

New Zealand Winter Workshop

MONDAY 20TH-SATURDAY 25TH JULY -2026




dean cooper
landscape photography

New Zealand Autumn Workshop -Info & Itinerary

Hi and Welcome.

This booklet will provide you with all the info you need for our upcoming workshop, but if you do have any questions before we leave, don't hesitate to contact me.

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Participants

Neale Walters

Caroline Kilderry

John and Andrea Byrne

Mark Orchard



Information - New Zealand

Weather

The weather will vary a bit from place to place, and each year can be different,.

Mount Cook is likely to be our coldest place, I'm expecting it to be -2 to -6 deg in the mornings and 4-5 deg during the day. Queenstown will have lows of -1 deg and a high of 10 deg. .

As far as the general weather goes, expect a bit of everything, and we are likely to encounter snow, but anything can happen.

Sunrise and Sunset times

These times, of course, vary a bit each day but here are the general daylight hours. I have included nautical dawn as this will dictate our sunrise shoots. During our workshop, I will be monitoring the weather closely. This can determine when we may shoot a location, and if it looks like we may have a morning with no cloud cover, then we will be heading off a bit earlier than usual to catch the pre-dawn light. Sometimes this light can be better than sunrise itself, so an early start is needed. I will brief you each night as to what time we need to be ready in the morning.

Nautical Dawn 7.00am

Sunrise 8.02am

Sunset 5.30pm

Clothing

Layers layers layers. And sometimes lots of them. It is essential to arrive in NZ with the right clothing and footwear; this will make the trip a lot more enjoyable. Thermals are a great idea and will be needed in colder areas. Overpants may be handy if you have and use them. An excellent warm jacket is needed, and so is a raincoat. Sometimes I put my raincoat on to act as another layer and a windbreak. Bring a beanie and some gloves. I use gloves that are designed for photographers, the fingertips pull back so you can operate the camera without taking them off. If you are interested, drop me an email as I sell these.

Footwear

I take a pair of boots and a pair of shoes. The boots are a mid-height waterproof hiking boot, and the shoes are waterproof hiking shoes. Our terrain will be varied, so this type of footwear is a must.

NB: If you bring hiking boots, make sure they are clean, as Customs will want to inspect them on entry into NZ



Money

Accommodation, breakfast, evening meal, and transport are covered during the workshop. Participants are responsible for their lunches and drinks. There are plenty of ATMs around, and there is a money exchange at the airport. Your Australian credit cards work in NZ for making purchases or withdrawing cash. The NZ dollar rate is very close to the AUD at the moment, so not much difference.



Mobile Phones - WiFi

Check with your provider beforehand as you may want to activate International use or use a sim card in NZ. I have used NZ sims before, and they are a good alternative if your carrier does not offer international use.. We will have WiFi at most places we stay, and it is easy these days to make calls home via the internet, this can be an option if you don't need a phone during the day.

Telstra customers

I'm with Telstra and will use their International Day pass.

- Cost: AU\$5 per 24-hour period.
- Data: 2GB per day. If you exceed this, a 2GB top-up costs \$10 (valid for 31 days).
- Calls/SMS: Unlimited standard calls and SMS to NZ and back to Australia.
- Activation: The pass activates automatically upon using your phone in NZ.

AC Power

Power points in NZ are the same as Australia so no need for adaptors.

Info - Workshop

Start of Workshop - Monday 20th July

I will be arriving with my wife Letizia a few days before the workshop. On Monday morning we will pick up our 12 seater bus and proceed to pick each of you up. I will put a plan into place and let you know a time to be ready. We get the mini bus at 8.30am, so pick ups will be around 9am.

Our first night is in Tekapo which is around a 3 hour drive. Make sure you have your camera gear separated from your main luggage as we will be photographing along the way
Make sure you have had breakfast!!

Finish of Workshop - Saturday 25th July

We will be in Queenstown on our last day, the plan is to photograph close by and return to Queenstown at 3pm, we will either drop you at the airport or your accommodation.

PLEASE CONTACT ME WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN NZ

This way I know that your phone is working OK
Letizia and I will arrive in NZ on Saturday

WhatsApp

If we all use WhatsApp, we can set up a group chat.
This is great for communication during the workshop, and
we can all share images after the workshop



Camera Gear

Here is a list of camera gear that I recommend for NZ, I will list lenses in full-frame equivalent to avoid confusion.

NB: lenses are a guide only

- Camera Bodies x 2
- Astro lens (if you have one)
- 16mm-35mm WIDE
- 24-70mm lens MID
- 70-300mm lens TELE
- Filters- ND + CPL
- Sturdy Tripod
- Spare batteries
- Spare Memory cards
- Battery chargers
- HD or laptop for Backups



Recommended Accessories

- Head torch for night shooting
- Cable release for long exposure
- Cleaning cloths

Also, keep in mind that I am an agent for Nisi and Leofoto products, so let me know if you need anything before the trip. (filters, tripods, backpacks, gloves)

NB: I have demo Nisi filter kits if you want to try them out

Food and Drinks

Breakfast and dinner are supplied during the workshop. Participants are responsible for their own lunches, we will stop at cafes etc each day for lunch. Our evening meals are at restaurants that I have selected, and breakfast will be at cafes.

I will also have snacks and fruit in the car for those times during the day that we need a bit of an energy boost. There will be a Registration form to fill out, here you can inform us of any dietary requirements.

Due to public liability insurance, I can no longer supply alcohol during my workshops. You are most welcome to have a drink, and you can purchase this in any of the towns.

Tuition

During the workshop, I will be on-hand as your guide and tutor.

As our group is small, I will work with each of you at a personal level. We can target areas that you want to improve on; these can be camera craft, or composition and visual skills.

I will be taking some images at times, but please don't hesitate to call for my attention at any time.

My goal for the week is for you to gain as much knowledge and learn new skills.



Itinerary

Monday 20th July 2026

Christchurch to Tekapo

Peppers Resort, Tekapo

After picking you all up, we will leave Christchurch and head to Tekapo. There will be stops along the way, so make sure you have your camera gear and tripod on hand.

We can check into our rooms in the afternoon and then head out for sunset. Then it's back into Tekapo for dinner.

If the sky is clear we can do an astro shoot at the Church of Good Shepherd



Tuesday & Wednesday 21-22nd July 2026

Tekapo to Twizel

Alps Motel for two nights

We will head to the Church of Good Shepherd for a sunrise shoot.

Let's hope for a good sunrise as it can be spectacular, either way, there are lots of good angles and compositions.

We will head back to Peppers and vacate our rooms and have breakfast in town, then it is a short drive to Twizel.

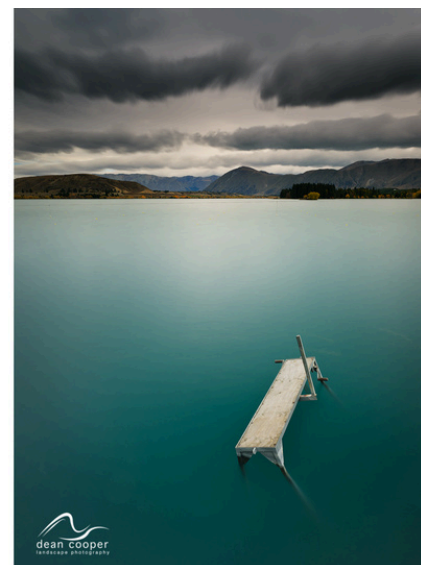
We will be based here for two nights

Tuesday sunset shoot will be at Lake Ohau

Wednesday morning we will drive into Mount Cook for a sunrise shoot at Tasman Lake... spectacular!

There will be more locations to shoot through the day and we will head out to Loch Cameron for sunset

Dinner in town after our sunset shoot and then back to our rooms



Itinerary

Thursday 23rd July 2026

Twizel to Wanaka

West Meadows Apartments, Wanaka

Our sunrise shoot will be in Twizel, after breakfast we will head towards Wanaka.

One highlight will be the Lindis Pass, always spectacular no matter the weather.

And we will of course photograph the infamous Wanaka Tree



Itinerary

Friday 24th July 2026

Wanaka to Queenstown

Double Tree Hill by Hilton, Queenstown

After our sunrise tree shoot, we will head back to the apartments, pack and then head out for breakfast .

We now make our way to Queenstown.

Arriving in Queenstown we will settle into our accomodation and then head out for a sunset shoot.



Itinerary

Saturday

25th July 2026

Queenstown

We will start our day by watching the sunrise at a stunning location featuring a small lake surrounded by mountains.

After that, we will return to Queenstown to check out of our apartments.

Following breakfast, we'll photograph in and around Queenstown.

In the afternoon, we'll drop you off at the airport or your accommodation if you are staying longer.

Unfortunately, our workshop will have come to an end, but we hope you will take home some amazing images and wonderful memories



Check List

A quick check list for you:

- Passport up to date
- Flights booked
- Accommodation pre and post-workshop booked
- Mobile phone, check your carrier
- Travel Insurance
- Registration Form filled out - link in email

