



MOUNT ASPIRING COURSE & ASCENT

3,033M / 9,951FT



2021/22 TRIP NOTES





MOUNT ASPIRING COURSE & ASCENT NOTES

2021/22 TRIP DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand
November to late April

Duration: 7 days

Departure: ex Wanaka, New Zealand

Price: NZ\$6,450 per person

▲ A climber on the lower North West Ridge of Mount Aspiring at dawn. Photo: Mark Austin

Mount Aspiring is a majestic, soaring peak and a challenging climb. The mountain is the highest peak in the Southern Alps outside of Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. Known to New Zealand Maori as Tititea, 'The Glistening One', Mount Aspiring exemplifies much of what a real 'classic' mountain represents. From some aspects, it has formidable sheer faces and from others, it has fine graceful lines that culminate in its sharply defined summit. In short, Mount Aspiring inspires the urge to strap on those crampons and climb!

THE ROUTES USED ON THE MOUNT ASPIRING COURSE & ASCENT

THE RAMP

This is a steep snow route (35–50 degrees) ascending from the Bonar Glacier, which meets the North West Ridge halfway to the summit. It is our most commonly ascended route and an all-time classic. We ascend this route until late December, when access is cut off by open crevasses.

THE NORTH WEST RIDGE

A rock route which follows the ridge, deviously avoiding any really difficult climbing, but has plenty of exposure! The North West Ridge is mainly exposed rock

scrambling done in mountaineering boots with several pitches of snow or ice at the summit. The rock is largely exposed but easy scrambling but being comfortable climbing Grade 14 (US 5.6 US/UK 4b HS) will help on the trickier sections. We usually follow this route from mid-late December onwards.

Both of these climbing routes take on average around 14–16 hours return.

The walk into the Mount Aspiring region is a beautiful but long walk (12–16 hours) via Bevan Col or French Ridge to Colin Todd Hut, where we base ourselves for the climb. Most of our guests utilise helicopter access to Bevan Col on the edge of the Bonar Glacier in order to arrive fresh and take advantage of fine weather periods. For this reason, we have included the cost of a helicopter access flight in the trip price.



Map of Mount Aspiring and the Bonar Glacier area.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS

Climbers joining a Mount Aspiring Course & Ascent must have good fitness, balance, coordination and the ability to carry a pack of 12–15 kg over rough, untracked terrain for 8–10 hours. While you will be carrying light packs for your training and summits days, you will be required to carry a full load on the first day to Colin Todd Hut and again on the 2-day walk out to the Raspberry Creek road end.

Previous snowcraft or rock climbing is not necessary, as these skills will be taught in the instruction part of the trip, but will be an advantage if you have them. The instruction element can be customised to your personal level of experience.

OUR GUIDES

Adventure Consultants guides are NZMGA and/or IFMGA qualified mountain guides. They are professional mountaineers and operate to the highest industry standards.

Being a great climber alone is not enough to work with us; our standards demand that trip leaders are great guides as well. You will find your guide friendly, approachable and focused on providing a safe and enjoyable trip in line with your objectives and comfort level.

Success with the highest margin of care is always a hallmark of our approach; promoting the realisation that even extreme pursuits such as high-altitude mountaineering can be undertaken safely.

Adventure Consultants employs only IFMGA or NZMGA qualified guides, the most advanced training and certification program in New Zealand and internationally. In order to gain these qualifications guides must undergo rigorous training and assessment on climbing skills, instructional skills, avalanche training and assessment, wilderness first aid, rescue training and much more. The qualification takes 5–7 years to attain and ensures you are getting a world-class professional service.

GUIDE RATIO

We only guide Mount Aspiring on a 1:1 guide to climber ratio due to the demands of the terrain, and to ensure the highest standards of safety.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Meet your guide in Wanaka, check gear and drive to the road end before flying into the mountains in the early afternoon. A 2-hour walk across the Bonar Glacier takes us to Colin Todd Hut. Alternatively, we may opt to camp on Bevan Col.



▲ A team approaching the summit of Mount Aspiring. Photo: Steve Moffat

DAYS 2–3

Your guide will take you through several skills sessions including basic snowcraft and cramponing skills, crevasse rescue, climbing alpine rock and ascending steep snow and ice.

DAY 4

Acclimatisation day. Ascend a smaller nearby peak such as Mount Bevan or Rolling Pin.

DAY 5

Summit day (14–16 hours return), start 3am, and finish as late as 7pm, or contingency day.

DAY 6

Commence the 2-day walk out to the road-end, either via French Ridge or Bevan Col, depending on conditions OR contingency day.

NOTE: The walk out from Mount Aspiring (particularly the Bevan Col route) is a long, challenging trek that many people find as challenging as the climb of Mount

Aspiring. Climbers need to be fit and capable of carrying a fully loaded pack through steep, untracked terrain for 8–10 hours after a long summit day.

DAY 7

Complete walk out to road end or fly out on back flight (weather permitting) to the vehicle at the road end.

NOTE: Due to the nature of the terrain and duration of the walk out, we sometimes utilise the option to fly out on a back flight at the completion of the climb. This is weather dependent, so climbers must be prepared to walk out of the mountains if the helicopters are unable to fly. The optional flight out is an additional cost for which we are happy to give you an estimated price at the time of booking.

CLIMBING SEASON

We guide Mount Aspiring all year as conditions allow, although our main climbing season is from November through to April.

In November and December, you can expect more snow cover on the routes. As temperatures warm up into the summer months of January and February, we traditionally experience more settled weather and mixed climbing conditions (snow, ice and rock). From March through to April, late summer conditions exist which result in a combination of rock and ice routes. From May onwards, cooling temperatures can bring heavy snowfalls to the Alps. Winter conditions are less predictable, and the days are shorter, however, for experienced climbers, the winter solitude can be incredibly rewarding!

We specialise in ice climbing and ski touring through the months of July to September. While the days are shorter and the temperatures cooler, there is still a lot of fun to be had in the mountains! Ask us about our ice climbing courses and ski touring trips if you are keen to get out in the winter months.

WEATHER

New Zealand has a maritime climate and the weather is always a consideration in the high mountains. For the climbing season (November to April) the average temperature ranges from around -5°C up to 20°C, during the winter this can drop to -10°C or -15°C. There

is no heating source in the huts, so you need to be prepared for cold overnight temperatures.

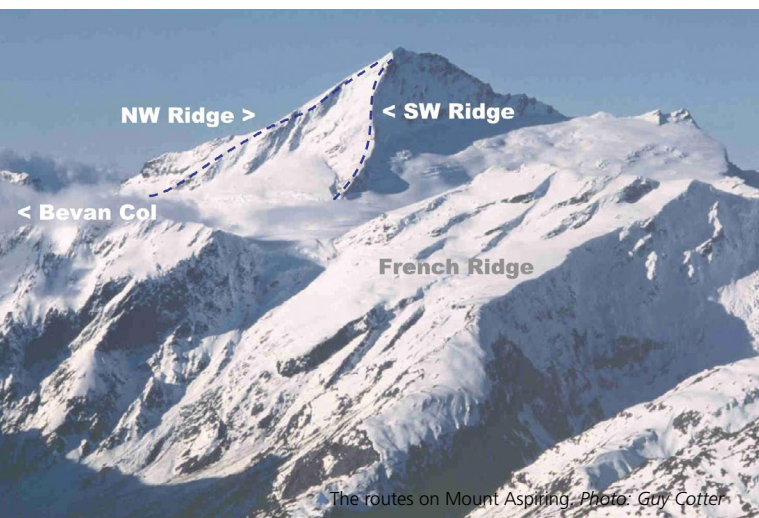
In the event conditions are not suitable to enter the mountains at the start of the trip, we can delay for up to two days subject to your guides' schedule. We recommend you allow some flexibility with your travel arrangements to create this advantage. When booking your trip, please specify the dates you are available.

ACCESS TO THE MOUNTAIN

Our 7-day Mount Aspiring Course & Ascent is run on a fly-in/walk out basis.

The benefit of flying in and out is that it alleviates the long walk in and the usual necessary recovery day, and it allows more time to be spent on actual climbing in the high mountains. Most importantly it can allow us to take advantage of 'windows' of fine weather which are typical of the maritime climate of New Zealand. Access flights are included in the trip price.

The walk out to the road end is typically done over 2-days, descending either by French Ridge or Bevan Col as conditions dictate.



TRIP ACCOMMODATION

Adventure Consultants will provide your accommodation while the trip is running which is from 9.00am on Day 1 until 5.00pm on Day 7. When in the mountains you will stay in mountain huts with shared bunkrooms and basic facilities. There are no single rooms available and unlike European huts, you need to provide your own sleeping bag. Some mountain nights may be spent in tents or bivvys where you will be more exposed to the elements, but the final decision on this will be made by your guide after weighing up all the factors.

If you experience a delay with entering the mountains caused by weather, you will be accommodated in Wanaka in dormitory style backpackers with shared bathroom facilities. You may decide to upgrade to single accommodations in Wanaka at your own expense, should you prefer.

EQUIPMENT

Climbing in the Southern Alps requires you have the highest quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment while keeping your pack as light as possible.

Your guide will go through an equipment checklist with you at the beginning of your trip. Actual equipment taken may vary subject to seasonal weather and route conditions. All group equipment including ropes and cooking equipment will be organised by your guide.

We can offer secure storage at our office for your luggage and valuables during the trip.

COMMUNICATION & MESSAGES

Our guides are in radio/cell/satellite phone communication with our operations base and Department of Conservation headquarters throughout the trip. This assists us with schedule and weather forecast updates, helicopter coordination and safety back up. Urgent messages can be relayed via our office to the field if required. Each party carries a locator beacon for additional security.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your climbing experience, we encourage you to work on your fitness prior to the trip. You will find that training with a 15 kg/30 lb+ pack on is the best preparation for the mountains, with the aim of getting 'pack fit' and building your endurance. Your guide places special focus on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.



▲ Climbing rock on the North West Ridge of Mount Aspiring. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Learn mountaineering skills before the climb. Photo: Olivier Baron



▲ Colin Todd Hut. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Descending to the Matukituki Valley via French Ridge. Photo: Olivier Baron



A climber approaches the top of the Ramp on the North West Ridge of Mount Aspiring. Photo: Steve Moffat

Our registration form requests that you advise us of any medical problems you may have and if you are on any medication. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

We place emphasis on providing nutritious meals and a good supply of snack food throughout the trip. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out trip cancellation and travel insurance to protect yourself in the case of injury or mishap prior to/ or whilst on our trips.

While our focus is on safety and our track record supports this, the mountains do have hazards and there is always the potential for mishap. If you were injured whilst on the trip the New Zealand Accident Compensation Commission (ACC) will pay rescue costs upon review of the circumstances and authorisation

by the Police. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for medical conditions. You may not be eligible for bulk compensation payments from ACC, and you are responsible for any medical or evacuation costs beyond the cover provided by ACC.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

We commence our Mount Aspiring Course & Ascent from our office in Wanaka. Air New Zealand and Qantas/Jetstar provide daily services for flights from Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington to Queenstown. There are also direct international flights from most major Australian cities to Queenstown.

A shuttle service operates several times daily between Queenstown and Wanaka (approximately one hour driving time, at a cost of NZ\$35 per person each way), check <https://www.ritchies.co.nz/wanaka> for details.

Bus services operate daily between Christchurch and Wanaka (approximately 6-hours travel time).

Wanaka has a range of accommodation from backpackers, youth hostels, motels, and hotels to luxury lodges.

We are happy to assist with your accommodation and bus transfer arrangements.

NOTE: Adventure Consultants will provide food and accommodation while the trip is running which is from 9.00am on Day 1 until 5.00pm on Day 7. All food and accommodation outside this time will be at your expense.

PRICE

The price for our 7-day, fly in/walk out, 1:1 guide to climber ratio Mount Aspiring Course & Ascent is NZ\$6,450.

NOTE: All prices are subject to change without notice.

The price includes:

- Guide Fees
- Hut fees
- All meals and snack foods whilst on the trip
- Group equipment such as ropes, tents and stoves
- Ground transport ex Wanaka
- Department of Conservation fees (37125-GUI)
- NZ Goods and Services Tax (15%)
- Aircraft access by helicopter.

NOTE: In order to reserve a guide, we recommend that you book well in advance. This especially applies to the high season period from December through to February.

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank: Bank of New Zealand
For the Account of: Adventure Consultants Limited
Account Number: 02 0673 0043443 00
Account Type: NZ Dollars

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

To confirm place on one of our courses, we require a completed registration form with a deposit of NZ\$1,000 per person.

BALANCE

The balance payment of NZ\$5,450 is due 60 days prior to the course start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

- Cancellations outside of 60 days incur a NZ\$500 cancellation fee.



A climber on exposed terrain on the North West Ridge of Mount Aspiring. Photo: Mark Austin



▲ Climbers on the Bonar Glacier with Mount Aspiring behind. Photo: Mark Austin

- For cancellations made within 60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations made within 30 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 15 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS TRIP

If you would like to join one of our Mount Aspiring Course & Ascent, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/climbing-schools/climbing-school-new-zealand/mt-aspiring-course-and-ascent/book-now>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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The North West Ridge of Mount Aspiring and Therma Glacier. Photo: Steve Moffat



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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