



## Ascents Week

### Trip Notes

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The Southern Alps have an extensive array of peaks of different character and technical challenge. Your options can range from attempts to scale the 3000m peaks or merely climb to your heart's content on smaller objectives. Our Ascents Week is structured to allow you to climb a variety of peaks from one of the alpine huts in one of several high mountain venues. You also have the option to bivouac out to access the more distant peaks and add to your alpine experience.

You may already have an idea of what peaks you wish to climb or we can help formulate a plan in line with your experience and objectives.

Whilst the focus is on climbing peaks, your guide will ensure that you have the necessary skill set appropriate for your planned climbing itinerary.

We offer a 1:1 and 1:2 guide: client ratio. The more technical routes will be limited to a 1:1 ratio for safety reasons.

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### 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.



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A founding principle at Adventure Consultants is to recognise the necessity of positive communication within the group to foster an open and friendly approach to communicating and reinforcing learning processes.

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 many years (5-7) to attain and ensures you are getting a world class professional service.

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### **Communications and messages**

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

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### **Climbing season**

We guide the high peaks all year as conditions allow although our main climbing season is from November through to April. In November and December we can expect more snow cover on the routes, and 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 April, late summer conditions exist which result in a combination of rock and ice routes. However, from May onwards cooling temperatures can bring snow falls to the Alps. At this time of year the days begin to get noticeably shorter.

We do specialise in winter climbing and ice climbing through the months of July-September and whilst the days are shorter the mountains are virtually abandoned. Our guides are also experienced ski guides so enquire about combining ski touring with your ascents week!

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### **Weather**

New Zealand has a maritime climate, and the weather is always a consideration in the high mountains. In the event conditions were not suitable to enter the mountains at the start of the trip, we can delay for up to two days subject to your guide's schedule.

When booking your trip please specify the dates you are available.

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### **Sample Ascents Week trip itinerary**

The following is a sample outline for the Ascents Week:

#### **Day 1. We meet and access the mountains**

We meet at the Adventure Consultants office in Wanaka at 9.00am where you will be introduced to your guide. We then discuss and organise your personal equipment (bring all

your gear with you, including those items you are not sure whether to include or not).

Final equipment requirements are discussed and you can get all the advice you need concerning equipment and clothing from your guide. If you require rental equipment it will be fitted at this time (but please advise in advance of your requirements to ensure you are catered to) and final purchases can be made.

The possible areas to visit for the week are discussed and a decision is made to go to Tasman Glacier in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. The Mount Aspiring and Westland regions are other optional venues also.

Your guide will finalise all the food for the week, and this is the time for you to sort out your final last minute purchases and get your gear packed.

If the weather forecast is promising we drive to Aoraki/Mt Cook township, 2.5 hours north of Wanaka, and fly in that afternoon to Tasman Saddle Hut, by either skiplane or helicopter. By that afternoon we aim to be strapping on crampons for a warm up walk on the glacier up a nearby ridge, revising glacier travel and rope skills.

### **Day 2. Revision / warm up climb**

Up bright and early! We head out onto the glacier towards the South Face of Mt Aylmer, 2699m for some moderately steep ice climbing. There may be other groups on the south face as it is a popular instructional climb, but you'll no doubt fly past them with your small group and guide leading the way. It's then back to the hut for an early dinner, and time for your guide to discuss the options for the following day with you.

### **Day 3. Ascent**

An early start sees you roped up and away well before dawn up the Anna Glacier for an ascent of Mt Elie de Beaumont. At 3109 metres it offers a commanding view out to the Tasman Sea, and then turning to the southwest you see the mighty Aoraki/Mt Cook and surrounding peaks.

We arrive back to the hut in time for you to rest your legs over a cup of tea, and watch the sunset, while your guide prepares dinner. The weather forecast on the hut radio suggests that the high pressure system is holding, so conditions are looking good for the next day.

### **Day 4. Ascent**

Today is another alpine start, we leave the hut at 4.00 am to cross the glacier for ascents of Mounts Green, 2837m and Walter, 2905m. We climb to the plateau between the two peaks during the early hours of the morning and then belay up classic steep snow and ice of the North East ridge of Green. From the top of Green we enjoy a well earned lunch, and take in the surrounding panorama, with stunning views of Mt Malte Brun to the east and again to Mount Cook. With the wind picking up from the west Mt Walter is left for another day and we arrive back at the hut after a long day, with some cloud starting to spill over the divide. A front is expected to pass over the region tomorrow.

### **Day 5. Weather day**

We awake to windy conditions, and cloud around the hut with light rain, so it's a relaxing breakfast and time to discuss the options with your guide. The weather looks to continue for the day but there are a few books to read while resting tired bodies. The forecast is good for the next few days, and your guide discusses the option to commence the two day walk out

tomorrow, or climb another peak. Another peak it is!

#### **Day 6. Ascent /Walk out option\***

With rested legs we head out early, well before dawn in clearing skies and with heavy packs. Down the glacier we go to a spot just above Darwin Corner where we stop to make a gear dump. After a quick rest we ascend the West Ridge of Mt Darwin, 2952m.

Arriving at the summit close to mid-day with spectacular views into the Malte Brun Range. We descend and bivvy on the Tasman Glacier under a starry night.

\*There is the option to walk out on Day 6, but since this involves two days, many of our guests prefer to fly out (weather permitting), in order to take advantage of their time in the mountains. Back flights are often available. The flight out is an additional charge, and cost estimates can be given at the time of booking.

#### **Day 7. Fly out / Drive**

We awake for breakfast, and time to take it all in, before we pack our gear for the flight out. Another spectacular flight over the Southern Alps and we are back for lunch at Aoraki/Mt Cook village, and then back into vehicles for the drive to Wanaka. Once back in Wanaka it is time for a sort out and clean up of all the gear at the office before heading to your accommodation for a shower. Then it's downtown for a social evening and recollections of the week over a meal.

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### **Fitness and 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 15kg + 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.

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.

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### **Equipment**

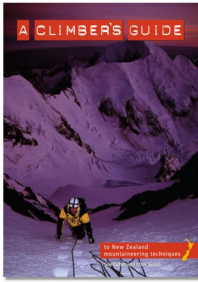
Climbing in the Southern Alps requires you have the highest quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment while keeping your pack as light as possible.

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.

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## Guide books and maps



A valuable reference is 'A Climbers Guide to New Zealand Mountaineering Techniques'. Written by Adventure Consultants guides, Guy Cotter, Dean Staples and Mark Sedon, the 'ACG' was published specifically as reference material which you will find useful for technique revision.

The Mount Cook Guidebook by Alex Palman and The Mount Aspiring region - by Allan Uren and Mark Watson offer good insight into the variety of peaks and routes in these respective areas.

If you would like to purchase a map your guide will advise you of the relevant 1:50,000 topographic maps required when the trip begins. These books and maps can be purchased from our office in Wanaka.

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## 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.

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## Insurance

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

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## Travel to, and accommodation in Wanaka

We commence our Ascents Week trips from our base in Wanaka. Air New Zealand and Qantas/Jetstar provide daily services for the 50 minute flight from Christchurch International Airport to Queenstown. There is also a daily flight from Christchurch to Wanaka and direct flights from Australian cities to Queenstown on a limited seasonal basis.

A shuttle service operates five times daily between Queenstown and Wanaka (one hour driving time and at a cost of \$30 each way) check [www.time2.co.nz](http://www.time2.co.nz) 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 can help you book your accommodation / airport transfers if required.

Please 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.

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### Accommodation during the trip

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 will be spent in tents or bivvies 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 our schedule requires us to overnight at Fox Glacier township either side of the trip we utilise the New Zealand Alpine Club hut - Porter Lodge, and in Mt Cook Village we utilise Unwin Hut, both of which have dormitory style accommodation. If in Wanaka we accommodate you in dormitory style backpackers with shared bathroom facilities. You may decide to upgrade to single accommodations in Wanaka or at Fox Glacier township / Mt Cook Village at your own expense, should you require.

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### Price

The price for our **7 day Ascents Week** is **NZ \$5,350** for 1:1 guiding and **NZ\$3,150** each for 1:2, two people with one guide.

The price includes; Guide Fees and hut fees, all meals and snack foods whilst on the trip, group equipment such as ropes, tents and stoves, ground transport ex Wanaka, complimentary copy of 'A Climber's Guide to NZ Mountaineering Techniques, by Guy Cotter and Mark Sedon', Department of Conservation fees (Concessions OT-29503-GUI & CA-22930-GUI), NZ Goods and Services Tax (15%) and aircraft access.

- We strongly suggest you purchase trip cancellation insurance from your normal travel agent.
  - All prices are subject to change without notice.
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### Trip registration and payment

In order to confirm a guide and your trip, we require a completed Registration Form

and a deposit of 25% of the trip fee. The balance of payment is then due 60 days prior to the start date.

Download the registration form from our website or use our online booking form at:  
<http://www.adventureconsultants.com/adventure/BookingFormNZ/>

Payment can be made by a NZ Dollar bank draft or cheque, Visa/MasterCard/Amex or Telegraphic Transfer to our bank account:  
Bank of New Zealand 020673 0043443 00  
for the account; Adventure Consultants Ltd.

*Please note: In order to reserve a guide we recommend that you book well in advance. This especially applies to the high season period (December through March).*

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### **Trip cancellation policy**

1. Up to 60 days prior to the departure date a NZ \$250 fee applies.
2. Inside 60 days of the departure date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
3. Inside 30 days of the departure date we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
4. Inside 10 days of the departure date forfeits 100% of the full fee.

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**We look forward to sharing some summits in the Southern Alps with you!**

### **Contact us:**

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



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