

SIMPLY  
**WILD JOURNEYS**

GUIDED LUXURY ADVENTURE



*Itinerary for Craig Coppola, Brad Lemon, and Paul Braun.  
17 days and 160 miles of hiking on five of the  
South Island of New Zealand's best tracks - January/February 2015*

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2015**

**Arrive Auckland, fly to Queenstown, then seaplane to Glade House, Milford Track.**

You arrive overnight from Los Angeles to Auckland at 8.00am and transfer to the domestic terminal for the 10.15am flight to Queenstown, arriving Queenstown at 12.05 pm. Our guide, John Thompson (JT), with private vehicle, will meet you at the airport.

It's only a few minutes to the centre of town, where you'll have the opportunity to lunch, shop for food and any other items you need for the Milford track.

Around mid-afternoon, fly by seaplane to Lake Te Anau (about 30 minutes) and land at Glade Wharf, start of the Milford track. You have a three mile walk to Clinton hut, where you will spend the first night on the track.

The Milford Track is an alpine journey through Fiordland National Park, sometimes described as the finest walk in the world, and is New Zealand's most renowned walking track, visited by approximately 6500 walkers during the Summer Season each year. The tracks passes along valleys carved by glaciers and through ancient rainforest, before reaching the spectacular Milford Sound.

JT will keep any bags and gear you don't wish to take on the track, and have it available to you when he meets you at the end of the Routeburn. You can also leave extra food supplies for the Routeburn with the seaplane pilot, who will pass it on to the transport operator who will collect you from Milford and deliver you to the start of the Routeburn.



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

**Milford Track – Hike from Clinton Hut to Mintaro Hut**

Your second days walk is Clinton to Mintaro Hut (10 miles). The Milford track huts have bunks, mattresses, toilets, basic cooking facilities, solar powered lighting and cold running water and a DOC (Department of Conservation) ranger in residence. The huts do not have cooking utensils or showers.

If you are allergic to snoring, I recommend that buy some earplugs to use while in huts. I've found a brand called Macks work well for me. They are soft silicone which molds to your ear and are comfortable to sleep on.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

**Milford Track – Hike from Mintaro Hut to Dumpling Hut**

You hike from Mintaro hut over the McKinnon Pass to Dumpling Hut – (8 miles).

*Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015*

**Milford Track – Hike from Dumpling Hut to Milford**

Walk from Dumpling hut to Sandfly Point – (11 miles) before catching the launch from Sandfly Point across to Milford Village at 3.30pm. We have booked you into Milford Lodge, a double room and a twin room. Meals and drinks are to be settled by you.

*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015*

**Routeburn Track – Milford to the Divide, Divide to Mackenzie Hut.**

After breakfast a private charter operator “Trips & Tramps” will collect you from Milford Lodge and deliver you to The Divide, about a 45 minute drive from Milford. They will have extra food supplies you will have left with the seaplane operator when you landed at Glade House.

The Routeburn is an internationally renowned and popular alpine crossing between Fiordland and Lake Wakatipu, taking you through ice-carved valleys and among the majestic peaks of the Southern Alps.

You’ll hike around 7 miles, mainly uphill to Lake Mackenzie. There is a hut at Lake Mackenzie which you will have a booking for, but in line with your preferences you can camp at the campsite beside the Lake, which we will also have booked.

*Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015*

**Routeburn Track – Mackenzie Hut to the Routeburn shelter, Routeburn Shelter to Queenstown.**

You hike from Mackenzie Hut via the Harris Saddle and the Routeburn Falls Hut to the Queenstown road end and Routeburn Shelter, about 8 ½ miles.

Mackenzie to Harris Saddle is still uphill but less so than yesterday, from Harris saddle to the Routeburn Shelter is downhill. JT will be waiting at an arranged time at the shelter and will drive you through to Queenstown via Glenorchy (about an hour).

Queenstown accommodation at Lakeside Novotel. 1 King room, one twin room.



**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

**Queenstown – Free day**

Queenstown accommodation at Lakeside Novotel. 1 King room, one twin room. Activities (if any) arranged direct or with JT.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

**Fly from Queenstown to Nelson via Christchurch. Nelson to Onetahuti beach, Abel Tasman National Park.**

JT will collect you from your accommodation, and drive you to Queenstown airport.

We'll collect you at Nelson airport, drive to Marahau near the Abel Tasman National Park and board a private water taxi to a bay on the coast called Onetahuti. This will be a camping night, but we'll have our big dome tent for a bit of eating luxury and our chef. The golden sand beach is stunning and the water will be pretty warm at that time of year.

It's on the way to the Heaphy track and will give you a good look at our smallest National park in NZ, the Abel Tasman.

The Abel Tasman National Park is New Zealand's only coastal national park – and its golden sandy beaches and clear turquoise water make it one of the most popular. The sheltered bays are popular for cruising, sailing and sea kayaking. On land, the Abel Tasman Coast Track follows the coastline through lush native bush, over limestone cliffs and along golden sandy beaches.



*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2015*

**Onetahuti beach, Abel Tasman National Park to Goulard Downs area, Heaphy track, Kahurangi National Park**

You will have a 20 minute water taxi to Totaranui Bay before the 45 minute drive to Takaka, a small farming town in an area called Golden Bay. There is a good supermarket here to stock up on supplies before driving another 45 minutes to the start of the Heaphy Track. Rob will probably be your guide for the Heaphy.

The Heaphy Track crosses the Southern Alps, taking the walker from the east to the west coast, through beech forests, alpine moors, mossy, very wet forests reminiscent of Lord of the Rings, a large and beautiful estuary at the entrance of the Heaphy River to the sea, then a superb walk along rocky and sandy ocean beaches, through groves of Nikau palms.

Many people consider the Heaphy Track to be the greatest of New Zealand's nine Great Walks, combining alpine environments and a primeval, palm-fringed coastline.

You hike from Browns hut at the beginning of the Heaphy to the best camping spot we can find, probably on the Goulard Downs, distance about 15 miles.

***As with all the hikes except the Milford, we expect you will camp, but we will book huts in case of bad weather, because the cost is not high.***

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2015*

**Heaphy Track - Goulard Downs to Mackay Hut area**

Hike across the Goulard Downs to Mackay Hut, about 11 miles.



**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2015**

**Heaphy Track – Mackay Hut to Heaphy Beach area**

Hike from Mackay Hut down to the Heaphy River, to a camp on Heaphy beach, about 13 miles.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2015**

**Heaphy Track – Heaphy Beach to Karamea Village**

Hike from Heaphy Beach to the track end at Kohaihai (wild and spectacular coastline), (about 10 miles) before you are collected by minibus for the short 15 minute trip to Karamea Village.



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

**Karamea River heliraft**

The Karamea River is often rafted as a 4 day expedition, we raft last day of it through the Karamea Gorge, (long boulder gardens, grade 4 – 5), flying in by helicopter. With lunch it's a 5 hour trip. The Karamea River has a very remote feel to it, and is only rafted 10 – 15 times a year. You stay in Karamea again that night.

Today you will have the opportunity to stock up supplies from the little supermarket in Karamea Village.



*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015*

**Wangapeka Track - Karamea Village to near Taipo Hut**

The Wangapeka Track traverses the Southern Alps from the West coast to the eastern side of the mountains, passing through rainforest and alpine vegetation, as well as beautiful beech forests on the eastern side. It is a track for experienced, fit, self-sufficient walkers. There are many unbridged river and creek crossings, which after heavy rain may require a high level of experience to cross safely.

We transfer you to the beginning of the Wangapeka Track with our guide Emma (about one hour from Karamea). The Wangapeka Track is more rugged and remote, passing through mountainous terrain and river valleys. You hike from the road end to Taipo Hut (12 miles).

As with the Heaphy the huts will be booked for you, but you can camp wherever you like.

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015*

**Wangapeka Track**

You hike from Taipo hut to Stone Hut (12 miles).

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015*

**Wangapeka Track**

You hike from Stone Hut to Rolling River Junction before camping for the night at Courthouse Flat. (12 miles). We'll meet you by vehicle and bring our chef along for a little bit of luxury camping (South African standup room tents with comfortable stretcher beds and feather pillows) before you tackle Mt Owen the next day.



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

**Courthouse Flat to Summit Mt Owen, Mt Owen to Bay of Many Coves, Marlborough Sounds**

From Courthouse Flat it's around 5000ft to the top of Mount Owen, the Nelson regions highest mountain, notable because of its unusual karst rock landscape, which was used in the First "Lord of The Rings" movie.

Given you will have had a few solid days on the Wangapeka Track, we'll probably run the day as we do for a day helitrek. About 9.30am we'll have a helicopter arrive and transfer you up the mountain. We'll decide exactly where this will be on the morning, depending on the kind of challenge you feel up to. The trip the way we do it from a point called the "Hay paddock" up to the Summit, then across and down to where the helicopter waits on the other side of the mountain, normally takes about 3 hours. Mt Owen is big landscape.

Flying from the pickup point, we will transfer you the Marlborough Sounds in the helicopter, (about 35 minutes) and the five star Bay of Many Coves Resort, set on the edge of the water in a sheltered bay.



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

**Queen Charlotte Track – Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet**

The Marlborough Sounds encompass twenty percent of New Zealand's total coastline. This intricate maze of waterways is made up of three Sounds, namely the Queen Charlotte Sound, the Kenepuru Sound and the Pelorus Sound. Within the area is pristine native forest - ranging from towering 800 year old rimu trees, to lush punga tree ferns and beautiful native orchids - leading down to picturesque shorelines.

The Queen Charlotte Sound is the more well known of the three Sounds, and is dominated by bush-clad shorelines, deep bays and coves. Stretching between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sound is the Queen Charlotte Track which runs almost the entire length of Queen Charlotte Sound. The track stretches from Ship Cove to Anakiwa - (approximately 45 miles) of spectacular walking track with stunning views and contrasting landscapes, passing through historic sites, secluded bays and lush coastal bush.

You'll be collected from Bay of Many Coves Resort next morning by water taxi and dropped off at Ship Cove at the beginning of the outer end of the Queen Charlotte Track, (where Captain Cook stopped off in 1770) for the hike to Endeavour Inlet. We'll have the water taxi collect you and drop you off for a camp on Blumine Island in the middle of the Sound. You'll only need a day pack for hiking on these days.

I'll do a barbecue dinner for you on the island.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

**Queen Charlotte Track – Camp Bay to Torea Bay**

I'll drop you at the track again, then you hike Camp Bay to Torea Saddle (14 miles). That night we'll camp at Kumutoto Bay (only accessible by boat). We'll do a barbecue dinner again.



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

**Queen Charlotte Track – Torea to Picton**

After a short water taxi ride back around to Torea Bay, you have two choices, which you can decide a few days before.

Hike Torea to Anakiwa and the end of the Queen Charlotte track (12 miles), or to walk half this distance and then finish the trip from a place called Mistletoe Bay by sea kayaking across to Picton (about 2 hours paddling). We often finish trips in this area by sea kayaking, and it would make a great finish to your overall South Island trip landing on the Picton foreshore by kayak.

We fly you out of Picton by Cessna Caravan plane to Wellington around 3.45pm, connecting to Auckland and arriving around 6.00pm.

