

# SEEDS

VOLUNTEERING FOR ICELAND

## SEEDS 079. Environment & Photography - Christmas

### KEY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CAMP

<b>Dates:</b>	15.12 - 23.12
<b>Expected size of the group:</b>	8 - 12 participants
<b>SEEDS Fee:</b>	€ 400 (EUR)
<b>Meeting point &amp; time:</b>	SEEDS Office - Grettisgata 3a, 101 Reykjavík At 18:00 (6:00 pm) on December 15
<b>Emergency contacts:</b>	Oscar: +354-7713300

### Brief camp description

During this camp, participants can share their love for (and learn more about) global & local environmental issues, as well as photography. If you are interested in topics such as climate change, waste management, animal protection and sustainability, and you also love taking photographs or want to develop your photography skills, then this project is for you!

While developing artistic and technical photography skills, you will be focusing on environmental and sustainability issues through non-formal activities such as workshops, discussions, presentations and visits facilitated by SEEDS. One of our aims is to help create more environmentally aware consumers & travellers!

You will visit local projects on environment and conservation. These may include hands-on activities or guided visits. Some examples include outdoor cleanup tasks, a community dinner or a visit to a geothermal power plant, a museum or exhibition. Some of these activities are dependent on conditions such as weather, pandemic-related restrictions, as well as availability of our partner organisations.

You will also have time to put the theory about photography into practice, walking around and exploring the city. At the end of the camp, the best photographs from each participant are selected for an online exhibition on SEEDS' social media. Participants should bring their own digital cameras, lenses, tripods and laptops, if possible.

SEEDS' programme combines learning, sharing, hands-on activities, getting to know Iceland, its culture, having fun, exploring the city and its attractions, as stunning natural attractions in other possible excursions.

Participants should prepare to share environmental issues from their countries and should be ready to spend time outdoors walking medium distances during activities and sightseeing.

**Note this project is a learning/sharing camp and not a standard workcamp. This project has a smaller work part and puts a bigger emphasis on the personal learning process than on the community impact. Especially since winter weather conditions make it more difficult to carry outdoor activities.**

In this project SEEDS will organise a night photography and aurora hunting (Northern Lights) workshop in the countryside near Reykjavík. This will take place during late evening and

possibly into the night.

**Northern lights are a natural phenomenon depending on solar activity and meteorological conditions; we cannot guarantee you will see northern lights, but the night photography workshop will be organised anyway.**

## Meeting point

**TIME:** 06:00 pm (18:00) on December 15

**LOCATION:** SEEDS Office - Grettisgata 3a, 101 Reykjavík

<https://seeds.is/files/2023/seeds-office-Grettisgata3a.pdf>

Participants who cannot arrive on time (late or delayed flight) will be sent direction to the camp. If your flight is delayed, please call the emergency contact and we will give you directions on how and where to meet.

## Extras / Special Remarks

**The participation fee is EUR 400 (Euros).**

The fees can be paid to SEEDS on arrival in Iceland at the meeting point, **in cash**; it can be paid in Euros or Icelandic Krona.

Keep in mind **we do not accept payments with credit or debit cards.**

If you prefer **to transfer the fee** to SEEDS, **please let us know in advance** and we can send you our bank account details and information needed.

Please be aware that SEEDS participation fees are different from the fees charged by your sending organisation.

Our fee includes transportation from the meeting point to the camp (on the first day), the night photography workshop & aurora hunting excursion and to some of the visits available. Some of these activities are dependent on conditions such as weather, pandemic-related restrictions, as well as availability of our partner organisations.

Other excursions (e.g. to the Golden Circle, South shore and/or Reykjanes) can be arranged at discount fares for SEEDS participants if there is free time after the camp workshops and if the weather conditions are favourable.

## Location

Reykjavík is a dynamic, modern city which lives in harmony with nature, using renewable energy sources. The world's northernmost capital bridges the Atlantic, between Europe and North America. Reykjavík is spread across a peninsula with a panoramic view of the mountains and the Atlantic.

Reykjavik is often called "the nightlife capital of the north", but there is more than pubs and clubs. It also gathers the most interesting aspects of Icelandic culture. It is an incubator of new ideas & styles which often indicates new global trends. It is an International city with a lively cosmopolitan cultural scene surrounded by beautiful nature.

In the area closer than 100 Km from Reykjavík, there are several spectacular waterfalls, geysers, impressive coastline and the well-known geothermal Blue Lagoon spa to visit.

## Useful links

Tourist Information on Reykjavik:	<a href="http://visitreykjavik.is">http://visitreykjavik.is</a>
Official travel guide to Iceland:	<a href="http://www.visiticeland.com">http://www.visiticeland.com</a>
Wiki Guide to Iceland:	<a href="http://wikitravel.org/en/Iceland">http://wikitravel.org/en/Iceland</a>
Local weather conditions:	<a href="http://en.vedur.is">http://en.vedur.is</a>
Latest exchange rate of the Icelandic króna:	<a href="https://www.landsbankinn.is">https://www.landsbankinn.is</a>

## Follow us on social media

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Tik Tok](#)

## Transport from Keflavík Airport to Reykjavík

The most convenient way is to use **the Flybus return ticket** (back and forth, as the price is cheaper than buying 2 singles); we recommend to use the Flybus ticket as it includes the shuttle service from BSÍ bus station to different drop-off stations, hostels, hotels or guesthouses around the city.

If you need to pay in cash you can do it in ISK, Euros or you can use your debit or credit card.

Buses leave from the airport 35 - 40 minutes after each flight has landed, so even if you are travelling late at night, or your plane is delayed you will be able to take the bus to Reykjavík.

The journey from the airport to Reykjavík takes around 45 minutes. Passengers are dropped off either at the BSÍ bus station or if you buy the additional service Flybus (which we recommend) then at a hotel, hostel or guesthouse in Reykjavík city centre.

If you are coming directly from the airport to the SEEDS office, the most convenient stop is "Bus stop 8 - Hallgrímskirkja" which is located next to Reykjavík's tallest building and the church landmark of the city. SEEDS office is located a short walk down the hill from there.

The bus will most likely drop you off at the side of the church Hallgrímskirkja. From there you need to walk towards the Leifur Eiríksson viking statue. Walk down the street Skólavörðustígur, which is in line with the Leifur Eiríksson viking statue. Walk down Skólavörðustígur for about 450 metres until you reach the bookstore Eymundsson (a large glass and wood building on the right hand-side), then turn right onto Vegamótastígur and soon again right into Grettisgata.

Our office is located in the backyard/courtyard of Grettisgata 3, there is a shoe repair store called "Þráinn Skóari", next to it there is a hallway (short pedestrian tunnel) to go to the back of the building and there you should find us!

For more details about getting to Iceland please read the 'Travel to Iceland' section of the [SEEDS CAMPS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET](#).

## Accommodation during the camp

SEEDS participants will stay in houses in Reykjavik. The facilities are basic with a kitchen, showers, and a washing machine. Everyone is expected to show consideration for their companions. Participants will sleep in shared rooms or dormitories. There are 2 different volunteer houses in Reykjavik for this project. It is not possible to know before the start of the camp in which house you will be as it depends on the number of participants and availability. Despite having 2 groups, there will be activities with all the participants from both houses.

Participants will receive food supplies and will be in charge of cooking and cleaning. Please note the food SEEDS provides will be **vegetarian**. Remember to bring some traditional/typical food, drinks, recipes, music, games or movies from your country for the international evening. Please be aware some items or ingredients may be expensive in Iceland and you will need to buy them yourselves or bring them from your country.

Please note that SEEDS provides food & accommodation for the participants from the evening of the first day of the camp until the morning of the last day of their camps.

There is no internet access (WiFi) in SEEDS accommodations, but there are many coffee houses with free WiFi internet access in Reykjavik, so there is this possibility if you need to use the internet.

Participants should be ready to spend time outdoors walking around 1 hour to some of the activities sites.

Living in our accommodation, you are expected to cook your own meals or as a group and clean afterwards. We take care of our houses, so we expect that you will keep them clean and tidy during your stay. This means you will clean the common areas, keep your rooms tidy and leave the house in the same condition as you found it.

SEEDS is an environmental organisation, so we try to live by certain principles:

- Minimising food waste
- Recycling/Reusing
- Separating waste
- Careful use of our resources (electricity and water)

## Accommodation before and after the camp

We can recommend you to book night/s in one of these hostels:

<https://www.hostel.is/en/hostels/hi-reykjavik-loft>

<http://www.kexhostel.is/>

<https://www.hostel.is/en/hostels/hi-reykjavik-dalur>

<https://www.bushostelreykjavik.com/>

or to use one of the following services:

<http://www.airbnb.com>

<http://www.booking.com>

## Essential equipment

Please read "What to bring with you", section 4 of the [SEEDS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET](#).

The weather in Iceland is unpredictable. It can be really cold, windy, rainy or snowy. Come prepared for all the scenarios, no matter the season.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that you bring:

- Clothes that you do not mind getting dirty
- Good, strong waterproof shoes that you do not mind getting dirty
- Waterproof jacket and trousers that you do not mind getting dirty
- Sandals or flip flops, to use indoors in the accommodation
- Swimsuit and towel
- Warm clothes, underlayers, hats, gloves & scarves as the project takes place outdoors
- Ear Plugs
- Your own camera\*. Please note phone cameras are not optimised for the workshops, but you can still use them

### \*Camera specifications:

In order to have the most quality experience from our workshops, we encourage you to bring a **digital camera** with the possibility to switch to **manual mode**. Your camera does not have to be the best or newest model; most modern basic digital cameras are suitable for our workshops.

Cameras without the possibility to switch to manual mode (like action cameras, phone cameras or old point and shoot cameras) and analogue cameras are not suitable to use during some of the workshops, but you are more than welcome to bring and use those as well during other activities of the project.

We **strongly** recommend you to bring:

- Refillable water bottle
- Lunch box to carry food during the excursions

## Free time

During free time, participants will have the opportunity to explore and discover places in the city; if weather conditions are on our side, we will have plenty to see and visit.

The fee includes transportation from the meeting point to the camp (on the first day) and to some of the visits available. Some of these activities are dependent on conditions such as weather, pandemic-related restrictions, as well as availability of our partner organisations.

Other excursions (e.g. to the Golden Circle, South Shore and/or Reykjanes) can be arranged at discount fares for SEEDS participants if there is free time after the camp workshops and if the weather conditions are favourable.

We still want to underline, **SEEDS is not a travel agency** and we do not have special guides in the excursions! These optional trips are organised for SEEDS participants to have the chance to travel together and to support SEEDS fundraising. They are subject to availability and number of participants and weather conditions.

If you wish to do an activity independently of the group, you must discuss it with the camp

coordinator and they must be fully aware of your plans. Your independence will be respected during the camp but the coordinator has the ultimate responsibility for you and your safety while on our camp in Iceland (they will have to sort out the problems if you get lost or injured).

**Keep in mind our camp coordinators are volunteers, so try to cooperate with them at work and during free time activities. They are not fully responsible for organising your free time and they hope for your ideas and contributions.**

Weather in Iceland is unpredictable and it can be cold, windy or snowy. Please bring warm and waterproof winter clothes (underlayers, overcoats, scarves, gloves and hats), walking shoes/boots, as part of the project takes place outside.

### Timetable / draft schedule

Below you can find a provisional timetable for the camp so you have an idea of the activities and the planned schedule. Please notice this may change according to the availability of our partners for some of the activities and also depending on the weather conditions during your stay in Iceland.

- This is a draft timetable for an environmental & photography camp with SEEDS
- Voluntary service is weather dependent (winter months may not allow participants to go outside to carry out clean-ups as everything is covered by snow)
- Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) are a natural phenomenon and therefore it is not guaranteed you will see them
- Some of the free time activities are at the participants' own expense
- Participants should **BE READY TO ADAPT AND BE FLEXIBLE** with the work and free time schedule, since depending on the changeable weather and other unexpected conditions, we may not be able to perform some of the activities planned

Time / Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Morning		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
		Welcome to Iceland 🇮🇸 Photography Basics	Environmental Presentation	Excursion/Free Time 🏔️	Photography Composition 📷	Environmental Workshop 🌿	Excursion/Free Time 🚗	Preparation Community Project 📄	Photography Workshop 📷	Cleaning & Goodbye 🧹
Lunch		Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Afternoon		City Tour 🏙️	Exhibition + Trash Hunting 🗑️	Excursion/Free Time 🏔️	Environmental Workshop 📷	Free Time (Souvenirs, Café...)	Excursion/Free Time 🚗	Community Project 📄	Perlan Exhibition + Free Time 🏔️	
	Meeting Point Office					Preparation Intercultural Dinner 🍽️				
Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Dinner		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
Evening	Dinner	Team-building games	Night Photography	Dinner	Mid-term Feedback	Intercultural Night 🌍				
	Icebreakers			Movie Night 🎬	Environmental Discussion		Environmental Quiz 🗣️	Icelandic Pool Experience 🏊	Top 10 Photo Sharing & Feedback 📷	

Color coding:

Meals
Camp Meta
Workshop & Learning
Exploration & Partners
Volunteers Leading
Excursions

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