Far to the north, amidst of the frothing swells of the Atlantic Ocean, lies a small archipelago of remote and rugged islands. Situated halfway between Norway and Iceland—and far off the radar screen of most photography travelers—they are known as the Faroe Islands. These eighteen little-visited island gems beckon adventurous landscape photographers who want to discover new photography horizons and explore in the rarefied glow of vernal northern light. The Faroe Islands straddle the 62nd parallel north and are buffeted by the Atlantic’s Gulf Stream and subject to a subpolar oceanic climate of cool wet summers and relatively mild winters. The springtime months here provide for a lush velvet green mantle of treeless terrain, stretching to misty mountains and wave-battered sea cliffs. It is this same rugged environment that provides a living to the 50,000 people who call the archipelago home. Forty percent of the population lives in one community, leaving the remainder of the residents spread out over the rest of the islands. Forged from Viking blood, their lives reflect a strong sense of Nordic identity, honed by their time-honored fishing traditions. During our photo tour we travel the well-defined network of roads, bridges and tunnels that provide access to some of the islands’ most photogenic terrain. This excursion is designed to
get our landscape shooters to exciting locations to create impressive images in a dramatic and little-known corner of the world. With the North Atlantic just a short distance from nearly every location, the weather can be moody and constantly changing. This dynamic weather often provides for even more dramatic lighting conditions, adding to the mysterious nature of the Faroes. Here, little is offered for flat ground. The angular nature of these mountainous islands, dotted with small rushing streams and quiet reflective lakes, provides many compositional elements—adding impact to the rugged landscape. This is a place where streams plunge from great heights to free fall into the waiting sea or verdant valleys below. Rocky and tortuous basalt cliffs rise vertically out of the silvery ocean depths to offer safe nesting for thousands of seabirds each summer. The raucous activity of gannets, murres, fulmars and puffins along these cliffs is testament to the North Atlantic's great productivity.

Along with photographing the striking scenery of the seaside cliffs and waterfalls, we photograph the quaint, colorful, and well-ordered fishing villages tucked along the jagged coastline. These small communities give the Faroes much of their vibrant and timeless character. Many of the villages and towns have well-preserved buildings with "elfin" turf roofs—the oldest dating back nearly 500 years—adding to the unique strength of this photogenic location.

The Faroe Islands will reach out and take hold of those photographers who come seeking its mystical beauty and will carry them to new insights of landscape photography possibilities. Come along with us as we venture to these far-off isles to capture images in this magical place of light and land in springtime.

**Tour Itinerary**

**Day 1**
Depart home en route to Vágar Airport in the Faroe Islands. The Faroes are best accessed by flights via Iceland or Denmark. We will know the 2019 flight schedule to Vágar from those locations later in the spring of 2018. It is recommended to overnight either in Iceland or Denmark and catch an early morning flight to the Faroes on May 10, 2019.

**Day 2 (May 10)**
Arrive at Vágar Airport in the Faroe Islands and transfer to our comfortable guesthouse on the island of Eysturoy. Transfer logistics will be included in a subsequent email sometime after your enrollment. (LD)
Days 3–5
We spend our first three nights in the fishing village of Gjógv, nestled among small and colorful houses overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Creating images of tidy homes and working fishing boats from this small village’s perch on rugged cliffs beckons.

From our base in Gjógv we begin our photographic adventure exploring the northern reaches of Faroe’s landscapes. A well-established network of roads and tunnels gives us access to the islands and the seascapes spread out before us.

A visit to the Fossá waterfall provides an opportunity to photograph one of the archipelago's largest and most photogenic water features. Fossá—translated as river of waterfalls—makes two major plunges of over 360 feet from the uplands to the sea. The longest drop approaches 200 feet and can be easily photographed from the road.

At these higher latitudes we take advantage of the occasional long and low light counterpointed by awe-inspiring storm clouds that make these remote islands such an exciting photographic destination. Located this far into the North Atlantic, the weather is extremely unpredictable—conditions can change within minutes and miles. We operate a very flexible daily schedule, allowing us to quickly adapt. Gásadalur, Sørvágsvatn, Saksun, Tjørnuvik, Funningur, Norðradalur and Sornfelli, plus many others, are on our itinerary of potential destinations. Indeed, the entire archipelago is packed with great shooting locations, so weather and light conditions will determine where we go and when. (BLD)

Days 6–8
Today we bid farewell to the hamlet of Gjógv and photograph our way farther south into the archipelago. We travel amidst tundra-like vegetation dominated by arctic alpine plants, wildflowers, grasses, mosses and lichens. From our new base on the island of Vágar we are in place to photograph more iconic island landscapes. Seaside farms and fishing villages dot this undulating terrain, and turf-roofed buildings and weathered fishing boats provide a multitude of photographic compositions to capture.

Mulafossur waterfall—one of the most iconic landscapes to photograph in the Faroes—is on Vágar. Just beyond the outskirts of the tiny community of Gásadalur, photogenically set between soaring
mountains and the sea, the falls plunge over 130 feet from a precipitous cliff to the waiting blue of the Atlantic below.

Having the time and flexibility to work with the weather conditions, we spend one of our days in the southern reaches of the islands visiting westernmost Mykines for an opportunity to photograph the gathering of seabirds that nest on the island’s volcanic cliffs each summer. Weather permitting, gannets, northern fulmars and Atlantic puffins can be photographed from these seaside heights. The bird numbers in the Faroes are impressive: 600,000 breeding pairs of northern fulmars, 350,000 pairs of Atlantic puffins, 230,000 pairs of black-legged kittiwakes, 2,000 pairs of northern gannets, and dozens of other bird species. (BLD)

Day 9 (May 17)
After breakfast we say good bye to the Faroe Islands and transfer to Vágar Airport for our flights homeward. (B)

Trip Details

May 09 - May 17, 2019
Fee: $5,495 from Vágar, Faroe Islands
Deposit: $800
Limit: 12

Tour Leader

JOE VAN OS