



ALPINE ADVENTURE

NEW ZEALAND

2018 / 2019 TRIP NOTES





Alpine Adventure - New Zealand Southern Alps

2018-2019 Trip Notes

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Experience the mountains for the first time on this incredible journey into the alpine wonderland of the New Zealand Southern Alps. This exciting trip features helicopter access into one of our National Parks, walking on wide open and low angled glaciers, camping in tents or sleeping in a mountain hut and climbing easy snow ridges; with just a little bit of exposure and potentially your first mountain summit!

With your guide, you are introduced to primary mountaineering techniques that will see you well set for the moderate alpine challenges ahead. Overall this is a fantastic opportunity to get a taste of what the Southern Alps offers, without an extended time commitment.

The trip is ideal for those of average fitness who would like to experience a unique mountain adventure. While you do not need to have previous alpine climbing experience, we do ask that our Alpine Trekkers have previous pack carrying experience. Whether you are a group of work colleagues or a bunch of friends, this trip is an ideal introduction to New Zealand's high mountain environment.

From the exciting helicopter flight to the gourmet food, world class views and the thrill of the summit, this trip packs a lot into just four days.



We guide our Alpine Adventure on a maximum of a 1:4 guide to client ratio.

Please note that due to changeable weather and/or snow and ice conditions during the summer months, this itinerary is subject to change – even to a different alpine region. Rest assured your guide will anticipate this and make the most of your time in the high alpine environment. Alternative programs to the sample Fox Glacier trip below are too numerous to mention here but are just as action packed and incredibly scenic.

Sample Alpine Adventure Itinerary (Fox Glacier)

Day 1: Meet your guide in Wanaka, check gear, drive to Fox Glacier Township and fly into the mountains to Pioneer Hut up on the mighty Fox Glacier. Introduction to ice axe and crampons in the afternoon.

Day 2: Roped up for safe glacier travel, walk to Pioneer Pass; a high pass right on the Main Divide of the Southern Alps. Superb views looking East into the Tasman Glacier and West towards the Tasman Sea.

Day 3: Summit day, start early and stroll down the Fox Glacier to the base of Chancellor Dome, ascend its broad easy angled Eastern Ridge to the summit. Descend down to the historical Chancellor Hut for one of the best mountain views around.

Day 4: Descend down through tussock and bush to the lower Fox Glacier and if there is time, your guide can set some ropes for steep ice climbing on the ice walls. Fly off the ice in the early afternoon and return back to Wanaka.

Our Guides

Adventure Consultants guides are NZMGA qualified (or overseas equivalent). They are professional mountaineers and operate to the highest international industry standards. Being a great climber alone is not enough to work with us as 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.

Our guides are in 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 our office in Wanaka to the mountains if required.

Climbing Season

We can run the Alpine Adventure all year, although the ideal season is during our summer guiding season from November to April. During November in the early summer, we can expect more snow in the mountains and as temperatures warm up into the summer months of January and February, we traditionally experience more settled weather and ideal climbing conditions. From March through April, late summer conditions exist which result in cooler temperatures and often the most stable weather patterns, but at this time of year, the days begin to get noticeably shorter.

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 were not suitable to enter the mountains at the start of the trip, we can either make use of the time to learn mountaineering skills and/or rock climbing in the nearby crags of Wanaka.

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.

Equipment

Climbing in the Southern Alps requires good personal gear due to the potential weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment, whilst keeping pack weights as light as possible for your comfort and ease of travel.

The accompanying equipment list is a guideline to your equipment requirements and we carry a good range of modern rental equipment. If you will be renting equipment from us, please advise your requirements in advance to ensure correct sizing and availability. If you intend on buying any equipment items, we are happy to advise on recommended brands and models, and of key importance - their suitability to the type of activity. We offer our clients discounted prices on a selection of climbing equipment and clothing, and can arrange for the equipment to be available upon your arrival.

Your guide will go through an equipment checklist with you prior to the trip. These will vary subject to seasonal weather and route conditions. All group equipment including ropes and stoves will be organised by your guide.

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 insurance to protect yourself in the case of injury or mishap prior to/or whilst on our trips.

Whilst 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 Corporation (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 are not eligible for bulk compensation payments from ACC and you are responsible for any medical or evacuation costs beyond the cover provided by ACC.

Travel and Accommodation

We commence the Alpine Adventure trip from our base 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 and at a cost of \$35 each way), check <http://www.alpineconnexions.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 are happy to assist with your accommodation and bus transfer arrangements.

Please note: Adventure Consultants will provide food and accommodation while the course is running, which is from 9.00am on Day 1 until 5.00pm on Day 4. All food and accommodation outside this time will be at your expense.

Accommodation During the Trip

Adventure Consultants will provide your accommodation while the trip is running and when in the mountains, you will stay in mountain huts with shared bunk rooms and basic facilities. There are no single rooms available. Some mountain nights may 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 you experience a delay with entering the mountains caused by weather, you will be accommodated in Wanaka or Fox Glacier in dormitory style backpackers with shared bathroom facilities. You may decide to upgrade to single accommodations at your own expense, should you require.

We look forward to welcoming you onto your Alpine Adventure!

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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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