



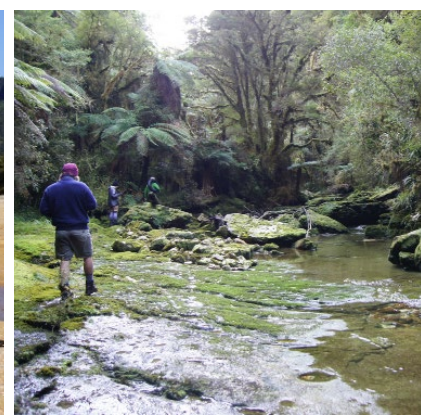
SPRING WANDERER

ITINERARY



The early season trip will be a one-off departure for this season. It includes some of the highlights of our Ultimate South tour and guarantees to be a week of adventure – including stunning hikes and kayaking. We make our way down the West Coast from Abel Tasman in the north before crossing the Southern Alps at Haast and hiking into Mount Aspiring National Park. A great time of the year to be in the mountains of the South Island; spring is in the air, the mountains are still crisp with their winter snows and less tourists photo bombing all those amazing photos you will take! On this tour you will be joined by some of our new guides for the season (as well as a senior guide) and be prepared - we may even check out a few secret hikes and places not mentioned in the itinerary! Be in quick as we have limited places available. It is possible to catch a ride with the guide from Christchurch to Nelson on the day prior to the trip starting.

LENGTH	7 days
GRADE	D: River crossings, some uneven terrain, you need to be reasonably fit and enthusiastic
START	Nelson iSITE - 8:00am
FINISH	Queenstown – 6:00pm (approx.)
DEPARTURES	2018 September: 9
PRICE	NZ\$1700





ITINERARY

DAY 1 NELSON – ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

8 km/3 hours hiking

The pickup from Nelson at 8am is followed by a picturesque drive around Tasman Bay and up to the top of the Takaka Hill and Canaan Downs. This rugged marble mountain forms a natural boundary between the Nelson and Golden Bay regions. At Canaan Downs we pack for our first overnight hike among a middle earth like setting of ancient beech trees rolling meadows and craggy rock formations. Our hike takes us up on to the Evans Ridge where there are spectacular views of Abel Tasman National Park. After this short climb it is mostly downhill following the Inland Track to Castle Rocks hut. The track is rugged at times and can be quite slippery – so it is still a challenge even though its mostly downhill! We set up camp outside the quaint Castle Rocks hut and enjoy our first meal together. *Includes lunch and dinner.*



DAY 2 ANCHORAGE – MURCHISON

10 km/4 hours hiking

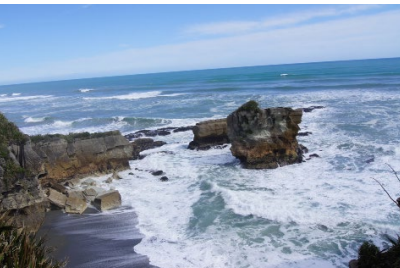
After a relaxed breakfast we make our way down to sea level at Anchorage. The golden sands and sparkling blue waters will feel like a real contrast to the rugged trail and dense forests you have negotiated to get here! We relax on the beach and maybe take a swim before catching the water taxi back to Kaiteriteri. Time to rest the legs on the drive to tonight's campsite near Murchison, overlooking the confluence of the Buller and Maruia Rivers. We pick up our scrumptious and organic dinner on the way, from 'Zens kitchen'. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



DAY 3 MURCHISON – BALLROOM OVERHANG

8km/3-4 hours hiking

After driving down the Buller Gorge to the West Coast, the first stop this morning is Cape Foulwind. Here is an opportunity to observe a breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals – almost hunted to extinction in the 1800s. After lunch get packs ready and hike up a spectacular limestone river canyon in Paparoa National Park. Established in 1987, the park covers over 30,000 hectares. It has natural attractions including mountains, limestone cliffs, caves, rivers and wilderness areas. The hike involves several river crossings (your boots will get wet). Collect firewood along the way and set up camp under the massive Ballroom Overhang. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



DAY 4 BALLROOM OVERHANG – OKARITO

8km/3-4 hours hiking

Before hiking back, splash up a beautiful side canyon, following the stream until it disappears into a cave. After the hike there is a stop in Punakaiki and a chance to check out the famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes before continuing down the coast to tonight's accommodation in the sleepy and charming village of Okarito where we stay in simple cabin accommodation. End a great day by watching the sun set over the pounding surf. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



DAY 5 OKARITO – FOX GLACIER

15km/3 hours kayaking, 5 hours hiking

Start the day by exploring the area's main attraction – the exceptional Okarito Lagoon. Here you can observe some of New Zealand's famous native birds, including white herons and tui, all from the comfort of your sea kayak. Paddle up secluded river channels where 60m tall native Kahikatea trees tower above you, and admire the snow-capped Southern Alps in the distance. After lunch, we drive to Franz Josef Glacier. We will hike the "Roberts Point Trail", a challenging hike with some cool suspension bridges and an amazing view of the Franz Josef glacier. A spectacular vantage point to view this monstrous river of ice, one of the only glaciers in the world to descend into rainforest. After the hike we drive to the nearby village of Fox Glacier where we stay in cabins. We take the night off from cooking dinner tonight and head out to one of the local restaurants for dinner. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



DAY 6 FOX GLACIER – ASPRING HUT

8km/3 hours hiking

Today is a chance for a rest as we drive through the South Westland World Heritage area. We will make a couple of stops on this wild and picturesque coast before turning inland and heading up the majestic Haast and Landsborough Valleys, crossing the main divide at Haast Pass. The scenery changes dramatically as we drive alongside the large glacially formed lakes of Wanaka and Hawea. We pass through Wanaka and up the Matukituki Valley before putting on our packs one last time and hiking up the valley to Aspiring Hut. The majestic mountain scenery is revealed as you hike gently up the valley. Through the dips in the high peaks glimpse views of the Matterhorn-like Mt Aspiring (3033m) in the distance. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



DAY 7 ASPIRING HUT – QUEENSTOWN

14 km/6 hours hiking

Relax and enjoy the stunning mountain scenery over breakfast before wandering back down the valley. Take a worthy side trip up a valley to view the Rob Roy Glacier (you can leave your pack at the bottom of the valley and pick it up on the way back). Cheeky kea (alpine parrots) often mingle with us at lunchtime, so watch out that your gear is not borrowed, or eaten! After soaking up the views we hike back through the beech forest to the vehicle. The afternoon drive takes us up and over the Crown Range and down into the Wakatipu basin and the bustling, adventure capital of New Zealand – Queenstown (where the tour ends). *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



ActiveEarthAdventures.com | HikingNewZealand.com

PO Box 331, Rangiora 7440, New Zealand Email: info@activeearthadventures.com

NZ: 0800 697 232 - Australia: 1800 141 242 - USA: 1 844 681 4351

Rest of World: +64 3 310 8188

active earth
Adventures


HIKING
New Zealand

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE D

- Average of 4-5 hours physical activity per day, up to 7 hours on the longest day.
- Altitude gains of up to 400m.
- Some uneven track surfaces and river crossings.
- No multi-day hiking experience necessary.
- You need to be reasonably fit and enthusiastic, and have good agility.
- Terrain mostly tracks. Some may be slippery or rough; some off-track hiking and river crossings.

Note – on most days your backpack (with sleeping bag, food and equipment etc) will weigh approximately 10kgs.

GUIDES AND SAFETY

An excellent guide can make the difference between a trip of a lifetime and just an ordinary trip. Our handpicked professionals come from a range of backgrounds. Each has extensive outdoor and hiking experience and a passion for New Zealand's wild and beautiful backcountry. The guides will ensure that your trip is truly inspiring, a huge amount of fun and safe. All guides are trained in Outdoor First Aid.



TRANSPORT

The average driving time per day varies, some days you are in the wilderness and won't see the vehicle for 2 or 3 days! On other days you might be in the vehicle for 2-3 hrs or occasionally more. The driving time is a chance to rest and enjoy the fantastic scenery which is forever changing. You will travel in a 12 seat minibus towing a custom-built trailer with camp equipment and your luggage. They are also equipped with a range of natural history reference books. There will be a range of roads - sealed and unsealed. The guide will often stop the vehicle if there is a great photo opportunity or primo ice cream shop!

FOOD

As well as being the time to rest, refuel and recharge, meal times are also a great time to get to know your fellow travellers better, sit back and enjoy the amazing surroundings and enjoy some great food!

Everybody has a turn with the preparation and cooking of meals: barbecues, salads, pancakes, curries, pasta, stir-fries, hangi...Vegetarian meals are no problem. On the "wild nights" the group will usually eat pasta and rice meals (special "secret" recipes used). There is always a lot of hiking food - chocolate, nuts, raisins, biscuits. The vehicles carry a full range of cooking equipment including gas burners, woks, frying pans and billies (cooking pot). When you go on an overnight hike the group will carry a portable stove.



ACCOMMODATION

Wild nights are the nights where you are truly in the wilderness, staying in backcountry huts or camping in locations that may be several hours walk from the nearest road or populated area, versus nights in civilisation where you may stay in cabins, lodges or camp by the vehicle at Department of Conservation campsites. Some of these locations may still be relatively remote and in the wilderness but they can be reached by the vehicle

Huts - New Zealand has an excellent network of backcountry huts and you will stay in huts or camp next to them on two nights. Huts are equipped with mattresses, running water and an outside toilet. Cooking is done on a portable stove. Huts are only accessible on foot and shared with other hikers. You also have the option of camping beside the hut if that is your preference.

Camping - On camping "wild nights" you may camp under natural rock shelters, on remote beaches or even sleep out under the stars (single tent available on request)! On the non-"wild nights" you will camp near the vehicle in Department of Conservation campsites. If the weather is not great for camping, eg very wet, stormy or cold, your guide will seek out alternative accommodation, eg lodge, cabin or crib.

Cabins - some nights may be spent in cabins at a campground. Usually you can put a tent up if you prefer a 'room' to yourself on these nights.

Bathroom facilities - on the wild nights there will be long drop (pit) toilets. There will be rivers or lakes nearby for washing, and sometimes there are even natural hot pools! The safaris are set up so after a couple of nights of "roughing it" in the wilderness, you will stay somewhere where you can enjoy a shower and a few home comforts (including laundry facilities) before the next foray into the wild!

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Meals: Nearly all the meals are included in the trip price, we take the night off cooking on day 5, and suggest you try one of the local bars or restaurants for dinner.

Optional activities: All activities as stated in the itinerary are included in the trip price.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment:

For bookings four 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 four months of the departure, full payment is required.

Cancellations:

More than 20 days prior to departure - 80% refund of full ticket price.

20 to 10 days prior to departure - 50% refund of full ticket price.

Less than 10 days prior to departure - NO REFUND.

Travel Insurance:

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

Notes

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

PACKING LIST

New Zealand's weather is changeable and extremely cold weather can be experienced at any time of year, especially in the mountains. Huts/camps vary in altitude from sea level to over 1000 metres. It is necessary to have warm clothing. Jeans are not suitable for hiking.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Hiking boots (not shoes)
- Warm hat or balaclava
- Backpack (at least 60 litres capacity)
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- 3-season sleeping bag
- Drink bottle (1 litre)
- Waterproof raincoat (gore-tex or similar)
- Spare shoes or sandals
- Warm fleece/wool jersey (not cotton)
- Flashlight/head lamp
- Shorts for hiking
- Insect repellent (sandflies like foreign blood)
- Polypro/thermals – top and long-johns
- Spare set of clothes
- 3 pairs of socks (they get wet)
- Gloves/mittens

OPTIONAL ITEMS (but highly recommended)

- Gaiters, binoculars
- Earplugs
- Walking poles
- Camera

SUPPLIED

- Therm-a-rest sleeping mats
- Tents
- Backpack liner (plastic bag)
- Cooking equipment
- Plates/cutlery
- First aid kit
- Safety equipment
- Maps

LUGGAGE

There is an allowance of 120 litres per person (one large pack plus one day pack). You may be required to forward excess luggage if you exceed this. If you can't easily carry all your gear without falling over, then you have too much! Any gear you do not need while hiking can be locked in the custom-built trailer.

EQUIPMENT HIRE

You may hire high-quality hiking equipment for use on your trip. Please arrange hire gear when you book. Requests for hire equipment must be made at least 5 days before the departure date.

Hire gear (NZ\$)	5-7 days trip
Backpack (60 litres)	\$35
Sleeping bag and liner	\$40
2 x Fleece	\$30
Thermal top and bottom	\$20
Raincoat	\$30
Full set (all of above)	\$130
Gaiters	\$20
Walking pole	\$15 each

It's not always easy packing - feel free to drop us a line if you have any questions.