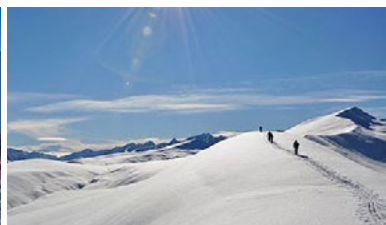




SOUTH ISLAND WINTER DISCOVERY

ITINERARY



If you're looking for a spectacular winter adventure without all of the crowds then you've found your trip! During the winter, New Zealand's South Island transforms into a white wonderland of snow, ice, blue sky days and mountain views that will simply take your breath away. From cosy lodges, roaring fires, hearty meals and of course snow, this South Island Winter Discovery has been designed to showcase the very best of New Zealand's winter activities.

Ski instructors and experienced alpine guides make this trip perfect for first timers as well as the more experienced adventure seeker. Starting from Queenstown, go on an incredible journey to an exclusive cross-country resort, then the uncrowded slopes of Ohau Snow Fields and finally to the base of the mighty Aoraki/Mt Cook. Cycle the lakeside trails of the Alps 2 Ocean, recently listed in the Lonely Planet's 'Epic Bike Rides of World'. Climb to the top of a snowy peak for panoramic views of the Southern Alps and snow shoe along the Two Thumb range. Spend the nights in secluded lodges and the remote Rex Simpson Hut, soak in thermal hot pools and get your heart racing on an exhilarating jet boat ride down the Rakaia Gorge.

Everything to make this trip stress free is included so you can relax, unwind and enjoy this amazing winter experience.

LENGTH	7 days
GRADE	C (up to 6 hrs physical activity per day)
START	Queenstown
FINISH	Christchurch
ACCOMMODATION	Backcountry Huts, Hotels, Lodges
DEPARTURES	August 2018: 19 September 2018: 9
PRICES	Adult: NZ\$2995 Single supplement: NZ\$725

ITINERARY

DAY 1 QUEENSTOWN TO CARDRONA

Important: The night before your tour is to depart your guide will call your pre-tour accommodation to advise what time they will collect you the following morning. (Please make sure you have given us information as to where you are staying). If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception – it's really important that you check with reception if you have not heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the tour please call us in the NZ office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

Your guide will collect you from your Queenstown accommodation around 8:00am before heading up to the Snow Farm, New Zealand's only dedicated cross country skiing resort. We traverse the gentle rolling hills and peaceful valleys of the Pisa Range on skis followed by a BBQ lunch at a backcountry alpine hut. We bring today's adventures to an end with a visit to the Cardrona distillery for the chance to enjoy some hand crafted spirits before heading to our accommodation at the historic Cardrona Hotel for dinner, drinks and warm atmosphere. *Includes lunch and dinner.*

DAY 2 CARDRONA TO LAKE OHAU LODGE

After a hearty breakfast at Cardrona Hotel, we start our morning with a short drive to the stunning lakeside town of Wanaka. We stop for a coffee break with an opportunity to take photos of the lake and surrounding mountain ranges before setting off across the Lindis Pass to the small village town of Twizel. After lunch we get fitted on to our bikes for the 2 hour cycle ride along Lake Ohau's shoreline, following the world renowned Alps 2 Ocean Cycle trail. Our two night stay at Lake Ohau Lodge is a trip highlight, offering the friendly feel of a 'ski lodge' mixed with the glamour and comfort of a hotel. An optional soak in the lodge hot tubs awaits us before we sit down to enjoy a decadent 3 course meal. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 3 SKIING AT OHAU SNOW FIELDS

We spend today skiing at the Mackenzie Countries' Ohau Snow Field. A favourite amongst New Zealanders, the 125 hectare snow field offers uncrowded slopes, breathtaking views and terrain to suit everyone from absolute beginner to seasoned expert. It doesn't matter if you've never been skiing or snowboarding before. The Ohau team will fit you out with your skis or snowboard and after a lesson with their friendly instructors you'll be up and away in no time. For the more experienced skiers or riders, take a hike to the summit ridge for views across the southern alps and untracked powder on the way down. Then it's back to Lake Ohau Lodge for another soak in the hot tubs, dinner and a well earned good night's sleep. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 4 LAKE OHAU TO AORAKI/MT COOK VILLAGE

After breakfast we say our farewells to the team at Lake Ohau Lodge and head out on our drive through the Mackenzie Basin, taking in the surrounding tussock landscapes and towering Southern Alps. Today we hop back on our bikes for our second ride following the world famous Alps to Ocean Cycle trail. Starting at the Alpine Salmon farm, we take a short ride down past the canals and along the foreshore of the serene Lake Pukaki. The backdrop of a snow covered Aoraki/Mt Cook against turquoise waters definitely makes this ride one to remember. After being picked up by our driver, we head to the World



Heritage area, Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Keen walkers can take an optional 1 hour walk on the Tasman Glacier track. That night our guides prepare dinner at our accommodation for the night. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 5 AORAKI/MT COOK VILLAGE TO REX SIMPSON HUT

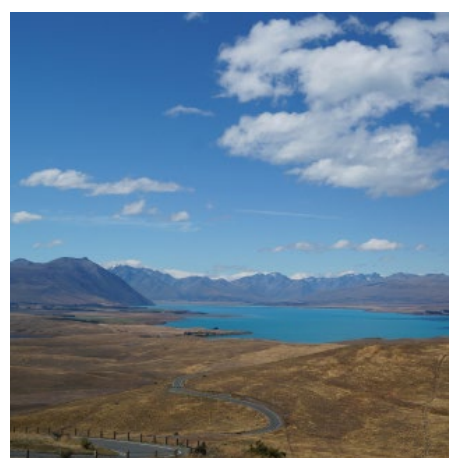
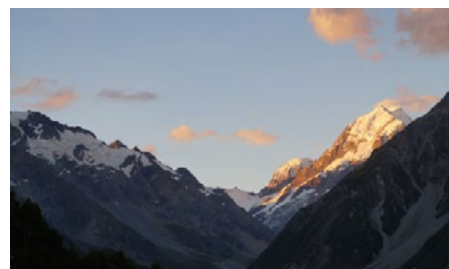
Wake to a hearty breakfast prepared by your guides. You'll need to eat well as you've got a big day ahead. If the weather is good, a scenic flight and snow landing on Tasman Glacier is a optional extra for the morning. It's now time for our one hour drive to Lake Tekapo village for an early lunch. Here, we get fitted for our snowshoes before taking a short scenic drive around the lake to Mt Gerald Station. A 3 hour hike takes us up to the remote Rex Simpson Hut (a cosy 12 bunk private hut on the station). As we near the top, there will be a chance to continue the hike on our snow shoes. The climb takes us up to 1300m where we are greeted by expansive views over Lake Tekapo and the rolling tussock landscape that surrounds it. Relax with a hot drink beside the pot belly stove as your guide prepares a tasty dinner. Watch the sun set behind the alps and enjoy spectacularly clear displays of our Southern Hemisphere stars in the dark sky reserve. You won't need to take all your luggage with you so we suggest packing a small overnight bag with clothing suitable for staying in an alpine environment. If necessary we can provide small overnight packs and walking poles. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 6 REX SIMPSON HUT TO LAKE TEKAPO

After a cooked breakfast, we put our snow shoes back on and spend the morning exploring the Two Thumb Range. Ice-covered streams, curving ridges and snowy valleys turn the area into the perfect playground for any snow lover. Topped with views over Lake Tekapo and the major peaks of the Southern Alps, this is an experience not to be missed. Following lunch, we start the two hour descent down to our vehicle and it's back to Lake Tekapo Village for our last night together. Tekapo hot springs are an optional extra and well worth a relaxing soak before dinner. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 7 LAKE TEKAPO TO CHRISTCHURCH

We depart Lake Tekapo after a cafe breakfast and head towards our final destination, the Rakaia Gorge. Here we join a Discovery Jet excursion for an exhilarating jet boat ride on the Rakaia River. Towering limestone cliffs and the snow capped Southern Alps provide an unforgettable backdrop out on the water. Once our adrenaline has subsided, we hop back on the bus for the final one hour drive to be back in Christchurch City by mid afternoon. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE C

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors. These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude and the length of the trip. Cross country skiing, alpine skiing/snowboarding and snow shoeing all require some physical exertion. However, these are all conducted at your own comfortable pace and ability level. The Alps to Ocean cycle trail is graded moderate. You will need a reasonable level of fitness and we suggest 30 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling or jogging) three times a week for the three months leading up to your trip. Our cycle rides are all on tarmac or purpose built hard packed trails. You'll need appropriate outdoor winter clothing and footwear. We supply hybrid mountain bikes and helmets for the cycling sections.



FOOD

All food described in the itinerary is included, as well as water and snacks.

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

GUIDES AND SAFETY

The guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people who you will be spending your holiday with. They come from all walks of life but they all have a common desire to give you the best possible experience, heaps of fun and lots of fond memories to take home with you. Depending on the size of the group, the services of two guides is provided. All are certified in first aid and CPR and many are advanced mountain guides.

TRANSPORT

Transport in a private vehicle is included on the trip.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best locations possible. The accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis with private facilities, except for two nights where we stay in the Snow Farm lodge & a mountain hut. If you wish to reserve a room to yourself a single supplement is available at extra cost (except for Snow Farm and Rex Simpson hut). Please note: although every endeavour is made to stay at the accommodation detailed in the itinerary, occasionally, due to seasonal shortages, we need to use other accommodation of a similar standard.

We can help with different suggestions for your pre/post tour accommodation.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- International or domestic flights and taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- All beverages, other than breakfast
- Water bottle
- Optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses (eg. phone calls, internet, laundry, shopping etc)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)
- Tips

INCLUDED

- 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners
- 6 nights lodge/hotel accommodation on a twin share basis
- 1 night in a private mountain hut (shared facilities)
- Professional qualified driver/guide
- Private vehicle transport
- Water and snacks
- Packs and poles (on request if required) - please let our staff know in advance
- Ski/snow shoe hire at Snow Farm, Ohau Snow field and Tekapo
- Hybrid bike hire and helmet for 2 days
- Access and concessions fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Services Tax (GST)

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

We will secure your tour booking on receipt of a 25% deposit. Tour balance to be paid no less than 65 days prior to tour departure. By paying the deposit you are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions.

Cancellations

More than 60 days notice – NZ\$400.00 cancellation fee

60-30 days – 50% refund of tour price

Less than 30 days notice – NO REFUND

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance. World Nomads Travel Insurance provides online quotes.

PACKING LIST

WHAT TO TAKE

You will need an overnight pack to carry gear to take to the backcountry hut.

You will be supplied with snow shoes, ski's and ski poles. If necessary, ask our staff about providing small overnight packs and walking poles.

The weather in the South Island of New Zealand in winter can be changeable so you will need to have suitable clothing for a wide range of conditions. There could be snow on the mountains and cold winds, but frosty mornings are often followed by mild clear blue sky days. At night it can be freezing with subzero temperatures, but fabulous for experiencing some big sky stargazing! We recommend bringing lots of layers, warm thermal merino layers, micro fleece or woollen mid layers and a good waterproof jacket so that you can add and remove layers as the temperatures change throughout the day.

PACKING LIST

Outdoor Clothing & Equipment

- Waterproof jacket- must be completely waterproof, not just showerproof, have a hood and fit comfortably whilst wearing warm clothing
- Waterproof pants – optional
- Softshell jacket – warm and windproof, to act as an additional warm layer
- Down jacket – optional, warm extra layer for night in back country hut
- Outdoor trousers – quick dry material or stretch fabric (jeans/denim is not suitable)
- Stretch outdoor tights – a warm alternative to walking trousers, better with a fleece lining and in very cold conditions can be worn underneath trousers
- Lightweight woollen jumper or fleece to act as a mid layer
- T-shirts or shirts – moisture wicking, quick drying materials such as merino, synthetic or coolmax. Cotton is best avoided
- Thermal layers – quick drying or merino thermal base layers, top and longs essential
- Cycle shorts – optional, for 2 cycle rides, padded ones are best for comfort
- Hiking boots with firm ankle support and sturdy soles with good grip
- Shoes suitable for cycling – your hiking boots can also be worn
- Hiking gaitors
- Boot socks and undergarments
- Balaclava/buff/scarf to keep face and neck warm
- Warm hat and thick gloves
- Day pack – can be hired for free, please request in advance
- Hiking poles – can be hired for free, please request in advance
- Camelback drinking system or water bottles
- Head torch or small flash light
- Sunglasses

Your guide will have

- First aid kit

Optional Equipment

- Skis, Snowboard and Ski boots. Ski, snowboard and boot hire is included in your tour price, but for those of you who have a favourite pair you might like to bring them
- Snow shoes. Snow shoe hire is included in the tour price
- GPS or extra navigational systems
- Power bars & energy drinks – our guides will feed you snacks and fruit while on tour but you might like to bring your own energy specific products. If you do not usually use these items, there are plenty of snacks available.

Personal Clothing

- Casual evening wear – dinners are a casual event
- Casual day wear, shirts and trousers etc as travel wear when not hiking
- Lightweight woollen jumper or fleece
- Warm jacket – layering up is the best option
- Casual shoes
- Swimsuit and towel – optional, each accommodation provider will supply towels but it can be handy to have a small one with you during the day and for visits to hot pools
- Undergarments, socks and sleep wear

Personal Supplies

- If traveling from overseas: Passport and photo copy of passport and emergency contact list, kept separately from originals, flight details and insurance details
- Personal toiletry gear
- Travel hair dryer – optional, not all accommodation providers will have them
- Sun cream & lip balm – on a sunny day the burn rate is 7min, its best to be prepared
- Personal first aid kit and prescriptions
- If you wear glasses or use contact lenses it can be handy to have an extra set
- Mobile phone and charger
- Camera and charger/extra batteries and spare memory card
- Reading material
- Electrical adapter for any appliances that you may be bringing (eg camera battery charger). Note: Australia and New Zealand have the same type of electrical plug
- Plastic Ziploc bags/Dry bags – very useful for storing wet clothing

For those guests who come from hotter climates you may not have a supply of thermals and warm clothes, however Queenstown has a large number of outdoor gear stores where you can stock up, such as Kathmandu, Macpac, Outside Sports and Torpedo 7 to name a few. Check out Small Planet on Shotover Street which also has a huge range of new and used gear. We have tried to think of everything that you may need but you might have your own additions. If you are unsure of any of the listed items please don't hesitate to get in contact with us and we will help you out. Remember this is just a recommended list - common sense should always prevail! Laundry facilities are readily available most nights, so you should have chance to wash your clothes while you are on tour should you need to.