



ALPINE HIKES

ITINERARIES



Alpine hikes take you to high peaks and into remote country. It is a beautiful, simple, high world with a special silence or magic to it. These multi-day hikes are in remote and often challenging areas where a high level of fitness is required.

Accommodation is either camping or backcountry huts so there are no hot showers on these hikes but you will be rewarded with truly remote hiking, spectacular scenery and a real sense of achievement.



Peak Bagger

This trip includes two back-to-back multi-day hikes through some of New Zealand's finest backcountry. A stunning alpine traverse in Nelson Lakes National Park to Kahurangi's magnificent limestone plateaus with a magical Lord of the Rings feel. Vast beech forests, mountains to climb and rivers so pure you can drink the water. Imagine a small group of like-minded people sitting around a fire, miles from anywhere, spinning yarns. New places, new challenges, great friends. And better travel stories!

Days: 7

Start/Finish: Christchurch

Grade: D+ (Some untracked and uneven terrain.)

Accommodation: Backcountry Huts, Cabins, Camping

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Gillespie & Rabbit Passes

The Gillespie/Rabbit Passes trip is widely regarded as New Zealand's hardest guided hiking tour. Following the main divide of the South Island this route has exceptional views of the highest peaks, including Mount Aspiring. Even though this trek is challenging, there is plenty of time to relax and enjoy the breathtaking scenery. No heavy packs needed, accommodation is a combination of beautiful mountain huts and our pre-placed campsites. You only carry your own personal items, no food or tents.

Days: 8

Start/Finish: Wanaka

Grade: E (Previous trekking experience essential)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts, camping

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Gillespie Pass

A diverse and adventurous hike through the sheer mountain wilderness of Mt Aspiring National Park. The route follows a wild tumbling river, leading you from temperate rainforest up to alpine meadows with a stunning backdrop of snow-capped mountains and glaciers. Once over the pass, a side trip to Lake Crucible (a glacial lake at the foot of Mt Alba) adds to the incredible variety of this trip. At the completion of the hike you are met by a jet boat for a thrilling ride down the Wilkin River and back to civilisation.

Days: 4

Start/Finish: Wanaka

Grade: D (6-8 hrs walking over uneven terrain, some steep ascents)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts, camping

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Ball Pass Alpine Crossing

Be challenged by this awesome trekking adventure that takes you above Tasman Glacier (New Zealand's longest glacier) to the crest of Ball Pass. Descend 1000m into upper reaches of the famous Hooker Valley. Then trek along moraine terraces through lush vegetation. Stay in a warm, comfortable alpine hut surrounded by a spectacular panorama of New Zealand's highest peaks. Learn basic alpine skills from qualified mountain guides. Relish the challenges and stunning beauty of this three-day alpine hike crossing the Mount Cook Range.

Days: 3

Start/Finish: Tekapo return

Grade: E (Steep, rugged, untracked terrain with snow slopes)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts

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Glacier Hike New Zealand

Outside polar regions, New Zealand has the highest percentage of glaciers in the world. You don't need to be a mountain climber to enjoy simply travelling and exploring the Fox and Franz Glaciers. There are few places in the world that offer comparable views; you are surrounded by enormous glaciers while watching the sun set into the Tasman Sea. Trekking from hut to hut or simply doing day trips, you will be amazed.

Days: 5

Start/Finish: Wanaka/Fox township

Grade: E (Up to 8 hrs of physical activity per day)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts, camping

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Upper Wilkin Experience

The Upper Wilkin Experience is located in the heart of New Zealand's Mount Aspiring National Park. The hiking trip is based out of Top Forks Hut with day walks ranging from very challenging to easy. This area is one of New Zealand's great treasures. The mountains here form a glaciated cirque named by one of the South Islands great explorers, Charles Douglas. Names were important to Douglas and he saved the best for the best with magnificent hiking at the feet of Castor, Pollux, Mercury, Vesta, Juno, and Apollo.

Days: 4

Start/Finish: Wanaka

Grade: D (Average of 4-5 hours a day, but up to 8 hours on longer days)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts

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Mt Cook Trek

Climb up the Ball Ridge and confront the mighty Caroline Face of Aoraki Mount Cook. On this guided hike you will go as close as it's possible to get to Mount Cook on foot without actually being on the mountain. The Aoraki Mount Cook Trek is an easier 2 day option compared to the Ball Pass Alpine Crossing. It is designed for people who want to enjoy a high alpine experience, but have limited time. This trek does not require the use of crampons or ice axe and packs are correspondingly lighter.

Days: 2

Start/Finish: Tekapo return

Grade: D (Alpine hiking and uneven terrain. Moderately strenuous)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts

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Aspiring Discovery

Relax at a stunningly beautiful mountain retreat. 2-5 discerning clients are guided on the wildest back country trekking and hiking in New Zealand. This trip is in Mount Aspiring National Park just out of Wanaka. All guides are professional mountain guides, not tour operators. Because it is small groups, you can be taken, not on the great walks, but the best walks ... where no-one else can go.

Days: 3

Start/Finish: Wanaka return

Grade: C (Alpine hiking and uneven terrain. Moderately strenuous)

Accommodation: Camping

[Click here for detailed itinerary](#)



Brodrick Hike and Raft

Be awed whilst exploring the dual listed World Heritage Area of the Tongariro National Park. Whilst experiencing some of New Zealand's best day hikes, such as the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and Mt Ruapehu Crater Lake you will be provided with a stunning natural playground bursting with diverse landscapes for you to discover. With arid badlands, crater and alpine lakes, sparkling rivers, breath-taking lunar landscapes, lush rainforest and alpine meadows to be explored, a summer hiking vacation is an utterly unique experience not to be missed.

Days: 5

Start/Finish: Queenstown return

Grade: D (Uneven terrain and high passes)

Accommodation: Backcountry huts, camping

[Click here for detailed itinerary](#)