



PEAK BAGGER

ITINERARY



Two back-to-back multi-day hikes through some of New Zealand's finest backcountry. A stunning alpine traverse in Nelson Lakes National Park to Kahurangi's magnificent limestone plateaus with a magical Lord of the Rings feel. Vast beech forests, mountains to climb and rivers so pure you can drink the water. Imagine a small group of like-minded people sitting around a fire, miles from anywhere, spinning yarns. New places, new challenges, new friends. And better travel stories!

We are not the army, but this trip is definitely recommended for people who are regular hikers and consider themselves to be reasonably fit. It's for those who enjoy a bit of a challenge and like to get off the tourist tracks and into the real back country.

LENGTH	7 days
GRADE	D+ Some untracked and uneven terrain.
START	Christchurch
FINISH	Christchurch
ACCOMMODATION	Lodges, camps and cabins
INCLUDED ACTIVITIES	All hikes and transport
DEPARTURES	On group request

This is a sample itinerary of what we can offer for custom groups. If you have a group of four or more, we can craft a trip that suits your group.

"GREAT EXPERIENCE"

I participated in a hiking tour by Hiking New Zealand and I must say that it has been maybe the best trip that I have had. The places we visited were gorgeous, the group members were great, food was good and guide was really committed to go the extra mile for our enjoyment. He even lent me a book from the library about the maori and their legends as I was really interested about the history of the people of New Zealand.

~ Vayrytu, February 2016, **Trip Advisor**

"WONDERFUL ITINERARY, GUIDES, ACCOMMODATIONS, HIKES"

Every detail was taken care of. I loved not having to think about driving, food, lodgings, pit stops, trail maps, etc.They provided excellent information in advance so I was well prepared with what I did bring. As a solo traveler, I was very comfortable with the small group and our knowledgeable, engaging guides. I saw and learned more than I ever would have on my own.

~ AmandaCA, February 2017, **Trip Advisor**

ITINERARY

DAY 1 CHRISTCHURCH* TO NELSON LAKES ALPINE HUT

2 hours hiking

Depart Christchurch, drive north and then west over the Lewis Pass before heading inland to St Arnaud, nestled in the stunning Nelson Lakes National Park. A sort-out of gear and packing of backpacks precedes the drive up to the trail head. Our late afternoon hike gets us high among the waving tussocks of Robert Ridge. We stay at Bushline Hut - a classic kiwi hut with million dollar views of lakes and mountains. The hut sits just on the tree line and is therefore aptly named! Tuck into a scrumptious dinner and sit back and enjoy the views. Marvel on how far away the city of Christchurch now seems, and how clever you are to be on this trip! *Includes lunch and dinner.*

**You can also start this trip in St Arnaud if you are coming down from the north - let us know when you book.*

DAY 2 BUSHLINE HUT TO LAKE ANGELUS/ANGELUS SUMMIT

4-8 hours hiking*

Hike the rocky Robert Ridge trail to Lake Angelus. The trail is narrow at times and winds among rocky outcrops and across delicate alpine herb fields where you will see the unique 'vegetable sheep'. Lake Angelus sits at an elevation of 1650 meters (5415 feet). The hut is perched above this crisp alpine lake. Grab a brew of 'billy' tea and soak up the views across the lake to Sunset saddle and onwards to the lofty summit of Mt Angelus at 2075 meters (6808 feet). For the keen we summit Mt Angelus this afternoon. The hike is steep and quite a scramble - there is no formed path - but the views from the top are quite something. Descend back to the hut via the beautiful Hinapouri tarns. Later we hike down the Hukere cascades and wild-camp by the stream. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

**8 hrs includes summit hike*

DAY 3 ST ARNAUD - TAPAWERA

5 hours hiking

We descend the meandering Hukere Stream trail through beech forest and pleasant meadows to where the trail enters the Travers Valley. The Travers River leads us to the sharp blue Lake Rotoiti. A welcome rendezvous with the water taxi at Coldwater Hut takes the effort out of the last few miles. Sit back and enjoy the views on the ride back across Lake Rotoiti. Jump off the jetty into the lake, before hopping on the bus and heading to the sleepy little forestry town of Tapawera, where hot showers, a hearty meal and some R&R await to fortify you for the next multi-day hike in Kahurangi National Park. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 4 TO KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK AND GRANITY PASS

6 hours hiking

After a short drive we get to Courthouse Flat, ready to start our next three-day hike. Kahurangi is New Zealand's second largest National Park and one of our most diverse



landscapes. The track leads off beside Blue Creek, passing a few rusted mining relics before the going gets steeper (and steeper!). We climb up through beech forest before finally topping the ridge and descending via the 'the staircase' into Ghost Valley. This name was given by hardy miners prospecting over 150 years ago. From here the trail rejoins Blue Creek and traces the dry marble creek bed up through distinctive *Dracophyllum* forest and eventually getting to the alpine shrub zone and the tiny Granity Pass Hut. We base ourselves here (either in the hut or camping) for the next two nights. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 5 KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK AND MT OWEN

5 hours hiking

Explore the once-glaciated karst landscape of Mount Owen where many scenes from Lord of the Rings, including Dimrill Dale, were filmed. The geology here is impressive – the massif is limestone metamorphosed into marble and riddled with caves (where dwarves may dwell), the longest cave being the Bulmer system with 36 kilometres of passages. Hike across gentle tussock slopes (watching for the elusive elves and hobbits of course) to reach the sculptured marble maze of Mount Owen itself, where some careful route finding will get us to the summit (1875 metres). The views from here are of endless wilderness: from the West Coast and Tasman sea, south to the angling-alps, east to the bright blue Nelson Lakes and to the North folds of Kahurangi's layered mountains. We return to the hut/campsite, and sink into another night in this incredible spot. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 6 KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK TO BULLER GORGE

5 hours hiking

We zig-zag leisurely down through the beech forest to the trail end. Take a snappy swim in the deep clear pools of the Wangapeka River river if you are up to it! From here we drive to our private campsite and accommodation in the Buller Gorge. We are treated to a delicious home cooked organic meal by our hosts. Time to spin some yarns and enjoy the last night as a team. *Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

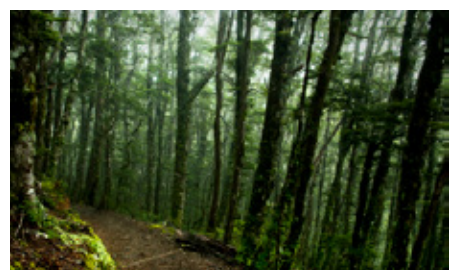
Note: for those who have to head north (to Nelson) we can drop you off in Murchison for the 5.30pm bus service.

DAY 7 BULLER GORGE TO CHRISTCHURCH

After a leisurely breakfast we pack up and head south to Christchurch via the Lewis Pass, a truly scenic journey. Although this is a travel day, the chances are your guide will spring a couple of memorable moments on you. There are plenty of pools to swim in and short trails to amble. Arrive in Christchurch at mid-day.

Includes breakfast and lunch.

Note: The Peak Bagger is a backcountry wilderness trip where the weather and/ or river conditions may mean the itinerary needs to be executed in a different order. Very occasionally we may be forced to do different hikes altogether.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE D+

- Average of 5-6 hours physical activity per day, up to 8-9 hours on longer days.
- Pack weights of 10-12kgs on some days.
- Altitude gains of up to 900m.
- Some uneven track surfaces and river crossings.
- Multi-day hiking experience recommended.
- Need to be reasonably fit and enthusiastic.
- Terrain mostly tracks. Some may be slippery or rough; some off-track hiking and river crossings.



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 Mountain Safety First Aid.

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 helps with the preparation and cooking of meals. But don't worry – we won't expect you to make it up on the spot! As everything we eat we need to carry on our backs, a lot of careful planning goes into choosing meals that not only give us plenty of energy and nutrition but are also light to carry, easy to prepare and most importantly – taste great! If you have any specific dietary requirements, please let us know when you book and we will make it work.



TRANSPORT

As most of our time is spent in the –wilderness there is not much time spent in the bus. Our big driving days are on day one and day seven, with a short transfer between the hikes on days three and four.

ACCOMMODATION

New Zealand has an excellent network of backcountry huts and you will stay in basic huts on several nights. These huts are equipped with mattresses, running water and an outside toilet. Cooking is done on a portable stove. Huts are only accessible by foot and are shared with other hikers. We will always carry tents or tent flies so we can camp away from the huts in remote wilderness settings.



Cabins/Cribs We have two non-wilderness nights where we stay in cabins or cribs (New Zealand summer houses). On these nights you will enjoy the luxury of a hot shower and some fresh and local cuisine.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

All meals and activities are included.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

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

Cancellations

95 days or more prior to departure – 80% refund of the deposit paid OR your full deposit is transferable to a future trip booked directly with Hiking New Zealand
94 to 21 days prior to departure – 80% refund of the full ticket price
20 to 11 days prior to departure – 50% refund of the full ticket price
10 days or less prior to departure – NO REFUND.

Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

PACKING LIST

Items shown in bold can be hired from us (see the rate table below).
Please arrange hire at least two weeks prior to your departure date.

EQUIPMENT

- Backpack** (minimum 60 litres)
- Sleeping bag** (minimum 3 season, preferably down, lightweight, between 1-2 kg)
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Drink bottle or camel back – 1 litre
- Small Day pack
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Insect repellent (sandflies like foreign blood)
- Personal toiletries, medication and first aid
- Walking Poles** (optional)
- Gaiters

HOW TO PACK

We recommend that you bring two bags on your trip, a hiking backpack with an internal frame (at least 60 litres in capacity) for the overnight hikes, and a smaller day pack for the day hikes. We supply kit bags for the stowage of your gear in the trailer when you are away on a multi day hike.

WE SUPPLY

- Pack-liner to keep things dry inside your backpack
- Kit bag to hold your spare gear when you are out hiking
- Emergency first aid kit
- Thermarests (3/4 length)
- Plates, cutlery, mugs, pots, etc

CLOTHING - one set for walking, one set for evenings

WALKING CLOTHES: Several layers of wool, polypropylene and/or polar fleece will ensure you remain a comfortable temperature regardless of the weather. **No cotton shirts hiking/kayaking in the wet please!** Cotton gets cold when wet and is difficult to dry.

- Raincoat (goretex or similar)
- Thermal underwear (top and bottom, wool or polypropylene)
- Hiking boots
- Spare lightweight shoes or sandals
- Shorts or lightweight trousers (preferably quick-dry)
- Short-sleeved shirt x 2 (quick-dry, polypropylene or wool)
- Warm fleece/wool jersey (not cotton) x 2
- Socks (we suggest 3 pairs)
- Warm hat or balaclava
- Sunhat
- Gloves or mittens (wool or fleece)
- Togs (swimming costume)
- Towel (lightweight travel towels are great)

SPARE CLOTHING: Extra socks and polypropylene layers are always handy - ensure you have enough warm items. Comfortable clothes for non hiking days. Spare clothing can be left in the secure trailer when we are away on the hikes, so don't worry about the extra weight - ensure you have enough warm items. Note: there are only limited opportunities to do laundry during a tour, so quick drying clothing is an advantage. Weather can change rapidly in the locations we hike so layers of clothing is ideal.

Hire gear (NZ\$)	5-7 days trip	8-11 days trip	12+ days trip
Backpack (60 litres)	\$50	\$60	\$80
Sleeping bag and liner	\$50	\$60	\$80
Walking pole (per one pole)	\$20	\$20	\$20

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

IMPORTANT INFO

Here is a kickstart on a few things you need to know...

WHEN HIKING

- Stay together. Wait if you have not seen the group for 10 minutes.
 - Wait at all track junctions, huts, or river crossings for everyone to catch up.
 - If you get separated, stop and wait until your guide finds you.
 - Watch out for sunburn. Remember, NZ sun burns fast, wear a hat and sun block at all times until you are familiar with its strength.
 - Drink plenty of water, it is safe to drink from most of the streams in the wilderness without treating the water but do ask.
 - Help and look out for each other on river crossings, bush bashing and rock scrambling.
 - Ensure you have correct clothing - see 'packing' list.
 - Hiking tracks in NZ can be quite muddy and sometimes rough with tree roots and rocks. But this is part of the fun.
 - Snow slopes are extremely dangerous - guide leads on snow.
- No fooling around unless guide gives the OK.

CROSSING RIVERS

- River crossing accidents are a major cause of fatalities in the NZ wilderness so learning correct techniques from your guide is imperative.
- If your pack has a quick-release hip belt keep it fastened (to prevent the pack riding over your head if you end up swimming). Chest straps and other hip belts should be undone.
- Wear shorts not long pants. If wearing a rain-coat turn up and tuck under hip belt so pockets don't fill with water.
- You must wear boots when crossing rivers.
- To prevent the spread of Didymo (an invasive algae) boots, gaiters, socks etc. must be washed and dried before entering another waterway.

KAYAKING

- Always attend the safety briefing.
- Always take spare warm clothing in case the weather turns bad.
- Go to the toilet before you get into the kayak.
- Wrap valuables and cameras securely in bags or dry bags and close PROPERLY. Put adsorbent cloth/t-shirt with camera.
- Always stay together.

CYCLING & MOUNTAIN BIKING

- Always attend the safety briefing, know the meet times and 'back up' plans.
- High visibility clothes if road sections.
- Be aware if you are in the front or back of group (otherwise you might be chasing imaginary people).
- Stop to smell the roses - you might be wearing yellow, but its not the Tour de France!
- Helmets are compulsory in NZ.
- In NZ front and rear brakes are opposite to US and Europe.

CAVING

- Does your torch/headlamp have good batteries - carry spares if you need.
- If you want to take a camera, make sure that it is wrapped securely in plastic bags or dry bags.
- Go to the toilet beforehand.
- Talk to guide if you are nervous about caving beforehand.
- Cave formations take thousands of years to form - please don't touch them unless your guide okays it.

SWIMMING & BEACHES

Many NZ beaches are too dangerous for swimming, in particular the West Coast beaches.

Where conditions are suitable....

- Talk to your guide before you go swimming and don't swim alone.
- Respect the sea - never turn your back on the sea and watch out for freak waves & rips - even when beach walking.
- If you get into difficulty while swimming - raise one of your hands up above your head - stay calm.

- Be careful entering the sea. Don't run into the sea - there may be rocks below the water.
- For rescues, things that float are - sleeping mats, spare tyre, empty water bottles (jerry cans), thermarests and dry bags stuffed with clothing
- Look for Jellyfish - (check along water edge and don't swim if there are lots about) - treat with vinegar

HOT POOLS (NATURAL)

- Keep head above water at all times - water may contain amoebic meningitis.
- Watch out for boiling water/mud hazards around and in the pool
- Remove jewellery as it tends to turn green or black.

FIRES

- Observe all fire bans. Keep fires small, use only dead wood and completely put out with water before leaving and at night (includes wood burners in huts).
- Always have a bucket of water near fire to extinguish it and for burns (or stream/river nearby).
- Be careful when wearing synthetic clothing around fires. Sparks put holes in Gore-Tex and tents.
- Do not use axe without guide's okay - wear boots.

HYGIENE & TOILETS

- You'll get to a shower mostly every 1-2 days, otherwise there are rivers to have a wash in.
- Keep streams, lakes and rivers clean - when cleaning and washing, take water and wash well away from the water source (drain used water into soil to allow it to be filtered) - all soaps/detergents are harmful to water-life.
- Laundry facilities are limited while on trips (every 2-3 days).
- Always use toilets when they are provided even though long-drops may be a bit rustic!
- In situations where there is no toilet, bury toilet waste. No 1's (pee) off the track - No 2's (poop) in 5-10 cm deep hole 50-100m from any water (lake, river or stream), bury toilet paper, cover up hole with soil/leaf litter. Please do not burn toilet paper.
- Sanitary pads/tampons are treated as rubbish - carried out by user - ask guide for sanitary rubbish bags.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

- Correct hygiene and toilet practices are essential to keep water supplies (rivers, lakes) safe to drink.
- Remove rubbish - pack it in, pack it out. Please help guide to separate rubbish, recycling and compost.
- Keep to the track where there is one - protect native plants and animals
- Respect cultural heritage.
- Enjoy your visit - camp carefully and leave no trace of your visit. Will the next visitor know you have been there?

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER...

- Hypothermia - make sure you wear & carry the correct clothing!
- Fitness - hiking all day with a backpack on is hard work, get fit before you come on a kiwi-style trip. If you are fit enough you will be able to take part in all the hikes.
- Hire gear - use the supplied liner with sleeping bags, carry all hire gear in pack not tied to outside. Please tell us if any repairs are required.
- Equipment - it is so easy to lose stuff in shared huts. Help us keep an eye on gear.
- Roads - remember kiwis drive on the left, look carefully when crossing the street for an ice-cream.
- Tipping - it is not expected in NZ to tip for service, but if you feel your guide has done an excellent job, tips will be accepted graciously.

Thank you for reading. Have a wonderful trip.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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