

Z8/9 WhatsApp Group Rules/Guidelines

The purpose of the Z8/9 photography group, part of Nikon Z Flagship cameras community, is for casual and immediate messaging on topics relevant to the interests of the Nikon Z8/Z9, and photography and videography in general.

If you want to ask or share something about photography, videography, post processing, techniques, fundamentals, gears, accessories, wildlife, nature, birds, locations, guides, wildlife/ bird tours and genres, then this is the group. **This forum is for learning, sharing knowledge, information, experience and not just to post images. Active participation is key to this group, hence the Motto of the group is -**

“Share more to learn more”

Some basic etiquette, suggestions and rules to ensure safety, security, diversity and maintain decent decorum of group -

1. Please put your complete name and share your social media handle (s) so that people who are not familiar can get to know you. Members must ensure their WhatsApp display name in English reflects their proper and identifiable full name to facilitate clear communication and trust among participants. Use of nicknames, aliases, abbreviations, initials-only names, emojis, brand names, camera models, slogans, or anonymous identifiers as WhatsApp display names is not permitted. Please note this is not an anonymous group;
2. **This forum is exclusively meant for those who either own a Nikon Z9 or Z8 camera body only.** Kindly respect this as long as you are a member of the forum;
3. If you would like any of your friends to be added, please take explicit consent from such individual/s to add them to the group and introduce them to the group. **Please note Camera/Gear/Accessories Dealers, Guides and Tour operators are strictly not allowed in the group however well reputed or well-known they are.** Share the WhatsApp group link inviting new members with only those people whom you know well and ensure that you endorse the person when he/she joins the forum using the link shared by you. Please reset the link to join group immediately after a new member joins, to avoid misuse of link;
3. As and when the new members join, an introduction to the group is expected - failing which, their access to the group will be restricted;
4. The new member is expected to introduce himself/herself with their name, location, social media handles, gears, profession, and their interest in photography. **Please note strictly no promotion of business interests in group;**

5. This group is unmoderated, so please read and check your message again before you press the send button. You can inline edit your messages for 15mins, after they are sent in case you would like to make any corrections;
6. Avoid any expletives, or comments or jokes that hurt individuals or groups or gender or organizations, strictly no political or religious or region or language or sensitive issues or offensive or any other message/forward/photo/video which is prohibited under the Law. Be mindful that there are accomplished members, respected seniors, ladies and youngsters in this group. Please note, what may be a joke to you might offend others;
7. No forwards outside the topics of forum. This is not a general forum. While we welcome those that want to post events/sessions related to topics of the group, to avoid spam we will restrict such posts to one post per event. Repeated posts about the same event are discouraged, and will be removed ;
8. Please star (*) the messages that are important for you as this is just a short ephemeral communication;
9. Be respectful to other members. We have a lot of senior & respected members of society and professionals in our group. Harassing members through personal messages, just because they are a part of this group, is looked down upon and members will be banned - if a complaint is received;
10. Along with photo and video, suggest sharing full Exif information and photography techniques used. BTS (Behind the scenes stories) are welcome, it helps to learn and appreciate your photo better. Do mention date and generic / approximate location of shot. Credit original authors of images/videos as well. Please seek feedback on your own images;
11. Be cautious while critiquing the images/videos. Please note, we have diverse individuals at different points of their photography/videography journey with wide variation in skill, experience and equipment capabilities. Critique of a photo is fine and acceptable, criticism of an individual is not. Suggest using emojis to share your appreciation on photos, if no insights or additional information is sought or shared as a reply;
12. If you have many photos to share, please share a link to the album instead of flooding the group with individual photos. Try to share HD images where possible. Be thankful to members who spend their valuable time to share their critique/ inputs/ feedback. Please take feedback as constructive criticism, let's try to learn from it;
13. Please don't flood the group with others photos or links, as many of the group members might have received the same messages in other forums. Relevant information to group and interesting photos are fine;
14. Sharing of copyrighted material without the explicit permission of the owner is prohibited. No pirated stuff please;

15. Please ensure that you are at least 16 years of age before joining this group. This is not a children's group and the admins are not responsible for underaged members;
16. This group requires members to actively participate and share information on the related topics. While there's no minimum number of posts per month or interaction expected, it's left to individuals preferences, time availability, and convenience. If you can't ensure any semblance of participation for any reason for more than a few months, please feel free to exit the group. You can always join back. **We don't want this group to have dormant members** or it to be a generic WhatsApp group where in members lurk around or just join for heck of it;
17. Photos of any genre taken with Nikon gears are welcome, please be judicious and exercise discretion in what is being shared as some photos might offend other members;
18. Please don't flood the group with empty good morning messages. Your own photo with a write up is welcome and appreciated;
19. No brand bashing or criticism of Nikon as a company. We got the best equipment possible, not perfect equipment. Discussing genuine issues or problems of gear is fine. Let's try to get best out of gear that we own and help our members to get best out of them;
20. Members may post about buying and selling their own photography gears or gears that they vouch for. **Buyers beware**, individual members are advised to thoroughly satisfy themselves of quality, working conditions and price of gears before committing to transactions. Any transactions among members are strictly between individual members in their own capacity and outside purview of forum;

21. Confidentiality, Privacy & Information Sharing

21.1 All discussions, feedback, reviews, opinions, and experiences shared within this group—including those related to tour operators, guides, trips, stays, or services—are **strictly confidential** and intended **solely for the awareness and benefit of group members**.

21.2 **No member shall share, forward, reproduce, quote, summarize, screenshot, or disclose** any group discussions, messages, or content **outside this group**, in any form (verbal, written, digital, or social media), **without the explicit prior consent of:**

- The member(s) who originally shared the information, **and**
- The Admin Team.

21.3 **Sharing of personal details of group members** (including but not limited to names, phone numbers, WhatsApp numbers, social media handles, private messages, or opinions) **with any third party is strictly prohibited**, unless **explicit permission** has been obtained from the concerned member(s).

21.4 **No member is authorized to communicate group feedback, reviews, or member opinions to tour operators, guides, service providers, or any commercial or non-commercial third party**, either directly or indirectly, **without explicit approval** from both the concerned member(s) and the Admin Team.

21.5 Any violation of confidentiality or privacy will be treated as a **serious breach of trust and group ethics**.

- A first violation may result in a **formal warning**, at the discretion of the Admin Team.
- **Any repeat or serious violation will attract immediate disciplinary action**, including removal from the group, as deemed appropriate by the Admin Team. The individual member whose contact details have been shared by other member/s without his/her consent shall reserve the right to take appropriate legal actions against such member/s.

22. Stay on Topic: All discussions must remain relevant to the group's core theme. Irrelevant content, including activist appeals, will not be entertained and Admin Group shall reserve the right to delete such content without prior notice.

23. Language of Communication

23.1 English shall be the primary and mandatory language of communication in this group. This group includes members from different states, regions, cultures, and countries, and English ensures that discussions remain inclusive, accessible, transparent, and respectful to all members.

23.2 Use of regional or local languages (including text, voice notes, images with embedded text, or captions) is not encouraged as a standalone form of communication, as it excludes members who may not understand the language and undermines the collaborative learning spirit of the group.

23.3 If any member uses a local or regional language in a specific context, it is mandatory to provide an English translation or summary in the same message or immediately thereafter, for the benefit and understanding of all members.

23.4 Persistent use of non-English communication without translation, despite reminders, will be treated as non-compliance with group rules and may attract corrective action by the Admin Team.

23.5 The Admin Team reserves the right to request translation, redact messages, or take appropriate action to ensure inclusivity, clarity, and effective participation for all members

24. To preserve harmony, inclusivity, and mutual respect among members from **diverse cultural, regional, and national backgrounds**, the following principles are mandatory:

- **No political content** of any kind is permitted, including opinions, commentary, debates, advocacy, endorsements, criticism of political parties, governments, policies, ideologies, or public office holders.
- **No religious content** is permitted, including beliefs, practices, preaching, debates, symbolism, endorsements, criticism, or comparative discussions of any faith or belief system.

- Content that is **indirect, implied, satirical, or forwarded** and has political or religious undertones is also considered a violation.

Photography of religious or culturally significant places **may be shared strictly in an artistic, documentary, or technical context**, without any religious messaging, commentary, or discussion.

Any deviation from this principle **distracts from the group's purpose**, risks misunderstanding or conflict, and undermines the inclusive nature of the community.

Violation of this rule will attract immediate corrective action, including message redaction or removal from the group, at the discretion of the Admin Team. The Admin Team's decision shall be final.

24. Right of admission to Community/group is reserved. Admin team reserves the right to take action including terminating membership without any explicit reason for non compliance of Community/group rules/guidelines. The Admin Team reserves full discretion in identifying violations, interpreting intent, and enforcing disciplinary action. **The Admin Team's decision shall be final and binding**

Admin Liability

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As administrators of this group, we disclaim any responsibility or liability of any kind for individual posts or actions or transactions and our actions are limited to redactions made Suo motu or in response to complaints to maintain a clean and positive discussion timeline.

All posts and opinions by administrators of this group are in their capacity as individual members of this group and do not represent other administrators.

Special Note

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Requesting all those who are receiving personal messages not related to this group's interest in photography, wildlife and nature from unknown strangers on this group to report them in. Especially women and children in this group.

As a group, we discourage these practices and would like to seriously flag such accounts. Do help us improve the group by identifying accounts that are looking for 'friendship' and all such other pursuits.

Adherence to privacy laws is a must. We have many professionals who are handling sensitive matters, bound by strict client confidentiality rules and for whom privacy is paramount. Please don't share contacts of members with outsiders unless you have explicit permission. As you may already know, talking privately to strangers on the Internet is not an advisable activity. Please be warned. We suggest extreme caution while talking

individually with strangers who are a part of this group and encourage you to report to Admins about such unwanted contact.