

PETER LAURENSEN

I am an occasional climber, traveller, still photographer, and writer. My adventures around New Zealand and beyond, span over 30 years. Based in Wellington, I am editor of the Federated Mountain Club's Backcountry. I also write for Wilderness Magazine and, occasionally, other publications, including NZ Photographer.



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KHUMBU IN ESSENCE

Khumbu is the Sherpa region just south of Mount Everest in Nepal. It's world-famous and countless beautiful images of it can be found everywhere – I've taken thousands myself. My own treks there span over thirty years. During that time, Khumbu has become far more to me than simply a holiday destination.

I am presently in the final stages of producing a 220 page book, where I seek to do justice to Khumbu in words and pictures. Modernisation has brought far reaching changes to Khumbu and the Sherpa people living there. And now Covid-19 has thrown another massive 'curve-ball'. What the future Khumbu will be like is uncertain.

My challenge with this series is to represent an essence of Khumbu that I have been privileged to experience. To me Khumbu is so much more than endless layers of mighty peaks and sunset shots from near Everest base camp. Khumbu is brutal, beautiful, spiritual, adventurous, demanding, hospitable, friendly, elemental... and vulnerable.



