



PURE SOUTH ADVENTURE

ITINERARY



We've combined the best hikes and experiences, and brought them together to create this unforgettable 7-day South Island adventure. Day walk amongst the Southern Alps on our legendary Great Walks. Soar over peaks and valleys on a scenic plane flight, Alaska-style, deep into the Kiwi backcountry. Explore Milford Sound and day walk in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. If you're short on time or you're just after the epic highlight reel, our Pure South itinerary is the perfect bite-sized morsel. It's everything you've heard about and want to see during your time in New Zealand but weren't sure how to piece together in such a short time.

LENGTH	7 days		
GRADE	B: "Soft adventure" with an element of challenge		
START	Queenstown: 8.30am Millennium Hotel, 9.00am La Quinta, or 9.15am at Queenstown International Airport		
FINISH	Queenstown: International Airport at 5:00pm, La Quinta at 5.15pm, or Millennium Hotel at 5.45pm		
DEPARTURES	2025 - 2026 October 2025: 27 November 2025: 3, 10, 24 December 2025: 1, 22, 29 January 2026: 5, 12, 19, 26 February 2026: 2, 9, 16, 23 March 2026: 2, 9, 16, 30 April 2026: 6	2026 - 2027 October 2026: 26 November 2026: 9, 23 December 2026: 7, 21 January 2027: 11, 25 February 2027: 8, 22 March 2027: 8, 22 April 2027: 5	2027 - 2028 October 2027: 25 November 2026: 8, 15, 29 December 2026: 6, 27
PRICE	Adult NZ\$9,899.00 Single supplement NZ\$1,600.00 *NZ\$ price at time of printing		

"ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL"

One of the best trips I have taken. I could not have asked for a better trip or better guides. The guides made us all feel welcome and knew a lot about everything. I am not sure there was a question asked that they did not have an answer to. Your country is simply beautiful and I really enjoyed getting to experience it.

~Jane Sinclair - Pure South Adventure, January 24 ~

"ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME!"

We had such an amazing trip. I wasn't prepared for how much I would laugh, and learn, with our incredible guides Megan and Georgia. I honestly am not sure how they did it so well. We were so lucky to share our tour with a wonderful family who now feel like close friends. It was an absolutely magical trip. I wish I could put it on repeat for every vacation. As the Kiwis say, sweet as!

~ Natalie Gustafson - Pure South Adventure, November 23 ~

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DAY 1 QUEENSTOWN - KEPLER TRACK

11.2km (7 miles), 4 hours hiking, elevation +150m (492 ft)

After meeting your guides and fellow travellers in Queenstown, we'll head to Fiordland National Park. The Kepler Track is renowned for its vivid green moss, native beech forest, and stunning mountain ranges. Today we'll explore one of our favourite sections, meandering beneath the beech canopy and tracing the shoreline of stunning Lake Te Anau. Along the way, enjoy panoramic lake views set against the dramatic Fiordland mountains. What a way to welcome you to New Zealand! Afterwards, we'll head to our accommodation in Te Anau for a delicious home-cooked meal and the chance to rest up before tomorrow's adventures. *Accommodation: Parkland Apartments, Te Anau. Includes lunch and dinner.*

DAY 2 MILFORD SOUND AND ROUTEBURN TRACK

10 km (6.2 miles), 4 hours hiking, elevation + 80m (242 ft)

It's our first full day of adventure, and what a day it's going to be. Today, we'll tick off your second Great Walk with a section of the famous Milford Track and explore the breathtaking beauty of Milford Sound from both boat and kayak. After a day packed with epic scenery and fresh air, you'll sleep soundly back in Te Anau tonight.

This morning we'll set off on one of the most unforgettable journeys you're likely to take. After a hearty breakfast to fuel the day, we'll drive the spectacular Milford Road, winding past towering peaks, lush rainforest and crystal-clear lakes. Once at Milford Sound, we'll hop aboard our scenic cruise and soak it all in. Thundering waterfalls, sheer rock faces, and the magic of the fiord all around you. Keep your camera close. These are the kind of photos to share far and wide.

Just when you think the day couldn't get any better, it does. This afternoon, we'll jump into kayaks and paddle across the still waters of the sound to the starting point of the Milford Track, arguably New Zealand's most iconic Great Walk. From here, we'll hike a beautiful section of the track, surrounded by ancient forest and iconic scenery only found in this special corner of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Afterwards, we'll return to Te Anau for a relaxed evening, reflecting on an unforgettable day. *Accommodation: Parkland Apartments, Te Anau. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 3 ROCKY MOUNTAIN - WĀNAKA

5km (3.2 miles), 2 hours hiking, elevation + 390m (1280ft)

Today we leave the rainforests of Fiordland behind and head for the high-country lakes of Central Otago. We'll then head over the Crown Range to the pretty mountain resort town of Wānaka and gateway to Mt Aspiring National Park, where we'll spend the next two nights. This afternoon we'll take a hike to the Lake Wānaka Lookout to appreciate the sweeping views out over the Southern Alps and Lake Wānaka. It's a steady climb but well worth the effort. With each passing step, the scenery just gets better and better, and with sweeping views to enjoy at every turn, there's certainly no rush to the top. *Accommodation: Edgewater Wānaka. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 4 MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK

7km (4.3 miles), 2 hours hiking, elevation +103m (337 ft)

Get ready for a real Kiwi backcountry experience - this is the stuff legendary holiday tales are made of! Today's all about venturing deep into the wild - through glacial valleys, ancient beech forest, and rivers so clear you'll think someone's polished the rocks.



Jet boats were invented in 1954 in New Zealand by Sir William Hamilton for the shallow waters of our braided rivers. Jet boating originally started on the Wilkin River in 1968 transporting venison out of the mountains before hiking and commercial work became more commonplace. We'll kick off the day with a jetboat ride from Makarora, skimming across the braided waters of the Makarora River. It's not just a ride, it's a thrilling introduction to the raw, untouched beauty of Mt Aspiring National Park. As we weave our way upriver, you'll get a unique perspective on the dramatic alpine landscape, think towering peaks, crystal-clear streams, and wilderness as far as the eye can see.

Once we're dropped off in this remote corner of the park, it's time to stretch the legs. We'll follow a well-formed track through lush forest and alongside vivid blue rivers and pools. There's something special about walking in a place where there's no road, no crowds – just you, your guide, and the rhythm of the bush. Keep your eyes peeled for native birds and your camera ready – this place knows how to show off.

Our walk finishes at the iconic Blue Pools – famed for their crystal-clear glacial water and swing bridge views. Dip your toes if you're feeling brave, or simply soak up the magic of this special spot before heading back to Wānaka for a delicious dinner. *Accommodation: Edgewater Wānaka. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 5 WĀNAKA - OMARAMA

15 minutes walking

Today, we'll start our day with some time to explore Wānaka before beginning our journey north toward Aoraki/Mt Cook, known to Māori as the Cloud Piercer. Along the way, you'll pass through a land of wide-open skies, braided rivers and snow-capped peaks – the Mackenzie Country. Home to some of the best stargazing on the planet! Something you'll be able to appreciate this evening.

This morning we'll begin with some time to explore the charming mountain township of Wānaka. Nestled at the foot of snow-capped mountains, this lakefront town is Queenstown's more relaxed cousin, although its equal in stunning scenery. It's a great place to explore on your own for a bit – be sure to try out some of the local delicacies, including meat pies, uniquely flavoured gelatos, and of course, delicious barista coffee.

On the way to the Mackenzie Country and Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, we'll explore the Clay Cliffs of Omarama. This geological phenomenon was formed millions of years ago from layers of silt and gravel deposited by ancient lakes and rivers. These layers were then uplifted and tilted by an active fault and subsequently eroded, giving them their dramatic appearance. *Accommodation: A lodge in the National Park, Aoraki Mt Cook. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 6 AORAKI MOUNT COOK NATIONAL PARK

8km (5 miles), 3-4 hours hiking, elevation + 120m (394 ft) or, 4.3 km (2.7 miles), 2.5 hours hiking, elevation +450m (1476 ft)

New Zealand is home to 24 peaks over 3000m tall – your destination for the day, Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, boasts 19 of them. Home to its namesake (known to Māori as “the Cloud Piercer”, standing at 3724 metres tall), the National Park offers some of the best hiking trails in New Zealand and a rich mountaineering history. These stunning mountains were the training ground of Sir Edmund Hillary before becoming the first to successfully summit Mount Everest with Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Today they'll be our playground, to take at whatever pace suits you.

Get up close to the icebergs on a glacier boat tour, or even splurge on a heli-hike. Check out the many hiking tracks and trails, or simply explore the village. Whatever you decide, it's an incredible place to spend the day.



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After a full day of activities, we'll meet up and return to our accommodation for a tasty meal and a chance to trade stories from the day as well as gaze up at the impressive night sky in this internationally recognised Dark Sky Reserve.

Morning Activity - Hooker Valley Track & Kea Point

This is one of the South Island's most popular glacier country trails. The Hooker Valley Track offers spectacular alpine scenery and sweeping views of New Zealand's highest peak. For those with an interest in New Zealand flora, the Hooker Valley is one of the best places to see Mount Cook lilies in season.



Afternoon Activity - Hike to Red Tarns

Offering phenomenal views of Aoraki/Mt Cook and the surrounding mountains the Red Tarns Track is one of Aoraki/Mt Cook's hidden gems. On a calm day, you'll enjoy incredible mirror-like reflections of Aoraki/Mt Cook that will leave a lasting memory of this magical spot.



Anytime - Explore Mount Cook Village

Today is a great opportunity to explore on your own. Visit the museum and planetarium at the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre. Take some short walks around the area or just soak in the views with a coffee and good book. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

*Please advise us at the time of booking if interested in the option add-ons, Glacier Heli-Hiking (NZD\$945), Glacier Lake Boat Tour (NZD\$209). *Accommodation: A lodge in the National Park, Aoraki Mt Cook. Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

DAY 7 MT COOK - QUEENSTOWN

5.4km (3.3 miles), 2 hours hiking, elevation 6m (19ft)

Today we leave the mountains of Aoraki/Mt Cook and head for the high-country lakes of Central Otago. We'll explore the historic gold mining town of Arrowtown and walk one of our favourite local trails.



Welcome to our backyard! Queenstown and the surrounding area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream, with many purpose-built tracks and trails ideal for hiking. We'll travel to the historic Arrowtown, a quaint old gold-mining settlement just a short drive from Queenstown. Today we will be walking the Arrow River Trail, one of our favourite hidden gems here in Queenstown. While you are walking the Arrow River Trail, you'll have the opportunity to plant a native seedling and leave a small legacy of your own here in New Zealand.

This afternoon, we'll finish our adventure in Queenstown. It's time to say goodbye to your guides, travel companions, and new-found friends as we drop you at the airport or your accommodation. *Includes breakfast and lunch.*



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

GRADE B

- Up to 4-5 hours of physical activity per day
- At times carrying a backpack of 4-5kgs
- Tracks generally in good condition
- Altitude gains of up to 600m (2000ft) on harder days
- No hiking experience necessary

The Pure South Adventure is designed for people who want to experience New Zealand's incredible array of outdoor adventures with the flexibility to explore at a pace that's right for you. With your two New Zealand guides you'll always have easier or more challenging options available so you can scale your activity level up or down to suit your preference. On the Pure South trip, you will walk between 3 to 5 hours each day on well-formed tracks. The average distance walked each day is 9km.



GUIDES AND SAFETY

Safety is always our top priority. We take great pride in our impeccable safety record and our safety management plans. Your guides are highly experienced outdoors professionals who are first aid qualified and fully equipped with a satellite phone, personal locator beacon and first aid kit. Our trips have direct access to our highly experienced operations team and other outside services 24 hours a day.

FOOD

Over the last few years a real food culture has developed in New Zealand and introducing you to this side of our country is just as important as the stunning outdoors. All breakfasts and lunches are included in the tour, as are most dinners. On a few nights dinner is not included to give you a chance to explore for yourself or relax in your room after your day's activity. Breakfasts are at your accommodation before heading off for the day's activity. Healthy Kiwi breakfasts are accompanied by lots of fresh fruit. Lunches are either in the best little cafes or restaurants en route or a wholesome packed lunch is prepared to last you all day on your activity. Dinners are in fabulous local restaurants using the best regional produce.

Generally, as long as we have advanced notice we can cater for any special dietary requirements you may have. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

TRANSPORT

Each day we'll drive between 0.5 and 3 hours to reach our next destination. Our trips are carefully planned to give you the most time exploring the outdoors and any travel is always broken up with hikes, activities and coffee/bathroom breaks. You'll bring your small day pack with you inside the vehicle, with just your hiking essentials (jacket, water bottle, sun hat etc) and will be all you will need to carry with you when you are out exploring. Your luggage will stay in the vehicle until we reach our accommodation for the evening.



ACCOMMODATION

On the Pure South Adventure tour, you'll sleep soundly in comfortable accommodations that we have chosen specifically for their fantastic locations.

You'll meet friendly hosts and have a private ensuite room each night. Rooming is based on twin-share, although single room upgrades are available on request.



LIFE ON THE TRAIL

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Airport transfers
- Activities in Queenstown
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages with lunch and dinner

Typically 12-15 participants per group.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Payment

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

Cancellations:

90 days or more: loss of deposit, or transfer to a future departure date should you elect to change your booking in place of cancellation.

89 to 60 days: 50% of tour price forfeited.

59 days or less: 100% of tour price forfeited.

There will be no partial refunds or credits for unused services within a tour. Any unpaid forfeited amount may be pursued as a debt.

Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

Disclaimer

The safety of guests and guides is our number one priority, and we have a robust and independently reviewed Safety Management System to manage risks, dangers and hazards on our trips. As our trips operate in the outdoors, they do include an inherent element of risk, along with potential exposure to dangers and hazards. Those risks, dangers and hazards include, but are not limited to: slips, falls, varied terrain, changing weather conditions, physical and mental fatigue, acts or omissions of the public or other participants, accident, or illness in remote areas without the possibility of immediate evacuation or availability of medical suppliers or facilities, natural events such as earthquake, avalanche, or landslides, and accidents during travel on the trip, including travel in vehicles, boats and aircraft operated by us or third parties. Encountering these risks, dangers and hazards could result in physical or mental injuries, damage to personal property, or death. You understand that it is impossible for us to list in this agreement every possible inherent risk, danger or hazard, but you understand and accept you may encounter these and any other inherent risks, dangers, and hazards not specifically listed in this agreement at any time.

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- A good waterproof rain jacket and pants (Gore-tex or similar)
- 2-3 non-cotton base layers (top and bottom); polypropylene, or merino. We use and recommend Merino wool
- Long sleeve polypropylene or merino
- Polar Tec or similar windproof fleece jacket / sweater
- Down jacket
- Waterproof rain pants (optional)
- 2 lightweight, quick dry long pants or shorts (no denim)
- 1 pair hiking boots or strong walking shoes (waterproof, with ankle support)
- 3 pairs thick walking socks
- Warm hat (beanie/toque)
- Gloves
- Sunhat/cap
- Water bottle or camelbak - minimum 2 litres (1 or 2 bottles)
- Dry bag for clothes / valuables
- Midsized backpack - You can bring one large suitcase or duffel bag (15kg (33lb) - 30kg (66lb)) that will go in the vehicle when we travel between locations - this will be whatever bag you check in for your flight. You should also bring a day pack, this is a small hiking pack around 25L - 30L. It should fit your water bottle, camera,

wallet, sunscreen, medication, warm layers, rain protection, lunch (usually a sandwich, sweet treat and fruit) & anything else you may want to take on your day hikes.

- Walking poles (if you use them)

GENERAL CLOTHING

- 1 pair jeans or other casual trousers
- 1 pairs shorts (or a skirt)
- 2 tops/shirts and 2 button up front long sleeve shirts
- 1 sleep shirt; sleep shorts (or whatever you sleep in)
- 1 light sweat shirt or long-sleeve t-shirt
- 1 swimming suit
- 3 pairs socks both thin and thick
- Underwear
- 1 pair sport sandals (like Teva's) and 1 pair casual trainers
- Toiletries/medications
- Sunscreen, insect repellent and lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Camera and binoculars

This clothing will keep you warm and comfortable during outdoor activities - cotton clothing is not suitable for hiking in.