

# 4 day climbing expeditions

for a quick for a quick getaway



season  
nov-april

price  
nz\$2,950 1:1  
nz\$1,825 1:2

Access

fly-walk or

walk-walk  
nofly option

Bonus

1 day weather contingency

most technical gear provided

Dates

Let us know your dates and we can schedule a guide for your trip



If you are looking for a short stint in the mountains you can experience a fantastic and rewarding ascent in only four days. This could also be a first summit under the watchful eye of your guide.

We offer two different approaches:

### Walk-in and walk-out (nofly option)

- Mt Earnslaw (2816m)
- Mt Barth (2456m)
- Mt Brewster (2515m)
- Mt Barff (2245m)
- The Footstool (2764m)
- Mt Sealey (2627m)

### Fly-in and fly-out

- Mt Dixon (3004m)
- The Minarets (3040m)
- Lendenfeld Peak (3194m)

## description of area

**Mt Earnslaw** (grade 2) is situated at the head of Lake Wakatipu - an area that has high spiritual, cultural, historic and traditional associations. This area is protected by Ngai Tahu - a NZ Maori tribe. This mountain stands as a guardian over the pounamu (greenstone) resource. This area was also a main location for filming "Lord of the Rings". The climb of this relatively accessible peak will take a fit person no time at all with some good instruction. It is a challenging peak, and will test stamina, technique; you will possibly cross your first glacier, and upgrade your climbing skills. There is a splendid view of the BIG mountains of New Zealand from the top. Access is via the Rees valley and four wheel drive track. A scenic beech forest hike takes you through tussock and then scree and snow to Wright Col where Esquilant Bivvy (2300 metres) is. This is your home for 3 nights. There is a couple of demanding days and all trips depart given a reasonable forecast. There is no helicopter involved in this ascent.

**Mt Barth** (grade 2) lies in the Ahuriri Valley which borders onto the Mount Aspiring National Park. It offers a true wilderness experience. This valley saddles with the Dingle, Hunter, South Huxley, South Temple and Maitland Valleys. (excellent fishing reported here !) The head of the Ahuriri valley and upper Canyon Creek can be reached in a day on foot. There is a stream to cross on the way in, so be prepared for wet feet! The walk in offers varied terrain through bush, Beech forest, stream bank, shingle and boulder hopping through a canyon (our Shangri-La). A large bivvy rock is our camp, in the middle of the valley, beyond a major bluff. We climb Mount Barth from Canyon Creek bivvy rock. We cross the Thurneyson glacier and follow the West Ridge to the summit. There is no helicopter involved in this ascent.

**Mt Brewster** (grade 2) is fairly remote and the only way to get there is to walk from the car park at State highway 6 (which leads to the West Coast). A refreshing river crossing is followed by a solid three hour uphill push through Beech forest. Once you pass the tree line you are getting close. The hut is located on a beautiful tussock terrace. With views towards the Makarora valley and the surrounding peaks of Armstrong (another objective for those wanting more) and Brewster. To get to Brewster the slopes of Armstrong are sidled on narrow tussock benches. Steep creeks quickly transform into deep gorges below. Now the ridge is followed adjacent to the Brewster Glacier. There are more than one ways to climb Mt Brewster (pictured right), depending on the mountain and your condition. South West face Grade 2+ snow gullies are followed to the summit ridge. West ridge Grade 2 the glacier is traversed and then mixed travel along the ridge to the summit. The views looking along the spine of the divide towards Mt Cook is a very special one. Descend south face and traverse to regain the approach route on ridge. The approach there and back adds to an already impressive day.



**Mt Barff** (grade 2) lies in the Mt Aspiring National Park.

You won't get sick of the views of Mt. Aspiring from this peak. Mt Barff is located near the head of the West Matukituki Valley opposite Mount Aspiring. The track to Liverpool departs the west Matukituki track at Pearl flat. From here the track ascends through steep Beech forest in a way that this and the French ridge track are well renowned for. Exposed tree roots present themselves as welcome aid. Out of the trees the travel becomes exposed over tussock and shingle to the hut (1065m). The South East ridge (grade 2) A big day with lots of height gain. Cold conditions are the ideal to keep things firm for the descent.

**The Footstool** (grade 2+) sits on the main divide overlooking the confluence of the Mueller and Hooker valleys, with exceptional views of Mt Cook's South Face. From the summit there are views to the Copland valley and the West Coast. We start walking from Mt Cook Village, walk in via hooker track travel up steep scree tussock and rock ledges to access Sefton Bivy nestled below Mt footstool and Mt Sefton. Climb Footstool (2764m), via main divide and return to Sefton bivy. Watch and listen the impressive ice calving off the Sefton icefall. Return to Mount Cook Village for well earned beers back at the Hermitage.

**Mt Sealy** (grade 1) is an easier trip, to assist with becoming more comfortable in the mountains. At 1800 metres on the Sealy Range it's in a great location to lookout on some of New Zealand's highest peaks, including impressive icefall on Mt Sefton. A steep track through alpine scrub and herb fields leads to Sealy Tarns, then scree and snow to Muller Hut (1800m). Relax and take in the imposing east face of Sefton and south Face of Mt Cook. Climb Mt Ollivier (1933m) and Kitchener. Climb Mt Annette - bivy on Annette plateau or return to Mueller hut. Climb Mt Sealey via the South west Face. The approach is via Annette plateau to Sladden saddle. Pitches of steep snow are followed by pitches of mixed ground to gain the ridge that leads to the summit. Abseil and descend same route.

**Mt Dixon** (grade 2+ or 3-) sits on the northern edge of the Grand Plateau, amongst the large and famous peaks such as Aoraki/Mt Cook and Mt Tasman (plus at least 6 other 3000+ peaks). Climbing Mt Dixon from the new Plateau hut (2100m) provides fantastic views of all of these majestic mountains and the Tasman glacier (NZ's largest glacier). Two routes are up for grabs; either the East Ridge (2+) or South Ridge (3-). Either route makes a great build up to climbing the Linda glacier route of Mt Cook or the Syme/Silberhorn traverse of Mt Tasman's south ridge. A mix of steep snow, winding arêtes and moderate rock scrambling lead to the defined summit and superb view in all directions. The slightly easier east ridge is predominantly snow which can be very steep on the lower part of the route.

**The Minarets** (grade 2) are climbed from Centennial hut (2400m) which is situated on the West Coast of NZ. Combines alpine grandeur with the Tasman Sea views, and incredible sunsets to the west are something not to be missed. A moderately technical snow climb crossing the crevasse riddled *Chamberlain* snow field and the *Geike* snowfield, this climb is a rewarding test of physical and mental fitness, with views from the summit both out to sea and down the Tasman Glacier (NZ's largest glacier).

This route accesses the Minarets via steep snow near Graham saddle. Avoiding the bergschrund here is often the crux of the climb. The route then continues in more relaxed fashion to the twin summits. All 12-16 hours from pre-dawn start to a mid afternoon well earned cuppa!

**Lendenfeld Peak** (grade 2) places you in a position of seeing both sides of the great divide. It lies on the Main Divide of the Southern Alps next to Mount Tasman and across from Mount Cook. The climb starts from Pioneer Hut at 2300m on the Fox Glacier and ascends across the upper neve through an icefall to Marcel Col at 3000m. From here the route is moderate snow/ice climbing to the summit of Mt. Lendenfeld. The vista both east and west from Marcel Col and Lendenfeld Peak is hard to describe - something you won't believe it's possible to experience. Fly into Pioneer hut and fly out.

## sample itinerary

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day one	Meet your guide at our offices in Wanaka at 8:30am. Discuss weather and match objectives. Check gear and depart for your four day adventure either walking in or flying into the desired location. If the weather prevents us entering the mountains we delay until the following day if that suits you.
day two/three	Spend these four days in the magnificent Southern Alps
day four	Return to Wanaka around 5pm after which seems like a long time away from the hectic world

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## experience required

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Since it is a fully guided trip, under the security of your guide, there is no real demand for previous mountaineering experience. The main requirements are good balance and foot placement, and the usual endurance, as an ascent usually averages 10-12 hours return. We will ask you for information about your past outdoor experiences.

## access

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Depending on which peak you are climbing, either fly in or walk in to a hut or bivvy to be based at. Mt Dixon and the Minarets require helicopter access from either side of the main divide. This cost is extra. Walking into Mt Aspiring National Park for either Mt Earnslaw or Mt Barth is a fantastic experience as climbing a peak in its entirety enhances the satisfaction. There are few people in the area.

## egress

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Walking out is the standard for most trips except the Minarets option. A flight out will be organised by your guide. The Mt Dixon option offers a challenging walk out to Mount Cook village if you have energy left!

## bonus extras

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- ▲ Weather is always a consideration in the high mountains. We provide an optional extra 1 day weather contingency for FREE to increase your chances of a successful ascent, just in case we have bad weather at the start of your trip. This means that your 4-day ascent could start up to 1 day later. We recommend you allow some flexibility with your travel arrangements.
- ▲ You will notice that most of your technical equipment is included the price of your ascent, making the “extras” affordable.

## logistics

duration	4 days
price	NZ\$ 2,950 1:1 or NZ\$ 1,825 1:2 * flights extra
access	Fly-in or walk-in
season	November to April
guide-client ratio	1:1 or 1:2 maximum
prerequisites	No previous mountaineering experience, and a good standard of fitness
accommodation	Hut/bivvy
bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ 1 day weather contingency</li> <li>▲ technical equipment provided</li> </ul>

The price includes: qualified guide and permit fees, all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees, technical equipment. Additional expenses are for rental equipment if required. Early confirmation is particularly encouraged for the coming season.

## grading system

Standard NZ grading system is used for alpine routes in normal conditions.

grade 1	Easy scramble. Use of rope generally only for glacier travel.
grade 2	Steeper trickier sections may need a rope.
grade 3	Longer steeper sections generally. Use of technical equipment necessary. Ice climbs may require two tools.
grade 4	Technical climbing. Knowledge of how to place ice and rock gear quickly and efficiently a must. Involves a long day.
grade 5	Sustained technical climbing. May have vertical sections on ice.
grade 6	Multiple crux sections. Vertical ice may not have adequate protection. Good mental attitude and solid technique necessary. May require a bivvy on route and be a long way from civilisation.
grade 7	Grade 7 and beyond is possible but not yet established in the region.

## about aspiring guides

- ▲ Since 1990... our website has details on our team.
- ▲ **We are about action.** We will spend as much time in the mountains as possible actually climbing peaks and developing skills. You don't gain judgment, skills and safe practices in the classroom.
- ▲ We are **specialists** in instruction courses. Attending one of these specialist courses will shortcut the road to mountaineering proficiency.
- ▲ Our trips offer the 'wilderness' approach to the mountains. We retain the option to stay in alpine huts ... with fine weather we will base ourselves from alpine camps (often combined with an overnight bivouac). This factor alone offers a greater perception and awareness of the mountain environment.

- ▲ Our **specialist** guides are NZMGA / IFMGA certified. They have impressive backgrounds with inspiring futures. They are friendly and personable; focused on delivering a safe, enjoyable and informative trips. 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 receiving a professional service.
- ▲ We maintain a maximum guide to client ratio of 1:4 to reduce our impact on an area and give participants the best possible attention by the guide.
- ▲ Our activities are based in the Mount Aspiring, Westland, Cook, Fiordland National Parks, one of the most scenic and unspoilt alpine regions in the world. There are numerous peaks and routes of various difficulties making this an ideal training ground for any of the world's mountain ranges.
- ▲ The most important attributes in mountaineering are a solid climbing standard and mountain awareness; sound judgement of your own ability; good preparation and decision-making skills
- ▲ Partnership with Jagged Globe UK - the world's expedition leaders, also the first professional operator to climb an 8000m peak, Mount Everest and all Seven Summits. [www.jagged-globe.co.uk](http://www.jagged-globe.co.uk)

## we care about you

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We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable therefore offering our bonus one day weather contingency on all courses, trips and ascents. Our philosophy here at Aspiring Guides is such that we aim to cover all aspects of a mountaineering trip with you. This includes preparatory housekeeping matters too: let us know what you do/don't like eating, any allergies/medical conditions, and any special requests. We recognise that the world of mountaineering presents a challenge right from the start; namely; getting the detailed information, selecting the right option and having faith in the guiding company you decide to invest your time and money with.

## location and itinerary

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We will meet you in Wanaka at the scheduled appointment time, usually 8:30am on day one. The Aspiring Guides office is situated at 99 Ardmore Street, Wanaka on the main thoroughfare and only 50 metres from the shores of Lake Wanaka. Wanaka is the gateway to the Mount Aspiring National Park, and the Southern Alps. Our office staff can offer advice with accommodation and shuttle reservations, and of course, local attractions. Wanaka is very popular during the winter and summer months. Please arrange your accommodation as early as possible.

## booking and cancellations

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NZ\$500 deposit per person confirms your booking. Full payment must be made 60 days before commencement date. If the balance is not received by the specified date, we reserve the right to cancel your booking and your deposit will be forfeited, unless a delay in your payment has been agreed by a director of Aspiring Guides Limited. Should you cancel your booking for any reason you will receive a full refund less a cancellation fee: more than 60 days NZ\$200 per person, between 60 and 30 days NZ\$500 per person, between 29 and 15 days 75% of the total course or trip fee. Cancellation less than 15 days or during your trip no refund will be given.

## weather

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### How does the one day weather contingency work?

Aspiring Guides is the only NZ Guiding Company that offers this bonus to its clients. Instead of a wasted day doing other activities with your guide (inside or outside) as the weather permits, you can defer your trip for one day and not waste any precious guiding time. You will start the next day with the full number of days allocated for the trip still available. While one day may not be the cure for all bad weather situations, sometimes an extra day at the start of your trip can make all the difference.

The one day Weather Contingency applies only to the start date of your trip. This means your trip could start a day late if you choose to use this option.

Once a trip begins there is no additional weather contingency days allowed. There are also no refunds for bad weather. Check out our excellent website for current mountain and weather conditions. See also our booking terms and conditions.

### **What happens if the weather is bad?**

The mountains are immune to human plans and expectations. We need to make our plans flexible to allow for inclement weather and other unfavourable conditions. When the weather is bad in the mountains we will make a decision whether to attempt entering the mountains on each given day. We do not believe that entering the high country soaked to the skin and a bad forecast is a good idea. Your guides are very experienced and will attempt to the best of their ability to make the best decision they can. In the unlikely event adverse weather prevents a trip from immediately moving into the mountains, you have the opportunity to carry out sub alpine adventures and skill development activities until the conditions improve. This decision will be made by your guides to optimise and make valuable use of your time. Fortunately there is a lot which can be achieved during bad weather from Wanaka. Some of the best rockclimbing in New Zealand is 15 minutes drive from our office. These cliffs are set up with sport climbing routes as well as quality 'natural' lines providing an ideal venue for ropes skills training, developing rescue techniques, and even for working on your rock climbing skills.

In the unlikely event of weather and/or conditions preventing an ascent your chosen peak from happening, an alternative venue/ascent will be recommended. Any additional expenses (helicopter, transport) will be added to your account. Your guide remains employed for 4 days wages, whether or not you want to continue with alternative activities.

In the unlikely event of a trip being held up longer than anticipated in the mountains, for any reason, AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF NZ\$450 PER GUIDE PER DAY IS CHARGED (this is a cost price and will be divided between the trip participants). Your guide/s are working until you return to our offices at the trip finish.

### **What weather can you expect on your trip?**

In summer the general mountain climbing season runs from November through to mid May with the warmest month being January with 16 hours of daylight on the longest day. Temperatures can remain high during this period by day and drop to - 5 degrees Celsius overnight.

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 such as snow, rock and ice). March and April bring late summer conditions which are mainly a combination of rock and ice routes. Generally we experience our first alpine snowfall mid May onwards.

## meals and snacks

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Energy snacks and nutritious meals are an essential ingredient in helping you perform to your highest standard. We provide excellent meals and plenty of it. We cater for your specific dietary requirement.

## maps and guidebooks

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We have maps and guide books available for purchase in our office. Alternatively, we can post these to you.

## valuables and luggage

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Additional luggage and valuables can be securely stored at our office during your trip.

## insurance

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We strongly recommend that all our clients carry travel insurance which covers you while travelling to and from NZ, luggage mishaps, and in case you have to cancel your trip. The New Zealand Accident Compensation System (ACC) will

cover most of the expenses relating to an evacuation and/or medical treatment/rehabilitation in the unlikely event of an accident occurring. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for personal medical conditions. You are not entitled to bulk payments for compensation and you cannot claim damages for costs under the ACC act (no legal action can be made in NZ). Whilst our focus is on safety we will not be responsible for any evacuation or medical costs resulting from any accident. Likewise equipment damage or loss remain your responsibility. Some insurance companies can provide adventure activities' cover - if you wish to investigate this option further, please contact our office for information.

## communication and messages

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Our climbing trips and courses are in radio and satellite phone communications with our Operations/Safety base and the Department of Conservation local office who manages each National park area. We obtain weather information and coordinate helicopters through these channels. In some circumstances mountain radio links are available for the relay of any urgent messages.

## fitness & health

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To make the most of your learning experience it is advisable to be fit enough to partake in the activities with enough stamina to get the most participation and enjoyment. We have two editorials on our website (Online Magazine) on how to prepare for mountaineering. Your guide places special focus on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

## how to book

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To register for a trip, you can book online through our excellent website. Your deposit of NZ\$500 may be paid by Visa or Mastercard, or bank transfer (NZ only). The forms required can be found on our website. Our booking terms and conditions are detailed on our online booking form on our website. Balance of payment is required 60 days before your trip start.

We will send an appointment email approximately 4 weeks before your trip is due to commence. We will provide final information and ask for more information from you, e.g. dietary requirement, trip objectives and/or concerns, height and weight, fitness and any equipment rental required.

We look forward to sharing your aspirations...  
and the opportunity of climbing with you in the future

the team @ aspiring guides

