration can flow from three very simple ideas.











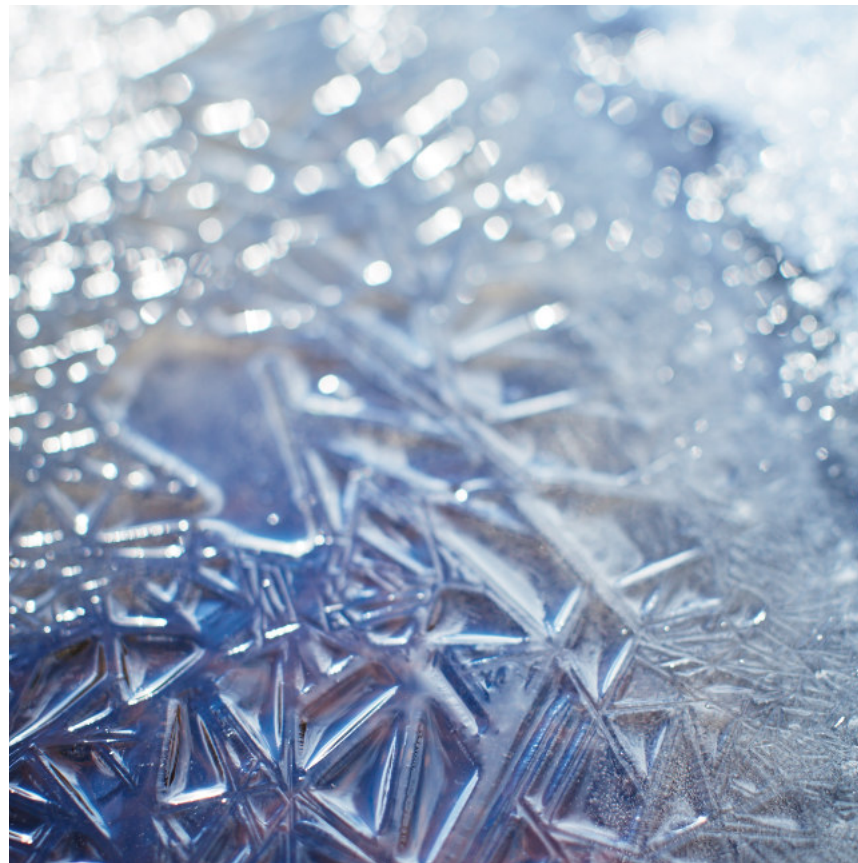




# WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

For those who want to learn new techniques in landscape photography, or just advance their existing skills, here's a sample of what we hope to share with the group during our Norway journey.

- How to properly setup your tripod for stable shooting
- Controlling your subjects with your wide angle lens
- Why a wide angle lens is so powerful for compositions
- Getting closer to a subject to build stronger compositions
- Taking your time instead of "shoot and run"
- Depth of field as a tool for composition
- Still life to reveal texture in the landscape
- Processing RAW files to maximise creative potential
- Advanced techniques for refining your RAW processing
- Aurora photography with slow shutters and a wide angle
- Slow shutter technique for silky oceans and clouds
- High key compositions for snow filled landscapes
- Shooting into the sun while controlling shadow detail





# WHAT YOU SEE

What you see in this brochure is exactly what you get. All images here were taken by Ewen Bell & Ian Rolfe during recent visits to the exact same locations that are included in the itinerary.

Every photo in this brochure is a photo that you can achieve, and we will do our best to help you experience the same photographic joy. We can't control the weather, but we can help you make the very best of Norway.











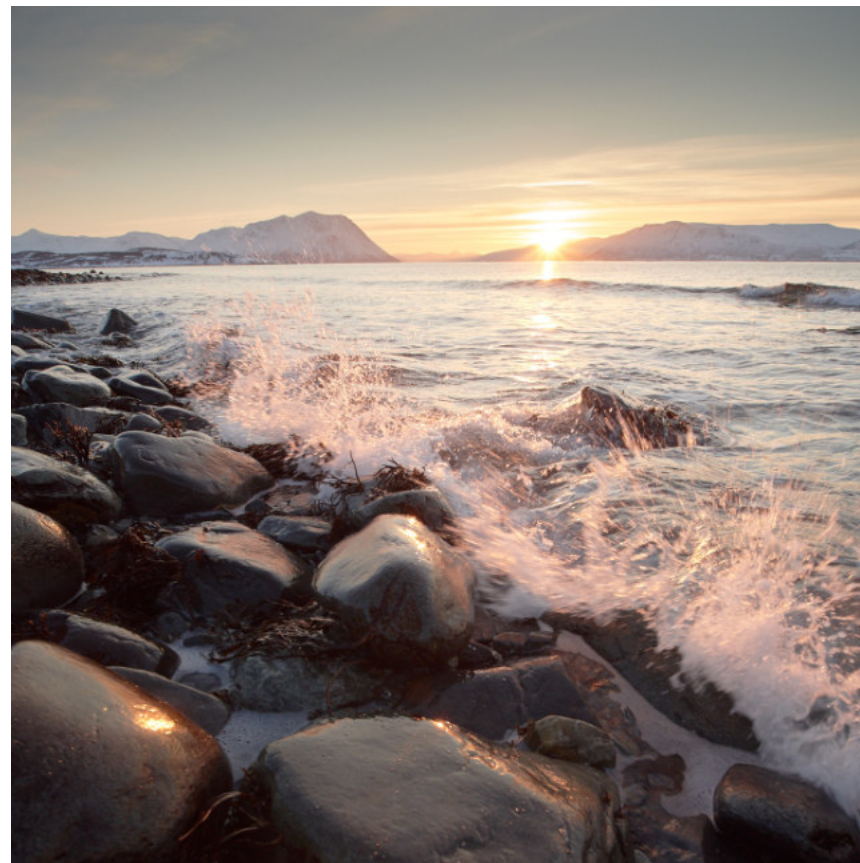


# INVITATION TO BEGINNERS

Everybody is on their own journey and we love helping people explore new horizons in photography. We take time to assist everyone on a tour with their specific needs, to talk about what they want to learn. Sometimes that means how to take advantage of different modes on the camera, sometimes it's a discussion about how to advance your career in photography.

No two people are the same. That's why we keep these trips limited to just 8 people, so we can enjoy their company and spend time helping everybody along with their particular journey.

You don't need to be an expert to come on this tour. We will help you with suggestions on what to bring to make the most of the opportunities. We're here to help.



# WHAT LENS TO PACK

You don't need a full-frame DSLR to enjoy this journey, but you do need a good lens. We've run dozens of trips like this one before and have a good understanding of which lens will give your camera the best results.

The most important lens for this trip will be an **ultra-wide angle** that is suitable for night photography. We need a seriously wide angle to capture the Northern Lights because the biggest and best events take up all of the night sky. The same ultra-wide perspective is also ideal for capturing the majestic nature of the landscape.

In full-frame terms, an 18mm lens is good, but 14mm is way better. We'll be happy to chat with you in advance of the tour about which lens is right for your camera and this adventure.





# DRONES ON TOUR

If you are planning to bring a drone on a tour we do ask that you minimise the imposition on the rest of the group, both in terms of quiet enjoyment of a location and in terms of delaying the schedule.

As a general rule, when we stop at a location for photography we take plenty of time for that stop, and avoid rushing onwards. This means time to setup and pack down is often very feasible, but also means you may have to trade off time with your tripod vs time with the drone.

We do ask that you familiarise yourself with local regulations and in particular be aware of no fly zones. Sometimes air space in The Arctic is temporarily restricted due to military activity, and some locations we visit may be inside a national park where stricter rules apply.

Often, however, we're staying in a cabin with simply stunning views in every direction and it's easy to pop up the drone in the morning to capture a scene you will treasure for the rest of your life!











# YOUR CAMERA GEAR

In addition to the ultra-wide angle lens you will also need a very good **tripod**. These often seem expensive to beginners and hard to justify the expense. Try to think of this as an essential part of aurora photography, and an investment in your photographic future.

A good tripod will be your friend for a very long time, while a cheap tripod will lead to disappointment and blurry photos that undermine your ability to get value from this tour.

The final bit of kit worth considering are a few Natural Density (ND) filters. Again we are happy to chat with you before the tour and make sure you have suitable gear. A really strong **ND filter** can be used to create super slow exposures of the ocean or clouds, while a Graduated ND can help balance light levels above and below the horizon.

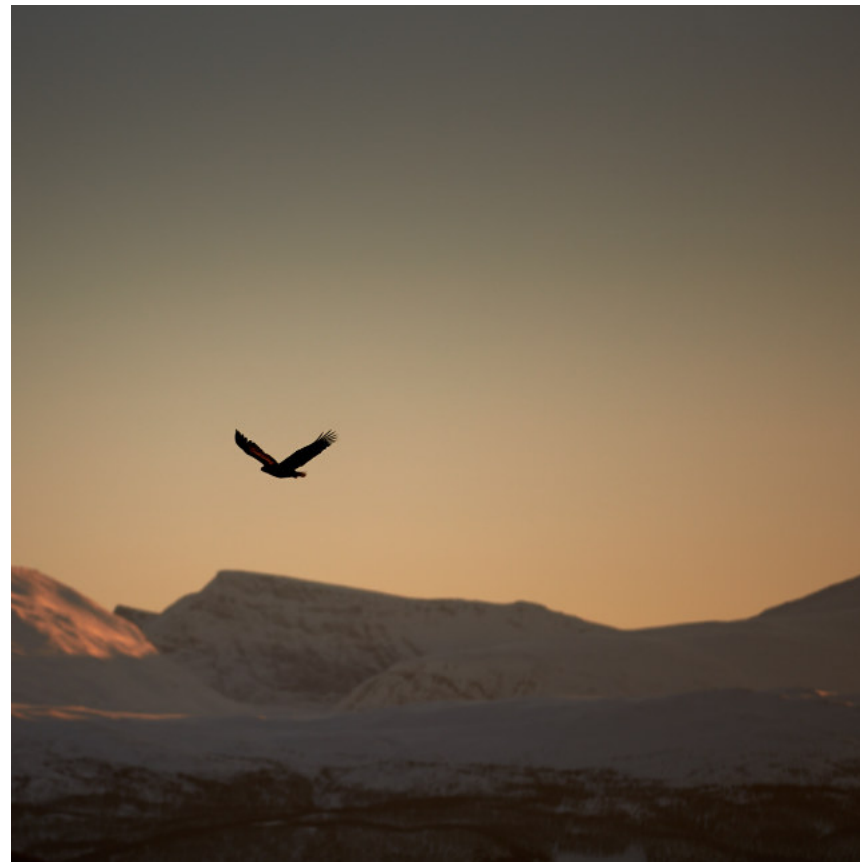


# POST CAPTURE

Both Ian and Ewen like to emphasize the art of photography that takes place in the digital darkroom.

Every day of this adventure will allow for opportunities to discuss, refine and learn about post-processing techniques.

Please bring your laptop and your preferred processing software. A photo is never finished at the moment of the shutter, and as you learn different ways to process your images you can also adjust your technical approach to the camera accordingly.











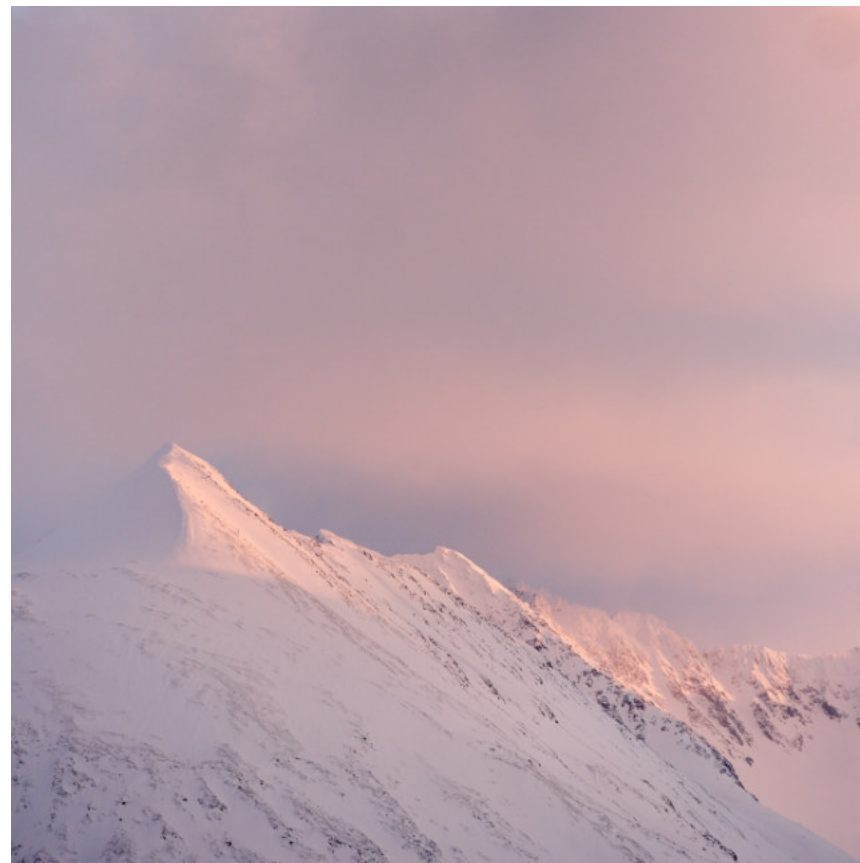


# MOODY WEATHER

We get a LOT of sunshine on these trips, but we also get snow and grey. It's the Arctic in winter after all and the occasional blizzard just means fresh powder snow the next morning. Some days may be bleak enough to stay inside to run sessions on processing RAW files instead.

Some days though the moody skies are just what we want to photograph. Ian Rolfe is a master of evoking character from those transitions, and he'll share his skill and knowledge of photographic and processing techniques to achieve this.

Ewen shoots a more reactive style compared to Ian, and offers a blend of editorial and fine art influences to our travellers. Slow shutters and passive compositions for example. Ewen loves the bright and sunny mood, but has a darker side too!



# CAMERAS ARE COOL

We hear a lot of fuss about taking cameras into the Arctic conditions and how to prepare for the freezing temperatures. If you're shooting with a modern DSLR camera then you need no special equipment, modifications or protection. Snow brushes off when everything is cold, but take care to avoid it melting on a warm camera body.

On a recent journey in a colder region of the Arctic we spent hours with our gear shooting the Northern Lights in -32 temperatures. No problems. Your camera will go colder than that and still keep shooting. Your batteries won't last quite as long as when warm, but it's no drama. Really.

Heading outside at night to shoot the aurora does require that you take care of yourself, and ensure you keep your feet and fingers warm. A tripod is essential and a timer remote is very handy.











# WHO TRAVELS WITH US?

Our photographic journeys appeal to both the young and old, the experienced and novice. Most tours are made up of people aged 25 to 65, and occasionally older or younger still. It doesn't matter what your skills and interest in photography are, you will enjoy sharing a creative and immersive experience with like minded people.

You can read feedback from past travellers, going back over a decade, on photography tours by visiting this link below...

[ewenbell.com/feedback](https://ewenbell.com/feedback)





# THE FINE PRINT

## Dates

February 12 - 25, 2024

February 10 - 23, 2024

## Price

AU\$17,880

## Group Size

Maximum of 8 people

## Accommodation

The price is based on accommodation in cabins and fisherman's cottages of an excellent standard. They are essentially the nicest available accommodation for our remote regions, and are always toasty and warm.

## Single Room Included

The default rooming for this tour will be single rooms instead of twin share. The nature of fisherman's cabins in Norway means that there is usually one bathroom per cabin. A discount is offered to couples sharing a room too.

## Inclusions

- All meals are included and will be delicious
- All transportation on arrival
- Airport transfers when travelling with the group
- Expert tuition from Ian and Ewen
- Endless inspiration from the scenery of Norway

## Exclusions

- Your camera gear
- Flights into and out of Tromsø

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure, as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather or other factors outside our control may also necessitate minor alterations.

# HOW TO BOOK

February 12 - 25, 2024

February 10 - 23, 2024

14 days

Max group of 8

Twin Share: AU\$17,880

Hit the website to book online. Deposits are required to confirm your place and can be paid via credit card or bank deposit.

[ewenbell.com/norway](https://ewenbell.com/norway)



**Photography** by Ewen Bell

