



# MILFORD, HOLLYFORD AND STEWART ISLAND TRAILS

## ITINERARY



The deep south of New Zealand is home to some of the country's most pristine and spectacular landscapes. Fiordland National Park (which includes the world renowned Milford Sound) and Stewart Island offer walkers the choice of an exceptional array of day hikes, which we feature during this superb week of walking. This trip begins in the 'adventure capital' Queenstown before travelling to Invercargill. Crossing over to Stewart Island you will enjoy some short walks as well as a free day to explore this remote island or even try to sight New Zealand's iconic flightless bird - the Kiwi. Returning to the mainland, travel to Te Anau for walks in Fiordland National Park before boarding a breathtaking helicopter flight over dramatic peaks into uninhabited Martins Bay, the heart of the Hollyford region. Enjoy a walk along the Hollyford Valley and a section of the Routeburn Track before heading back to Queenstown.

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>LENGTH</b>        | 7 days   |
| <b>GRADE</b>         | A ("Soft Adventure" with an element of challenge)  |
| <b>START</b>         | Queenstown 08:00am   |
| <b>FINISH</b>        | Queenstown 06:00pm   |
| <b>ACCOMMODATION</b> | Hotels, Lodges   |
| <b>DEPARTURES</b>    | December 2024: 12th<br>January 2025: 25th<br>March 2025: 15th  |
| <b>PRICES</b>        | NZD \$5,495.00<br>Single Supplement NZD \$895.00<br>For departures of less than 6 people, a surcharge applies for the Hollyford section. |

**"IT WAS ALL GOOD"**

*Helicopter, jet boat, loved the Catlins, Loved Stewart Island.  
All good - especially the Pinot Noir!*

*~ Rosalie W - Australia*

**"ABSOLUTELY AMAZING TRIP"**

*The trip takes you to some of the most beautiful areas on the South Island.  
There were so many highlights to this trip!*

*~ Laurie Murphy - Floral Park- April 2023*



# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 QUEENSTOWN TO INVERCARGILL

This morning we collect you from a central location in Queenstown and start our adventure with a nearby mountain hike. We take the gondola above the township and then access the walking track to Ben Lomond, slowly meandering our way to a highpoint lookout. With the amazing views over Lake Wakatipu and the Queenstown basin this is an inspiring start to this fantastic walking trip. After descending, we depart via the rugged Kawarau Gorge, the birthplace of the Bungy jump, to New Zealand's southernmost city, Invercargill, a good base to start our journey to remote Stewart Island the following day. Overnight Invercargill. *Includes lunch and dinner.*

## DAY 2 INVERCARGILL TO STEWART ISLAND

This morning we drive a short distance to the windswept coastal town of Bluff. Here, we meet the morning ferry for the one hour (approx) crossing to Stewart Island, off the southern coast. Home to New Zealand's newest national park and the remote community of Oban, we arrive on Stewart Island ready for some walking activity. After a casual lunch we walk for about 10km (4hrs) on part of the Rakiura Track with lovely coastal views and prominent bird life. We will probably take a water taxi one way and the availability of this will influence the direction and location of our walk. Arriving back into Oban village late in the afternoon, we have time to check into our accommodation, freshen up and explore the various options on offer for tomorrow. It's then time to regroup for dinner. The fresh local Blue Cod, or the famous Bluff Oysters are a 'must try'. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

## DAY 3 STEWART ISLAND

Stewart Island has a very diverse environment and today is a free day to allow you to wander as you please. The activity options range from a visit to the unique predator-free Ulva Island, to sea kayaking the interior coastline around Patterson Inlet, or even a hike on the many coastal walkways, such as the one to Ackers Point lighthouse. Whatever you choose, this will be a magical day in a magnificent location. *Includes breakfast.*

## DAY 4 STEWART ISLAND TO TE ANAU, FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Departing on the early ferry from Stewart Island back to the mainland, we then travel through small towns and rural landscapes to Te Anau, on the edge of the World Heritage Fiordland National Park. Here you can enjoy a fine walk on one of the lower reaches of the Kepler track, passing through wetlands and mosses and ancient native forests. There are a couple of options for return hikes to remote and secluded bush-clad bays on either Lake Manapouri or Lake Te Anau; the choice will depend on the weather. This evening we have a briefing on the upcoming Hollyford adventure and enjoy dinner with an air of anticipation for the next couple of days. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



## DAY 5 TE ANAU TO HOLLYFORD REGION

Today we drive into the world famous Milford Sound to enjoy a few short walks and stops at points of interest along this incredibly scenic journey. By late morning we arrive at Milford Sound and prepare to board a helicopter for the truly spectacular flight over the peaks and rugged west coast to Martin's Bay in the Hollyford region. On arrival we meet our hosts and are treated to a picnic lunch. It's then time to begin exploring this amazing landscape on foot with a walk through lush forest and coastal heath to a rocky bay. If we are lucky we may spot fur seals and the rare Fiordland Crested Penguin (in season) that inhabit these shores. Returning to Martin's Bay Lodge by jet boat we enjoy a gourmet meal and relax in cosy accommodation in this very special uninhabited wilderness location. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



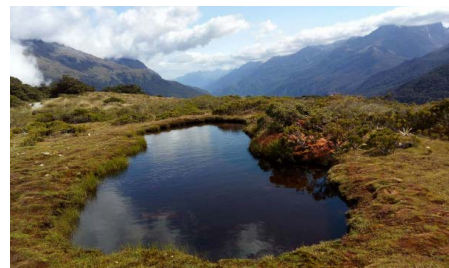
## DAY 6 HOLLYFORD REGION

After a hearty breakfast we journey once again by jet boat up Lake McKerrow to the Hollyford River, the dramatic mountain scapes leaving us in awe of the beauty of this region. A little further along we leave the boat to commence our 20km hike along the Hollyford Valley, following the footsteps of early explorers through native beech forest speckled with elegantly flowing waterfalls. The undulating track brings us to the trail head, with a lunch stop and interesting interpretation of our surrounds along the way. We then drive to our accommodation back in Te Anau, and meet again in the evening for our final dinner. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*



## DAY 7 HOLLYFORD REGION TO QUEENSTOWN

On our final morning we enjoy one more iconic walk, this time along the Routeburn Track to Key Summit, where we can take in sweeping views over the beautiful Hollyford Valley. Along the trail we will have the chance to reflect on a week of exceptional walking experiences with our new found friends before boarding the vehicle for a late afternoon drive back to Queenstown. Trip arrangements conclude with a drop off in central Queenstown. We advise not to book any departure flights this evening in case our drive home is delayed for any reason. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



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# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE A

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors. These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip. Trails on this itinerary are largely formed paths and tracks which can involve hiking for 2-3 hours at a time. This tour is ideal for those looking to explore a region without engaging in too much trekking at one time. For you to be able to really enjoy this trip we recommend that you are to walk comfortably for a few hours at a time (with breaks included). We recommend 60 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling, jogging or power walking) three times a week for the three months leading up your trip.



## FOOD

All food described in the itinerary is included, as well as water and snacks.

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

Our guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people who you will be spending your holiday with. They come from all walks of life but they all have a common desire to give you the best possible experience, heaps of fun and lots of fond memories to take home with you. We provide you with the services of two guides for many of our trips, (this may depend on the size of the group). All are certified in first aid and CPR and many are advanced mountain guides.

## TRANSPORT

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

## ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best locations possible. The accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis mostly with private facilities. You can request a single supplement room (at an additional charge). Please note: although every endeavour is made to stay at the accommodation detailed in the itinerary, occasionally, due to seasonal shortages, we need to use other accommodation of a similar standard.

We can help with different suggestions for your pre/post tour accommodation.



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

- International of domestic flights and taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- All beverages, other than at breakfast
- Water bottle (help us save the environment by bringing your own drink bottle or hydration sytem)
- Optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses (eg. phone calls, internet, laundry, shopping etc)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)
- Tips

## INCLUDED

- 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners
- 5 nights hotel/motel ensuite accommodation on a twin share basis
- 1 night exclusive use of Martin's Bay private lodge
- Professional qualified driver/guide
- Private vehicle transport
- Ferry to and from Stewart Island
- Helicopter over Milford Sound into Martin's Bay (Hollyford)
- Packs and walking poles (on request if required) - please let our staff know in advance
- Water and snacks while trekking
- Access and concession fees paid to the Department of Conversation

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Payment

We will secure your tour booking on receipt of a 25% deposit. Tour balance to be paid no less than 95 days prior to tour departure. By paying the deposit you are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions.

### Cancellations

More than 70 days notice – NZ\$400.00 cancellation fee

70-35 days – 50% refund of tour price

Less than 35 days notice – NO REFUND

### Travel Insurance

We suggest clients to take out a comprehensive travel insurance.

# PACKING LIST

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## WHAT TO TAKE

Each of the walks are day walks and you will only have to carry a day pack with personal essentials.

New Zealand's weather is very changeable and cold weather can be experienced at any time of year, especially in the mountains. We recommend wearing lightweight and breathable fabrics while hiking. Merino or polypropylene underwear is great in cold weather and will still keep you warm when it gets wet, unlike cotton. Jeans are not suitable for hiking.

## Essential Items

- hiking boots or shoes
- day pack
- waterproof raincoat (gore-tex or similar)
- warm fleece/wool jersey (not cotton)
- shorts or lightweight hiking trousers (preferably quick-dry)
- polypro/thermals – top & bottom
- long sleeve shirt (for sun protection)
- 4 pairs of socks
- warm hat
- sun hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- drink bottle (1 litre)
- spare shoes or sandals
- insect repellent
- short-sleeved short (quick-dry, polypropylene or wool)
- casual clothing for travel and evenings
- gloves/mittens

## Recommended items:

- walking poles
- camera
- rain trousers

## We supply:

- first aid kit
- drinking water
- safety equipment
- maps