

# University of Glasgow Exploration Society's 2019 Iceland Expedition Team

In the summer of 2019, six students from the University of Glasgow spent six weeks in Iceland undertaking a series of research projects on the eastern edge of the country.

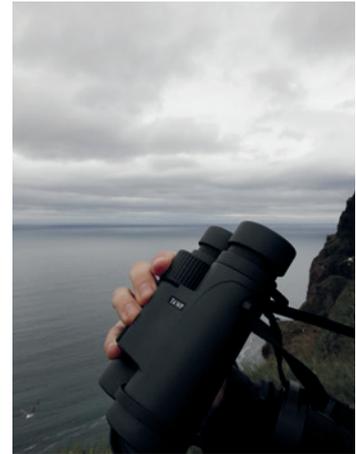
For this years' trip Opticron donated 6 pairs of T4 Trailfinder binoculars to be handed on to next year's group and loaned an MM4 60 GA ED Travelscope c/w HDF T zoom, tripod and USM-2 Smartphone Mount.

## T4 Trailfinder 10x42 Binoculars

One such project involved the continuation of a long-term kittiwake and fulmar nest count. The challenge is to count the nests without constantly getting lost in the hectic mosaic of perching seabirds. The T4 10x42 was perfectly suited to the job of scanning the towering and busy cliffs largely as a result of their impressive field of view.

In another project - an investigation into the factors affecting the fledgling success of Arctic terns, the binoculars were used to help us identify prey type held in the beaks of passing terns. Difficult as it sounds, thanks to the easy focus and sharp images, the T4's proved to be up to the task.

The binoculars are solid, comfortable and feel like they are made to last. As a consequence, we did not shy away from taking them with us on explorations across the Icelandic heathland.



With the bins constantly to hand we were never kicking ourselves when a golden plover or bar-tailed godwit cropped up! On days off, we could take them to the shore and enjoy watching foraging porpoises or phalaropes.

The rainguard and lens covers included were incredibly useful in protecting the eye lenses against Iceland's variable weather and allowed us to take the binoculars out regardless of the conditions. A nice bonus feature was close focus that meant we could use them for casual observations of insects.

Overall, the T4 Trailfinder is a robust and versatile pair of binoculars that performed really well whether it was seabird chick counts, cetacean watching, or recreational birding. If you are starting out or just want a sturdy optic partner to accompany you on your off-track adventures, we can thoroughly recommend them.