

Top 3 Walks South Island

Hiking tour



Go4iT!

Price NZD \$4,199/pp

Regular monthly departures throughout 2022

5 Days/ 14 People Max/ Hiking Focused

In just five days, explore the Kepler, Routeburn and Milford Tracks on a New Zealand Great Walks Discovery hiking tour. Bask in your creature comforts and experience best in the world hikes on this 5-day ' hiking tour exploring the highlights and hidden gems of Fiordland. There's no doubt you'll be amazed by the vast landscapes you'll experience in a short amount of time while still enjoying comfortable accommodations and incredible food each evening. Starting and finishing in Queenstown, you'll hike three of New Zealand's Great Walks (Kepler Track, Routeburn Track and Milford Track), stay the night not only on the Fiordland Navigator on Doubtful Sound but also in the highly sought after Milford Lodge Chalets and enjoy top-notch service every step of the way.

DAY 1

Overnight cruise in Doubtful Sound

For the first day of your trip we'll meet you in Queenstown and head to Lake Manapouri where our journey into Doubtful Sound begins. We'll board a boat for the cruise across Lake Manapouri, before a drive over Wilmot Pass



to Deep Cove where we'll board the Fiordland Navigator for our overnight cruise. Doubtful Sound is a large and remote wilderness area, where you'll have the opportunity to take a kayak out on the water or hop aboard the tender craft for a guided exploration of the fiord, and in the right season you may catch a glimpse of the rare Fiordland crested penguin. Tonight, you'll sleep in a quad share room aboard the Fiordland Navigator, though there is the option to upgrade to a private ensuite room, if you prefer.

Fiordland Navigator, Doubtful Sound (All meals)

DAY 2

Cruise in Doubtful Sound, hike Routeburn Track

You'll wake in the middle of Doubtful Sound and after breakfast we'll retrace our journey back to Manapouri. From there we'll drive to the Divide, where we'll hike part of the Routeburn Track, the first of the



Great Walks you'll experience. We hike through beech forest, sub-alpine shrub land and picturesque alpine tarns, before reaching Key Summit. Here you'll be standing at the head of three different valleys (the Hollyford, Eglinton and Greenstone), with stunning views over the Great Divide, which separates west and east flowing rivers. We'll take a short drive through the Homer Tunnel and emerge at the top of a spectacular glacier-carved valley for a memorable descent to the shore of Milford Sound (actually it's a fiord!) Rudyard Kipling rated Milford the eighth natural wonder of the world and it's truly breathtaking, with steep granite walls plunging over a thousand metres to the Tasman Sea and waterfalls cascading into deep inky water.

Milford Lodge Chalets, Milford Sound (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 3.4 kilometres (2 miles), 3-4 hours

Elevation Gain: 380 metres (1,246 feet)

Elevation Loss: 380 metres (1,246 feet)

DAY 3

Hike Milford Track, cruise Milford Sound

It's worth getting up early to take a photo of Mitre Peak, quite possibly the most photographed mountain in New Zealand, but your challenge is to find a unique angle! After breakfast, we'll take a short boat ride across Milford



Sound to hike from Sandfly Point to the Giant Gates waterfall, a spectacular section of the famed Milford Track. The forest here is lush and rich with mosses and ferns as we follow the Arthur River past Lake Ada. By hiking from the Milford Sound trailhead, we'll enjoy the track to ourselves, which is a luxury others seldom get. Once we return to the Milford wharf, we'll board a boat for a two hour nature cruise to the head of this spectacular fiord. We'll then leave Milford Sound behind to hike some lesser-known tracks in eastern Fiordland before returning to Te Anau.

Te Anau lodgings, Te Anau (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 10 kilometres (6 miles), 3-4 hours

Elevation Gain: 300 metres (985 feet)

Elevation Loss: 300 metres (985 feet)

DAY 4

Takahe Bird Park, hike Kepler Track

This morning we're heading for a Department of Conservation birdlife park in Te Anau. The centre takes care of injured or ageing birds which would struggle to survive in the wild - it's a great opportunity to see



some of our rarest birds up close, so don't forget your camera! Afterwards we'll tick off our third Great Walk in three days - the Kepler Track. Interestingly, the Kepler Track differs from the Routeburn and Milford Tracks in that it didn't actually evolve from a necessary Maori greenstone trail, but was custom-built for hiking. The section we'll hike today passes over the control gates at the outlet of Lake Te Anau and meanders through ancient beech and podocarp forest.

Te Anau lodgings, Te Anau (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 9.5 kilometres (6 miles), 2-3 hours

Elevation Gain: 50 metres (165 feet)

Elevation Loss: 50 metres (165 feet)

DAY 5

Gondola ride, hike Ben Lomond

Today we'll drive back along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown, and take a ride on the gondola to the top of a tree-covered rocky crag, known as Bob's Peak, to start our alpine hike. We pass through open



alpine tussock-land to the Ben Lomond saddle and will be rewarded with panoramic views of Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, surrounded by the often snow-covered Southern Alps. For those keen to press on to the top, Ben Lomond's summit reveals views of Mt Earnslaw and Mt Aspiring, two of New Zealand's highest peaks, and even a glimpse of Aoraki/Mt Cook on a clear day. We'll leave you refreshed and invigorated from the good food, exercise, rest, and great times you'll have had with us in New Zealand! For a great way to see the North Island too, where you'll experience Maori culture, pristine beaches and geothermal areas, combine this trip with our 11-day or 5-day 'Kauri'.

(Breakfast, Lunch)

Ben Lomond Hiking Distance (From the gondola): 8 kilometres (5 miles), 4-5 hours

Elevation Gain: 978 metres (3,208 feet)

Elevation Loss: 978 metres (3,208 feet)

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To book please contact :

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