

# ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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## NEW ZEALAND: SOUTH ISLAND MULTI-ADVENTURE

Explore the best of New Zealand's stunning South Island - the Jewel of the Pacific! - with a multi-activity trip and plenty of options to suit your fancy! We begin and end in Christchurch, "the Garden City". At time of booking, choose your three-day adventure: Backpacking through Nelson Lakes National Park, Sea Kayaking in Queen Charlotte Sound, or Mountain Biking on the Queen Charlotte Track! With your full group, enjoy a snorkeling trip to a seal colony, a wine tasting in rural farmlands, take some of New Zealand's most stunning day hikes, and do some unforgettable sea kayaking and cycling in secluded and beautiful parts of the South Island. We maintain plenty of options, and every activity is optional, so we can make sure the trip works for you. We have two guides to take good care of you, and our itinerary includes a free day in the adventure capitol of Queenstown. If you enjoy the outdoors and like a bit of a challenge, this two-week adventure is the perfect way to experience New Zealand.

**Trip Dates: Oct - April Departures**

**Land Costs: \$3799 +NZ Gov't Tax**

### **DAYS 1-2**

Leave USA airport and fly to Christchurch, NZ. Due to crossing the International Date Line, you will lose one day (but gain it back on your return home).

### **DAY 3 (Monday)**

Most people leave the Northern hemisphere on a Saturday evening and arrive in New Zealand early on Monday morning. You'll lose a day to the dateline - but you get it back on the way home! If you arrive in Auckland, you'll immediately take the short flight to Christchurch in the South Island arriving by 10am or so. We'll meet you there and drive up the coast to the seaside town of Kaikoura, where we will spend the afternoon and evening. We'll take you out to the Kaikoura Peninsula for a snorkeling trip at the seal colony. You'll be supplied with a wetsuit, mask and snorkel, and you can swim within a

couple of feet of native New Zealand Fur Seals as they cavort in the water. This makes for a cruisy introduction to New Zealand and gives you the chance to spend most of the day relaxing and recovering from your flight. Depending on where you're coming from, you'll probably find jetlag is no big deal. For instance, it's a 12-hour direct overnight flight from the West Coast of the USA to Auckland and there's only a 3-hour time difference between New Zealand and US Pacific time. If you're coming from further afield, you'll appreciate the gentle start to your New Zealand adventure. Overnight: Kaikoura. (LD)

#### **DAY 4**

We'll drive north for a couple of hours to Blenheim, in the heart of the Marlborough wine region. We'll visit Forrest Estate Winery, where you can sample some of their fantastic wines while we picnic on the vineyard lawn. At the time of booking, you have the choice of one of three different 3-day/2-night options - a backpacking trip in Nelson Lakes National Park, a 3-day/2-night sea-kayaking trip in the Marlborough Sounds, or a 3-day/2-night biking trip on the Queen Charlotte Track. The backpacking trip entails staying in mountain huts while the cyclists and sea kayakers stay in more conventional lodging, often with amenities such as hot tubs, private bathrooms and even a bar! Add US\$399 + tax for the sea kayaking or biking options. After lunch, we head off for our various activities:

#### **HIKING OPTION in Nelson Lakes National Park**

**DAY 4 continued...**Our "tramp" starts at the charming village of St. Arnaud, on the edge of Nelson Lakes National Park. To keep our group sizes down in this beautiful but fragile environment, we allow our exact route and group composition to be flexible. We'll spend the afternoon hiking the relatively gentle trail alongside Lake Rotoiti, staying at Lakehead hut overnight. Nelson Lakes National Park straddles the northern part of the Southern Alps, an area composed of beech forests, big lakes and even bigger mountains. This is serious wilderness country - no roads, no shops, no TVs - just incredible views and marvelous solitude. You don't have to carry a very heavy pack - our guides are pretty tough and they'll carry the lion's share of the load. You'll be carrying a sleeping bag, a few spare clothes, and some food - no need for any more than that, although we'll provide tents and so on if you'd prefer to camp. (BLD)

#### **DAY 5 – Hiking Option**

Today is an unforgettable day - the scenery gets even better with each step! We walk alongside the Travers River and through native beech forest, before heading up the Hukere stream to spend the rest of the day hiking up to the ridgeline of the mountains. This is a steep hike, with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet...and it's absolutely worth it. There is a gorgeous alpine lake at the top and the remote but comfortable Angelus Hut is ideally situated right on the edge of the lake. We have plenty of experience in getting people to the top, whatever your physical fitness level and age. If you're still keen for more, from Angelus Hut we'll scramble up a nearby peak to enjoy stunning views in every direction. If you'd prefer to hang out at Angelus hut with a "cuppa," that's fine too! Many of our clients who have chosen the hiking option tell us that the Angelus Circuit - still un-spoilt and non-commercial - was the highlight of their New Zealand experience, and many Kiwis prefer this trip to the better-known Milford and Routeburn Tracks. (BLD)

#### **DAY 6 – Hiking Option**

This morning we'll wake up on top of the world! After breakfast, it's a four to five hour walk out, first along the stark ridgeline with dramatic views down to Tasman Bay and the mountains of Kahurangi National Park beyond, then down through native beech forest. It's a challenging walk out, but it's worth every drop of sweat! We'll hook up with the kayakers and cyclists before carrying on to the coast. (BLD)

**-OR-**

**SEA KAYAKING OPTION in Queen Charlotte Sound** [Add US\$499 + tax]

**DAY 4 continued...**After lunch you'll head for Anakiwa on the edge of Queen Charlotte Sound. The waters here are calm and isolated, surrounded by lush forests and rocky coastline. Here you'll be matched with a modern sea kayak and all the necessary safety equipment for paddling. You don't need any experience to do this option, but if you are an experienced sea kayaker, you won't be bored. After a thorough safety briefing, you'll head out with your guide for a fairly gentle first day's paddle. (BLD)

**DAY 5 – Kayaking Option**

Today we'll have a full day's paddling in the more remote reaches of Queen Charlotte Sound. You can paddle at your own pace and we'll make sure that you get as much or as little "sea time" as you like! Along the way we'll check out the secluded beaches and native forest that characterize the area, and we'll see all sorts of native birds. With a bit of luck, we'll be paddling alongside the local dolphins and even penguins! It's worth noting that you don't just paddle on this option - you have plenty of time to stop for short beach and forest walks as well. After the day's activities, you'll be able to have a hot shower, enjoy a great dinner and a comfortable night's sleep. (BLD)

**DAY 6 – Kayaking Option**

We spend the morning paddling to our takeout point at Anakiwa. It's another chance to spot local wildlife before having lunch. After taking our kayaks out of the water, we'll transfer to Saint Arnaud, where we hook up with the rest of the group before carrying on to the coast.

**-OR-**

**MOUNTAIN BIKING OPTION on Queen Charlotte Track** [Add US\$499 + tax]

**DAY 4 continued...**Another option over this period of time is to do some biking. After lunch you'll head for Anakiwa on the edge of Queen Charlotte Sound, where you'll be fitted with a modern mountain bike for a fairly gentle ride to start. We have a lot of flexibility with this option, so this afternoon's ride will give your guide the opportunity to tailor the next two days to your level of experience. We offer a range of fantastic trails to suit your experience and interests - from gentle pedaling along a wide, flat forest trail to more challenging single-track. It's your call. In the evening we'll enjoy an awesome dinner in a local lodge before the big day tomorrow. (BLD)

**DAY 5 – Biking Option**

A big ride today if you like, or a gentle cruise, if you prefer. We have some challenging single-track riding on the renowned Queen Charlotte Track for the more experienced, or if you prefer, wide smooth trails that wind through the coastal forest. The Queen Charlotte Track is legendary because it is one of the few areas of wilderness where mountain bikes are permitted. No matter which trail you choose, you'll experience some of the pristine beaches, native forest and birdlife that characterize this area. It's worth noting that you don't just cycle on this option - again, you have plenty of time to stop for short beach and forest walks as well. (BLD)

**DAY 6 – Biking Option**

We'll spend the morning biking back towards Anakiwa, either by road or single track, where we'll have lunch. We'll then transfer to Saint Arnaud to rejoin with the hikers and the kayakers in the afternoon and carry on to the coast.

### **Finish 3-day backpacking, biking, or sea kayaking**

After regrouping in Saint Arnaud we'll head to the wonderful West Coast area - 500 miles of gorgeous coastline with a population of only 40,000 people on the whole coast! For dinner this evening, we'll stop at the tiny seaside settlement of Charleston to pick up the quintessential kiwi dinner - fish and chips! If it's a fine evening, we'll enjoy our fish and chips on the beach before heading south down the stunning coastline towards the coastal village of Punakaiki for the night. (BLD)

#### **DAY 7**

We'll spend most of the day in Punakaiki to hike amongst the limestone canyons and lush rainforest of the Inland Pack Track. We'll also check out Punakaiki's famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes. Finally, we'll leave in the afternoon to drive down the scenic coastal road and stop at Hokitika to check out the local art galleries and pounamu carving workshops ("pounamu" is Maori for jade). Then we'll carry on to Okarito Lagoon, a gem of the West Coast that is all but untouched due to it being 10 miles down a one-way road from an obscure highway turnoff. With a tiny population, there are no shops, no restaurants and no traffic here - and watching the sun set over the Tasman Sea is definitely not to be missed! Overnight: Okarito. (BLD)

#### **DAY 8**

You've got a lot of options at Okarito. You can spend a cruisy day in this sleepy but beautiful beach town to recharge your batteries, or do some awesome hiking and kayaking. The Okarito Lagoon is unique in that it hosts the only white heron colony in New Zealand. You can sea kayak on the lagoon with a backdrop of snow-capped mountains for a few hours, then spend the rest of the day hiking through the lush coastal forest to Three Mile Lagoon, and walking back next to the waves crashing on the deserted beach. Okarito is also a great spot just to hang out in the scenery and enjoy a good book, or talk philosophy with some of the locals! Overnight: Okarito. (BLD)

#### **DAY 9**

Just south of Okarito there are two formidable glaciers descending from the mountains to the sea. We'll spend most of the day hiking at the glaciers - through the rainforest to either Alex Knob or Roberts Point - both of which give great views of the terminal face, lower reaches and lateral moraines of the Franz Josef Glacier. We only do these hikes in good weather, as the rocks get very slippery in the rain. If it's raining, we'll do a shorter walk to the terminal face of Fox Glacier, hike around Lake Matheson and visit the Blue Pools near the Haast Pass. (BLD)

#### **Heli-hike option** (add US\$299 + tax)

A less strenuous, but outrageously scenic option today is to heli-hike on Franz Josef Glacier itself. After being fitted with crampons, ice axes and so on, you'll board a modern turbine helicopter and fly towards the highest peaks of the Southern Alps, landing on the glacier at 4,000 feet above sea level. Led by specialist glacier guides, you'll hike through the grand ice formations of the glacier, checking out its crevasses, seracs and tunnels - no previous experience required! The constant movement of the glacier means every day is different, so your guides will cut steps in the ice to make sure you make the most of the conditions. At the end of your hike on the ice, you'll take another helicopter ride out of the mountains, and back to civilization.

*The heli-hike is extremely popular with the general traveling public, so we offer advance reservations with the helicopter operators and guiding company. At the time of booking, you can reserve a space on the heli-hike, and we'll make sure a spot is held for you.*

Heli-hikers generally return a little earlier, so we all rendezvous at a local café, and head south. From Franz Josef it's about three hours down the coast to Makarora (pop. 30),

which is a small farming village directly next to Mt. Aspiring National Park. We'll stay at a beautifully landscaped, family-style homestead on the edge of the village, in the shadow of the mountains. Overnight: Makarora. (BLD)

#### **DAY 10**

We'll head down the road to Lake Wanaka for a hike over-looking the lake and the surrounding mountains. After lunch and a short drive across the mountains at Cardrona Saddle, we drop into Queenstown, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Here you'll find all the comforts of civilization: massage therapists, restaurants, sidewalk cafés, window-shopping, and adrenaline-pumping activities! You'll also find some incredible optional activities here too, such as hang gliding, bungee jumping, jet boating, skydiving, horse trekking, fishing and winery tours - it's all here! There are also incredible hikes and bike rides as well. Queenstown isn't a big place - the population is about 8000 - but there's plenty to do! Or you can do nothing, if you prefer to just soak up the atmosphere or lounge about just reading a book. (BL)

#### **DAY 11**

Free day in Queenstown, the adventure capitol of New Zealand. It's all up to you today - enjoy! (B)

#### **DAY 12**

This morning we head down to Te Anau to hike part of the famous Routeburn Track. The Routeburn is one of the best-known hiking tracks in New Zealand and we do the best part of the track, which overlooks the Hollyford Valley, Lake Marian and Mt. Christina. After hiking back to the trailhead, you'll be fitted with a 21-speed front-suspension mountain bike for a spectacular ride through the Hollyford Valley. This remote and gently-rolling backcountry road is lined with unspoilt beech forest and surrounded by towering peaks! If cycling isn't your thing, you can skip it and just enjoy the scenery - like all our activities, the cycling is completely optional. We'll all end up at Hollyford Camp, a beautiful, tranquil place, with a dozen cabins scattered around a museum and historic general store. Hollyford Camp is right next to the Hollyford River and is surrounded by the mountains of Fiordland National Park. It's definitely not a 5-star hotel, but it's a great little place, and a wonderful location to hang out at the end of such an adventurous day! *Overnight: Hollyford Camp, Hollyford Valley - rustic but idyllic OR Milford Lodge, Milford Sound (BLD)*

**Guide note:** "Hollyford Camp is a famous kiwi icon - a slice of old-time New Zealand, if you will - but the facilities are pretty basic compared to all the other places we stay during this tour. The owners, a lovely couple, have put a lot of love into the camp while aiming to maintain the old-world charm of a workers camp from the 1930s. It really is a chance to experience our history."



Continued...



### **DAY 13**

It's an early start today. First we'll have a short drive through the Homer Tunnel, which comes out at the top of a spectacular alpine road that winds its way downhill to Milford Sound. The lush rainforest carpeting the lower slopes of the mountains gives way to the massively steep, glacier-carved slopes and waterfalls of the Darren Range. Milford Sound, rated the 8th Natural Wonder of the World by Rudyard Kipling, is breathtaking. Sheer rock walls plunge thousands of feet to the Tasman Sea, surrounded by snow-capped mountains! Most people see Milford Sound from the deck of a cruise ship, but we've got a better way - gliding along in a sea kayak, causing minimum disruption to the seals and dolphins, which are very friendly and often eager to visit. This is an awesome trip, run by specialist kayak outfitters, and it's equally suitable for beginners or experts. When you get back from your morning's paddle, we'll head back to Hollyford Camp for lunch before continuing on to Lake Te Anau. From here you'll have a chance to cycle along the peaceful country road that meanders its way through southern farmlands to an inn beautifully located on the lake's edge. Again, if you prefer, you can skip the cycling and just enjoy the great views out over the lake and the surrounding mountains of Fiordland National Park. Overnight: Lake Manapouri. (BLD)

### **DAY 14**

Today we have a relaxed start, and head back up the road to Queenstown, where we stop for a couple of hours. This gives you the chance to get some lunch, do any last minute shopping, send postcards home, or whatever you might need to do before heading back into the wilderness for the remainder of your trip. We'll drive up to Lake Pukaki, near Mt. Cook, where we stay on Duncan and Carol McKenzie's 60,000 acre high-country sheep farm, called Braemar Station. ("Station" is the New Zealand word for a big ranch.) While we're here, we stay in the shearers' quarters. Again, it's not a 5-star hotel but many of our previous clients have told us this was one of their favorite places on the whole trip! The view out the kitchen window in the morning will knock your socks off - one huge mountain, rearing towards the sky on the far side of a gorgeous cobalt-blue lake. And with no lights for miles around, the stars on a clear night are like nothing you've ever seen - just the place for your last couple of nights in New Zealand! Overnight: Shearer's Quarters, Braemar Station. (BLD)

### **DAY 15**

This morning it's an hour or so to Mt. Cook Village, at the head of Lake Pukaki. Mt. Cook, known as Aoraki or "cloud piercer" by the local Maori, is the highest mountain in New Zealand, and we have a stunning and little-known day hike (weather permitting) to the main ridge above Mueller Glacier - directly opposite Mt. Cook! It's a tough slog up, but you'll remember the view of the Mueller Glacier and the surrounding peaks of the Main Divide forever! There are also other hiking options if you'd like to take it a little easier. The weather conditions are very important in this area, as it's a true alpine climate notorious for sudden weather shifts. If we aren't able to do the Mueller hike, we'll take an impressive hike up the Hooker Valley to a glacial lake at the base of Hooker Glacier, complete with icebergs! Then we head back to the shearers' quarters for the last night of the Rimu. We'll enjoy a traditional kiwi BBQ and a cold drink as we sit outside and watch the sun set over Mt. Cook. Overnight: Shearer's Quarters. (BLD)

### **DAY 16 (Sunday)**

This is the last day of your two-week trip around the South Island. We'll leave after breakfast for the three-hour drive to Christchurch, and arrive in the afternoon in time for flights to Auckland and onto home. Schedule your international flight after 4pm, and we can make domestic flights as early as 2.30pm if we have a little notice. International flights from Auckland usually leave early evening, so if you're heading back to the US, you'll get home some time on Sunday, even though you left on Sunday evening! (BL)

**Special Note:** Although we try to adhere to this printed itinerary, due to circumstances beyond our control, this schedule is subject to change. Also, because of the off-the-beaten-path and non-commercial nature of some of our accommodations on this trip, we sometimes need to change a night stop. For instance, every now and then the shearers' quarters are in use by the shearers. We try to make as few changes as possible, but we ask that you know we retain the flexibility to make sure your trip is as good as it can be.

Land Costs	Deposit	In-country Flights	Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$3799 +tax	\$1000	none	Oct-April	10-14	No Experience Needed	Kayaking, Snorkeling, Biking, Hiking, Lodges

### A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

**Included in your Trip Fee:** Two full-time expert guides and all guiding services; 13 nights lodging; All meals as indicated on (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). All hiking, cycling, and kayaking described in the itinerary, except the optional extra activities such as heli-hiking in Franz Josef or activities in Christchurch on the free day.

**Not Included in your Trip Fee:** International airfare; Meals not included on itinerary; Alcoholic beverages; Extra activities outlined in itinerary as optional with added costs; personal clothing (detailed list will be provided); travel/evacuation/medical insurance; tips to our great guides for a job well done!

**How Strenuous is this trip:** You don't need any outdoor experience at all to enjoy our trips. However, you must have a reasonable level of fitness to enjoy yourself on this tour. You don't have to be young and extremely fit (although if you are, you won't be bored) but you should be in the habit of doing at least some exercise. Age and experience are not important. For example, a person in their 50s who hikes every couple of weeks will be happier than a 22-year-old couch potato. If you're concerned about your fitness level, have a chat with us so we can help you choose between this or other trips. This trip will allow you to make the most of New Zealand's incredible environment. Our experienced guides are highly trained and will look after you! You don't have to carry a heavy pack. You don't need to have been in a sea kayak to enjoy kayaking Okarito Lagoon or Milford Sound. You don't need to be a serious cyclist to enjoy some of the rides we have available. In fact, we have so many options available that you don't need to ride at all, if you'd rather hike, fish, or just laze around! All we ask is that you be energetic and in reasonable shape - and we guarantee you'll have an incredible time. The challenges are there, though, if you're looking for them. For instance, on the second day of the backpacking trip we spend the day climbing to Lake Angelus on the Robert Ridge. The views are incredible - and they get better the higher you go, so the fitter members of the party often push on to the top of the ridge for some unforgettable views of both sides of the South Island, while others enjoy just staying at the hut and admiring the view with a cuppa tea in hand. Our guides manage the level of commitment to suit your experience, and they have impeccable safety records. We hold all relevant government licenses and our staff are highly trained and experienced.

**How is the food:** The food is excellent and healthy - We serve lots of fresh fruits and veggies, cheeses, breads, some meat and fish, desserts and other assorted treats! If you have special dietary needs please inform us. We will work with you to satisfy those dietary needs or work out a means for you to supplement your diet.

**What are the accommodations like:** This is an activity-oriented trip around the South Island. We've chosen interesting and comfortable accommodations throughout. Some places are quite luxurious, but many of the other places we stay are off-the-beaten-track and don't have many accommodation options - but they are really, really spectacular. Our clients often say a real highlight of the trip is meeting their New Zealand hosts. We think you'll love the places we stay!

We prefer to stay in comfortable bed and breakfasts, lodges and apartments. You will always have your own bedroom where it's available. As there is such variety of accommodations on this trip, some places will have ensuite bathrooms and some will have shared bathrooms - so we may ask you to share a bathroom with other group members on occasion.

**Transportation/Flight Arrangements:** If you're flying in on the first day of the trip, or out on the last day, we recommend arriving in Christchurch by about 9 - 10.30am on Monday, and departing from Christchurch after 2.30 - 4pm on Sunday. Other flight times may also be possible - if you are considering alternative flight times please let us know. **Pick-Up:** On the first day of the trip we can either pick you up from the Holiday Inn City Centre in Christchurch at 10.30am, or at the Christchurch domestic airport in front of the information desk at 11am. **Drop-Off:** On the last day of the trip we can drop you off at Christchurch Airport in time for the flights above, or anywhere in central Christchurch in mid-late afternoon.

**Trip Direction:** To keep our group sizes down, we run this trip in two different directions around the South Island - northbound (refers to the initial direction of travel from Christchurch) and southbound. This itinerary happens to be written up in the *Northbound* format. We also run this trip starting and ending in Queenstown. Whichever direction you take, you'll do all the activities we've mentioned, just in a different order. This trip is a product of many years of evolution and fine-tuning - it works well whichever way you do it!

**How to Register:** If you have not downloaded an application form, please contact Adventure Associates for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and final details about your pre-trip preparation. For immediate confirmation, you may charge your deposit to Visa, Master Card or American Express by phone.

#### **Payment Schedule**

Trip Cost = US \$3799 +12.5% NZ Gov't Service Tax = **\$4273.88**

\$1000 deposit due at the time of registration (\$500 is non-refundable)

Full payment due three months prior to departure

\* We accept Visa, Master Card and American Express for your deposit payment. (In order to keep costs lower to our clients, we do not accept credit card payments for the balance of the trip fee, unless you are willing to pay a 4% administrative fee).

#### **Cancellation & Refund Policy**

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

90 or more ..... \$500

60 to 89 ..... \$700

45 to 59 ..... 50% fee

1 to 44 ..... 100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

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