

OUTDOOR TRAVEL



THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

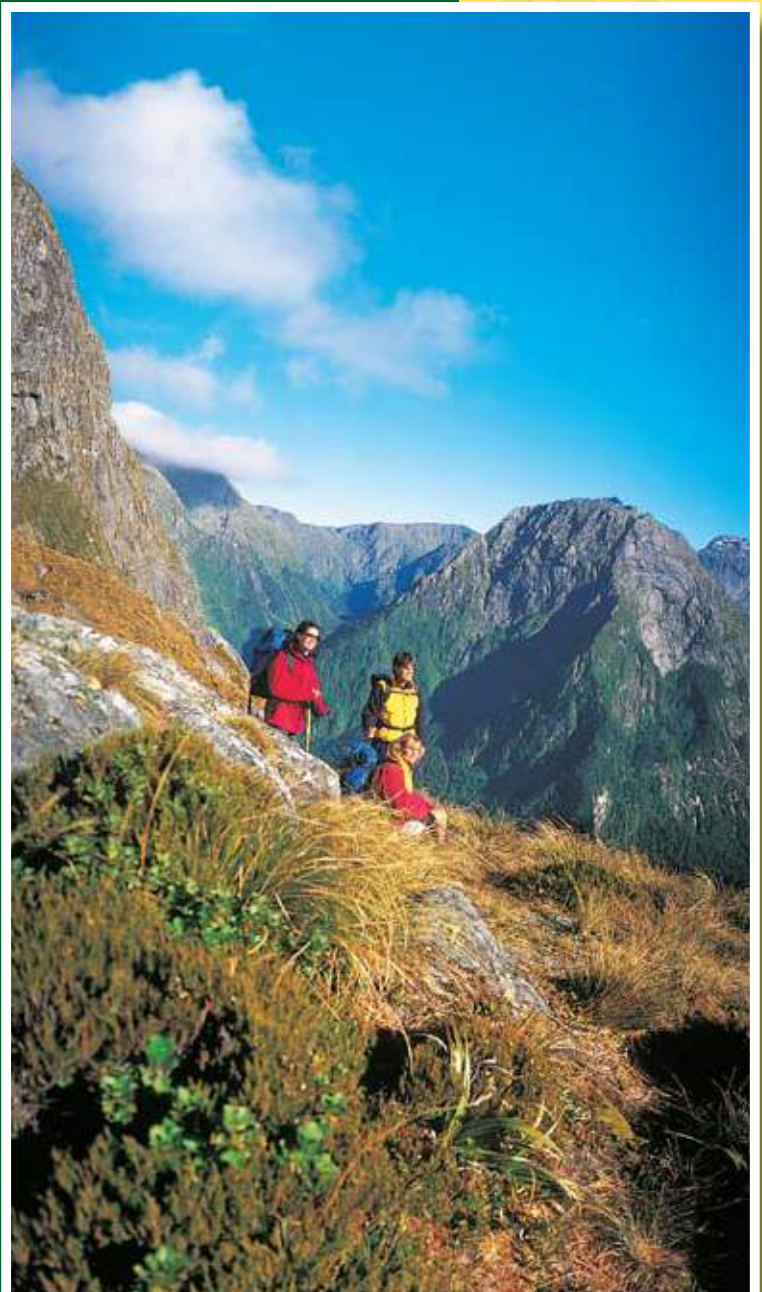
**Milford
Track**

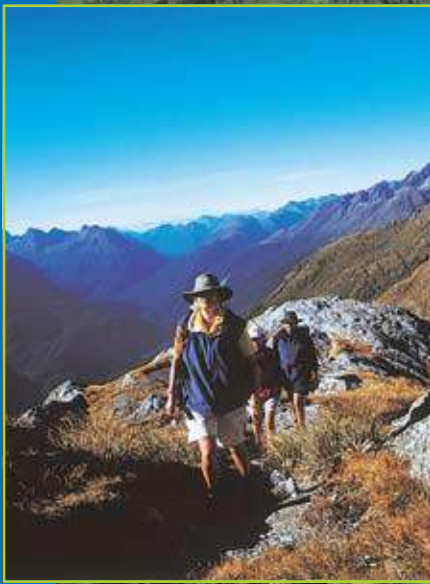
**Routeburn
Track**

**Grand
Traverse**

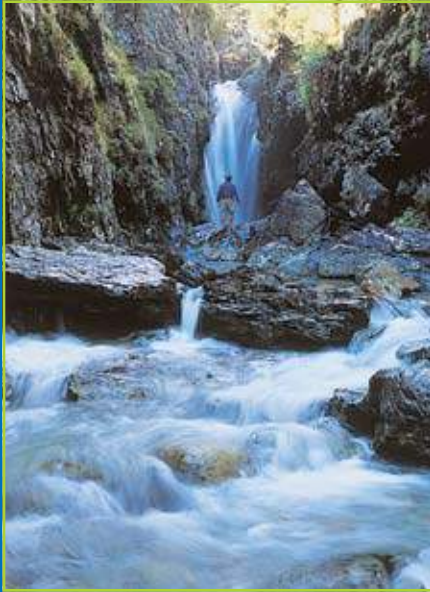
**and
More**

GUIDED WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND

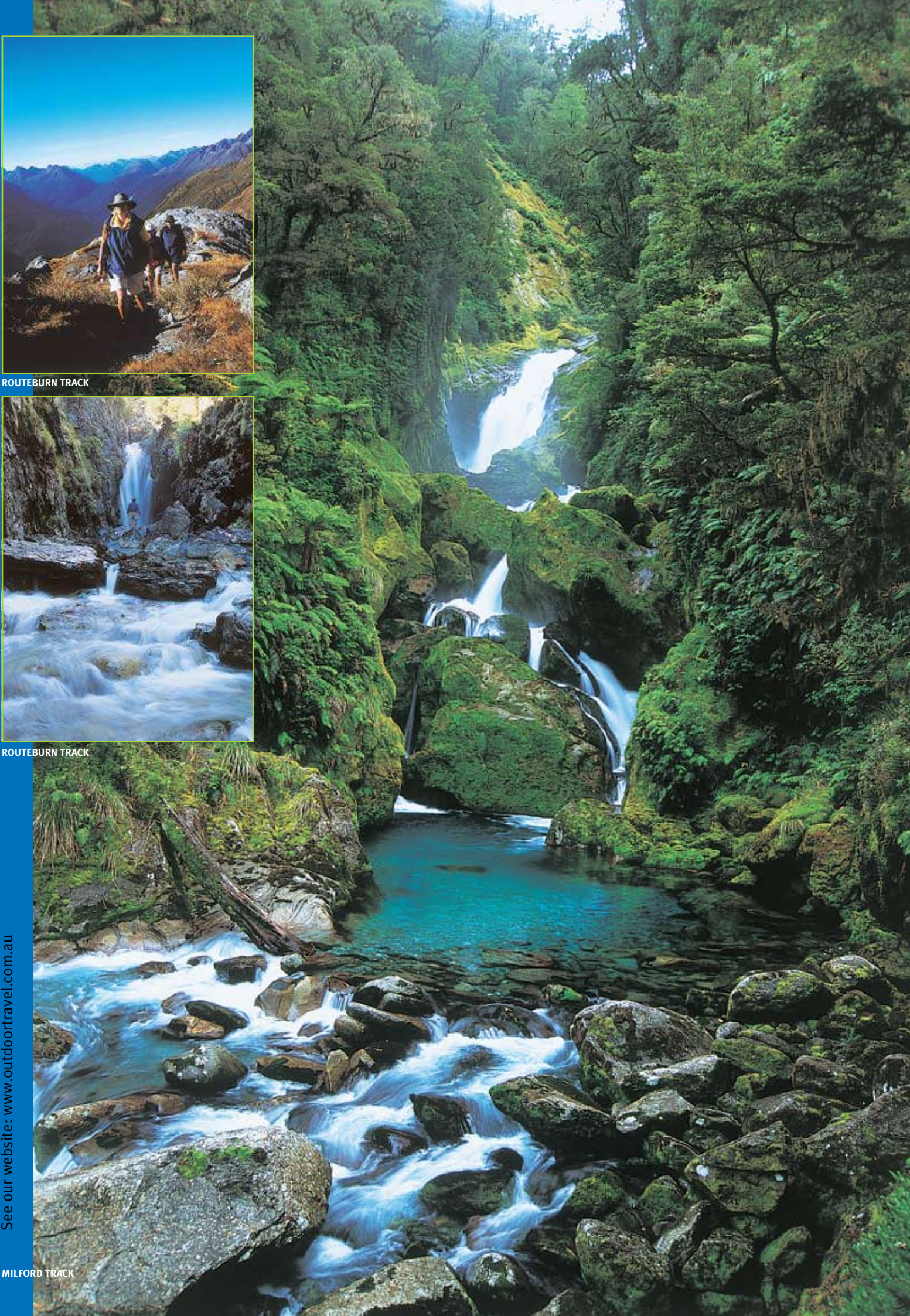




ROUTE BURN TRACK



ROUTE BURN TRACK



MILFORD TRACK

ULTIMATE HIKES

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

EARLY PIONEERS left an enduring legacy when they carved their way through rugged country in the late nineteenth century to create the world-famous Milford and Routeburn Tracks.

Little were they to know that their exploits would launch an internationally famous adventure activity, attracting thousands of people every year, to Fiordland and Mount Aspiring National Parks.

The Parks today are the cornerstone of the South West New Zealand (Te Wāhanga Matua) World Heritage Area and the Milford, Routeburn and Greenstone Tracks are an integral feature.

The Queenstown-based company Ultimate Hikes is the umbrella for Tourism Milford Ltd and Trojan Holdings which operates a network of guided walks on all three tracks. They have developed an international reputation, attracting more than 10,000 walkers a year.

The Milford Track was pioneered by Quintin Mackinnon whose name lives on at Mackinnon Pass, a highlight of the five-day walk. He was employed by the Government of the day who recognised the beauty of the area, to cut the track.

The track was retained in Government control until 1992 when the licence to operate it was sold to Tourism Milford Ltd. In the past decade extensive time, effort and investment have gone into upgrading the facilities, providing a world-class trekking venture.

The Routeburn and Greenstone Tracks had their beginnings in the 1860s when the idea of a route through the Southern Alps to the West Coast was proposed. Martin's Bay on the West Coast was earmarked as a port to ship gold from the lucrative Otago fields to Australia, but it never eventuated.

The Routeburn Track was finally completed in the 1920s and is an outstanding attraction. A private guided walking company was started on the Routeburn in 1967 and the licence sold to Ultimate Hikes in 1989. Like the Milford Track, a significant investment has been made to create a high standard of accommodation and facilities on the tracks.

Walking the Milford, Routeburn and Greenstone Tracks is a major experience and the guided walks have been tailored to



QUINTIN MACKINNON

meet a diverse range of needs.

The tracks traverse wild and scenic mountain country, taking in spectacular views, waterfalls, lakes and luxuriant forest which is so uniquely New Zealand.

The season runs from late October until April and professional guides accompany walkers throughout the tracks. There is no pressure to keep up with the fastest, or walk with the slowest, and guides are trained to co-ordinate an entire group.

The minimum age is 10 but our guided walks tend to attract older, well-travelled people often in their 60s or even early 70s. There is no age barrier and while many of our guests are not experienced hikers, they are often adventure seekers keen to face fresh challenges.

The Milford, Routeburn and Grand Traverse (Routeburn-Greenstone) Guided Walks have a reputation as safe and well-organised operations. For many people, particularly those travelling solo, it is a chance to walk in the wilderness, with like-minded people from around the world.

Well appointed lodges provide excellent accommodation on all the tracks. Comfortable beds, with bedding supplied, hot showers and

flush toilets allow walkers to enjoy the home comforts in a remote and scenic environment.

Excellent quality three-course meals are provided. Walkers carry a medium-sized backpack with a packed lunch and snacks on hand for the days walking. Backpack and wet-weather equipment are supplied.

Ultimate Hikes prides itself on its standard of service. Professionally-trained guides are handpicked to ensure every visitor has an enjoyable experience. This is endorsed by clients who invariably refer to the "exceptional walking, luxury accommodation and top guiding" which they encounter.

Famous Kiwi mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary summed up the adventure well – "well-equipped and comfortable lodges guarantee a good night's rest and experienced guides ensure a safe journey. These walks are an experience that anyone will always remember."

In the Footsteps of History...



KEA

MACKINNON PASS

MILFORD TRACK

The Milford Track Guided Walk is a fantastic 5 day 4 night adventure, traversing the heart of Fiordland National Park on "the finest walk in the world" from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound.

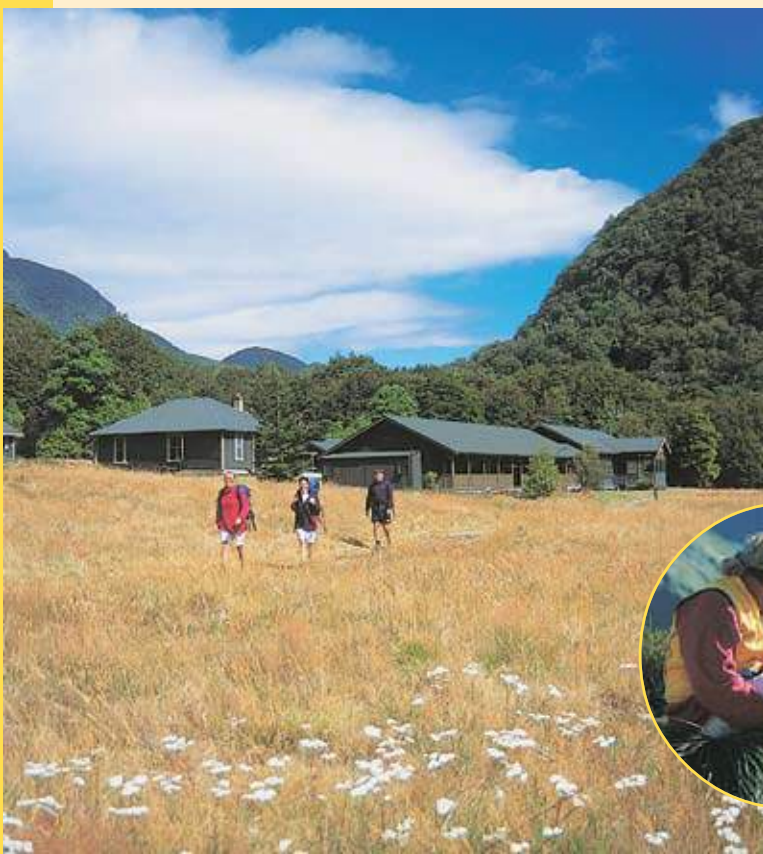
DAY 1

1

QUEENSTOWN TO GLADE HOUSE

1.6KM – 20 MINUTES WALKING
(LUNCH • DINNER)

Your adventure begins at our Queenstown office where you board a coach to Te Anau arriving in time for a light lunch and a group photo. If you join the group in Te Anau your briefing will be at 9.30am at the Te Anau Hotel and Villas. After lunch you drive to Te Anau Downs boat harbour, where a launch waits to take you up to the spectacular northern end of Lake Te Anau. From the wharf it is a short walk to historic Glade House, our first lodge, for a hot shower, a 3 course meal and queen or twin rooms with private bathroom or multi-share bunk rooms.



GLADE HOUSE

DAY 2

2

GLADE HOUSE TO POMPOLONA LODGE

16KM – 5-7 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

After crossing the emerald green Clinton River you walk up the valley to the Hirere Falls lunch shelter. The beech forest becomes more luxuriant the further you go, until it releases you on to the Prairie. From this meadow you can capture the true nature of the ice carved Clinton Canyon. It is a short climb to Pompolona Lodge from here.



THE PRAIRIE

DAY 3

3

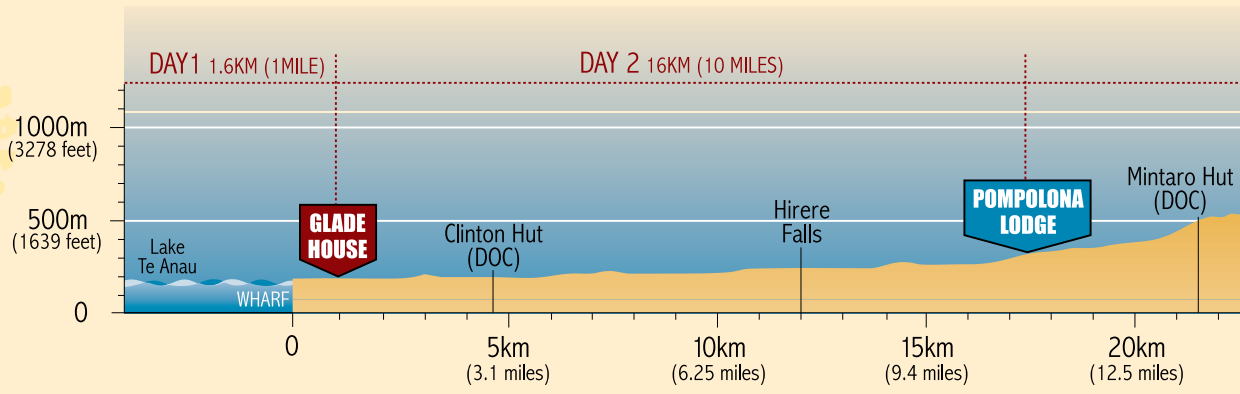
POMPOLONA LODGE TO QUINTIN LODGE via Mackinnon Pass

15KM – 6-8 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

This is the most demanding day, especially in inclement weather. The track leads to Lake Mintaro at the head of the Clinton Valley, before climbing the Mackinnon Pass in a series of zig-zags. Take your time. At the top you will be rewarded with spectacular views and lunch in Pass Hut. After the rocky descent into the Arthur Valley you will welcome a hot cup of tea at Quintin Lodge. That should be enough to refresh you for the 90 minute round trip to the Sutherland Falls, the world's fifth highest waterfall.

Please note there is a briefing in our Queenstown office at 5.00pm the evening prior to your departure on the Milford Track Guided Walk. Check-in time for this briefing is 4.45pm.

Height in Metres above sea level



A limited number of private rooms with their own bathroom facilities are available. These rooms have a queen-sized bed or two single beds.

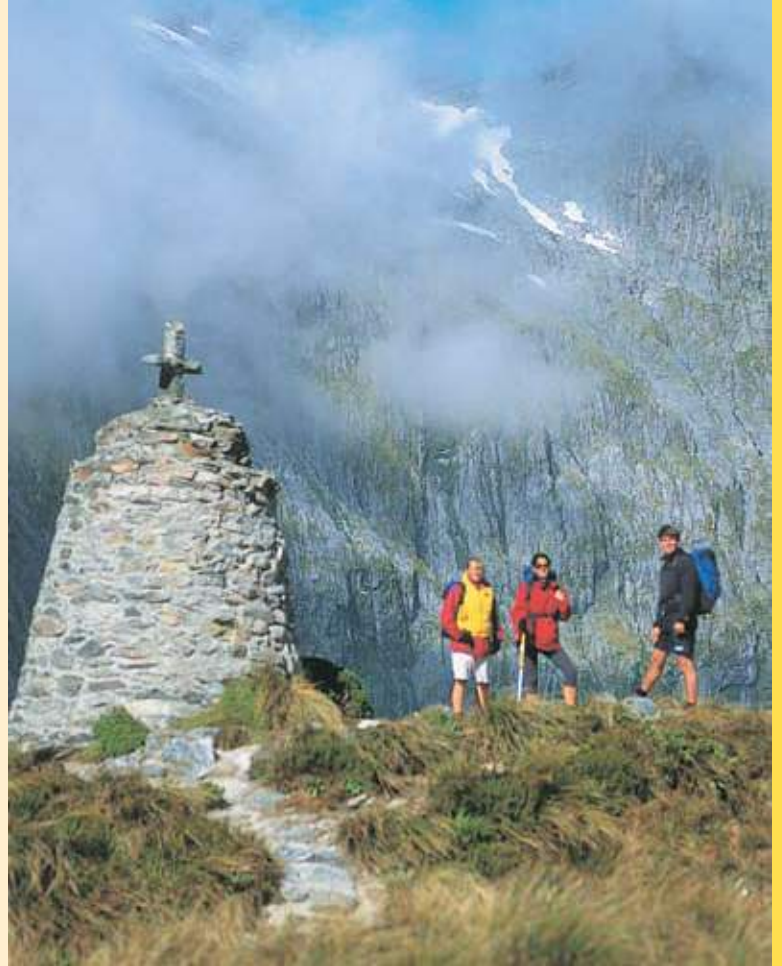


GIANTS GATE FALLS

DAY 4 QUINTIN LODGE TO MITRE PEAK LODGE (Milford Sound)

21KM – 6-8 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Your final day on the track. You walk down the Arthur Valley to Boatshed; on past MacKay Falls and Bell Rock, which was turned out of the river during a particularly violent flood and on to the lunch spot at Giant's Gate waterfall. The final stretch of the track follows tranquil Lake Ada to Sandfly Point. From here it is a short launch trip to the renowned Mitre Peak Lodge, the only accommodation at Milford Sound offering superb views of Mitre Peak, often referred to as the eighth wonder of the world. Here you will enjoy a celebratory dinner while relaxing with the knowledge that the hard part is now behind you while the magnificence of Milford Sound spreads before you.



THE MONUMENT, MACKINNON PASS

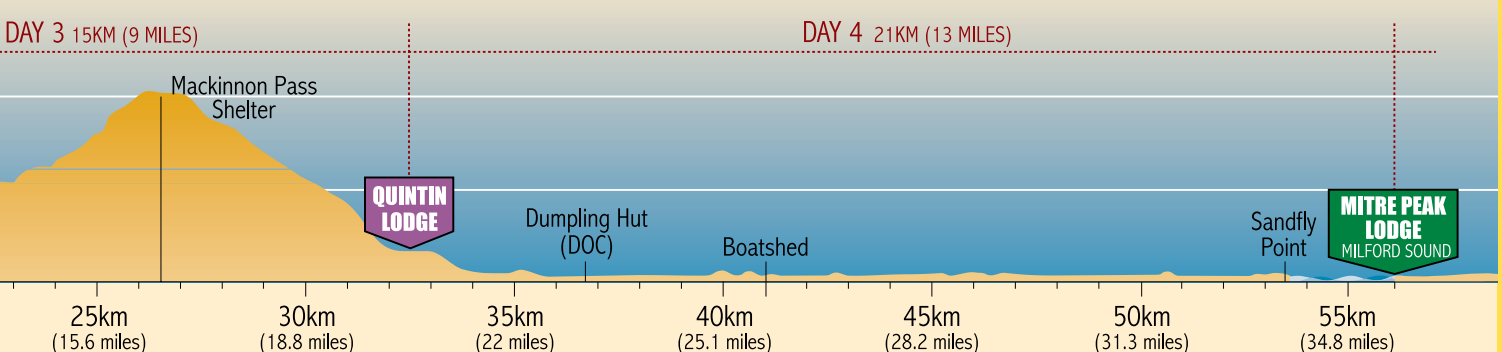
DAY 5 MILFORD SOUND TO QUEENSTOWN

NO WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH)

Wake to Milford Sound and after breakfast you board one of the famous *Red Boats* for a cruise on Milford Sound. Watch for dolphins and fur seals and pray for rain. (No-one believes us, but the waterfalls are absolutely incredible!) Following the cruise you start your spectacular journey through the heart of Fiordland National Park to the Homer Tunnel and on to Te Anau by coach or it is possible to fly back to Queenstown. (As it is weather-permitting, this can only be booked on the day.) After a light lunch we continue to Queenstown, arriving at approximately 4.00pm.



MILFORD SOUND



ROUTE BURN TRACK

AWARD WINNING ROUTEBURN TRACK GUIDED WALK

The Routeburn Guided Walk is a three day, all inclusive, Queenstown to Queenstown alpine adventure, through World Heritage Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks.

DAY

1

THE DIVIDE TO LAKE MACKENZIE

13KM – 5-6 HOURS WALKING
(LUNCH • DINNER)

Your adventure begins with a coach ride from Queenstown to the Divide on the scenic Milford Road. From here you climb a well-graded track to Key Summit, where you can sit among the alpine plants and partake in “The Annual General Meeting of the Mountains”. You then descend to Lake Howden hut for a hot drink and picnic lunch, before gradually climbing through lush silver beech forest to the base of Earland Falls: quite a sight in wet weather! You will look over the Hollyford Valley to the ice capped Darran Mountains before descending to the splendid lodge at Lake Mackenzie where refreshments, a hot shower, three-course meal and comfortable bed are waiting.

DAY

2

LAKE MACKENZIE TO ROUTEBURN FALLS

15KM – 5-7 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

You leave the ancient forest draped in moss and lichen, and enter the alpine world of daisies, buttercups, gentians and edelweiss. Here you have a full vista of the Darran Mountains

across the Hollyford Valley, which slices through Fiordland to the distant Tasman Sea at Martins Bay. After lunch at the Harris Saddle (1277m), you can ascend Conical Hill for a panoramic view of the surrounding peaks. After walking around Lake Harris you come into more intimate terms with the mountains towering above the upper basins of the Routeburn River. You spend your second night of luxury at Routeburn Falls, a favoured haunt of the comical alpine parrot, the kea.



LAKE MACKENZIE

DAY

3

ROUTE BURN FALLS TO ROUTEBURN ROAD

10KM – 3-4 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH)

Take time to enjoy the dramatic landscape around the Falls, before descending to the alpine pastures of the Routeburn Flats. Your guides will take the scenic route through the meadows and find the deepest green pool for you to picnic beside. The track shadows the river as it roars through a magnificent gorge before plunging beneath the unyielding rocks at the Sump. From here it is a gentle walk through columns of red beech trees to the Road End. A coach will take you back to Queenstown stopping at Glenorchy on the way.



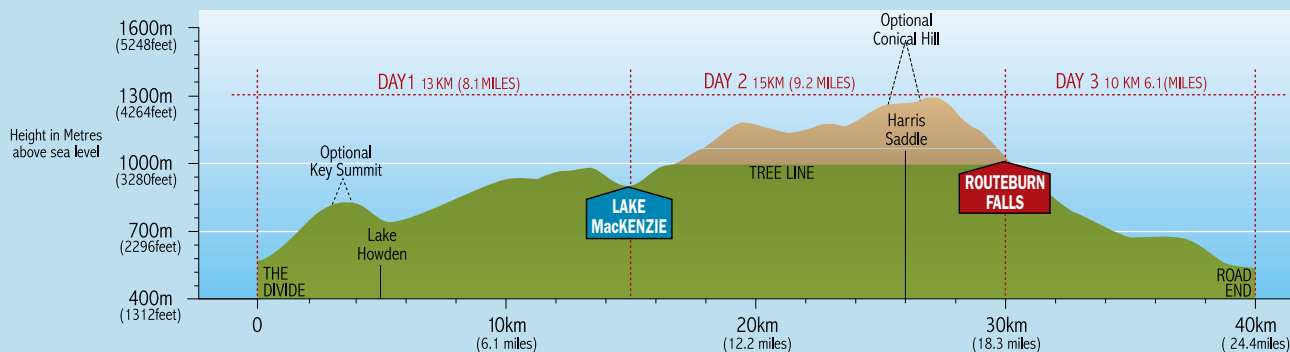
OCEAN PEAK CORNER



CROSSING ROUTEBURN RIVER



DARRAN MOUNTAINS FROM CONICAL HILL



DAY WALKS

ROUTE BURN TRACK encounter

Departs from and returns to Queenstown
13km return (add 6km for Routeburn Falls option)
Approximately 7 hours on track

A fully catered, guided day walk up the spectacular Routeburn Valley. Your guide will take you through the idyllic beech forest out to the Routeburn Flats, where you will enjoy lunch in the natural clearing, surrounded by the peaks and waterfalls. The Routeburn Track Encounter is the most challenging of our day walks, especially for those who take the option of climbing to Routeburn Falls for the breathtaking view back down the valley. Well worth the effort!



MILFORD TRACK encounter

Departs from and returns to Te Anau
11km return (distance may vary depending on options taken) – 5.5 hours on track

After a one hour cruise on Lake Te Anau to Glade wharf, you walk up the Glade Burn and are rewarded with a view of majestic Lake Te Anau. It is then a short walk down for lunch inside historic Glade House. After lunch follow your guide up the Clinton Valley, gateway to the Milford Track, the finest walk in the world. The Milford Track Encounter is an ideal way to sample the magic of the world famous Milford Track.



GUIDED DAY WALKS

In New Zealand we offer a series of guided day walks for people with limited time, or who are uncertain about their ability to complete a longer walk. They are the educational and trouble-free way to sample a little of the magic of New Zealand's wilderness. We provide everything from door to door transport, food, free loan of day packs and jackets for those who need them, sunscreen and insect repellent, to an emergency radio system to enhance your safety. All you need is a small day pack, walking boots or shoes, a bottle of water, warm clothing and a waterproof jacket for changeable weather. As you walk, your guide will tell you about the unique flora and fauna of the region, and the local history. Our walks are tailored to suit all ages, abilities and confidence levels. To get maximum enjoyment from your day, everyone is encouraged to walk at their own pace.

MOUNT COOK encounter

Departs from and returns to Mount Cook Village
8km return (not including optional bush walks)
Approximately 6 hours on track

The *Aoraki* Mount Cook National Park encircles New Zealand's highest peaks. A realm of permanent ice and snow where huge glaciers spill off 3000m high mountains. The Mount Cook Encounter takes you up the Hooker Valley, where you will enjoy lunch at the terminal of the Hooker Glacier, beneath the south face of Mount Cook. For those who want a little more, your guide will take you on a short bushwalk through the native forest upon your return from the Hooker Valley. The Mount Cook Encounter is also available as a half day option.



GRAND TRAVERSE

GRAND TRAVERSE GUIDED WALK COMBINING THE GREENSTONE & ROUTEBURN WALK

The Grand Traverse guided walk is a six day, all inclusive, Queenstown to Queenstown alpine adventure, through World Heritage Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks.

DAY 1 GREENSTONE CAR PARK TO STEELE CREEK

18KM – 5-7 HOURS WALKING
(LUNCH • DINNER)

Your morning coach trip from Queenstown follows the shoreline of Lake Wakatipu to the hamlet of Glenorchy for morning tea, then continuing on to the mouth of the fabled Greenstone River. Here you don your pack and follow the Greenstone track into the stately red beech forest. In time you will return to the river, rushing through rocky gorges in one spot, before idling in silent pools at the next bend. Robins and tomtits accompany you through the forest, and views of Mt Christina reward you as you stroll up the final river flats to Steele Creek lodge.

DAY 2 STEELE CREEK TO LAKE MCKELLAR

16KM – 4-5 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

After a hearty breakfast you walk through a sea of red tussock on the river flats. Ancient bog pines and sweet scented cottonwoods cling to the sheer mountainsides, which come alive with falling water on rainy days. You may sight fallow deer at the forest edge and see trout in the river. As you approach Lake McKellar the luxuriant forest envelopes you.

DAY 3 EXPLORATION AND REST AT LAKE MCKELLAR

NO WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Your chance to explore the area on foot, row on the lake or just relax and read a novel. There is an activity for everyone. Take a stroll to the waterfall, or hike to the lookout for a view down the river flats and your first glimpse of the Routeburn. If you are ready for a challenge you can climb higher to the untracked tops and marvel at Fiordland's mountain scenery.



KEY SUMMIT



RAINFOREST, ROUTEBURN

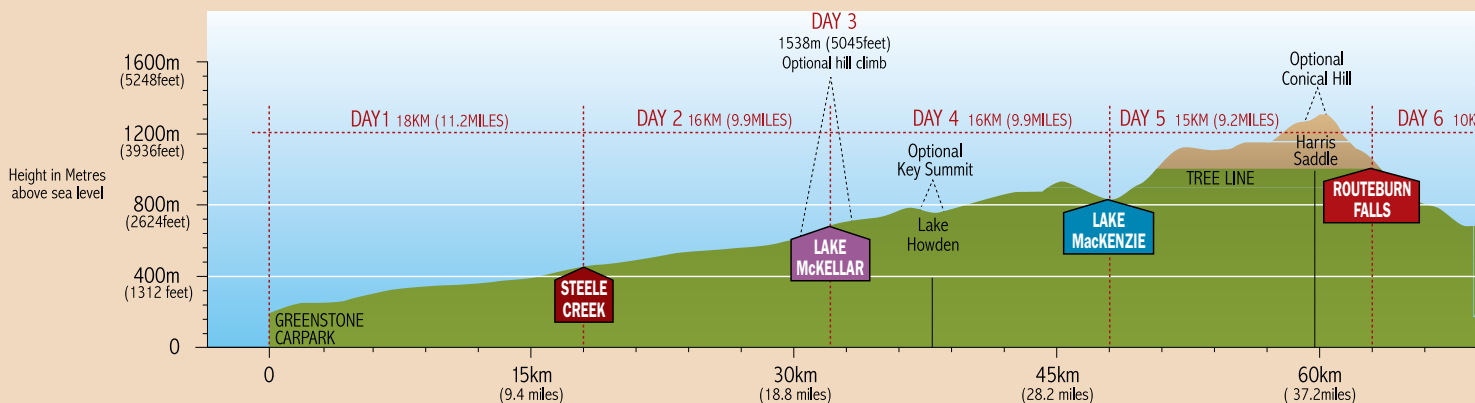
DAY 4 LAKE MCKELLAR TO ROUTEBURN FALLS

16KM – 4-5 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Today you cross the main ridge and get your first glimpses of mountains across the lake.



LAKE MCKELLAR



Historical Notes

ROUTE BURN TRACK

A route through the Southern Alps to the west coast was mooted by local government in the 1860's during the Wakatipu gold rush era. This route was not completed until after 1920, with work being interrupted by World War 1. Although the proposed port on the West Coast never came to fruition, the Routeburn Track became internationally famous as a magnificent scenic alpine adventure.

GREENSTONE TRACK

The Greenstone Valley was an ancient Maori Trail. Tribes from Fiordland used the route to reach the rich greenstone (pounamu) sources near Lake Wakatipu. They returned laden with stone to make adzes, gouges and superior weapons.

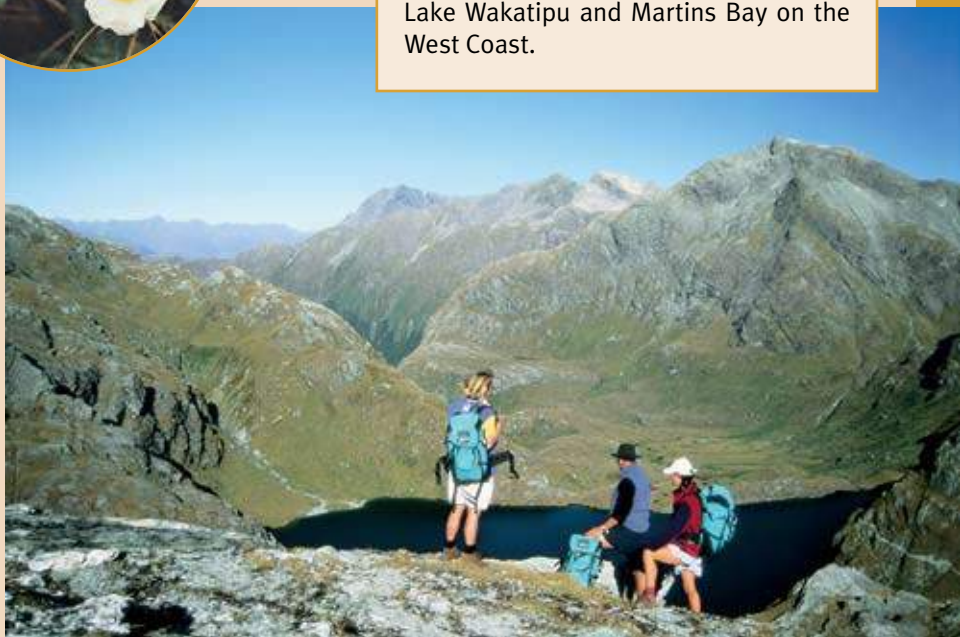
Europeans entered the valley in the 1860's in the search of gold and grazing land. The track was cut in 1881, linking Lake Wakatipu and Martins Bay on the West Coast.



LAKE MACKENZIE TO ROUTEBURN FALLS

15KM – 5-6 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

ascend the divide via the Greenstone Saddle (775m) stealing views of lakes through lush forest. A diversion to Key Summit allows you to investigate the unique flora growing among alpine bogs or contemplate the surrounding peaks. After lunch at Lake Howden you join the Routeburn Track as it climbs to the magnificent Earland Falls, where you look over to the glaciated Darran Mountains. After descending through a fairytale forest you arrive at Lake Mackenzie. Relax by the lake, serene and still in its cradle of statuesque peaks, or gather around the antique pianola for a sing-along.

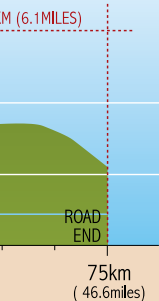


LAKE HARRIS

DAY 5 LAKE MACKENZIE TO ROUTEBURN FALLS

15KM – 5-7 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

You leave the enchanted forest and climb high above Lake Mackenzie into the alpine world overlooking the Hollyford Valley. Let your eye follow the icy peaks of the Darran Mountains until they drop into the distant Tasman Sea, and enjoy the flowers in one of the world's greatest natural gardens as you trek to the Harris Saddle (1277m) where you cross the main divide again. Conical Hill (1515m) with its endless vistas waits on the adventurous, while below the more intimate surrounds of the upper Routeburn basins lead to the Routeburn Falls.



DAY 6 ROUTEBURN FALLS TO ROUTEBURN ROAD END

10KM – 3-4 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH)

After a last look at the alpine environment above the Falls you drop down to the grassy flats at the foot of Mt Somnus. The track follows the river as it tumbles through a deep gorge, before emerging onto a forested terrace. After crossing a final swing bridge, the coach will take you back to Queenstown, stopping at Glenorchy.

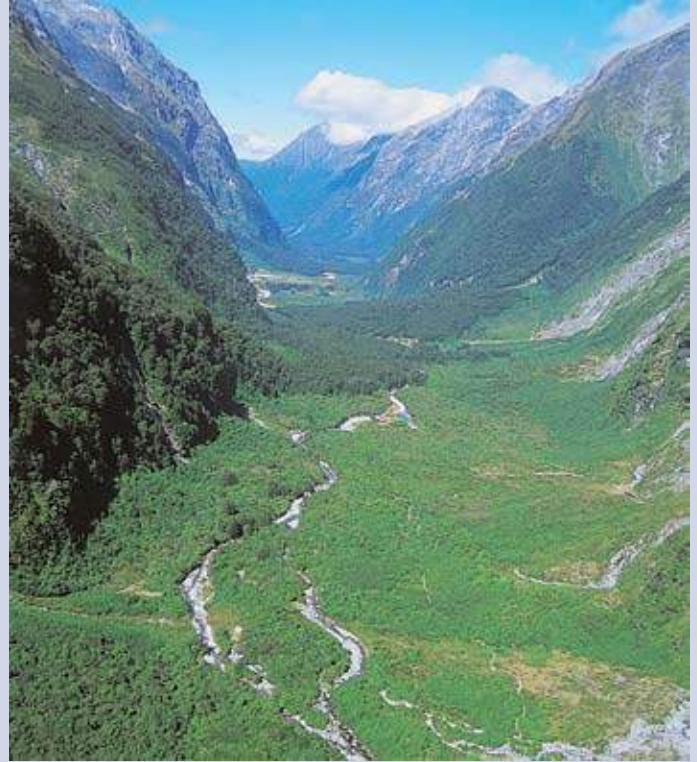
THE CLASSIC HIKE

The ultimate hiking package. New Zealand's two most famous Guided Walks in a spectacular 8 day / 7 night package starting in Queenstown, walking the Milford Track and visiting Milford Sound, spending a night in Te Anau and embarking on the Routeburn Track which finishes in Queenstown.

DAY 1 QUEENSTOWN TO GLADE HOUSE

1.6KM – 20 MINUTES WALKING
(LUNCH • DINNER)

Coach journey from Queenstown to Te Anau for a light lunch. Then a launch trip to the head of Lake Te Anau, before walking 1.6km to Glade House, the first lodge.



CLINTON VALLEY



GLADE HOUSE SWINGBRIDGE

MILFORD TRACK

Traversing the heart of New Zealand's wild fiord country, the Milford Track has long been described as "the finest walk in the world". Since Quintin Mackinnon pioneered the route in 1888, everyone from hardened trekkers to novices sporting their first pair of boots, have taken up the challenge of the Milford Track. The Fiordland National Park is the cornerstone of the Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area. Walkers on the track to Milford Sound encounter Fiordland at its most spectacular. Deep lakes, silent fiords, luxuriant forest and sheer canyons carved out of imposing granite define this landscape. On a sunny day there is a postcard shot around every corner. When it rains, and torrents of water cascade down the mountainsides, then you have truly experienced the magic of the Milford Track.

DAY 2 GLADE HOUSE TO POMPOLONA LODGE

16KM – 5-7 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Walk up the Clinton River valley into the Clinton Canyon arriving at Pompolona Lodge.

DAY 3 POMPOLONA LODGE TO QUINTIN LODGE via Mackinnon Pass

15KM – 6-8 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Climb out of the Clinton Valley to the alpine top of the Mackinnon Pass (1169m) for lunch before descending to Quintin Lodge. Then visit the 568m high Sutherland Falls in the late afternoon.

DAY 4 QUINTIN LODGE TO MITRE PEAK LODGE (Milford Sound)

21KM – 6-8 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

Walk down Arthur Valley to Mitre Peak Lodge at Milford Sound. There is a celebration dinner at Milford Sound.

DAY 5 MILFORD SOUND TO TE ANAU

NO WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH)

Morning cruise on Milford Sound, followed by a coach journey back to stay at the Te Anau Hotel & Villas (**bed only**), Te Anau, where you have a free afternoon and evening.

DAY 6 TE ANAU / DIVIDE TO LAKE MACKENZIE LODGE

13KM – 5-6 HOURS WALKING
(LUNCH • DINNER)

Coach from Te Anau to the Divide. Begin your trek along a well-graded trail. A brief detour takes us above the bushline to view the Fiordland Peaks and miniature alpine communities at Key Summit. Descend to Lake Howden for lunch before continuing steadily upwards to the magnificent Earland Falls. Further along the trail, the snow-capped peaks and glaciers of the Darren Mountains come into view before we make our descent to Lake Mackenzie Lodge.



LAKE MACKENZIE

ROUTEburn TRACK

Lauded by Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Mt Everest, the Routeburn Track covers the greatest variety of scenery of any of New Zealand's Great Walks. The track passes between the Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks, and was purposely designed to expose walkers to the grandest scenery of this corner of New Zealand. On the way you pass clear lakes, gaze at glaciated peaks and walk through peaceful meadows, flower-filled alpine basins and moss-covered rainforest. If you do not fall in love with all or part of the Routeburn Track, you might as well give up walking.

DAY 7 LAKE MACKENZIE TO ROUTEBURN FALLS LODGE

15KM – 5-6 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER)

We leave the emerald waters of Lake Mackenzie, zigzag up above the bushline and across the Hollyford face with its dramatic alpine landscape. Lunch at Harris Saddle and past Lake Harris, we descend into an immense alpine basin, which in summer is alive with flowers. Continue on to the Routeburn Falls Lodge.

DAY 8 ROUTEBURN FALLS TO ROAD END

10KM – 3-4 HOURS WALKING
(BREAKFAST • LUNCH)

The trail descends from the Routeburn Falls to the alpine meadows of the Routeburn Flats. Pass crystal clear river pools and enter the forested gorge, opening to the lowlands.

A coach will take you back to Queenstown.



ROUTEburn RAINFOREST

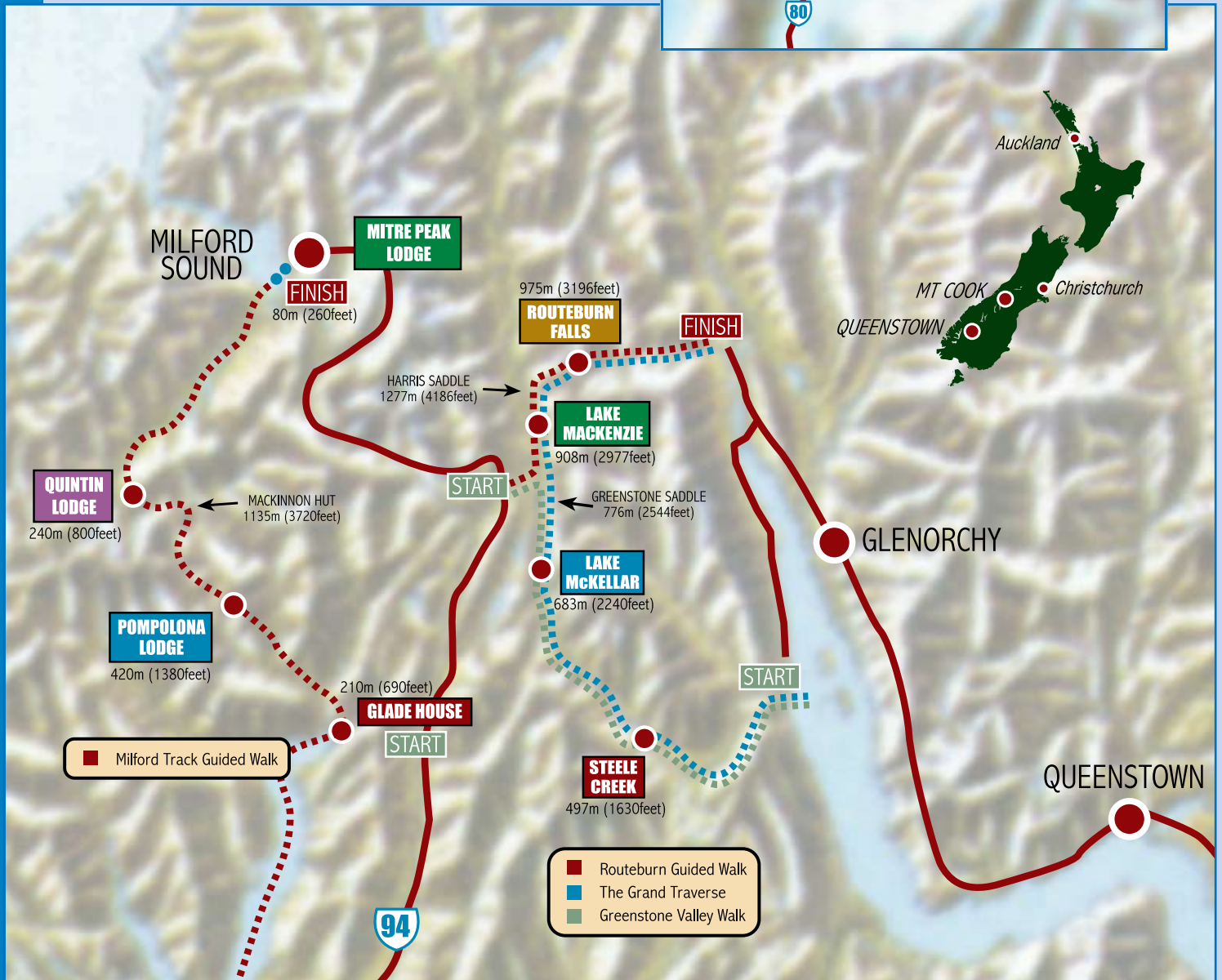
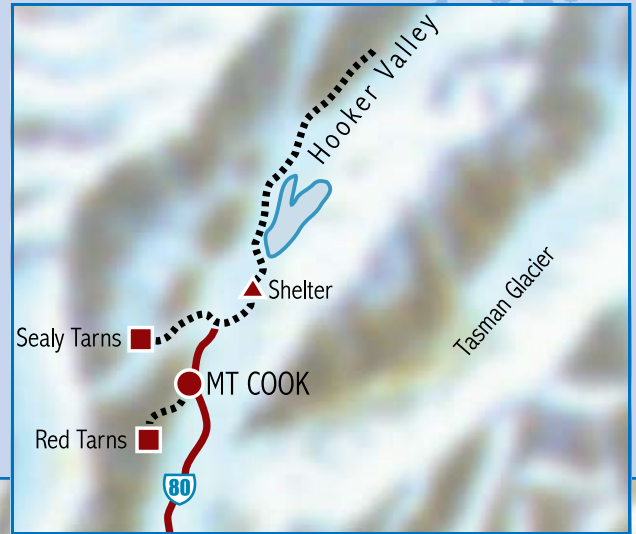
Grand Traverse / Milford Track Combo – for the really serious walker

For those people with more time available, it is possible to walk both the Grand Traverse and Milford Tracks. Here we walk the Grand Traverse first before returning to Queenstown and starting the Milford Track. We recommend a couple of days off between walks. The advantage of doing the Grand Traverse before the Milford Track is the last day on the Grand Traverse and the first day on the Milford Track are easy days.

PRE-TRACK BRIEFINGS

It is essential you attend your pre-track briefing the evening prior to departure. This is held in the Ultimate Hikes office, Top Floor, "The Station", corner Shotover and Camp Streets, Queenstown. Here we can answer any of your questions, issue you with a sleeping sheet and towel, provide a backpack and raincoat if you need them, and arrange your departure details for the following morning. It is your chance to meet your travelling companions and confirm any dietary or medical needs with us.

- ROUTEBURN TRACK 4.00pm
Check-in 3.45pm
- GRAND TRAVERSE 3.00pm
Check-in 2.45pm
- MILFORD TRACK & THE CLASSIC 5.00pm
Check-in 4.45pm



MILFORD TRACK AND ROUTEBURN TRACK GENERAL INFORMATION

The following is a list of essential equipment you need to bring on your three, five or six day guided walk. It is divided into clothing and footwear for walking and those for use in the lodges. The underlined items may be purchased at reasonable prices from the shop in our Queenstown or Te Anau offices to reduce the need for you to carry them throughout your holiday.

FOR WALKING:

Medium sized backpack (We lend out 40 litre capacity packs)

Waterproof raincoat with hood (We can lend you one)

Boots or strong walking shoes, preferably with ankle support

Woollen or polypropylene thermal underwear (top & bottom)
is essential

- Warm hat – fleece or woollen
- Fleece jacket or micro fleece top
- T shirt for fine weather
- Gloves
- Shorts for walking
- Woollen or thermal socks – two pairs
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Small torch

FOR EVENINGS:

- Shirt
- Trousers, skirt or track pants
- Underwear – two sets
- Sandals or lightweight shoes
- Pyjamas or night wear
- Handkerchiefs
- Toilet requisites (towels, soap, shampoo & conditioner are provided)

Optional items you may want to include are a sun hat, swimsuit, spare laces, journal and second skin for blisters. We also sell film, maps, guidebooks, postcards, walking poles, foot fleece (to reduce friction between your feet and boots) and blister kits.

We do not recommend you walk in cotton garments, jeans or silk thermals. Perspiration means you are likely to feel damp and cold inside the best raincoat. We supply a sleeping sheet with pillowslip and a plastic pack liner at the pre-departure briefing. You may borrow a 40 litre capacity backpack and a raincoat free of charge. We recommend you put all your clothing in plastic bags inside your pack liner for added rain protection. Keep your pack as light as possible while still taking the essentials. Remember hand laundry facilities are available in the lodges and a lighter pack will enhance your experience.

QUEENSTOWN SHOP



GUIDES & SAFETY

Your guides are probably the New Zealanders you will get to know best. They are trained outdoor enthusiasts who will explain the natural and human history of the area you are walking through. They pride themselves on their safe, efficient and friendly service, and provide everything from a warming cup of tea or coffee at lunch to an evening briefing on the next day's walk. All guides are trained in first aid and are in radio contact with each other, the lodges and our Queenstown, Te Anau or Mount Cook bases at all times. Your safety is of paramount importance to us, and your guides may have to adapt the day's walk depending on your fitness and weather or track conditions. While they will make every effort to meet your needs, please adhere to their professional decisions if circumstances demand this.



LAKE HARRIS STORM

LIKELY WEATHER CONDITIONS

It is essential to be well prepared when walking. New Zealand has very changeable weather patterns. Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National parks have high rainfall levels and weather can change dramatically in a day.

The unpredictable nature of the weather in this region, means that snow, high winds and rain can occur at any time of the year. It is therefore very important to be prepared for the worst weather conditions, and carry the appropriate clothing.

Exposure and hypothermia can affect anyone when the weather is wet, cold and windy, so GO PREPARED!

YOUR FITNESS

– ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Our walks are neither easy nor difficult. They are a challenge which people of all ages and abilities will relish. To enjoy your multi-day walk you need to be able to carry a medium-sized backpack containing your personal belongings and a sleeping sheet, which we provide, for 4-8 hours over 10-21km (6-13 miles) of mountain tracks each day. Our day walks are a little less strenuous. We encourage you to walk at your own pace. There is no pressure to walk with others or keep up with the fastest walkers. There is always a guide at the rear of the party. The track surfaces vary from smooth well-formed paths to rough terrain broken by rocks and tree roots. There are steep rocky downhill sections and you may have to ford small streams and wade in deep water after heavy rain. We recommend you wear hiking boots, which provide firm ankle support. If you are not a regular walker we suggest you begin a daily walking regime 6-8 weeks before departure. Gradually increasing the distance you walk, carrying a backpack, and staircase- or hill-climbing will leave you even better prepared for your challenge.

ROUTEburn TRACK / GRAND TRAVERSE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Routeburn Track Guided Walk is a 3 day / 2 night Queenstown to Queenstown package. The Grand Traverse Guided Walk is a 6 day / 5 night Queenstown to Queenstown package combining the Routeburn Track and Greenstone Valley Guided Walks. Maximum of 24 clients per departure. No minimum.

- Pre and post-track accommodation is required in Queenstown. Please advise us where you are staying if you know this in advance – thank you.
- Please advise our office if you have any dietary needs or medical conditions that the guides should be aware of.

PRE TRACK BRIEFING AND TRANSPORT

- Pre track briefing is in the Ultimate Hikes Office, Top Floor, 'The Station'; corner Shotover & Camp Streets, Queenstown.
- **Routeburn Track 4.00 pm / check-in 3.45 pm. It is essential that you attend.**
- **Grand Traverse 3.00 pm / check in 2.45 pm. It is essential that you attend.**
- All transport from Queenstown to the start of track and return to Queenstown is included. No hotel / motel pickup so please meet at rear of 'The Station' **Routeburn 6.55am. Grand Traverse 7.45am on the morning of departure.**
- Both tours return to Queenstown 4.00 pm (approx.). You will be dropped off at 'The Station' building.
- **We don't store spare luggage or park cars** – this should be arranged when booking your pre and post track accommodation.

GUIDES & SAFETY

- **All guides are trained in first aid and are in radio contact with each other, the lodges and our Queenstown base at all times.**



ROUTEburn FALLS LODGE

- **No sleeping bags are required!**
- Three course dinners, cooked breakfasts and picnic lunches are provided on track.
- New Zealand wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at each of the lodges.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AND CARRIED

- Excellent backpacks and PVC raincoats can be provided free of charge, but you may bring your own. These items are essential.
- Each day you carry your sheet and towel which we provide (you may bring your own silk sheet and travel towel), picnic lunch and personal clothing.
- We supply each client with a plastic pack liner, but clothes should be put in plastic bags for added rain protection.

MACKENZIE LODGE BEDROOM



WEATHER

- The weather can be very changeable. Snow is possible in summer. **Thermal underwear and a fleece jacket are essential.** You can bring these items from home or purchase them from our shop.

ALL LODGES

- Have hot showers, with soap, shampoo and conditioner provided, flush toilets, multi-share bedrooms with bunk style sleeping 4-6 people per room.
- All beds have pillows and duvets or comforters. There is no electricity in the lodges – all lights are run on LPG gas.

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING

- Woollen hat
- Fleece jacket • Raincoat
- Thermal top & bottoms
- Backpack • Socks • Boots
- Gloves • Insect repellent
- Sunblock • Drinking bottle

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- Stick • Foot fleece

These items available for purchase from our shop



TRACK START AND FINISH GUIDE

Start Routeburn Track:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	No departure	Friday	No departure	Sunday
Finish Routeburn Track:	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Thursday	Sunday	Saturday	Tuesday
Start Grand Traverse:	Monday	No departure	Wednesday	No departure	No departure	No departure	No departure
Finish Grand Traverse:	Saturday	Tuesday	Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

MILFORD TRACK IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Milford Track Guided Walk is a 5 day / 4 night Queenstown to Queenstown package. Maximum of 50 clients per departure. No minimum.

- Pre and post-track accommodation is required in Queenstown. Please advise us where you are staying if you know this in advance – thank you.
- Please advise our office if you have any dietary needs or medical conditions that the guides should be aware of.

PRE TRACK BRIEFING AND TRANSPORT

- Is at the Ultimate Hikes Office, Top Floor, 'The Station', corner Shotover & Camp Streets, Queenstown: **Milford Track 5.00 pm / check-in 4.45 pm**. It is essential that you attend.
- All transport from Queenstown to the start of track and return to Queenstown is included. No hotel / motel pickup so please meet at rear of 'The Station' at **9.30 am on the morning of departure**.
- Tour returns to Queenstown 4.00 pm (approx.). You will be dropped off at 'The Station' building.

Where should I leave my excess baggage while I'm walking?

- A **small bag** (we can lend you one if necessary) of clothing for use at Milford Sound will be sent by road from Queenstown to await your arrival. Any further baggage can be stored at your hotel. (It is advised that you stay at the same hotel after the Milford Track as you stayed in before walking). Please note that because of weight restrictions on our coaches, suitcases cannot be transported.

GUIDES AND SAFETY

- All guides are trained in first aid and are in radio contact with each other, the lodges and our Queenstown base at all times.

WEATHER

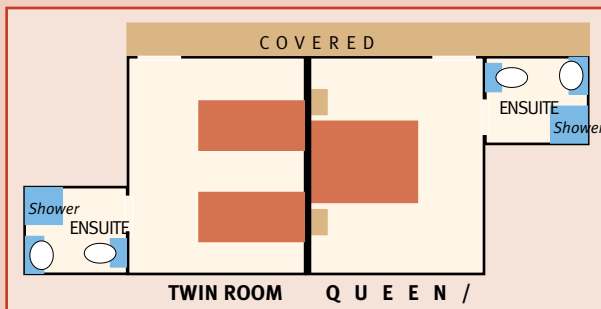
- The weather can be very changeable. Snow is possible in summer. **Thermal underwear and a fleece jacket are essential**. You can bring these items from home or purchase them from our shop.



LODGE INTERIOR



PRIVATE ROOM, MILFORD TRACK



MULTI SHARE BEDROOM

ALL LODGES

- Have hot showers, with soap, shampoo and conditioner provided and flush toilets. Accommodation is in either private rooms with queen-sized or twin beds with own ensuite bathroom or in multi-share bunkroom style, sleeping 4-6 people per room.
- All beds have pillows and duvets or comforters. There is generated electricity in the lodges – generators are turned off at 10.00 pm each evening.
- Three-course dinners, cooked breakfasts and picnic lunches are provided on track.
- New Zealand wine, beer and soft drinks are available for purchase at each of the lodges. These purchases are to be paid for at Mitre Peak Lodge so please take cash and credit cards.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AND CARRIED

- Excellent backpacks and PVC raincoats can be provided free of charge, but you may bring your own. These items are essential.
- Each day you carry your sheet and towel which we provide (you may bring your own silk sheet), picnic lunch and personal clothing. Packs generally weigh 5-7 kg (10-14 lbs)
- We supply each client with a plastic pack liner, but clothes should be put in plastic bags for added rain protection.

TRACK START AND FINISH GUIDE

Start Milford Track:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Finish Milford Track:	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Start Ultimate Hike package:	No departure	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	No departure	Sunday
Finish Ultimate Hike package:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

MILFORD, ROUTEBURN OR KEPLER

SELF-GUIDED WILDERNESS BACKPACKING TREKS

We offer 'freedom walks' on three of the most popular wilderness areas. We confirm bus and boat transfers to/from the start/finish of either walk, simple hut accommodation (bring your sleeping bag) and a pre-track briefing with track/route information/maps. Walkers are required to provide and carry all their own food, basic cooking equipment and bedding. Space is very limited so early booking essential – especially over the summer holiday period. Daily departures from Queenstown or Te Anau from October to April.

ABEL TASMAN

LODGE BASED GUIDED WALKING OR SEA KAYAKING

A gloriously sunny corner of the South Island with a year round mild climate and a diverse landscape of native beech and rainforest, fern-filled grottos and mountain streams, granite headlands fringing crystal clear bays and golden beaches, this extraordinary National Park provides a habitat for forest and sea birds, rays, dolphins and a seal-breeding colony on Tonga Island.

Carrying only a small daypack, enjoy full or half day guided walks or sea kayak along the spectacular coast with its pristine clear water estuaries. Stay at private beachfront lodges with a gourmet meal, fine wine and good company and let the waves soothe you to sleep at the end of a relaxing or adventurous day. Departures all year round from Nelson.

HOLLYFORD TRACK

GUIDED WALK WITH JET-BOATING & SCENIC MILFORD SOUND FLIGHT

Geologically spectacular and ever changing, the Hollyford Track offers dramatic views of snow-capped mountains, glaciers, temperate rainforests, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, reefs, sand dunes and surf beaches. The sheer diversity of vegetation and wildlife in this valley is unparalleled. Join a small group hiking adventure through World Heritage wilderness, step aboard a jet boat ride down the Hollyford River and across Lake McKerrow, explore the historical sites of early pioneers and leave with the stunning scenic flight out over Milford Sound. Regular departures from Queenstown October to April

QUEEN CHARLOTTE WALK

Walk the north of the South Island where Captain James Cook sailed into the calm waters of Marlborough Sounds in the late 17th century. Follow in Cook's footsteps along the 71-km track to explore the vast network of drowned river valleys, lush coastal beech forests with knowledgeable walking guides. Carrying only a small daypack this is the ideal introduction to the wilderness in comfort. Guided walks feature quality hotel-style accommodation and gourmet a la carte restaurant dining. Regular departures from Picton from October to April.



HOLLYFORD TRACK

BALL PASS TREK

HUT BASED CHALLENGING MOUNTAIN TREK

Mount Cook National Park offers breathtaking views of Aoraki Mount Cook and New Zealand's highest mountains. This is a **demanding** 3-day hike crossing the Mount Cook Range from the Tasman to the Hooker Valley following the Ball Ridge, via the Caroline Face of Mount Cook and overlooking Tasman Glacier. Spend two nights at Caroline Hut (1830m) using the middle day to climb an easy peak and explore the Ball Glacier with guidance and tuition from a professional mountain guide. All the required equipment is provided. Regular departures from Lake Tekapo or Mount Cook from November to April.

TONGARIRO CROSSING

This is our most popular and most requested walking area for the North Island and is easily accessed from either Wellington or Rotorua / Auckland. The Tongariro National Park has dual World Heritage status including The Tongariro Alpine Crossing and the Northern Circuit. The three active andesitic volcanoes, Mount Tongariro, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Ruapehu, are majestic, dramatic peaks with amazing textures, colours in a unique landscape. Regular departures from Tongariro from October to March.



QUEEN CHARLOTTE WALK



For all reservations from Australia see your travel agent or call

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THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY