

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR IN NEW ZEALAND

with

NZICESCAPES IMAGES - Petr Hlavacek

6 NATIONAL PARKS SOJOURN

ITINERARY - 15 DAYS ALL INCLUSIVE

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 wether 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 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 6 of them, each presenting us with its specific beauty which I'm briefly outlaying below.

Arthur’s Pass National Park - alpine, mountains, rivers, stream, waterfalls, native forest

Paparoa National Park – coastal, rivers, limestone, Nikau Palms

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

Mt. Aspiring National Park – rivers, streams, waterfalls, alpine, lakes, lagoons, bogs

Fiordland National Park – coastal, fiords, rainforest, alpine, lakes, rivers

Mt. Cook National Park – mountains, lakes, rivers, glaciers, alpine

There will be many other National Reserves or Reserves of other significance in which the photo shoots will take place.

Snowy mountains and glaciers, valleys filled with pristine, wild rivers and streams, prehistoric lakes, bogs and swamps, waterfalls. Wild and remote coastal scenes, limestone formations and blowholes, Nikau palms, lagoons, dense, juicy green rainforests give way to tussocky alpine heights and much more.

All these breathtaking locations awaits participants of Petr's exclusive photographic tour – 6 National Parks Sojourn.

ITINERARY

When we were thinking about how to make already very successful itinerary even better, one thing came up straight away - to offer an overnight stay in the alpine hut, high in the Southern Alps of New Zealand.

We chose several, very unique spots of the vast and spectacular, white mountainous landscape of the Southern Alps, topping it off with few hours hike of the following morning on the blue ice of the Fox Glacier.

This optional addition to our itinerary makes this trip very unique and sets it apart from others on offer. It combines those iconic, spectacular locations New Zealand is famous for worldwide, with locations totally unique and out of range to a general traveller.

We're truly excited about this new optional addition, as it elevates our trip into the best of best category.

This new additional adventure is optional since it is totally weather dependent. It can be left out all together or altered for people not feeling comfortable in the helicopters or spending night in the mountain hut. This would result in a day spent in Fox Glacier village with endless photo opportunities, following the "plan B" scenario.

Day 01 - Christchurch - Arthur's Pass Village

Start: 8am at specified assembly point

After initial meeting, we'll leave Christchurch to our destination in Arthur's Pass, only 2 hrs drive away. We'll drive through the alpine environment most of our way, heading towards the Southern Alps. There will many photographic opportunities along the way to photograph lakes, rives and mountain vistas with sunset at Waimakariri River and dramatic mountains in background.

First evening – getting to know each other – itinerary – official start.



Day 02 - Arthur's Pass Village - Punakaiki

After sunrise shoot and breakfast, we'll carry on photographing alpine streams and rivers in Arthur's Pass. After breakfast, we'll carry on exploring the Arthur's Pass location until lunch time before heading off towards famous pancake rocks in Punakaiki. We don't have a long distance to travel so we can leave Arthur's Pass at leisure pace. The aim is to get to Punakaiki in the late afternoon, ending with sunset session on famous Pancake Rocks.



Day 03 - Punakaiki – Hokitika

Early start to capture some brilliant skies, as the sun rises on the east coast. This morning exercise will take us through to breakfast, after which we may further explore the area. We'll move on for the lunch in about 1 hr distant Hokitika, where we will spend a night. Hokitika Gorge with its turquoise coloured river awaits us for some afternoon shooting before returning back to capture sunset at Lake Kaniere.



Day 04 - Hokitika – Franz Josef Glacier - Whataroa

From here, we venture deep into South Westland and the landscape starts to get more and more dramatic. Our road starts to cut through the dense rainforest at the mountains feet, we will be getting closer and closer to them, crossing wild rivers and streams and driving alongside of pristine lakes. Should the weather be favourable, snowcapped tops of the Southern Alps will frequently tease us with its gorgeous panoramas.

We'll have an early morning start for the sunrise at Lake Mahinapua. After breakfast back in Hokitika and check out, we may head off, time permitting, to Whataroa Valley with its beautiful, turquoise coloured waters of Whataroa River and stunning, open views of the Southern Alps. The night will be spent at Petr Hlavacek Gallery in Whataroa, combined with Petr's gallery private viewing. After dropping our gear off, we'll drive to Franz Josef Glacier to visit glacier valley from Sentinel Rock lookout before having a dinner in town. For capturing colours of sunset, we'll drive to 30min distant Okarito to hike for about 40 mins to the lookout to photograph arguably the best views of the Southern Alps. We'll be entering UNESCO World Heritage Area right after Whataroa, which stretches all the way down to Fiordland.



Day 05 - Whataroa - Franz Josef Glacier – Fox Glacier

This morning we'll photograph possible morning fogs and kahikatea trees at sunrise at nearby Lake Wahapo or Mapourika. After breakfast we may go to explore the Franz Josef Glacier valley further. We'll have a lunch in Franz Josef Glacier before moving 26km further south to our next location - the Fox Glacier township. We may head straight into the rainforest for some nice, juicy green images, depending on weather conditions. For the sunset we'll drive to Gillespies Beach and Lagoon where we'll be photographing magic views of the Southern Alps reflecting in lagoon and its stream.



Day 06 - Fox Glacier

Today is going to be super exciting day, as we may have one of the highlights of the trip ahead of us. If the weather cooperates, we could be chartering a private helicopter to take us high up into the mountains, where we may spend the night in one of the mountaineering huts. There is several huts available in the area and the exact hut for our night will be chosen in accordance with weather conditions and occupancy of the huts. Any of the huts we settle in for, offers unparalleled views of the Southern Alps and either Franz Josef or Fox Glacier, with photographic opportunities like nowhere else. But that's not all - after spending the day in the mountains and sunset/sunrise shoot in the Southern Alps, the following morning helicopter would come back to pick us up and transfer us into higher parts of the Fox Glacier itself. We may spend about 3 hrs hiking and photographing ice caves, crevasses and blue ice. We could be making some amazing images on one of the most unique glacier in the world. Around a lunch time the helicopter would come back again to take us down from the glacier and for the lunch in Fox Glacier town. At lunch we'll discuss our next location, but we may be tired after mountain hiking so option of some down time is available if needed. This trip could also be altered in accordance with weather conditions.

This exciting mountain hut overnight is optional and totally wether dependent and it may happen any day we'll be in the area. Could be day 5 or it could happen on day 7.





Day 07 - Fox Glacier

This morning, we have a sunrise shoot at Lake Matheson with amazing reflections of the Southern Alps. The Glacier Country region is full of magic places and 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 night and dinner will be in Fox Glacier



Day 08 - Fox Glacier – Haast

Before we leave Fox Glacier deeper south, we have on more option of 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) or to capture the essence of farming under the Southern Alps. It takes just under 2 hrs to get to Haast from here, therefore, we can enjoy the morning in Fox Glacier, have a breakfast at Lake Matheson Cafe and photograph some of the best, iconic NZ vistas with magic panoramas of farmland under highest NZ mountains. Following 2 hrs of drive to Haast are all through an UNESCO World Heritage Area and are fully packed with breathtaking scenery. We'll have a stop at Lake Paringa, which is pre-historic, remote lake surrounded by native white pines – beautiful kahikateas, the tallest NZ trees. One more break will be at Ship Creek with its beautiful beach and sand dunes covered by sand grass or with some of the best examples of the fantastic, boggy rainforest just like the one from a Jurassic Park. Sunset will be photographed at Ship Creek, from where it's only a few more minutes to the Haast, where we will spend the night.



Day 09 -- Haast – Glenorchy

After breakfast, we'll take off toward the Haast Pass and further to Wanaka and on to Queenstown/Glenorchy. It's going to be a long drive packed with breathtaking, ever changing scenery. Shortly after Haast, we'll be stopping for our first waterfall, with two more to follow. Moving on over the Haast Pass and through Makarora, our next photo stop will be at Lake Wanaka with another stop shortly after, at Lake Hawea. Both lakes are surrounded by mountains so if the weather is on our side the reflections and colours are going to be amazing. We will have a lunch stop in Wanaka by the lake before we carry on over the Cardrona road and through Arrowtown, Queenstown to Glenorchy. From Wanaka it's going to be approx. 1.5hrs to Glenorchy, which sits at the head of the Lake Wakatipu. We will be chasing light for some great sunsets here, with Dart River nearby.



Day 10 - Glenorchy – Te Anau

This morning we'll get up early for the sunrise at the Lake Wakatipu or Rees River. After sunrise and breakfast, we'll drive to place called Paradise where a lot of Lord of the Rings scenes were filmed. Spending the morning and lunch in Glenorchy, we'll move on, driving towards Te Anau. Arriving in Te Anau in the late afternoon and checking in, we'll capture some great images of Lake Te Anau at sunset.



Day 11 - Te Anau – Doubtful Sound

Another exciting day ahead of us. Sunrise above Lake Te Anau before heading off to Manapouri for the Doubtful Sound overnight boat cruise. Doubtful Sound is known for its, remote, tranquil location, deep in the Fiordland NP. We may be lucky to see water wildlife; such as dolphins, penguins etc. We stay the night on the boat, anchored in the middle of the Doubtful Sound, after making some incredible images during sunset the sound's entrance, should the weather allow. If it rains the experience will be possibly even stronger with all the waterfalls gaining on its volume and thundering down the steep cliffs. Departure for the cruise is at 12:30pm.



Day 12 - Doubtful Sound – Te Anau

After morning spent on boat in the middle of Doubtful Sound with sunrise and breakfast, the boat will return us back to Manapouri township. We'll head straight to Te Anau for lunch after which we'll set off to explore Milford Road with sunset in Milford Sound before returning back to Te Anau.



Day 13 - Te Anau - Queenstown

Possible foggy sunrise over Lake Te Anau. After breakfast, we'll make a move to nearby Lake Manapouri. We spend some time exploring lake shores before hitting the road towards Queenstown. After lunch in Te Anau, we'll arrive in Queenstown in the afternoon to check in to our hotel before heading off for the sunset shoot of the Remarkables Mountains from the lake shore. Depending on time of our arrival to Queenstown, there might be some free time available for shopping and relaxing in the streets of this mecca of adventure sports before sunset shoot.



Day 14 - Queenstown – Aoraki-Mt. Cook

Sunrise shoot of the Remarkables Mountains surrounding Queenstown and reflecting in Lake Wakatipu. After breakfast, we'll leave for Aoraki/Mt. Cook Village, the playground of mountaineers and home to the highest NZ mountain – Aoraki/Mt. Cook 3724m. Aoraki/Mt. Cook NP is a location offering a breathtaking alpine scenery so we don't want to loose much time on our transfer. This leg normally takes about 4hrs and we need to be in Mt. Cook in the early afternoon to be able to move to the Tasman Glacier Valley for a sunset shoot of its terminal lake with possible ice debris floating on its surface. Depending on our time and weather, we may be able to have a quick stop at beautiful Lake Pukaki, with Aoraki/Mt. Cook in the background.

Final evening – conclusion – closure.



Day 15 - Aoraki-Mt. Cook – Christchurch

Last early morning for the sunrise in the Hooker Valley with the majestic Aoraki/Mt. Cook (3724m).

We'll have one more opportunity to make a last click on a great location at Lake Tekapo, which is reached in about 1.5hrs from Mt. Cook Village.



The tour finishes in Christchurch at 5pm.

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 may be required on some of our tours/workshops.

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, especially about the mountain stay fitness requirements.

Photographers of all skill levels, from beginners to professionals will benefit from our tours. 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 so 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

Due to New Zealand's location the weather 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.

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
- waterproof clothing (jacket, pants)
- day backpack
- head lamp
- sturdy boots (ankle high, crampon suitable if possible but not mandatory)
- laptop with Lightroom and selection of your 6 favorited images for group review
- great spirit and smile

SPECIFICATIONS

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

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 together as the day develops.

Many locations on our tour offer other shooting options, therefore it will be easy to come up with alternative locations.

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

What's included in tour fees:

- 14 nights accommodation in twin share
- 15 days of photography tuition and tour guidance
- Doubtful Sound overnight cruise
- Transportation throughout the tour
- Department of Conservation concession fees
- All meals - B, L, D
- Refreshments
- Goods and Services Tax
- Image reviews

- Session on photography RAW workflow
- Session on the use of PS Lightroom and PS software in processing the image files.

What's NOT included in tour fees:

- All air or other travel fees to arrive in New Zealand to the tour departure point
- All associated taxes, levies and insurances including travel insurance
- Immigration, duty, passport and visa fees where applicable
- Alcoholic beverages, optional tips
- Optional activities e.g. helicopter flights, boat trips, jet boating
- Mountain guide fees, hiking on Fox Glacier, overnight stay in alpine hut, 3 heli charters if applicable
- Anything not listed in inclusions above

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

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

Petr Hlavacek

NZICESCAPES IMAGES

State Highway 6

Whataroa 7857

South Westland

New Zealand

e: info@nzicescapes.com w: nzicescapes.com skype: [nzicescapes](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/nzicescapes)