

RANGÀ REVIEW

N°1 2016

SEASONAL MAGAZINE

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WILD HORSES

Discover the charm of Iceland's bold, beautiful and hardy wild horses who live free throughout the land.

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CREATIVE CULTURE

Meet a contemporary rug designer capturing Iceland's volcanic landscapes in her designer interpretations.

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NATURAL WONDERS

Escape the rat-race this spring and enjoy getting back to nature in the heart of Iceland's unspoilt wilderness.



Ragnar Axelsson captures the reality of harsh living beyond the lens.



WILD HORSES

Meet Iceland's enchanting horses and discover the gentle nature of this hardy breed

Icelandic Horses are one of the oldest breeds of horse on the globe. Originally introduced to Iceland long before any of the more familiar European breeds, the Icelandic Horse is the closest connection we have to the very first domesticated horses.

It is thought that the first horses to arrive in Iceland were transported by the Vikings who settled in the country over a thousand years ago. Surprisingly, for 9 centuries or more, no other horses have been brought to Iceland, and now there is only one type of horse living in Iceland: one of the purest and healthiest breeds in the world.

The Icelandic Horse has played an important role in the life of Icelanders for centuries and its presence is well documented in Norse mythology. Many horses owned by the Norse Gods featured in these ancient mythical stories. The historic importance of the Norse myths can still be seen in Icelandic horsemanship today with many riding clubs bearing the names of mythical horses. The Vikings treated their horses with the utmost respect and these brave creatures played a prominent part in Viking warfare and often a warrior killed in battle would be buried alongside his mount.



"For centuries, the Icelandic horse was the only method of transport in Iceland and horses worked hard, carrying materials, foods, people and mail across the rugged countryside."

For centuries, the Icelandic horse was the only method of transport in Iceland and horses worked hard, carrying materials, food, people and mail across the rugged countryside. The Icelandic horse is an inherently hardy breed and lives outside all the year round. Their impressive strength and ability to endure all weathers means that they are well suited to traversing rivers, lava fields, steep mountainous terrain and even glaciers.

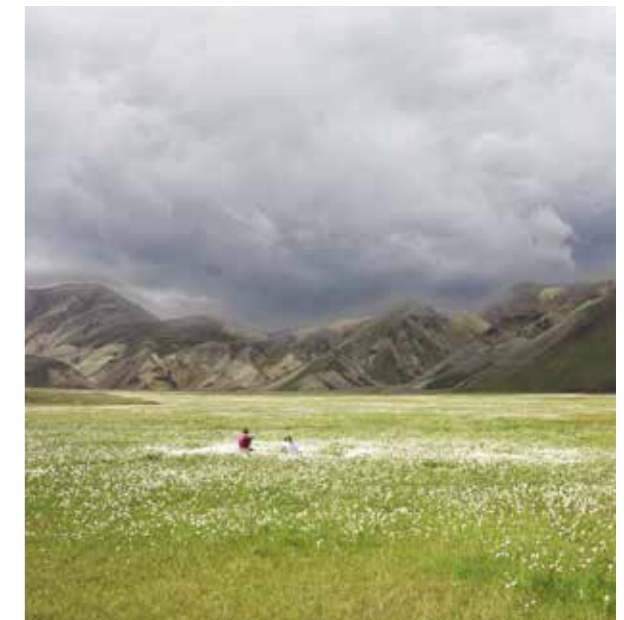
In more recent times the role of the Icelandic horse has changed and now these unique animals are best known for their sure footedness, stamina and good nature, making them the perfect partner for riding and exploring the Icelandic environment. The eye-catching beauty of the Icelandic horse is unmistakable with their varied colourings from smoky black, to yellow dun, and, of course their unique movement or gait known as the 'tölt'. The tölt is a natural 4 beat gait that is extremely smooth to ride, but also extremely powerful. The fifth gait is called the flying pace where the horse moves the front and hind foot on the same side at the same time, this is the most exhilarating experience only ever made possible by riding an authentic Icelandic Horse.

Riding excursions are available to both novice and experienced riders. To book your Icelandic Horse expedition contact reception.



ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

This Spring, Hotel Ranga launches its adrenalin fuelled Icelandic Adventure offer. Explore some of the globe's wildest locations in a powerful all terrain super-jeep, scale Southern Iceland's active volcano, experience walking on a glacier, snowmobile through the region's most rugged countryside and view the natural landmarks of the infamous Golden Circle.



VOLCANO TOUR

Discover Iceland's most famous live volcano

Discover Iceland's most famous live volcano Eyjafjallajökull, best known for its globally reported ash cloud eruption in 2010. With an expert guide explore the area around the volcano and venture to its icecap and glacier Gígjökull. Pass

by Seljalandsfoss waterfall, traverse unbridged rivers and explore wild untamed terrain on your way to Gígjökull. When weather allows, you may even drive onto the surface of the glacier to get to the very top of the crater.



GLACIER TREKKING

Explore the extremes of the southernmost glacier in Iceland

Explore the extremes of the southernmost glacier in Iceland, Sólheimajökull. This captivating glacier lies at the bottom of a deep valley which has been forged by the ice over thousands of years. An expert instructor will guide you in the techniques of glacier walking and supply you with all the professional equipment for

your extreme glacier walk. Encounter the glacier's amazing frozen terrain with its sink holes, crevasses and ice ridges and experience the contrasts of the landscape where mountains meet ice. After a morning on the ice enjoy a warming lunch of home-made soup in the Glacier café.



SNOWMOBILE ADVENTURE

Experience the high speed thrill of a Snowmobile adventure

Be driven in a high powered super jeep up the mountain to the snowmobile base. Here you will be decked out in your snowsuit and given a lesson in the safety essentials of operating the snowmobiles. Then it's full throttle to the Mýrdalsjökull glacier, close to the volcano Katla.

Take in the unique scenery of the Eyjafjallajökull glacier to the West and the enthralling view over the South coast of Iceland. Immerse yourself in the intoxicating combination of Iceland's stunning natural environment with the high speed thrill of the Snowmobile adventure.



GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR

A great opportunity for photography

Of course, a trip to Iceland would not be complete without a tour of the Golden Circle and Hotel Ranga's 'Icelandic Adventure' spring offer also takes in this fa-

mous route. A great opportunity for photography, you will pass by powerful waterfalls, geothermal geysers and the national parks of Southern Iceland.



3 NIGHT OFFER

- 3 night's accommodation in a standard room
- Breakfast
- Welcome drinks upon arrival
- Full Day Guided Volcano tour
- Half Day Guided Glacier walk & lunch
- Half Day Snowmobile Tour
- Full Day Golden Circle tour
- 3 x 3 course dinner at Hotel Ranga
- Stargazing at the hotel's observatory
- Use of outdoor hot-tubs

Prices from: €3277.00 per couple, based on two people sharing

Additional activities include: Super Jeep Tours, Blue Lagoon experience, Airport transfers, Hot Springs, Helicopter Tours, Gourmet Touch gastronomic experiences, Wine Packages and many more.



NORDIC GOURMET

Iceland is fast becoming a gastronomic destination for foodies worldwide

When you think about Icelandic cuisine you may struggle a little at first to paint a picture in your mind of what a classic regional dish might comprise of. However, modern Icelandic menus are, in fact breaking boundaries and many talented chefs are taking traditional ingredients and reinterpreting these into more refined, elegant and contemporary dishes.

It is fair to say Iceland has embraced a more 'modern Nordic' approach to cooking and an exceptional fine dining experience is now also available 'Icelandic Style'.

One of the inspiring young chef's leading the way in Iceland's gastronomic journey is Karl Jóhann Unnarsson, Head Chef at Hotel Ranga's gourmet restaurant. "Our menus at Ranga use the freshest seasonal ingredients yet we



Head chef
Karl Jóhann Unnarsson

prepare these in interesting ways using modern techniques and cooking methods. We like to combine contrasting ingredients that speak for themselves and then present these in simple yet well executed forms. Our menus reflect the season where possible and we also use lesser familiar ingredients such as beef cheeks, skate and liver. For example, during the winter our menu features cauliflower with butternut squash and granola, cured salmon with trout roe and dill oil, smoked puffin with beer bread and pickled beetroot, cured goose with Icelandic Cheddar cheese and wild lamb with mushroom puree and redcurrant glaze. All of these have classic Icelandic roots yet are prepared and presented in a fresh and contemporary modern Nordic style".



WILD MUSHROOM SOUP

One of Karl's signature dishes is his wild mushroom soup, heart-warming and deliciously rich.

INGREDIENTS:

- 400g Icelandic mushrooms or fresh field mushrooms
- 2 large white onions
- 100g dried mushrooms
- 200g mixed frozen mushrooms (ceps, porcini or similar)
- 5 tbs vegetable oil
- 300g butter
- 100g plain white flour
- 100ml white wine
- 100 ml Madeira
- 500ml water
- 2000ml double or heavy cream
- 3 tbs mushroom powder (you can make your own or buy)

METHOD:

1. Slice the mushrooms and onions thinly
2. Take a large heavy-based saucepan and gently heat the oil
3. Gently fry the fresh mushrooms, onions and frozen mushrooms for 5 minutes
4. Pour all the wine into the pan and let it boil until the wine has reduced to almost nothing
5. Add the water to the pan
6. Now add the dried mushrooms and stir
7. Add the mushroom powder into the pan and let the mixture boil for 20 minutes
8. Now add the cream into the pot and let it simmer for 60 min
9. In a small pan place 100g of the butter heat gently and let it melt, then add flour into it and combine it together to make a roux. Whisk the roux mixture into the soup and continue Whisking until the soup thickens
10. Let the soup simmer for 10 min and then add the remaining 200g of the butter
11. Blitz the soup with a hand-held blender
12. Season with salt and pepper, also it is very good to add little bit of sherry vinegar at the end.



THE SKY AT NIGHT

Hotel Ranga's state of the art observatory is a stargazers nirvana

Iceland is one of the leading locations for viewing the Northern Lights and also for Stargazing. The unpolluted skies and breath-taking star-scape over the River Ranga inspired the construction of a private observatory which was completed in 2014. The Hotel Rangá observatory features an innovative roll-off, roll-on roof observatory and is by far the most advanced in Iceland. The observatory is located just 150 meters from the hotel's main building and houses two high quality astronomical telescopes: An 11 inch Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain and a TEC 160ED APO refractor on an Astro-Physics 900 mount. Both telescopes are computerised and on a permanent pier — perfect for astrophotography. On occasion the hotel also rolls out an 18 inch reflector on a platform beside the observatory, im-

pressively this is the biggest telescope in Iceland.

At the observatory the telescopes can be turned towards the stars to view amazing detail on Jupiter, spot Cassini's Division in the rings of Saturn, and identify details on the surface of Mars. Even the distant Uranus and Neptune are within sight. The unspoilt location around the hotel makes it the optimal location for viewing the hidden characteristics of the enchanting night sky.

During the summer, the observatory can also be used for solar observing. Using white light filters by Baader Planetarium, you can observe sunspots in great detail. The observatory is open every clear night and guests at Hotel Ranga get a complimentary guided tour of the night sky by local expert astronomers.



NATURAL WONDERS

Immerse yourself in the natural world this spring and explore Iceland's hidden wilderness. Enjoy a personal tailor-made 'Ranga' tour where you can experience the wonders of Iceland's unique and enchanting land.



SKAL!

let's raise a glass to Iceland's artisan breweries

When in Iceland, it would be rude not to sample an Icelandic tippie or two. After an exhilarating day hiking the wild terrain, scaling volcanoes or traversing glaciers what better way to relax than kick your boots off and wind down with a refreshing glass of something thirst quenching. One of Iceland's most successful craft beer makers is The Einstök Brewery which is located just 60 miles south of the Arctic circle in the fishing

port of Akureyri. It is here, that the water flows from prehistoric glaciers down the Hlíðarfjall Mountain and through ancient lava fields. The Einstök Brewery uses this crystal clear water for its deliciously refreshing artisan ales. Why not sample the clean and crisp White Ale, mild hoppy Pale Ale or the dark roasted notes of the Toasted Porter Ale, all of which are available at Hotel Ranga's lounge bar.

www.einstokbeer.com

Immerse yourself in the natural world this spring and explore Iceland's hidden wilderness. Enjoy a personal tailor-made 'Ranga' tour where you can experience the wonders of Iceland's unique and enchanting land. Let our expert guide share with you the details of the complex eco-structure and natural characteristics that makeup this magical volcanic land. Go off the beaten track in a 4x4 and visit hidden waterfalls, canyons and lava meadows. Delve deep into the heart of Southern Iceland's farming culture and hear about the dramatic impact volcanoes have on the environment.

Spend a day getting to know the majestic Icelandic Horses that form part of the ancient Icelandic culture. Beautiful and bold, Icelandic horses are highly intelligent, calm

and intuitive animals making them perfect companions for exploring the rugged Icelandic terrain. Tour Iceland on horseback and discover the breathtaking views that capture the heart and soul of all who visit. Trek through magnificent open countryside and enjoy the beauty of waterfalls, volcanoes, gorges, rivers and mountains.

Of course, a trip to Iceland would not be complete without a tour of the Golden Circle and our 'Natural Wonders' spring offer also includes this famous route, which takes in the geo thermal geysers and national parks of Southern Iceland.

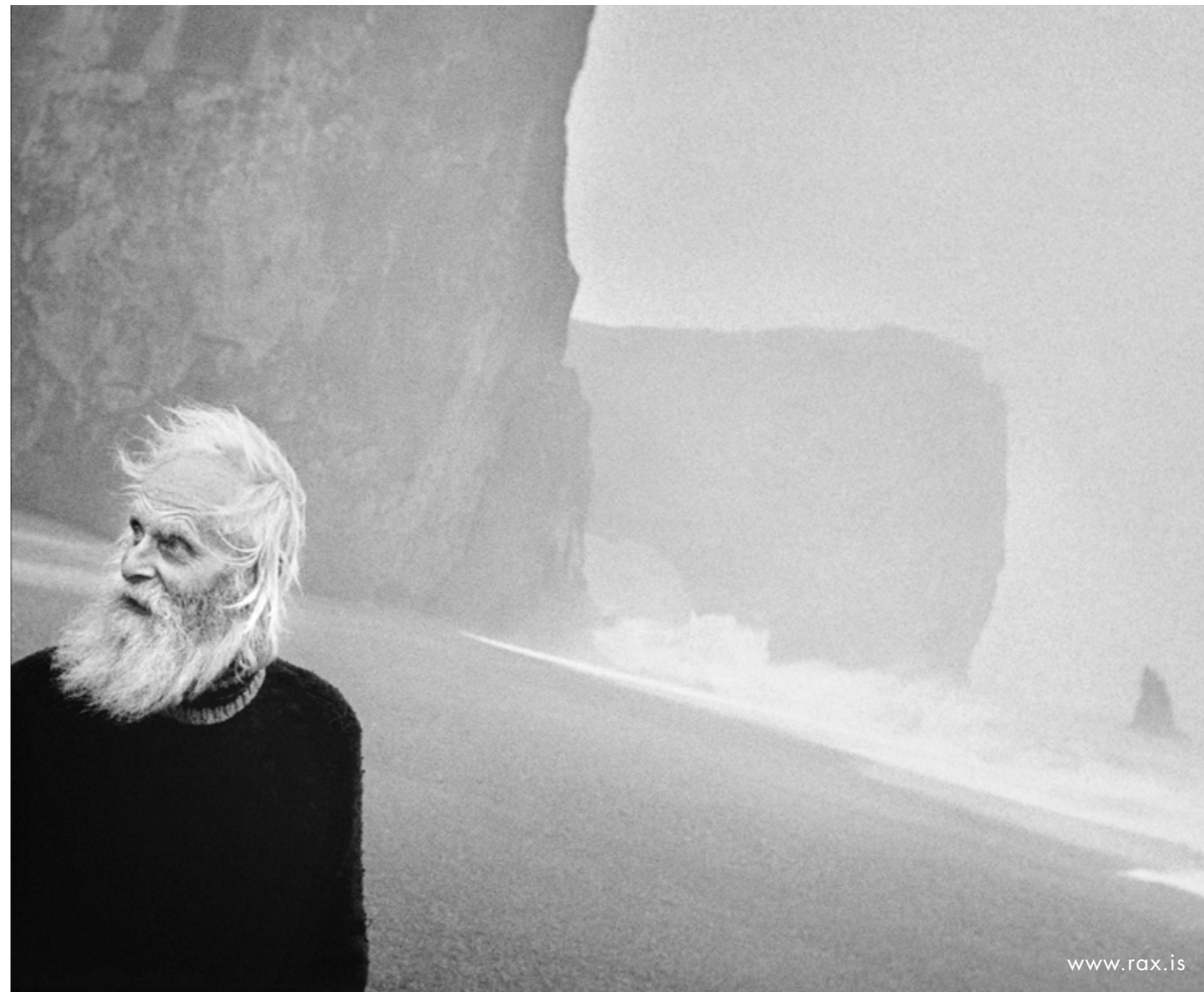
Book now to be part of our exclusive 'Natural Wonders 2016' tour which captures the essence of Iceland and combines the beauty of nature with a touch of exhilaration.

3 NIGHT OFFER

- 3 night's accommodation in a standard room
- Breakfast
- Welcome drinks upon arrival
- One-day guided nature tour including picnic lunch
- One-day guided Icelandic Horse experience including picnic lunch
- One-day guided Golden circle tour
- 3 x 3 course dinner at Hotel Ranga
- Stargazing experience at Hotel Rangá's observatory
- Use of outdoor hot-tubs

Prices from: €3116.00 per couple, based on two people sharing

Ask at reception for more information



www.rax.is

FOR ARTS SAKE

Ragnar Axelsson captures the reality of harsh living beyond the lens. In each issue of our magazine we focus on the work of an esteemed Icelandic artist.

This season we catch up with one of Iceland's most documented and internationally acclaimed photographers Ragnar Axelsson, who has dedicated his career to capturing the lives of the hunters, fishermen and farmers living on the fringe of the habitable world.

His stories have appeared in print worldwide and his underlying message is clear. He fears that the traditional culture of the Arctic people is disappearing and that they will not be able to resist the disrupting effects of larger forces of economy and climate change. His current project brings together all of his experiences within one exceptional large scale book about the whole Arctic. "I have the feeling that the world needs to see and know more about the arctic. This book is a little puzzle that forms part of a much bigger picture globally."

Axelsson's major photography series feature photo collections, spanning more than two decades each. In *Faces of the North* (2004) he focuses on the lives of individuals in remote areas in the North, whereas in *Last Days of the Arctic* (2010) he contrasts the wider global effects



Ragnar Axelsson has dedicated his career to a lifelong documentation project on the fate of the people and nature of the North, his images capture moments in time and unique ways of life that may all too soon become lost forever.

of climate change with stories of subsistence hunters in Greenland and Canada. In his latest series, *Behind the Mountains* (2013), Axelsson presents 100 photographs which draw together his 25-year-long relationship with a small community of farmers and their annual sheep round-up in the Icelandic highlands. "One of my best known photograph's is the picture of the old man with the white beard standing near the ocean. I like that picture and the man in it became a good friend. Many of the photographs from the Arctic have captured times that in the future will be impossible to witness" Iceland of course has a special place in his heart

"I do feel most at home here, also I like Greenland and The Faroe Islands which are among my favourite locations. In Iceland one of my best places is Múlagljúfur canyon near the farm Kvísker on the south east coast of Iceland near the lagoon, jökulsárlón. It has been a special place for me since I was a kid living on the farm near the canyon, I could stay there for hours just dreaming."



CREATIVE CULTURE

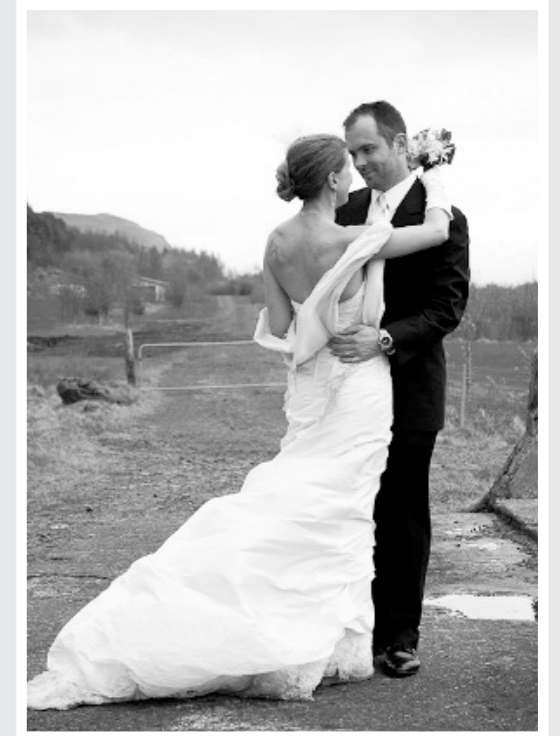
Sigrun Lara Shanko captures the essence of Iceland's terrain in her bespoke rugs

Iceland has a deep-rooted creative culture where artists and artisans express their connection with this ancient land through their creative work. One remarkably talented cultural creative is Sigrun Lara Shanko whose bold contemporary rug designs have been exhibited in the Saatchi gallery in London, Design Week in Florence, Italy and numerous galleries in the USA.

Sigrun L Shanko has the greatest respect for the wild Icelandic landscape which is also her inspiration for Shanko Rugs, where her fluid forms shift with rich vibrant colours. The original hand tufting rugmaking technique was learned as a teenager from her mother and Sigrun now combines this traditional technique with her contemporary depictions of Iceland's inspiring Rivers, Lava and Glaciers.

"The design process starts with collating photos of my travels of the Icelandic wilderness. Looking at the maps old and new where I have been and picturing the endless lava fields, the constant changing glacier rivers, the breath-taking waterfalls, the midnight sun and then the darkness of winter, all make up the rugged Icelandic nature that is the inspiration for my rugs. When I can feel and breathe in the nature, I begin with a pencil in hand to sketch my own interpretation of the landscape that moves me. Then I bring the sketches to life by using watercolours that are close to how the rugs will look when finished. Then I move on to the tufting process where the base material is stretched across a frame. I use a hand tufting method using pure sustainable Icelandic wool"

For more information on Shanko Rugs go to: www.shankorugs.com



A DAY TO REMEMBER

Iceland offers a stunning wedding location with a wild side

Iceland is a leading wedding and honeymoon destination for couples wanting to experience a ceremony or celebration with a difference. At hotel Ranga couples can choose a traditional wedding in the quaint and beautiful country church at Oddi. Civil ceremonies can be arranged at nearby Skógarfoss waterfalls, a breath-taking backdrop for photography. For those adventurous spirits why not exchange vows on the cliffs overlooking the wild Atlantic Ocean and the volcanic black beach.

Better wise language than well combed hair

icelandic proverb



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Put your creative eye to the test with Hotel Ranga's annual photo contest

Each year Hotel Ranga holds its seasonal photographic competition where guests can enter their images into this amateur contest. Winners receive a complimentary all-inclusive 2 night stay at Hotel Ranga. This year's categories are:

- The best Hotel Rangá and the Northern Lights photo
- The best Hotel Rangá and the stars photo

All photos should be sent by e-mail to hotelranga@hotelranga.com with information about the photographer and the date the photo was taken. We reserve the right to publish all photos on our Facebook page and our website with the name of the photographer.

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