



UPPER WILKIN EXPERIENCE

ITINERARY



This 4 day New Zealand guided trek is a fantastic introduction to the wilderness hiking tracks of New Zealand. This hiking adventure will take you deep into the NZ backcountry - away from crowded huts and manicured trails of the more well-known and busier New Zealand hiking trails.

Ideal for families or anyone who wants to hike in remote areas of the Mt Aspiring National Park, but with the assurance of an experienced guide and without carrying a heavy pack. We take care of all the logistics - food & transport. All you need is a spirit of adventure, your hiking boots & a camera to capture the spectacular mountain scenery on this unique NZ hiking tour.

The Upper Wilkin Experience is located in the heart of New Zealand's Mount Aspiring National Park. The hiking trip is based out of Top Forks Hut with day walks ranging from very challenging to easy. This area is one of New Zealand's great treasures. The mountains here form a glaciated cirque named by one of the South Islands great explorers, Charles Douglas. Names were important to Douglas and he saved the best for the best with magnificent hiking at the feet of Castor, Pollux, Mercury, Vesta, Juno, and Apollo.

LENGTH	4 days
GRADE	C (Easy pace and day pack carrying. Numerous river crossings)
PRE TRACK BRIEFING	The guide will meet you the day before departure at 4.30 pm, at 58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, to do a full gear check and finalise last minute details.
START	Wanaka at 8.30 am
FINISH	Wanaka at 5:00 pm
DEPARTURES	<p>Oct 2017: 27 Nov 2017: 10 Dec 2017: 5</p> <p>Jan 2018: 5, 20 Feb 2018: 6, 22 Mar 2018: 8, 18 Apr 2018: 3, 17</p> <p>Join a scheduled departure or book a private or custom trip with dates to suit you.</p>
PRICE	<p>\$NZ2,450 per person for the first 2 people \$NZ1,975 per person for three or more people</p>

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DAY 1 WANAKA TO MT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK AND TOP FORKS HUT

Meet at 8.30am at the office - 58 McDougall St, Wanaka. Travel 45 minutes to the small village of Makarora. Here we board a fixed wing aircraft and fly into the heart of Mount Aspiring Park. A leisurely 2-hour walk brings us to the Top Forks Hut. The walking is not difficult but it is exciting with numerous river crossings and your first taste of wilderness travel. The afternoon is spent exploring this marvellous valley.

DAY 2 DISCOVERING ALPINE LAKES

This day is spent discovering the three alpine lakes known as Diana, Lucidus and Castalia. The trail climbs gradually as it weaves through native beech forest until breaking out above the tree line. The hiking to the final lake, Lake Castalia, is some of the most rugged (and rewarding) terrain you will ever encounter. This day can be as long as you like, from 1 hour to 6 hours.

DAY 3 WATERFALL FLAT

The hike to Waterfall Flat climbs from dense forest into the high alpine. It is a magnificent climb as the trail rises through Snow-Bridge Gorge, a deep canyon surrounded by glaciers and waterfalls. The trail is challenging until it opens out into the incomparable Waterfall Flat. Surrounded by high peaks and flowing rivers, this seldom visited valley is a unique New Zealand paradise. 6-7 hours return.

DAY 4 MT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK TO WANAKA

We head down river to the Kerin Forks to meet the jet boat. This is a gentle downhill grade for 6-7 hours along the north bank of the great Wilkin River. The track is challenging with numerous side stream crossings. A thrilling 1-hour jet boat ride brings us back to our van and the return to Wanaka.



PACKING LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

□ Body

Base layer – polypro or merino e.g. icebreaker (no cotton): 2 x tops & 2 x long johns (150-190 weight)

Insulating layer top: 1 x light (200-300 weight), 1 x heavy (300+ weight)

Waterproof layer: jacket & overpants

Lightweight shorts or trousers

Light shirt for warm weather

□ Feet

Pair of hiking shoes/boots (broken in!)

Socks – 2 pairs of warm socks

Gaiters (optional)

□ Hands

Windproof warm gloves or mittens

□ Head

Warm hat which covers ears

Sun hat

Sun glasses

□ Accessories

Day pack (25-30L)

Pack liner or large plastic bag

Sleeping bag liner (supplied if needed)

Personal toiletries and medication

Insect repellent

Sun cream and lip cream

Camera

Headtorch or flashlight

Water bottle (at least 1 litre)

Optional: light book or magazine, trekking pole (a 3 section pole is best to fit into a small pack), earplugs (handy for huts)

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

Hire gear	Price per day (NZ\$)
Daypack (25 litres)	\$10
Hiking boots	\$10
Overpants	\$10
Trekking Poles (pair)	\$5
Base layer - top & bottom	Purchase from \$39.90
Gaiters	Purchase from \$49.90
Headlamp	Purchase from \$59.90

GRADE C

- Moderate hike, reasonable level of fitness and agility essential.
- Up to 6 hrs of physical activity per day.
- At times carrying a backpack of 5-8 kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 600m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required.
- Easy/moderate grade.

This hike is perfect for people who are unsure about just how difficult a trip they should tackle. At the end of each day we return to Top Forks Hut, so you are free to push yourself just as hard as you want. The day trips that go all the way to Lake Castalia or Waterfall Flat can be quite challenging but if people prefer a more leisurely day they can do a shorter day. While some people have pushed a long way up to the glaciers, other people sometimes swim and sunbathe the day away within a kilometer of the hut. The final day is a 7-hour hike back to Kerin Forks to meet the jetboat. The track follows the Wilkin River and while there are short up and downs it loses little overall vertical. Hikers should be moderately fit, children above the age of 10 usually do fine if they are keen on hiking.



GUIDES AND SAFETY

Guide to Client ratio is 1 : 5

The mountain & ski guiding team are qualified through the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. The NZMGA are affiliated to the International Federation of Mountain Guides Association which 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 are transported to the Mount Aspiring National Park which is about an hours drive from Wanaka. A fixed wing aircraft will fly you into Jumboland. Please note that if weather is unsuitable for a fixed wing flight, a helicopter may be used. In this case, there will be a surcharge for the helicopter access. A thrilling 1-hour jet boat ride will return you to the vehicle on Day 4.

ACCOMMODATION

Top Forks back-country hut - mattresses, water supply, toilets, hand washing facilities and heating with fuel available.

INCLUDED

- all meals and snacks
- fixed wing flight in to Jumboland
- jet boat ride out
- all tents/ camping gear if required
- guide fees, permits and 15% goods and service tax (GST)

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Hire gear if anything needed.

Helicopter surcharge if weather is unsuitable for a fixed wing aircraft either into or out of the mountains.

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 & park fees) per extra day is applicable to your party, and is divided between the trip participants.

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 5 participants

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

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.

If the weather remains adverse and prevents the trip from operating, you have the opportunity to carry out sub alpine adventure and skill development activities. The Guide fee applies and any trip costs not utilised will be refunded.

Travel Insurance

Injuries are covered by the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). ACC pays for the majority of costs incurred in evacuation and treatment of injured people. They do not cover you in case of illness. We recommend that you have travel insurance that will cover you in being repatriated to your home country. Most standard travel insurance policies that cover lost deposit or cancellation fees will cover you in case you are somehow prevented from participating in the trip.

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.

