



CYPRESS SWAMPS
PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE AROUND LOUISIANA AND TEXAS

28 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER 2027

Ignacio Palacios

CYPRESS SWAMPS

Embark on a captivating journey through the enchanting Cypress Swamps of Louisiana and Texas. Join us on a tour like no other, where you'll witness breathtaking landscapes and encounter a myriad of unique wildlife.



CYPRESS SWAMPS

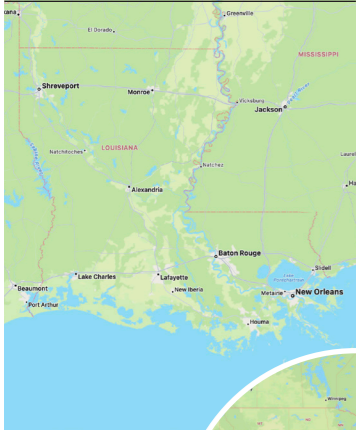
There are few wild places in North America more magical than the hidden bayous of Louisiana and the last remaining stands of old growth cypress trees.

On this photo tour, during the fleeting autumn days, we'll explore some hidden gems in Louisiana and east Texas. From fog on the water to an abundance of bird life, you'll find perfect photo opportunities from land, pontoon boats, and sturdy sea canoes and/or kayaks. We may even see a few alligators, but the amphibians and snakes are mostly hibernating during the chillier temperatures.

Our goal is to guide you to the best location so you can capture great images. On the water we have local nature guides to lead us. This trip is rated as relatively easy, but you need the ability to enter and exit a canoe on your own and walk over uneven terrain.

The weather that time of year can be hot and humid or ice cold and freezing. We expect the Caddo Lake area to be colder than the Central Louisiana area.

“Capture stunning images of towering cypress trees adorned with Spanish moss, shimmering waterways reflecting golden sunlight.”



HIGHLIGHTS

1. Inspiring Beauty: Immerse yourself in the untamed beauty of the Cypress Swamps. Capture stunning images of towering cypress trees adorned with Spanish moss, shimmering waterways reflecting golden sunlight, and intricate ecosystems teeming with life. Every corner holds a picturesque scene waiting to be preserved through your lens.

2. Wildlife Encounters: Prepare to be amazed by the incredible biodiversity that thrives within these natural wonders. From graceful herons and majestic alligators to elusive turtles and vibrant bird species, you'll have abundant opportunities to capture intimate moments with these fascinating creatures in their natural habitat.

3. Serene Atmosphere: The tranquility of the Cypress Swamps provides the perfect backdrop for your photography expedition. Experience the peacefulness of these unspoiled environments, where time seems to stand still, allowing you to focus on your craft and unleash your creativity.

4. Expert Guidance: Our experienced guides are passionate about these lands and will accompany you every step of the way. They possess in-depth knowledge of the region, its wildlife, and the best spots for capturing mesmerizing shots. Learn from their expertise and gain valuable insights that will enhance your photography skills.

5. Unforgettable Memories: This tour promises a truly unforgettable experience. From sunrise to sunset, you'll witness nature's ever-changing palette and create lasting memories that will forever be cherished. Return home with a portfolio of breathtaking photographs that will transport viewers into the heart of these mystical wetlands.

Don't let this extraordinary opportunity slip away! Join us on this adventure of a lifetime, where you'll capture the essence of the Cypress Swamps through your lens. Book your spot today and let your photography skills soar amidst the untamed beauty of Louisiana and Texas.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | Tuesday 28 October: overnight Shreveport

Arrive Shreveport. Transfer to Motel close to the Airport.

DAY 2 | Wednesday 29 October: overnight Marshall

Drive to Marshall. Check-in to Motel mid afternoon. Visit small historic town Jacksonville, and take first pontoon boat tour. Sunset boat tour on Caddo Lake.

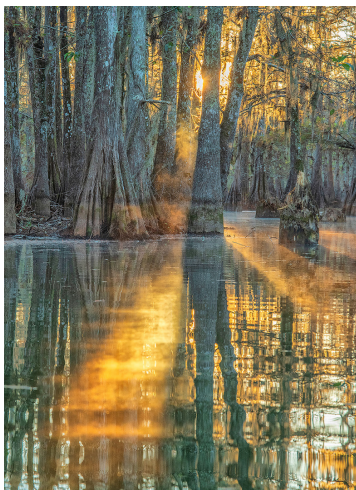
DAY 3 | Thursday 30 October: overnight Marshall

Sunrise with pontoon boat on Caddo Lake. Afternoon with pontoon boat on Caddo Lake.

DAY 4 | Friday 31 October: overnight Marshall

Sunrise with pontoon boat on Caddo Lake. Sunset at Caddo Lake State Park.

“Prepare to be amazed by the incredible biodiversity that thrives within these natural wonders, from graceful herons and majestic alligators to elusive turtles and vibrant bird species.”









**DAY 5 | Saturday 1 November:
overnight Lafayette**

Check-out of Motel in Marshall.
Drive to Lafayette, check-in to
Motel. Evening at Lake Martin
from land.

**DAY 6 | Sunday 2 November:
overnight Lafayette**

Sunrise Kayak tour at Lake
Martin. Sunset Kayak tour at
Fausse Point.

**DAY 7 | Monday 3 November:
overnight Lafayette**

Sunrise Kayak tour at Lake
Martin. Sunset Kayak tour at
Lake Martin.

**DAY 8 | Tuesday 4 November:
flight back home**

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Cypress Swamps adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- How to photograph animals in the wild, shutter speed/ISO/Focus
- The art of composition, capture the moment – what makes a good picture
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- Creative post-processing – for those of you who are keen to break the rules
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning master.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

The Kayak tours are in double or single Kayaks. Each person needs to paddle. Please provide us with your level of experience so we can organise efficiently. We will also reserve two pontoon boats, so we have max 5 persons per boat, plus the captain. No skills needed for this.

There might be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.

“My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments.”

Ignacio Palacios





IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over 100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 100 countries in his 25 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.

Awards

- Spanish Professional Photography Awards (AFP) – Landscape Winner (LUX Gold) 2014
- Australian Photographic Prize – Category Winner – Scenic, Travel 2023
- Australian Photographic Prize – Category Finalist – Wildlife 2023
- APPA AIPP Landscape Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2016
- APPA AIPP Creative Photographer of the Year – Runner-Up 2019
- Head On Landscape Prize – Exhibited Finalist 2013, 2016, 2018, Semifinalist 2019, 2023
- Head On Portrait Prize – Exhibited Semifinalist 2023
- NSW AIPP Professional Photographer of the Year – Overall Winner 2018
- NSW AIPP Professional Travel Photographer of the Year – Winner 2017, 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Nature Photographer of the Year – Winner 2016, 2017/Finalist 2018, 2019
- NSW AIPP Professional Landscape Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2014, 2016 2017/Winner 2018
- NSW Epson Signature Worthy Award – Winner 2017
- APPA AIPP Photographic Book of the Year – Finalist 2018, 2019
- ANZANG Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the year – Finalist 2013
- National Geographic Travel Contest – Finalist and Editors choice 2013
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Finalist (TPOTY) 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
- Travel Photographer of the Year – Category Winner and Portfolio Runner-Up 2019, Category Runner-Up 2021
- TPOTY – Highly Commended 2014, 2015, Commended 2018, 2 x Special Mentions 2019
- International Landscape Photographer of the Year – Category Winner 2016, 2018, 2019
- EPSON Pano Awards Open Competition – Top 50: 2016, 2017, 2018
- IPA (International Photography Awards) – Finalist 2009, Honorable Mention 2009, 2013, 2015, 2019
- International Loupe Awards – Runner up 2010, Finalist 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Final Round 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
- GDT European Nature Photographer of the Year – Finalist 2017
- MontPhoto Landscape – Finalist 2020
- Eyes on Asia Awards – Runner Up 2013
- FOCUS Awards – Image of the Year 2016, 2018

"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios



CHECKLIST

“You’ll witness nature’s ever-changing palette and create lasting memories that will forever be cherished. Return home with a portfolio of breathtaking photographs that will transport viewers into the heart of these mystical wetlands.”

Ignacio Palacios



Note: A much more detailed list of equipment and what to bring to the trip will be provided to all participants closer to the time of departure.

Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Lens cleaning utensils
- Lens and camera rain cover
- Large plastic bag to keep your stuff in the canoes clean
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One. Please make sure that these programs are working properly on your laptop before you arrive.
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- Lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus, perhaps, a x1.4 teleconverter. I am planning to bring the following lenses: 24-70mm f2.8, 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 or a 400mm f2.8 prime.
- Note: drones are not allowed.

What to bring, clothing and other

The weather is unpredictable and we may encounter cold weather. Please bring warm underwear, hat and mittens to be on the safe side in case we get a cold spell. Generally November temperatures in the southern states are between 60°F and 80°F

with high humidity. But mornings and evenings, especially on the boat can be chilly.

- Warm jacket and sweater as it can be cold
- Rain jacket
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- Headlamp
- Sturdy hiking shoes for Nature Photography
- Possibly dry bag for the canoe
- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Travel and medical insurance, passport, visa, medication.

Luggage preparations

- Additional luggage allowances have been arranged across all of your internal flights for your convenience
- We recommend you shrinkwrap your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible. In the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

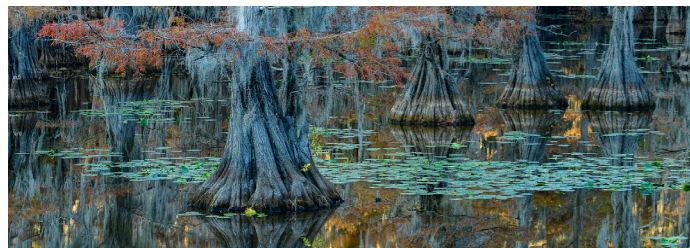
IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2027 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



Kayaking at sunrise around the swamps

TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **28 October – 4 November 2027**

The tour starts at **Shreveport Regional Airport**

Departure on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, from Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) in the morning. Rental car return is at Lafayette Regional Airport.

Standard cost: **US\$8,490** per person;
Optional single supplement: **US\$990**

Maximum **8** participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else. A second deposit of US\$3000 must be paid on 28 October 2024.
- Note: the workshop is quoted in US\$. For Australian residents, to calculate the rate in AU\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance.
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before **1 May 2027**
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 6 participants to run so please don't book your flights to the USA until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 8 day/7 night tour, instruction by Ignacio Palacios
- Middle Class Motels accommodation
- All excursions
- 4 organised kayak trips with guides
- 4 pontoon boat tours with guides
- Transportation in 1 Full Size SUV (space for 4 persons and most luggage) plus 1 Minivan (6 persons and some luggage)

- One way car rentals for 7 days
- English speaking guide
- Park/reserve fees
- Local taxes.

What's not included

- Flights to Shreveport and from Lafayette
- Meals and snacks
- Petrol
- Laundry service at the motels
- Travel, health, cancellation and equipment insurances
- Visa (e-Visa)
- Alcohol consumption
- Souvenirs
- Any other personal expenses
- Tips/gratuities.

Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 November 2026 and 30 April 2027, 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled after 1 May 2026, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable

- Bookings made after 1 May 2027 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included unless specified)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

Please limit your luggage to 1 suitcase or bag and your camera bag. It is advisable to bring lenses to cover a 70-400mm range minimum. e.g. 70-200mm and 200-400mm. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

For this specific trip I also recommend:

- Sturdy tripod for shooting from land
- Lens cleaning utensils
- Lens and camera rain cover
- Head lamp
- Large plastic bag to keep your stuff in the canoes clean

Note: Sometimes we will be photographing out of canoes and boats, so a zoom lens is recommended. You can bring your camera bag on the boat, its best to have one camera with a zoom lens so you need not to change lenses. A wide angle is nice for shooting in the Old Growth Cypress Forest.

Fitness and health considerations

The Kayak tours are in double or single Kayaks. Each person needs to paddle. Please provide us with your level of experience so we can organise efficiently. We will also reserve two pontoon boats, so we have max 5 persons per boat, plus the captain. No skills needed for this.

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies, or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas/Covid-19

I will provide guidance on this to obtain your visa but generally can be done online or at the airport.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund

- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2027
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



IGNACIO PALACIOS
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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