

BALL PASS CROSSING – MOUNT COOK ALPINE HIKING

3-day / 2-night **challenging** guided alpine walk in the Aoraki Mount Cook Range



Mount Cook National Park offers New Zealand's most spectacular alpine scenery. With all but one of its 29 peaks over 3000m, it is New Zealand's most important and popular climbing centre. Most peaks are accessible only to experienced mountaineers. However, hiking or trekking is possible close to Mount Cook on the Ball Pass Trek.

Ball Pass is a **demanding 3-day mountain trek**, which crosses the Mount Cook Range from the Tasman to the Hooker Valley. The route follows the Ball Ridge, vis a vis the Caroline Face of Mount Cook and overlooks the Tasman Glacier. Guided walkers spend two nights at the private, fully furnished Caroline Hut at 1830m using the middle day to climb an easy peak and explore the Ball Glacier. We offer the guidance & tuition from a professional mountain guide with a ratio of just 4 participants per guide and a maximum group size of 8 (with 2 guides), all the required equipment provided with no hidden costs.

This walk offers breathtaking views of Aoraki Mount Cook and New Zealand's highest mountains, rich alpine flora and unique bird life, with moderate snow and glacier travel. The Ball Pass Trek is a good alternative to the Copland Pass Track, which is now only accessible to experienced mountaineers. You need to have previous backpacking, tramping or bushwalking experience. All equipment is provided.

Cost: AUD\$895 per person, share room.

Departs:	Nov 2011	1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30
	Dec 2011	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31
	Jan 2012	2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31
	Feb 2012	2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28
	Mar 2012	1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31
	Apr 2012	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28

Group Size: Minimum 2 participants, Maximum 8 participants (4 clients per guide)

Ball Pass Trek includes: All track transport from Lake Tekapo, pre-walk briefing the day before the walk, all hut accommodation, including sleeping bags, all food on trek, National Park concession fees, crampons, ice-axe, and all other climbing equipment & boots, qualified NZMGA, UIAGM mountain guides.

You need to be in Lake Tekapo the day before the trek, for a pre-trek briefing. No accommodation is provided, so you will need to book accommodation. On Day 3, you will arrive back at Lake Tekapo late on the last day, so you should plan to stay there on that night also. Please ask if we can book accommodation for you.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: 8.00am equipment check in Lake Tekapo and travel to Mount Cook Village to hike up the old Ball Hut Road, parallel to the glacier. From the Ball Shelter, we climb 850m up the Ball Ridge to Caroline Hut at 1800m, perched right opposite the awe-inspiring Caroline Face of Mount Cook. The panorama includes Aoraki Mount Cook & Mount Tasman, all the mountains adjoining the Tasman Glacier and Lake Pukaki. The hut is fully stocked so we only carry some fresh items of food and our personal clothing/equipment. 4-6 hours trekking.

Day 2: Practice using crampons and ice axe while climbing one of the peaks adjacent to Ball Pass: Kaitiaki Peak 2222m or Turner Peak 2341m. Dramatic views today of the South Ridge of Mount Cook. 6 hours return.

Day 3: Cross Ball Pass, 2130m. This is the longest and toughest day, with exposed and steep slopes to negotiate. Now the view opens to the South Face of Mount Cook, the Hooker & Mueller Glaciers, Mount Sefton and the Copland Pass. The descent from Ball Pass is very steep and snow conditions may require the use of crampons (no previous experience required). The terrain is rugged and untracked and we rely on our professional mountain guide to find a safe route around gorges and bluffs down to the East Hooker Valley. Following old moraine terraces, you meander through some of the lush ferns and vegetation to be found in the National Park and return to Mount Cook Village (8-10 hours). Return travel to Lake Tekapo.

Fitness: This crossing is suitable for experienced hikers capable of sustained walking, at times over steep, rugged, untracked and very exposed terrain. **It is NOT a tourist excursion.** Participants need to be of above average fitness, secure-footed and have good balance, and no fear of heights or vertigo. No mountaineering experience is required. Our guides will give you instruction on how to cross snow slopes safely using crampons / ice-axes. If needed, our guide will belay us by rope on the steep snow descent. Besides personal clothing we need to carry fresh food to the hut (your pack should weigh no more than 10-12 kg).

AORAKI MOUNT COOK TREK

2-day / 1-night guided alpine trek to the base of Mount Cook

Climb Ball Ridge and confront the mighty Caroline Face of Aoraki Mount Cook. On this guided hike we go close to Mount Cook on foot without actually being on the mountain as an easier option for those who want a high alpine experience without the long crossing of Ball Pass. Day 1 remains the same as for Ball Pass Crossing. On Day 2 we descend back into the Tasman Valley & spend one night at **Caroline Hut** in its stunning location, straight opposite the awesome Caroline Face of Aoraki.

Suggested itinerary - ask for dates & prices for the 2-day Aoraki Mount Cook trek:

Day 1: 8am gear-check at Lake Tekapo. Travel to Mount Cook (about 1 hour) and the end of the Tasman Glacier then hike parallel to the glacier & climb 850m up Ball Ridge to Caroline Hut, perched right opposite the Caroline Face of Mount Cook. The panorama includes Aoraki Mount Cook & Mount Tasman, all the mountains adjoining the Tasman Glacier & Lake Pukaki. As the hut is fully stocked we only need to carry some fresh items of food (e.g. bread, fruit, vegetables, meat) and our personal clothing & equipment. 4-6 hours trekking.

Day 2: Option to climb Fergan's Knob on the ridge above Caroline Hut before returning via the Ball Ridge and Tasman Valley, finishing at 5-6pm back in Tekapo.

Contact Outdoor Travel experienced staff for more details and reservations

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