

Have you ever wanted to know how to take magic photographs of epic landscapes? Learn how to make the most of your camera and set up the perfect shot. Take a photographic tour of Glacier Country with Petr Hlavacek of ICESCAPES. For more information call 03 753 41 99 or go to www.nzicescapes.com.



Contact us:

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Frozen Footsteps in the Icescape

Petr Hlavacek grew up during the 1970's in communist Czechoslovakia. Back then, travelling was generally not permitted, and the 'outside world' seemed like a dreamland beyond reality. A relative was a professional photographer, and she sparked the photographic bug in Petr. He got his first camera, aged eighteen and began to shoot his first landscapes.

In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and the door to the world opened. By this time, Petr had graduated as a fast track locomotive engineer and completed two years of military service as a dog handler on border patrol between Germany. After several years of working for Czech Railways and then a role in hospitality management, he travelled to England to study English language, and continued to develop his photography skills. A 100% Pure New Zealand ad in the Guardian newspaper was the catalyst for his first trip to New Zealand in 2001.

He had his first exhibition in Prague as a professional photographer in 2002. All of Europe was in love with the 'Lord of the Rings' films, and his pictures of the 'Real New Zealand' drew the crowds. On his third trip to New Zealand in 2004, he discovered he could

gain residency as a professional photographer and finally fulfill his dream of living in Godzone.

Petr became a photographer and glacier guide on the Franz Josef Glacier in 2005, and within a year, together with his partner Kristina, he started NZICESCAPES IMAGES. Today, he specialises in stock imagery from the West Coast, with a focus on glaciers and ice. He also has a number of product lines and works on assignments for both corporate clients and journalists. Selections of his best images are sold as museum quality Fine Art Prints, and he has started running photography tours and workshops.

For Petr photography is not just his business, it is a vehicle for education, and he uses his photographs to inspire people to conserve the environment. By capturing the intensity of New Zealand and the West Coast's wild landscapes, many of his pictures are now archival records of landscapes that have been irrevocably altered. To see his inspiring photographs and learn more about his work go to www.nzicescapes.com.

Cheers,
The Glacier Country team
Glacier Country Tourism Group Inc.



Across Country Quad bikes

Follow the ancient path of the Franz Josef glacier down the **Waiho riverbed** on a **two-seater quad bike**. On a fine day, you can get a wide-angle view of the Franz Josef Glacier and Southern Alps. If it is raining the tour will still run, the wet weather gear is provided and the mud is free!

The trip takes about **two hours**. As you cross the landscape, your guide will share the stories of the Franz Josef glacier and its history. Riding your bike through **side creeks** and **mud puddles** only adds to the adventure. A **hot drink** in the rainforest and a **Waiho facial** will complete your quad bike experience.

Tours can be **customised** and this is an adventure for all ages. **Drivers** must be **16 years of age** and pass a driving test on the practice track. However, younger children can be passengers, as long as they can hold on tight and fit a safety helmet.

Karl, the onsite mechanic keeps the bikes in top condition, and this summer the fleet was updated with **six brand new Can Am quad bikes**. For more information call **Hollie** on 03 752 0123, or go to www.acrosscountryquadbikes.co.nz.

Alpine Glacier Motel



With **24 units** on site, the **Alpine Glacier** is the largest motel complex in Franz Josef Glacier village. Located on Condon Street, a **two minute walk** will take you to the centre of town where the **supermarket, eateries** and **activity operators** are.

Billy and **Mark** have worked in hospitality all over the world before they moved to Glacier Country five years ago. They understand the expectations of international travellers, and their service and cleaning standards are set high. You will find **fresh flowers** placed on pillows and **West Coast toiletries** are the finishing touches to the immaculately clean rooms. The units with a **double spa bath** even have a complimentary **manuka honey 'bath bomb'** to help you can soak away your aches and pains.

Each room has a **kitchenette**, a **car park at the doorstep** and **Sky TV**. An extensive **DVD library** and a **private spa pool** are available for guests, and if you arrive in town by bus, Alpine Glacier offers the **only car hire in Glacier Country**. So you can stay in a comfortable room and go adventuring at your own pace. For more information call **Mark** and **Billy** on 0800 757 111, or go to www.alpineglaciernotel.com.

Take Note Franz Josef Bookshop



Located at the top of the town, next to the Blue Ice Restaurant, **Take Note Franz Bookshop** can provide for all your literary needs. Whether you need brain food or brain candy, you can find everything from **plant identification** and **natural history books** through to **'Best Seller' holiday reads**.

The stores' owner/operators, **Andrea and James Meldrum**, both love reading and are always happy to share their ideas. You can look for their personalised reviews and **'Pick of the month'** books on the shelves, along with **New Zealand pictorials, West Coast guide books and topographical maps**. You can even buy a copy of **The Bone People**, written by local author **Keri Hulme**, which is rated number one on the **Lonely Planet Top 10 New Zealand books**.

Gifts, games, magazines and stationery are on hand and the best selection of greeting cards in town. There is a selection of **greenstone** and **Aotea stone** pendants hand carved by local artisans. Open 7 days from 8 am till late, Take Note Franz Bookshop is also the home of **Skydive Franz** and **Mount Cook Ski Planes**. For more information call James and Andrea on 03 752 0714 or email takenote.franz@xtra.co.nz.

Glacier Gateway Motor Lodge



Glacier Gateway Motor Lodge offers **budget accommodation** in an outstanding location. Surrounded by native bush, it is the motel **closest** to the **Franz Josef Glacier** with the access road just across from reception. There are **23 units** available, and this is the only motel in town with **five - two bedroom units**, there are also a number of **one bedroom and studio units**.

The **off street parking** is generous and can accommodate buses, boats and campervans. So it is the ideal place to take a break from your mobile home, or safely park your boat for the night. The Franz Josef Glacier village is only five minute walk away, and you can book your activities at reception.

The **Gibson's** were originally deer farmers, until they bought their family to Franz Josef twelve years ago. Having had their own children they understand that **kids need space** to run around in, and younger guests enjoy the **expansive lawns** and **playground**. Guests of all ages can also explore the riverbed and the **Te Ara a Waiau** cycle/walkway which starts at the Waiho Bridge. For more information call **Kevin** and **Linda** on 0800 FRANZ ICE or go to www.franzjosefmotels.co.nz.