



BALL PASS ALPINE CROSSING

ITINERARY



Be challenged by this awesome New Zealand trekking adventure that takes you above Tasman Glacier (New Zealand's longest glacier) to the crest of Ball Pass, 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 trek crossing the Mount Cook Range.

LENGTH	3 days
GRADE	E (Steep, rugged, untracked terrain with snow slopes)
START	Edelweiss Lodge, 8 Erebus Place, Lake Tekapo, 8.00 am
FINISH	Lake Tekapo, 6.00 – 7.00 pm
DEPARTURES	December 2020: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29, 31 January 2021: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 February 2021: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 March 2021: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 Join a scheduled departure or book a private or custom trip with dates to suit you.
PRICE	1st May 20 - 30th Apr 21 Adult NZD \$1,520.00 Adult with 1:1 guide ratio NZD \$2,530.00 Public holiday surcharge (per person) NZD \$100.00 * A public holiday surcharge of NZ\$100 pp applies to any trip which includes a public holiday such as Easter, Christmas, New Year or the local NZ Anniversary Day. Please enquire if you're not sure if this surcharge applies to your travel dates.

"ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC"

The early November trek up to Caroline Hut was absolutely fantastic! Although challenging, the trek was truly rewarding and I learned a great deal to add to my basic mountaineering skills. I have our guide, Bia, to thank for this experience. Not only was she very professional, knowledgeable, and highly competent, she managed our skill ability exceedingly well.

~ K. Harris - USA, February 2017

"WE ENJOYED THE TRIP"

My husband and I were extremely happy with our trip to the Caroline Hut. Our guide, Bia, was outstanding in so many ways. She was encouraging, supportive, enthusiastic, and showed a genuine interest in ensuring we enjoyed the trip. We had never spend a night in a hut and really enjoyed the experience. The hut was wonderful and the meal Bia cooked us was excellent. We had also never used crampons and ice axes and had fun learning new skills.

~ R. & J. Gagnon - Canada, December 2016

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DAY 1 TEKAPO TO CAROLINE HUT

5.5km/ 6-8 hours hiking

After an 8am gear check at Eidelweiss Lodge, 8 Erebus Place, Lake Tekapo, travel to Mount Cook Village (about 1 hour), transfer to 4WD vehicle for the old Ball Hut Road (about 45 minutes) then commence walking. From the Tasman Glacier you climb 850m/2800ft up the Ball Ridge to

Caroline Hut at 1800m/6000ft, perched right opposite the awe-inspiring Caroline Face of Mount Cook. The panorama includes Aoraki-Mount Cook and Mount Tasman, all the mountains adjoining the Tasman Glacier, and Lake Pukaki. The hut is fully stocked with food, firewood, sleeping bags, cooking and eating utensils, but some fresh items of food need to be carried, e.g. bread, fruit, vegetables, meat.

DAY 2 CLIMBING AND INSTRUCTION NEAR CAROLINE HUT

6-8 hours hiking

Learn basic mountaineering techniques. Climb Kaitiaki Peak (2222m/7290ft) south of Ball Pass and take in the dramatic views of the South Ridge of Aoraki. Maybe explore a crevasse on the Ball Glacier. Back at Caroline Hut take time to watch the sun set on Mt Tasman and the ice avalanches thunder down the Caroline Face.

DAY 3 BALL PASS TO MT COOK VILLAGE TO TEKAPO

8.5km/ 10-12 hours hiking

Cross Ball Pass at 2130m/7000ft. Now the view opens to the South Face of Aoraki, the Hooker and Mueller Glaciers, Mount Sefton and the Copland Pass. The descent from Ball Pass is very steep and snow conditions may require the use of crampons. If snow conditions are icy a fixed rope will be installed for your safety. The terrain is rugged and untracked and you rely on your professional mountain guide to find a safe route around gorges and bluffs down to the East Hooker Valley. Following old moraine terraces you meander through some of the lushest vegetation to be found in the national park and return to Mount Cook Village. Return travel to Lake Tekapo.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE E

- Up to 6hrs physical activity on days 1 and 2.
- Up to 8-10hrs physical activity on day 3.
- Altitude gains of 900 to 1000m.
- Some exposure to heights.
- Pack weights of 12-15kgs.
- Hiking experience necessary.
- High level of fitness required

The guided Ball Pass Crossing is suitable for experienced hikers capable of sustained walking, at times over steep, rugged, untracked and very exposed terrain. Participants need to be secure footed and have good balance. No mountaineering experience is required. Qualified mountain guides will accompany you and give full instruction on how to cross snow slopes safely using crampons and an ice-axe. When snow conditions are icy a fixed rope is installed for your safety. Several walks of at least 6 hours duration are recommended as preparation for Ball Pass.

For the guided Ball Pass Crossing you need to have lots of previous trekking, backpacking, tramping or bushwalking experience. This trek is beginner mountaineering and is more demanding than other guided hikes in New Zealand, such as the Milford or Routeburn Tracks, because it is alpine, traverses snow fields and a small glacier and there is no track in parts. Where there is a track it is narrow, uneven and you have to place your feet carefully. Particularly on the third day there are steep rock scree slopes to descend and even on the first day, while walking parallel to the Tasman Glacier, there are unstable moraine slopes to negotiate.

GUIDES AND SAFETY

All mountain and ski guides undergo professional training through the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association which has international accreditation with the IFMGA / UIAGM, the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations. Each guide has extensive mountain experience within New Zealand and overseas.

FOOD

All food is provided for you on the Ball Pass Crossing. A catering manager will prepare food: fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, quality cheeses and meats. Together with the gourmet skills of the guides, this ensures a consistently high standard cuisine. All snacks are included.

Non-perishable food is stored at the hut. Because food quantities are carefully planned and prepared there is minimal waste to be carried out at the end of the trip and minimal effect on the environment. Please advise us if you are a vegetarian. Fresh produce will be carried into the hut as part of the group equipment.

TRANSPORT

Transport from the meeting point in Tekapo to the start of the Ball Pass Crossing (Mt Cook) and return is included in the price. You will travel in a small minibus certified to transport clients and at Mt Cook you will transfer to a 4WD vehicle for the rough track up the Tasman Valley

ACCOMMODATION

Caroline Hut is the only owner-operated hut in Aoraki - Mount Cook National Park. The hut is for your exclusive use and guarantees your bunk space. Located in a spectacular high alpine setting it is outfitted with a wood-fired stove for heating, has solar lighting, and has full kitchen facilities with gas stoves. It has sleeping bags and is also stocked with non-perishable food. If bad weather forces a climbing course indoors, you are ensured of a private classroom, conducive to learning. Climbing crags, snow and ice fields are nearby, thus minimising travelling time and maximising learning.

Accommodation is required at Lake Tekapo before and after the tour. Please let us know if you require assistance booking.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

There are no additional costs on the Ball Pass Crossing. See booking conditions for Fitness Failure procedure.

Please note that on public holidays there will be a surcharge of NZ\$100 per person per Public Holiday day.

If you would like a guide to yourself then add NZ\$910.

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 8 participants

Price includes

Guide, hut accommodation, all food, transport ex Lake Tekapo, crampons, ice-axe, and all other climbing equipment and boots if required.

Meals and accommodation before/after tour are not included.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Changes

The operators reserve the right to alter, amend or cancel any tour, should weather or any other situation demand this.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

Liability

The operators and its agents finalise all arrangements for these tours upon the express condition that they shall not be liable for loss of life, injury, illness, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of weather or any defect in any vehicle or aircraft or through the acts of default of any company or persons engaged in conveying the passengers or carrying out of arrangements of the tours. All clients have to complete a waiver form before starting their tour.

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

More than 50 days before tour: Full refund less \$300 cancellation fee applies
Between 50 days and 31 days before tour: 50% refund of the total trip price
30 days or less before tour: no refund.
No refund for any services not utilised after tour has started.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance

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.

NOTES

Fitness Failure

If a client needs extra services due to lack of fitness and inability to continue with the group, additional fees may apply. E.g. In the case of Ball Pass if a client overestimates his/her fitness to the extent that on Day 1 he/she is not able to reach Caroline Hut; or if the guide judges that the client is not fit enough to continue with the group, then he/she may need to pay an extra fee of NZ\$450, to cover the costs of an additional guide to evacuate him/her, and transport. Client will be liable for his/her own accommodation/ meal expenses outside the tour in such a case.

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

PACKING LIST

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE BROUGHT BY YOU (THESE ARE NOT PROVIDED):

- ☐ personal underwear
- ☐ shirt (long-sleeved to avoid sunburn/keep cool)
- ☐ quick-drying (nylon) trekking pants or shorts
- ☐ sunglasses
- ☐ sunscreen/lipscreen
- ☐ sun scarf (optional) - for protecting back of neck
- ☐ personal first aid (please provide your own blister kit*)
- ☐ toilet gear (minimal)
- ☐ drink bottle (minimum 1 litre)
- ☐ camera
- ☐ ear plugs

*Compeed and Leukoplast are recommended, available at chemists.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CAN BE PROVIDED FOR YOU, FREE OF CHARGE, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR OWN:

- ☐ backpack of minimum 45 litre capacity
- ☐ hiking boots (well broken in, waterproof and suitable for crampons*)
- ☐ snow gaiters
- ☐ 2 pairs woollen socks

- ☐ polyprop long johns (thermal leggings)
- ☐ polyprop singlet and long-sleeved top
- ☐ waterproof trousers
- ☐ fleece jacket
- ☐ waterproof parka (with hood)
- ☐ gloves and overmits (polyprop gloves are good but you need warmer gloves)
- ☐ wool hat or balaclava
- ☐ sun hat
- ☐ headlamp or torch with spare battery
- ☐ plastic bags
- ☐ pack liner (heavy duty plastic bag)
- ☐ ski/hiking poles

*To test if your boots are suitable for crampons hold them at toe and heel and try bending the sole around like a banana. If you can do this your boots are too soft. Likewise while holding the heel of the boot try twisting the front of the boot with your other hand so that the front part of the sole is at a different angle from the heel. If you can do that your boots are not stiff enough for crampons. (Please note that currently the largest pair of boots available for hire is a size 46 European, so if you have feet larger than this and do not have suitable boots of your own, you should let us know and should contact R & R Sport, 1 Picton Ave, Tower Junction, Christchurch to arrange hire).