

New Zealand Adventure Sports Photography Workshop

Full Course Outline



Hosted by



Workshop Vision

The New Zealand Adventure Sports Photography Workshop is a 7-day immersive experience designed for photographers who want to learn how to capture dynamic outdoor sports in real environments.

Participants will work directly alongside professional adventure guides and athletes while learning the technical, creative, and logistical skills required to photograph high-energy outdoor sports.

Rather than a classroom course, this program places photographers inside real adventure environments, working in the mountains, rivers, and trails that define New Zealand's global reputation as an adventure capital.

While it is expected you have some level of fitness for the adventure activities, you do not necessarily have to have high levels of experience in these outdoor sports. Every adventure we will go on each day is fully guided with licensed operators, and they operate within their permits. Some days the activities will be harder than others, but nothing that beginner to intermediate adventurers can't handle. The focus is on photography, but also getting home safely each day and getting a small taste for adventure in New Zealand!

Throughout the week participants will:

- Photograph multiple adventure sports
- Learn professional shooting techniques in the field
- Develop storytelling skills through action photography
- Understand safety and logistics when working in outdoor environments
- Build a professional workflow for editing and delivering images
- Work directly with the business owners to understand best practices

By the end of the workshop, participants will have a strong portfolio of adventure sports imagery, practical experience shooting athletes, and a deeper understanding of the adventure sports photography industry to take home and strengthen their own business pursuits.



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:

Strengthen Technical Skills

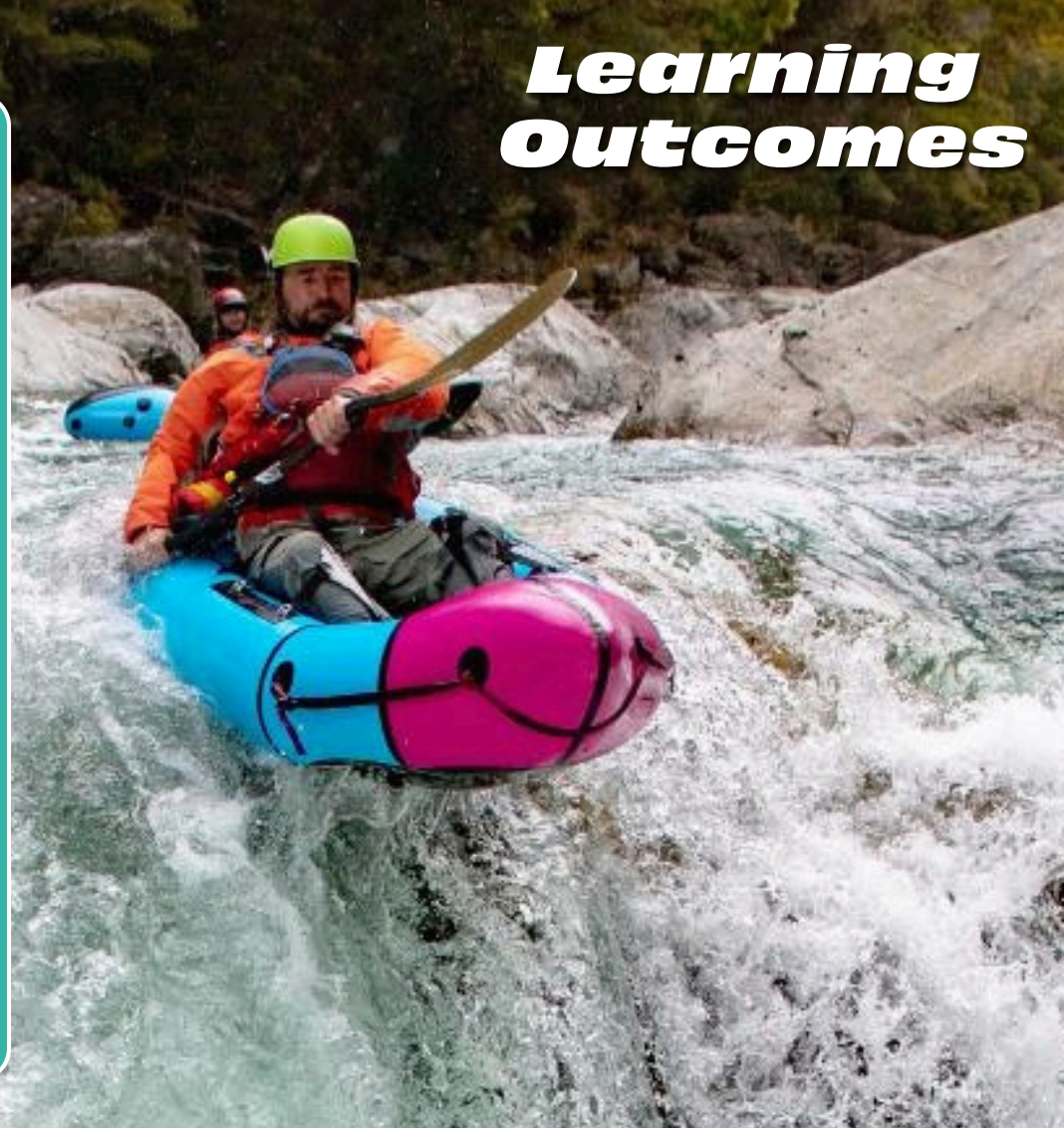
- Use camera settings optimized for fast moving action
- Track subjects and capture peak moments
- Use natural light effectively in outdoor environments
- Understand lens selection for action sports
- Shoot in difficult weather and mountain conditions

Creative Skills

- Compose images that communicate movement and emotion
- Capture storytelling moments beyond just action shots
- Work with athletes to create dynamic compositions
- Develop a visual narrative around adventure sports

Professional Skills

- Plan and execute adventure sports shoots safely
- Communicate with athletes and guides
- Manage gear in outdoor environments
- Edit and deliver images efficiently
- Build a portfolio suitable for outdoor brands and publications
- Develop awareness of professional contracts between client and photographer
- Learn more about licensing and protecting imagery



Daily Program Overview

The workshop is designed to progressively build skills throughout the week, beginning with foundational techniques and business best practices, ultimately culminating in real-world storytelling opportunities.

Each day includes:

- **Full catering each day**
- **Morning briefing and technical instruction**
- **Field photography sessions**
- **Informal discussions**
- **Afternoon shooting sessions**
- **Evening editing and critique sessions**



Logistics- What is included

Each day includes:

- An outdoor adventure, on-location instruction and transportation**
- Shooting with professional guides, licensed tourism operators and / or professional athletes.**
- Nightly editing, group critiques, and debriefs. Full catering each day (Dietary needs will be taken into consideration)**
- Shared accommodation in a group house or accommodation provider (options will change based on final booking numbers)**
- Specialised equipment for each outdoor activities when needed (rock climbing harness/shoes, snowshoes, helmets for snowshoeing etc)**

****Please understand there is no guarantee of doing every activity, every day. Weather is very changeable in Queenstown and I will do best to create adventures each day, but we may not have second chances to book certain activities if we have to cancel due to weather. In the event of cancellations, we will spend time doing another learning session or other activity in town and make it worth your while!**

Logistics- What is NOT included

Not Included:

- **Travel to and from Queenstown**
- **Unscheduled airport transfers**
- **Passport and visa fees (if applicable)**
- **Any meals or accommodations before or after the workshop dates**
- **Items of a personal nature**
- **Medical, Travel and Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance (all highly recommended)**
- **Camera gear/bags (advisable to bring your own or organise own rentals before coming to Queenstown. (There is NO local camera rental store in Queenstown).**
- **Outdoor clothing (layers, clothing, footwear etc). There are plenty of outdoor retail shops in Queenstown if you need to top up on anything.**
- **Outdoor gear (if you have your own specialist outdoor gear you wish to bring/use, you may do so at your own risk. Each adventure operator may require you use their gear for safety purposes.).**
- **Anything else specifically not listed as included**

Example Schedule

Exact itinerary may change based on weather, local conditions, and other factors.

Accommodation options will vary based on confirmed numbers.

It is HIGHLY recommended to fly in on the Sunday before, or be in town a couple days before to get settled in before the workshop. Workshop Day 1 will be September 7th, but accommodation will be covered from September 6th to allow for us to meet each other and have a shared dinner and debrief before jumping straight into things on the Monday.

Official Workshop dates are September 6th through 13th (7 days, 8 nights)

Day 0 Sunday (September 6th) – Travel day, PM Queenstown arrival, Pickup location is at the airport shared pickup zone at 4pm on the Sunday. If you arrive before Sunday 4pm, please make your way to the airport where I will pick you up in a group van.

We will aim to either have a group dinner in Queenstown near the airport, or head over to our accommodation and eat a catered meal there depending if there are any late arrivals or not.

Day 1 Monday – MTB day capturing sponsored athletes (Wynyard Jump Park, Queenstown)

Day 2 Tuesday – 1/2 day guided packrafting expedition with Packrafting Queenstown(Rees Valley). We will not be getting in the water on this day, only capturing guides/athletes as they paddle.

Day 3 Wednesday – Remarkables Ski Field guided snowshoe experience with Basecamp Adventures

Day 4 Thursday – Guided snowmobiling / side by side expedition with SnowmotoNZ (Pisa Range)

Day 5 Friday – Buffer day (Wanaka rock climbing with Basecamp Adventures and lifestyle shooting if good weather)

Day 6 Saturday – Capturing the Greensteam biking event at Treble Cone Ski Field (real world adventure event to put skills into practice). Will have ski passes/snowshoes organised for the day.

Day 7 Sunday – Final critiques, portfolio sequencing, initial departures PM (End of workshop)

Day 0 - PM Arrival/Pickups, Team Dinner and gear prep

Theme: Preparing for Adventure

The first day focuses on introductions, gear preparation, and understanding the unique challenges of photographing adventure sports.

Participants will be picked up from the airport at or around 4pm to meet the instructor and fellow photographers. We will either have team dinner in Queenstown or head straight to our accommodation depending on arrival times.

Over dinner, we will discuss what's ahead:

- **Week overview**
- **Safety considerations when shooting outdoors**
- **Gear selection for the outdoor environments**
- **Camera setup and prep**

And with any extra time, we will do individual intros and portfolio reviews.

We will need to rest though for the big day ahead on Monday, day 1!



Day 1-MTB Photography Day

Location: Ben Lommond Bike Trails, 7 Mile Bike Park or Gorge Rd.

Theme: Anticipating the Moment, Brand and Athlete Photography

We will spend the day focusing on Mountain biking photography, without having to worry about mountain bike ourselves. We will walk up into the forest where the mountain bike parks are, and spend the day being guided with professional mountain biking guide, Treadmark.

We will spend a majority of the day, rain or shine, working directly with the athletes to shoot portraits and clothing, mountain biking gear and scenes across the mountain bike park.

Key focuses/skills

- Shooting athletes on berms, jumps, and technical sections
- Using wide angle lenses for immersive shots
- Framing riders within landscapes
- Communicating with riders to coordinate action

Activities

- Trail walk-through and shot planning
- Multi-angle shooting positions
- Jump and corner photography
- Slow-shutter motion experiments

Evening Session

Depending on timing and weather, either at the mountain bike park, or back at our accommodation, we will have a mini Workshop with Ilabb CEO Seadon Baker, where he will walk us through what he believes makes a good image, how his company approaches their branding and more.

We will finish the night editing and selecting strong portfolio images from the day together.

Day 2 - Water Sports Photography

Location: Queenstown Or Wanaka Rivers (Weather and conditions permitting)

Theme: Photographing Adventure on Water and hiking landscapes

Participants will photograph packrafting athletes navigating river environments while learning techniques for working near water.

We will not be getting in the water for this activity because of the cold weather. We will only do the hiking portion of the day in order to access the rivers.

We will be photographing the packrafting guides as our athletes, who will be paddling in the water while we give directions to them.

Key Skills

- Managing camera gear near water
- Shooting from riverbanks and elevated positions
- Capturing paddling motion and splashes
- Working with fast changing outdoor conditions

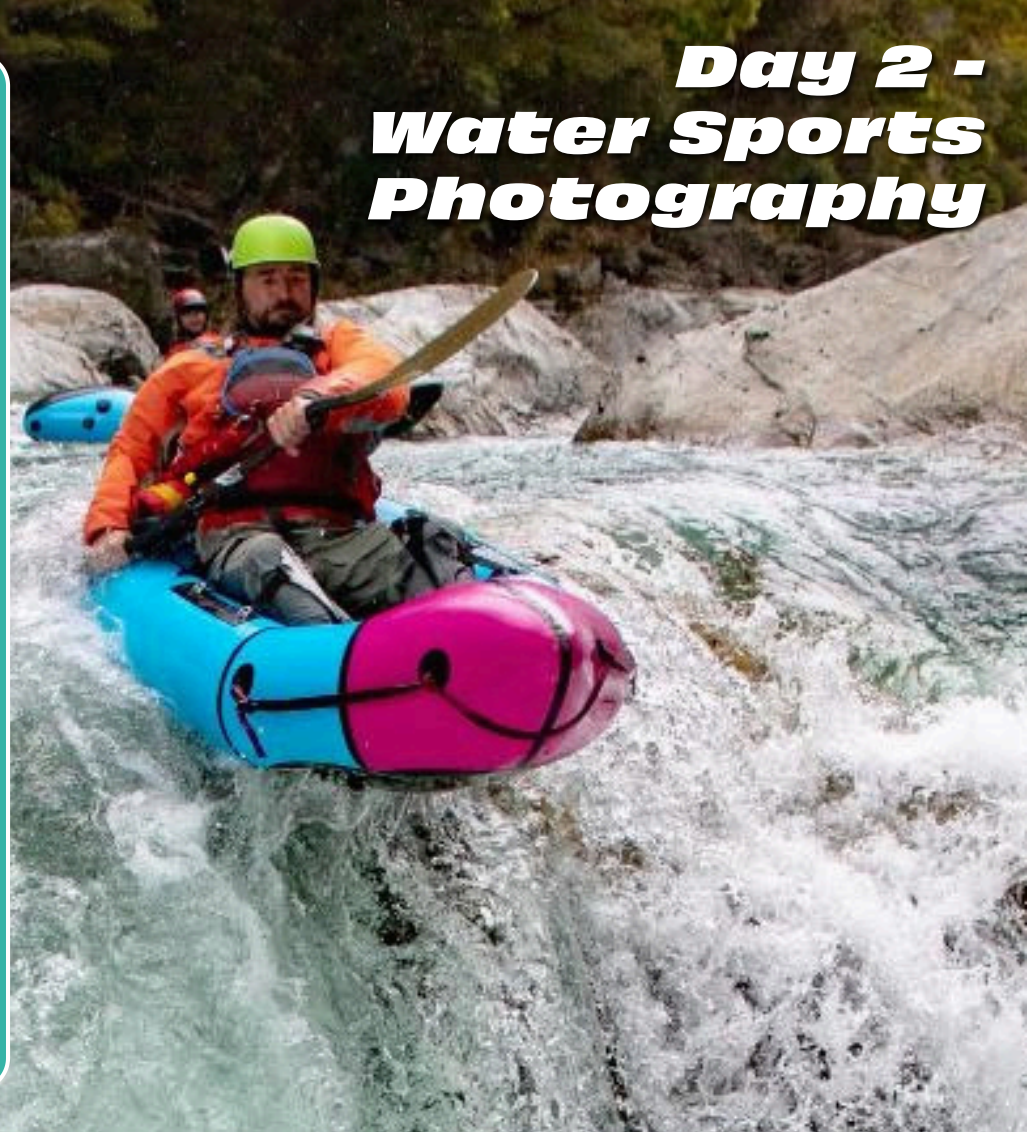
Activities

- Packrafting athlete photography session
- River safety briefing
- Multiple shooting positions along the river

Evening Session

Debrief with Huw, Packrafting Queenstown business owner, discussion around managing photo permits/gear on water, and how he uses imagery to support their marketing efforts.

We will finish the day doing some editing and sequencing images for storytelling



Day 3- Snowshoe Photography Day

Location: The Remarkables Ski Area

Theme: Capturing Speed and Motion

Participants will snowshoe around Remarkables Ski Field and photograph the group and guides while learning techniques for shooting fast-moving subjects in alpine environments.

Key Skills

- Fast shutter techniques
- Burst shooting and subject tracking
- Working with snow lighting conditions
- Capturing spray, motion, and dynamic body movement

Activities

- Morning snowshoe experience
- On-snow athlete photography sessions
- Positioning photographers for dynamic shots
- Learning safe positioning in alpine terrain

Evening Session

Image critique with Basecamp Adventures lead guide and marketing manager. We will discuss her perspective on what makes a good photo, discussions around working as a guide and taking photographs for the business and more.

We will finish the day with another editing session and portfolio review and share our favourite shots.



Day 4 - Snowmoto NZ

Snowbike experience

Location: Snowmoto, Pisa Ranges (in between Queenstown and Wnaka)

Theme: Anticipating the Moment, Brand and Athlete Photography

We will spend the day focusing on Snowbike and Side by Side (4x4) photography.

We will be guided out on location in "side by side" vehicles or 4x4s. Our goal is not to all jump on snowbikes today, but to all travel out together on side by side vehicles, and capture photos of the professional guides who will be riding their own snowbikes at our direction.

We will spend a majority of the day learning to capture portraits and clothing, snow gear, the machinery, and scenes across snowy landscape.

Key focuses/skills

- Shooting athletes on berms, jumps, and technical sections
- Using wide angle lenses for immersive shots
- Framing riders within landscapes
- Communicating with riders to coordinate action

Activities

- Area walk-through and shot planning
- Multi-angle shooting positions
- Jump and corner photography
- Slow-shutter motion experiments

Evening Session

We will debrief with the owner of the Snowmoto business, where he will walk us through what he believes makes a good image, how his company approaches their branding and more.

We will finish the night editing and selecting strong portfolio images from the day together.



Day 5 - Rock Climbing Photography Day

Location: Hospital Flat, Wanaka region

Theme: Rock climbing Photography, gear preparation

We will spend the day focusing on rock climbing photography. We will walk up to a bouldering area (seen in this photo) and spend the day being guided by Basecamp Adventures (same as the Snowshoeing day).

If it is good weather, we will climb outside and spend time either being the climbers while other photograph us, or we will be in ropes and harnesses taking photos. So this day is a mixed adventure where we will take turns being talent for each other, and the photographer.

Key focuses/skills

- **Shooting athletes while tied into a rope system**
- **Choosing gear wisely and learning how to secure gear while in a harness**
- **Framing athletes within landscapes from above and below**
- **Communicating with athletes to coordinate action**

Activities

- **Climbing route planning, walk-through and shot planning**
- **Multi-angle shooting positions**
- **Candid and set up photography**
- **Switching between being the climber and photographer**

****Bad weather plan B is to do this session at the indoor rock climbing gym**

Evening Session

Image critique with Basecamp Adventures lead guide and marketing manager. We will discuss her perspective on what makes a good photo, discussions around working as a guide and taking photographs for the business and more.

We will finish the day with another editing session and portfolio review and share our favourite shots.



Day 6...You made it through the week!

Now it is time to put your skills to the test with a day out capturing a real world, adventure event called The Greensteam.

The Greensteam is a group bike ride from Wanaka township, where hundreds of people decide to say no to a car for the day, and find another way to get to the ski field. Regular, every day people like you choose to bike, hike, ski tour, snowshoe...from the pub in the early morning, all the way up to the ski field lodge. Then they walk up instead of using the lifts...

They all make it to the summit (or as far as they can go)...turn around come back down and then do it all in reverse, finishing their day at the Kai Whaka Pai cafe/pub.

This event is free to the community but is an epic day of multi sport adventure...and NOT something you see everyday.

My goal is to take us all to this group ride in our van. We will stop along the road that bikers will be on to take scenic shots, and then once they reach the ski lodge, we will join them for the walk to the summit.

This is where you can choose to splitboard, ski tour, snowshoe (or use the lift!) to take photos of people as they do the Greensteam...

We will all stay in a group capturing the fun and finish our day at the pub with everybody who participated.



Day 6- The Greensteam Bike Ride

This is a unique opportunity to capture an incredible climate initiative..and will send you home with a unique set of imagery.

If you want to learn more about what the Greensteam is and what our day on the hill could look like, watch my adventure documentary about it!

[Click the link to view the film!](#)

Capturing the fun of this event will be the capstone of our week long workshop.

Day 7 will be spent resting, relaxing, sharing stories and favourite content from the week and sending you off back into the world!

Day 7 - The Final Goodbye

Day 7...the Final goodbye!

We have spent the last 6 days doing some incredible adventure sports, learning about gear, taking risks with our cameras and hopefully capturing some imagery that will help you springboard into a career capturing more of this in the future.

We will wake up nice and late, check out of our accommodation, and finish our day touring a space in Queenstown called The Workshop, run by PIVOT Innovation.

The Workshop is a collaborative space where anyone with an idea for a product can come work on it and have access to industry experts to help develop their ideas into a physical product, whether it is through 3d printing, or other means.

After a walkthrough of the space, we will have a final debrief and reflection on the workshop overall, sharing stories, photos and favourite parts of the week.

Official send off will be driving back to the Queenstown Airport at 4pm...and from there you can either catch your flight or carry on with your New Zealand adventure.

A huge thank you for going on this epic adventure with me, I can't wait to see what you get out into the world and do with all of this learning!