



# HOLLYFORD TRACK

## ITINERARY



Located in Fiordland National Park, the dramatic Hollyford Track is one of New Zealand's greatest walks, representing the country's most untouched and inspiring wilderness areas. The wilderness is geologically spectacular and ever-changing - snow capped mountains, glaciers, rainforests, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, reefs, sand dunes and surf. The experiences are diverse - hiking, wildlife interaction, historical tales, jet boating, and a magnificent scenic flight to Milford Sound. The diversity within this one valley is unequalled; it's a wonderful way to explore the very essence of New Zealand's wilderness.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	B (Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day)
TRANSFERS (ON DAY 1)	From: Central Queenstown Hotel: 2.30pm, or Station Building, Queenstown 3.00pm or Queenstown Airport, 3.30pm
BRIEFING	6.30pm on Day 1. Please check in to the briefing at 6.25pm Location: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas
START	Te Anau at 6.30pm from Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas. (Or Queenstown 3.30pm)
FINISH	Te Anau at 4:00pm. (Or Queenstown at 7:00pm)
DEPARTURES	October 2025: 25, 27, 29, 31 November 2025: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 December 2025: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 January 2026: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 February 2026: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 March 2026: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 April 2026: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20
PRICE	1 Oct 2025 - 30 Apr 2026 (Peak season 1 Feb 2026 - 31 Mar 2026) Adult / Child NZ\$4,195 Ensuite Room (twin or queen) / Peak season NZ\$4,995 Single Supplement NZ\$2,250 Compulsory additional fee - when booking as a solo hiker Minimum recommended age 10 years

### "WE DIDN'T WANT IT TO END!"

What a magical experience! The scenery was stunning, the lodges were comfortable, the food was delicious (those platters!) and the hosts made us feel very welcome. Our guide Graeme was excellent, so knowledgeable and entertaining and really helped us to connect both with the place and with those who had been there before us. Combine all this with the jet boat rides and the helicopter and you have an unforgettable 4 days.  
Thank you to everybody involved.

~ January, Trip Advisor

### "I WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT 6 STARS"

Having traveled to many stunning places all over the world this is definitely one at the top of my list. Not only is the wilderness pristine and of overwhelming beauty but we also felt very well guided and looked after at the lodges.

~ January, Trip Advisor

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 - PRE DEPARTURE BRIEFING AND ARRIVAL

Travel via private coach from Queenstown, or meet us in Te Anau (please advise if you would like to book the private coach to Te Anau) at the Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas, located at 64 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau where you will attend a pre-departure briefing and enjoy dinner at the hotel. Please arrive at 6.25pm for the 6.30pm briefing.

## DAY 2 TE ANAU - HOLLYFORD VALLEY

19.5km (12 miles) / 7-8 hours hiking

On the morning of departure from Te Anau, you will be able to enjoy a cooked or continental breakfast at the hotel from 6.30 am. We meet at the hotel reception at 7:30am, ready to embark on your journey through the Hollyford Valley. Once at the start of the track we put on our packs (see our FAQs for packing advice to keep your pack light) and start our journey to Ka Tuku Lodge. You will follow the swift, clear waters of the Hollyford River, beneath the gaze of the mighty Southern Alps, including Fiordland National Park's two highest peaks of Mt Tūtoko (2746m) and Mt Madeline (2537m). We'll retrace the footsteps of original Māori and early pioneer explorers, as the track undulates gently through native beech forest and beside impressive tumbling waterfalls. At the end of the first day of our guided walk adventure, we'll be welcomed at Ka Tuku by our friendly lodge hosts. Here, you'll enjoy hot showers, impressive 3-course cuisine and the opportunity to relax with a post-dinner drink and savour the majesty of Mt Madeline while reflecting on a great first day of your guided walk experience.

## DAY 3 LAKE ALABASTER - MARTINS BAY

12 km (7.5 miles) / 6-7 hours hiking

After breakfast, we begin our day with a short walk to Lake Alabaster and take in the spectacular views of the Skippers Range. After which, we'll board a jet boat for the next part of our adventure. These powerful and safe machines provide an exciting scenic ride along the Hollyford River and across Lake McKerrow to the historic Jamestown. We may even encounter a family of Bottlenose dolphins, who regularly visit the lower river and lake. After lunch, jet boat across to the sandspit and explore the Martins Bay sand dunes and beach, where you will hear stories of Māori chief, Tūtoko and other early settlers, before finishing the day at Waitai Lodge. Today, your main pack will be transported to Waitai Lodge while you carry a smaller day pack (that we provide) with your daily essentials. Waitai Lodge completes an unforgettable second day. Unwind under the stars with a soak in the new wood-fired hot tubs, then raise a glass to the traditional 'Hollyford Toast' as a wonderful way to finish your day.

## DAY 4 MARTINS BAY - MILFORD SOUND

3.5km (2 miles) / 3 hours hiking

Experience the impressive dawn chorus at Martins Bay, bird-song made possible through extensive conservation initiatives in the area. This morning, we walk through the awe-inspiring podocarp forest. Marvel at the ancient forests with thousand-year-old giants, such as native Rimu and Kahikatea. Return to Waitai Lodge for lunch, our lodge hosts bid us farewell as we board the helicopter for a scenic flight along the rugged coastline and into the dramatic Milford Sound, where we marvel at the grandeur of vertical granite walls rising from the sea. Once in Milford we're met by the return shuttle host and travel along the impressive Milford Road, up through the famous Homer Tunnel, cutting through a divide of sheer granite rock, and stopping at the source of the Hollyford Valley and River before embarking on our last leg back to Te Anau arriving approximately 4.00pm or carry on through to Queenstown, arriving approximately 6.30-7.00pm.





# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE B

- Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day.
- At times carrying small backpack of 4-5kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 600m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

The days are long but not difficult. There are often guests from the ages of 10 to 84 doing the walk and as long as you are an actively fit person you will manage the walk. You only carry your pack on the first day's walk in (the contents of what you need to bring will fit in a medium sized backpack, weighing approximately 5-7kg), the rest of the time it is taken by boat/plane. As all linen, duvets, towels and food are provided, you need only bring your personal gear keeping your packs light for a more enjoyable adventure.



## GUIDES AND SAFETY

The guides are experts on the flora, fauna, history and geology of the area, so you take away so much more than just photographs of beautiful scenery. You'll be enriched with the understanding of the valley, instilled by the staff who share their passion for this special part of the world with you. They will educate and enlighten you with historical tales and interpretation of the environment around you.



## FOOD

Lodge chefs prepare hearty breakfasts, picnic lunches and superb evening dining. Breakfasts are tasty, hearty and well balanced to give you just the right fuel for the day ahead. Then for lunch you'll receive a delicious packed picnic lunch. Dinner is a mouth-watering delight – the lodge chefs take great delight in preparing superb evening dining. The menu may include such delights as antipasto misto, seared whole roasted sirloin, Hollyford Valley styled roast vegetables and lemon tart. On the track, all meals and snacks provided. Premium selection of beer, wine & non-alcoholic beverages included. Top-shelf items available for purchase. Individual dietary requirements can also be catered for.

## TRANSPORT

This hike involves a combination of coach travel from Queenstown/Te Anau to the start of the track, jet boat travel on the Hollyford River, a scenic flight to Milford Sound, and finally a coach trip back to Te Anau/Queenstown. You do hike as well!



## ACCOMMODATION

At the end of an invigorating day exploring the beautiful Hollyford valley, you'll arrive at your exclusive lodge to a warm welcome and fine cuisine prepared by our friendly professional hosts. The lodges have been purpose designed and built to provide you with a level of comfort and indulgence in a place you would least expect it.

The private lodges are very well appointed with dining and lounge areas, open fires, drying rooms, separate flush toilet and shower facilities with unlimited hot water, soap, shampoo, towels and hair dryers provided. The lodges run on battery bank powered electricity, and we do conserve energy by turning off some electrical facilities overnight. However, lighting is available throughout the night, and we still have 24 hour power available in the lounge area.

Lodge bedrooms are all ensuite with linen, duvets and hot water bottles also provided. We have a lot of guests that travel alone, and many find it a great opportunity to walk and interact with other guests. If you are booking on your own a single supplement charge will apply at the time of booking.

# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

### There are no additional costs, your price includes:

- Pre-departure briefing, dinner, accommodation on Day 1
- Specialist, experienced guide for the complete itinerary
- Coach transport from Queenstown or Te Anau to the start of the track on Day 1 and Day 4
- Lodge accommodation on the track, in well-appointed queen or twin ensuite rooms
- On the track, all meals and snacks provided. Premium selection of beer, wine & non-alcoholic beverages included. Top-shelf items available for purchase.
- Jet boat journey
- Duvets, towels, shampoo, soap, hairdryers & hot water bottles
- Scenic flight to Milford Sound
- Return coach transport from Milford Sound or Hollyford Track end to Queenstown or Te Anau
- Use of backpacks and rain jackets if required

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

All itinerary details and prices are subject to change at any time without prior notice. The Operator reserves the right to alter, amend or cancel any tour should weather conditions or any other situation demand this. The operator will finalise all tour arrangements upon the express condition that they will not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of weather or any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft or through the acts or defaults of any company or persons engaged in conveying passengers, or in carrying out the arrangements of the tours.

### Payment

For bookings four or more months before the departure, a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days before your trip. For bookings within four months of the departure, full payment is required.

### Cancellations

30 - 89 days or more: 50% of the tour price is forfeited

Within 30 days of departure: 100% of the tour price is forfeited

Once your walk has commenced, there is no refund available for any portion due to any circumstances.

### Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

### Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

The operators of The Hollyford Track are committed to the prudent management and sustained preservation of the conservation estate in which it exists. The company appreciates and honours the opportunity it has to operate within Fiordland National Park and Te Wahipounamu, a unique environment which deserves respect and care. Despite this protected area being increasingly sought for its wilderness quality, The Hollyford Track management demands of itself and all its guests the preservation of its beauty for all future generations.



# PACKING LIST

SUPPLIED IF REQUIRED (at no extra cost): Backpacks, day packs, pack liners, rain jackets.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- ☐ Sturdy footwear - hiking/tramping boots (preferably with ankle support and 'worn in')
- ☐ Two or more pairs woollen or thermal blend socks
- ☐ Polar fleece - (preferably windproof)
- ☐ Wool or micro fleece mid layer
- ☐ Polypropylene or wool thermal long sleeve tops (1 or 2 pairs)
- ☐ Polypropylene or wool long leg bottoms (1 or 2)
- ☐ Shorts (1 or 2 pairs) or quick dry walking trousers
- ☐ Shirts or t-shirts if warm
- ☐ Swimwear (for the hot tubs at Waitai Lodge)
- ☐ Peaked cap
- ☐ Wool or fleece hat
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Insect repellent and sunscreen
- ☐ Water bottle

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

**You may like to include the following:**

- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Torch or headlamp
- ☐ Money or credit card for beer, wine and souvenirs
- ☐ "Second skin" if you are prone to blisters
- ☐ Your camera (with extra film or large memory card)
- ☐ The book you've been trying to read
- ☐ Notepaper, pen, wallet, travel documents

**Supplied:** All meals, towels, linen, duvets, hot water bottles, soap, shampoo, headlamp and hair-dryers.

## EVENING WEAR

- ☐ Nightwear
- ☐ Light shoes for the evenings at the lodge
- ☐ Light comfy socks and underwear
- ☐ Shirt or T-shirt
- ☐ Warm outer layer like fleece or jumper.
- ☐ Trousers or track pants for the evenings at the lodge

Should you get wet during the day, there are drying rooms at both lodges so if you keep your gear lightweight and fast drying, it should dry overnight.

Cotton garments, jeans or silk thermals are not recommended. Perspiration means you are likely to feel damp and cold inside the best raincoat.

## SUPPLIED

All meals, towels, linen, duvets, hot water bottles, soap, shampoo, and hair-dryers.

