



# MT TASMAN GUIDED ASCENT

## 2017/18 TRIP NOTES





## Mount Tasman / Horo Koau

### Trip Notes

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Mount Tasman (3,498m / 11,378ft) is considered by many to be the most beautiful peak within the Aoraki Mount Cook region, with sufficient technical character to make this an ascent to remember. The routes are predominantly snow and ice with classic ridges and steep alpine faces.

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#### Guide Ratio

We guide Mount Tasman on a 1:1 ratio due to the demands of the terrain.

Our Mount Tasman guided ascent is run over a six day period. We fly by helicopter into Pioneer Hut at the head of the Fox Glacier from where we stage the climb. Analysing the current status of weather and snow conditions, we aim to make the ascent when all the conditions are most favourable.



The usual guiding route for this ascent sees us traverse across the Albert Glacier nevé from Pioneer Hut, followed by a climb up to the 'airy' Marcel Col. Our route takes us up and over the 3,194m Lendenfield Peak, followed by a traverse of Engineer Col. From here we commence the ascent of the steep and exposed North Shoulder of Mt Tasman. The ridge traverse from the top of the North



Shoulder to the summit rates highly as a sublime mountaineering experience! Subject to conditions, fitness and travel time, a bivouac is sometimes required to complete an ascent of this mountain.

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## Itinerary

- Day One** Meet your guide in Wanaka and check gear. We then drive to Fox Glacier Township from where we fly to Pioneer Hut in the afternoon.
- Day Two** Acclimatisation day, consolidate skills or ascend a practice peak.
- Day Three** Summit day, starting at 1am, and returning about 7pm - or, climb part of the route and bivvy out overnight.
- Day Four** Second day of climb (or a rest day if the climb was completed in one day).
- Day Five** Weather contingency day or climb another peak.
- Day Six** Weather contingency day or climb another peak. Fly out and return to Wanaka.
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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.

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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## Communication and Messages

Our guides are in radio/cell phone/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.

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### **Climbing Season**

We guide Mount Tasman all year as conditions allow. 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 and daylight hours get shorter. Subject to seasonal conditions access on to Mount Tasman can be compromised at certain times. In the event that access is restricted or the hazard rating is high, we will offer an alternative route or peak - possibly Mount Lendenfeld or Mount Aspiring.

Winter conditions are less predictable and days shorter, however, for experienced climbers, the winter solitude will be incredibly rewarding.

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### **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.

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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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## **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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## **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 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 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 and Accommodation**

We commence our Mt Tasman 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.

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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 6, all food and accommodation outside this time will be at your expense. 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 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 which has dormitory style accommodation and 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 at your own expense, should you require.

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### **Price**

The price for our 6 day guided ascent of Mt Tasman is **NZ\$6,300** per person, 1:1 guide/client ratio only.

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, course manual (A Climber's Guide to NZ Mountaineering Techniques, by Guy Cotter and Mark Sedon) Department of Conservation fees (37125-GUI), NZ Goods and Services Tax (15%) and aircraft access and egress.

- 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 NZ\$1,000.00 per person. The balance of payment is then due 60 days prior to the start date.

Our online booking form can be found at:

<https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/new-zealand-ascents/mt-tasman/book-now>

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**

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card – **Visa, Mastercard, Amex**

*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**

- Up to 60 days prior to the departure date a NZ \$250 fee applies.
  - Inside 60 days of the departure date, we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
  - Inside 30 days of the departure date, we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
  - Inside 15 days of the departure date forfeit 100% of the full fee.
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### **We look forward to climbing Mount Tasman 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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