



## GILLESPIE PASS

# ITINERARY



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. You stay in a mix of huts and wilderness campsites. Pre-stocked provisions means only your sleeping bag and personal gear need to be carried (no food or tents).

<b>LENGTH</b>	4 days
<b>GRADE</b>	D (Average 5-7 hours physical activity per day)
<b>PRE TRACK BRIEFING</b>	The guide will meet you the day before departure, 4.30 pm, at 58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, to do a full gear check and finalise last minute details.
<b>START</b>	Wanaka at 8.30 am
<b>FINISH</b>	5 p.m. Wanaka
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	December 2021: 28 January 2022: 20 February 2022: 20 March 2022: 20 April 2022: 2  Join a scheduled departure or book a private or custom trip with dates to suit you.
<b>PRICE</b>	Adult (2 people) NZ\$2,950 Adult (3-5 people) NZ\$1,950 If you book at the 2 person rate and more people participate you will be refunded any overpayment.

### "MOUNTAINS ARE MY HAPPY PLACE"

*Highlights: Getting to the top of Gillespie Pass on my own and having some serious 360 views. Finishing 14.5hrs straight realising the limits of what can be achieved and having some awesome hot chocolate to celebrate being alive and in a hut.*

~Meika, March 2018

### "I CAN'T THANK YOU GUYS ENOUGH"

*I am a huge fan of NZ and being able to wander without crowds through such a spectacular area was such a treat. The walk was Bloody brilliant! One of the most fabulous things I have done to date. It should be on everyone's bucket list.*

~ Prue, March 2018

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At over 1500m Gillespie Pass is a stunningly beautiful location. Well prepared track and bridges make this trek less daunting than the Gillespie and Rabbit Pass Alpine Trek, but it is still a challenge. The track begins in dense temperate rainforest and steadily climbs into wondrous alpine paradise. You finish the trip with a thrilling jet boat ride back to civilization. There are mountain huts you can use but often you camp out in tents. If the native flora is your interest, the primordial plant associations will amaze you. Eighty percent of the native plant species are found nowhere else in the world! This is an experience you will never forget.

## DAY 1 WANAKA TO YOUNG VALLEY

Hike 20 km, 7 hours with 650 m ascent

Meet at the office - 58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, before departing for the township of Makarora. If the rivers are high then jet boat access to the start of the track is provided. The Young Valley is a wonderland of dense native forest and high peaks. The trail steepens and climbs steadily to the tree line. Young Hut. Waterfalls, roaring canyons and beautiful temperate rainforest, a big day!

## DAY 2 YOUNG VALLEY AND OVER GILLESPIE PASS

Hike 7km, 6 hours with 700m ascent and 700m descent

The track winds its way up the valley sidewall under the awesome east face of Mount Awful. This is really an alpine paradise with towering mountains as your backdrop. The track climbs steeply alongside a rock bluff onto a snow grass spur that after 3 to 4 hours, leads to the pass. The climbing ends at Gillespie Pass and one of the great view points of the Southern Alps. From here there's an impressive view, with Mount Alba dominating the skyline. After a short downhill you walk through the forest to reach our camp next to Gillespie Stream.

## DAY 3 LAKE CRUCIBLE

Hike 14 km, 7 hours with 600m ascent and 900m descent

You leave your packs behind today as you do a day trip to Lake Crucible. This unusual lake sits high above the Siberia Valley, nestled under Mt Alba. It is a steep climb through a forest, with a small river crossing, and finally the ascent through a snow grass flat until you reach the lake. Surrounded by towering walls, Lake Crucible is a geographic wonder carved by the glaciers.

## DAY 4 SIBERIA VALLEY AND BACK TO WANAKA

Hike 8km, 3 hours with 300m descent

The Siberia Valley is a hidden oasis. From your camp the gentle track takes you through ancient Beech forest and open river flats. Great views of Mount Awful and Mount Dreadful (the early explorers had fun with the names here) with the Siberia River in the foreground. Bring your camera! It is all downhill to Kerin Forks Hut at the confluence of the Upper Wilkin and Siberia Valleys. Here you will meet the waiting jetboat for an exhilarating ride back to Makarora. It is a wild finish to a Wild Walk.



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE D

- 5-7 hours physical activity per day.
- Pack weights of 12-15kgs on some days.
- Altitude gains of up to 800m.
- Some uneven track surfaces and river crossings.
- No multi-day hiking experience necessary.
- Agility and fitness required.

To enjoy your Gillespie Pass Alpine Hike you need to be fit and have good balance. The prepared track is rough and sometimes wet. Sometimes the footing is unstable. Hikers need to be good on their feet and be comfortable on rough or slippery ground. Hikers should be able to maintain a slow but steady pace uphill for an hour between rest stops. You will only carry your own gear plus a sleeping bag (no tent or food). Each day walking is designed to be 5-7 hours. There is plenty of time to rest, swim, and take photos.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

The mountain guides are qualified through the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. The NZMGA are affiliated to the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association who governs mountain guiding worldwide. The specialist trekking guides are 'hand-picked' from within the industry, in light of their qualifications, knowledge, experience level and communication skills. Some of them have NZMGA qualifications, others have rock climbing, ski patrol and outdoor leadership qualifications. All have strong first-aid skills and a wealth of local experience on the routes guided.

## FOOD

Energy snacks and nutritious meals are an essential ingredient in helping you perform to your highest standard. Good wholesome meals are provided and plenty of it. Specific dietary requirements are catered for.

## TRANSPORT

You have an hour journey to Makarora before your hike starts.

## ACCOMMODATION

Gillespie Pass trips use a DOC hut for the first night and a private relocatable camp for nights 2 and 3, with the option of another DOC hut should weather be inclement for camping. Your bush camps are carried in during spring and removed before the winter. Your Gillespie Stream camp is informal and has smaller private hiking tents for sleeping. Please note: There are no showers at DOC huts and the toilets are long drop. At your camp you will have "natures shower" a beautiful crystal mountain stream right by your tent and due to the strict environmental policies all waste is taken out by the group.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

Hire gear if anything needed.

If your party is unable to egress from the mountains at the end of your trip for any reason, a fee of NZ\$550 plus expenses (including but not limited to hut and park fees) per extra day is applicable to your party, and is divided between the trip participants.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Changes

Please note that this itinerary is a sample only and the actual itinerary may vary at the discretion of your guide. Weather, conditions and personal ability and needs may make changes necessary or advantageous to the participants.

### Payment

For bookings 4 or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 65 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required.

### Cancellations

Over 60 days before tour: \$200 per person cancellation fee  
Between 60 days and 30 days before tour: 50% of total trip fee as a cancellation fee

Between 29 days and 15 days: 75% of total trip fee as a cancellation fee

15 days or less before tour: - NO REFUND.

No refund for any services not utilised after tour has started.

### Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that all our clients carry travel insurance which covers you while travelling to and from NZ, luggage mishaps, and in case you have to cancel your trip. The New Zealand Accident Compensation System (ACC) will cover most of the expenses relating to an evacuation and/or medical treatment/rehabilitation in the unlikely event of an accident occurring. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for personal medical conditions. Whilst our focus is on safety we will not be responsible for any evacuation or medical costs resulting from any accident. Likewise equipment damage or loss remain your responsibility. Some insurance companies can provide adventure activities cover. World Nomads Travel Insurance provides online quotes.

### COVID-19

Please see our website or contact us for the latest COVID-19 booking assurance.

### Medical Conditions

When you book you must notify us of any medical condition, medical history, or medications that you are on. In particular, asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, anti-depressants, allergies to wasp/bee stings and food allergies.

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

# PACKING LIST

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

You usually camp out on this Alpine hike (there are huts nearby if the weather is bad). You will need to carry your own gear but do not need to carry food, tents or other group gear. Many people prefer to use their own sleeping bag, pad and backpack or if you wish you can hire one of ours. To keep weight to a minimum we recommend:

- a ¾ length "Thermarest" self inflating pad
- a 45 litre min. back pack
- a sleeping bag (3 season) and liner

### □ Body

Base layer - Thermal Top and bottom 150-190 weight  
Insulating layer: 1x light 200-300 weight, 1x heavy 300+ weight  
Waterproof layer: jacket, overpants  
Lightweight quick drying shorts or pants and shirt for warm weather

### □ Feet

Sturdy hiking boots (broken in hopefully),  
Gaiters (optional)  
2 pair warm socks

### □ Hands

Windproof warm gloves or mittens

### □ Head

Warm hat which covers ears  
Sun hat  
Sun glasses  
Sun cream and lip cream

### □ Accessories

45 litre back pack  
Sleeping bag (at least 2-season, 0 deg C) and liner  
Personal toiletries and medication  
Camera  
Headtorch or flashlight  
Toilet paper  
Water bottle (at least one litre)

### Optional:

Collapsible trekking pole (3 section pole best to fit into a small pack), light book or magazine, ear plugs – handy when snorers are in the huts!

Hire gear	Price per day (NZ\$)
Backpack (40-50 litres)	\$10
Over Trousers	\$10
Walking Poles (pair)	\$15
Sleeping Bag and liner	\$10
Inflatable sleeping mat	\$10