

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR IN NEW ZEALAND

with

NZICESCAPES IMAGES - Petr Hlavacek

GLACIER COUNTRY

ITINERARY – 3.5 DAYS

LOCATION

New Zealand has very unique location on planet. It is situated in the middle of Pacific Ocean on so called “Ring of Fire”, exposed to all weather patterns oceans can throw at it and thanks to its undisturbed seclusion for millions of years a natural, scenic wonderland had a chance to form. New Zealand has some of the most diverse and colourful landscapes on Earth. Quite possibly for this reasons, it is a dream destination – once in a lifetime experience for many people. South Island with West Coast in particular is an absolute heaven for any landscape photographer, offering such a remarkable diversity on so small piece of land, which is unparalleled in the World.

In total, New Zealand has 13 National Parks. 3 are up in the North Island, 1 is in Rakiura/Stewart Island and 9 NP are on the mainland/the South Island. Out of these 9 NP of the South Island, we are going to shoot in the Westland Tai Poutini National Park with its remarkable sceneries outlined below.

There will be other Reserves of special significance in which the photo shoots will take place.

Westland National Park – coastal, rainforest, mountains, glaciers, lakes, rivers, lagoons

Westland National Park is one of the most diverse of all National Parks in New Zealand. It is situated approximately in the middle of the West Coast, stretching its boundaries from the Tasman Sea all the way up to the highest peaks of New Zealand. It offers perhaps the most contrasting, wild and breathtaking scenery.

From rugged coastline with endless and secluded pristine beaches through lagoons, valleys filled with wild rivers and creeks, prehistorical lakes, wetlands, lush rainforests and up to mountain ranges of the Southern Alps with its highest mountain of the whole Austral - Asia - Mt. Cook 3724m asl. And we can't forget the main draw card of this region - the mighty glaciers. Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers are extremely unique and, along with a couple of other glaciers in Argentina and Chile, they are considered among the fastest moving glaciers in the world. They can move up to 5m/day at places if conditions are right. Due to their geographical location they belong to a group of so called "temperate glaciers" since they slide their way down into the temperate rainforest to an altitude of around 250m asl, from the heights of almost 3000m asl and on a stretch of just 10 km.

All these breathtaking locations await participants of Petr Hlavacek's photographic tours.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Franz Josef Glacier

Start: pre-determined time and place in the afternoon in Franz Josef Glacier, well before our first sunset session.

Day 2 - Franz Josef Glacier

Lunch

Our first sunrise will be photographed at nearby Lake Mapourika, with good chances of having morning fog at the lake. After breakfast, we'll venture into Franz Josef Glacier valley before, after lunch in town, heading north to Whataroa Valley with its beautiful, turquoise coloured waters of Whataroa River. Stunning, open views of the Southern Alps will decorate the background. Open valley may be occupied with grazing live stock, only to add an extra and typical West Coast element to the frame. This valley, one of the most beautiful valleys on the West Coast, is penetrated with side creeks and streams flowing into the bouldery Whataroa River, offering an endless photo opportunities. To capture colours of sunset, we'll move to 20min away Okarito and set off for 30 min hike to the lookout for amazing views of the Southern Alps. After sunset, we'll walk back in dark – head torches necessary and then it's only 30min drive to Franz Josef Glacier for the late dinner in our accommodation.



Day 3 - Franz Josef Glacier

Lunch

Early morning with sunrise at the most photographed lake in NZ - Lake Matheson and its mirror like reflections of NZ highest peaks - Aoraki|Mt. Cook (3.724m) and Mt. Tasman (3.497m) After breakfast we move into the Fox Glacier valley, which is only a few minutes away. Lunch will be back in Fox Glacier township. There will be a little free time before we start making our way towards Gillespies Beach for some great sunset. The beach full of driftwood and Gillespies Lagoon will offer us many amazing photo opportunities before sun gets down. Driving back to Franz Josef Glacier for the night.



Day 4 - Franz Josef Glacier

Lunch

If the weather cooperate today, you'll have an option of photographing Fox Glacier itself. Depending on weather, we may go for a helicopter ride which would take us into icy wonderland of Fox Glacier higher up to be professionally guided by glacier guide. After landing in approx. middle of the glacier, right under the massive icefall, you'll spend on the ice about 2hrs, after which the helicopter will bring you all back to town. You will all be hipped up and it will be hard to beat this experience. This addition is optional, not included in tour fees and will be decided once in the area. At this point we have several options which I'd like to leave open and make decisions in accordance with weather. We may photograph Fox River with majestic Southern Alps and Fox Glacier in background or we may explore densely in moss cloaked rainforest before photographing sunset at Lake Matheson. The dinner will be in Fox Glacier with night in Franz Josef.



End of the tour after return to Franz Josef Glacier.

LEVEL OF FITNESS & SKILLS

Petr Hlavacek's tours/workshops are designed to suit broad range of fitness levels. However, some longer walks (2-4 hrs return) over uneven, uphill and rugged terrain will be required on this tour.

Therefore, good level of fitness is recommended, as well as the ability to carry your own small back pack with extra clothing, snacks and camera equipment. Please, discuss this with us if you have any concerns.

Photographers of all skill levels, from beginners to professionals will benefit from this tour.

Beginner needs to have a good working knowledge of their own camera system to benefit the most from the tour.

Professionals will benefit from our tours since we take care of the logistics and bring them to the best locations straight away so the they can purely concentrate on shooting, rather than waisting time scouting.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

The tour is designed to make most of the locations and weather the group we'll be presented with, bringing a photographer to great locations at the best times so the client can concentrate purely on capturing the beauty of New Zealand stunning landscapes.

You will learn variety of creative techniques in field which professionals use to capture most compelling images, including ND Gradual and polarising filters.

We'll be pre-visualizing images, assessing light conditions, we'll learn how to find a strong composition within a scene to make a photograph speak.

We'll be also discussing and practising stitching images for best panoramas, focus stacking and HDR.... 'why and how'

WHAT TO BRING

The weather in Glacier Country can be extremely changeable. We are not going to be shooting in pouring heavy rain, but it is well possible that some rain will get us on our way to or from the location, especially being in Glacier Country with up to 6,000mm of annual rainfall.

Below are some MUST have items for all our tours:

- camera gear
- sturdy tripod and filters of your choice - ND filters with polarising filter recommended
- layers of warm clothing
- warm hat and gloves
- head torch
- waterproof clothing (jacket, pants)
- day backpack
- sturdy boots (ankle high recommended)
- great spirit
- if possible, laptop with 5 of your favorite photos and loaded with latest version of Lightroom (free 1 month trial downloadable from Adobe website)

SPECIFICATIONS

Due to the geographical location of New Zealand, the weather can be extremely changeable – in Glacier Country in particular, and will play a major role on our tour. For this reasons and other specifics of this tour, this itinerary is flexible and fully subject to change.

Please note - Assuming that participants on this photo adventure trip will be arriving to New Zealand for longer period of time than for the duration of the trip only, we decided not to include transportation for this tour. Instead, we expect participants to have their own transport so they can carry on in their holiday before/after the tour.

For this reason - there is no transport provided for this tour and participants are expected to arrange their own transport throughout the length of the tour, as well as getting to the Franz Josef Glacier location for the start of the tour.

In an effort to secure as good weather as possible for this tour, we decided not to exactly

specify and book the dates; rather we've decided to select one week in which the 3.5 days of our tour will take place. This solution should give us much better chances of catching the best weather window for our photography and make the tour in this wild but truly spectacular location a great success.

Since we will be in contact with you, our clients, before and as soon as you arrive to New Zealand, we will keep you well informed and updated with weather situation. This way you will be able to adjust the time of your arrival to Franz Josef Glacier in best available weather window for the Glacier Country.

This will also give you much better chances to organise and enjoy the rest of your stay in New Zealand to your benefits.

Should you need to, we would be happy to advise and help you with booking the car, your plans and accommodation on the tour.

Once in Glacier Country, we will continually be assessing the weather conditions on daily basis and alter the tour to the benefits of the photography. For instance, should the weather be too bright and sunny for the shoot in a bush, we may change the location and leave the bush for the overcast day if possible. These possible changes will be made by us in the mornings and during the day's development.

Many locations on our tour offer other shooting options, therefore it won't be difficult to come up with alternative location.

Some sunrises are also subject to changes, allowing clients to decide should they be tired but otherwise we will be attempting to photograph during every available sunset and sunrise.

Sessions on RAW workflow, Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop will be inserted into evenings or into time windows when suitable.

What's included in workshop fees:

- Photography tuition and guidance fees
- Lunch for 3 days
- Goods and Services Tax
- Department of Conservation Fees
- Image reviews
- Session on photography RAW workflow
- Session on image processing - Lightroom and Photoshop workflow

What's NOT included in workshop fees:

- Accommodation
- All air or other travel fees to arrive in New Zealand
- All associated taxes, levies and insurances including travel insurance

- Transport to and from the Franz Josef Glacier Village
- Local transport throughout the tour
- Immigration, duty, passport and visa fees where applicable
- Glacier Guide fee and a scenic helicopter flight for the hike on Fox Glacier
- Some meals which are not indicated in the itinerary
- Individual beverages during meals
- Optional activities such as helicopter, plane flights, boat rides, kayaks etc.
- Anything not listed in inclusions above

HOW TO RESERVE PLACE IN OUR WORKSHOP

To reserve your place in workshop, a completed Reservation Form and a non-refundable deposit is required at time of your booking – please read our Terms & Condition before you make your reservation.

For more informations and bookings, please read our Terms and Conditions before you make your reservations or contact us at:

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We highly recommend purchasing the travel insurance and insurance of your air ticket in case you will not be able to attend the tour/workshop and have to cancel the air ticket.