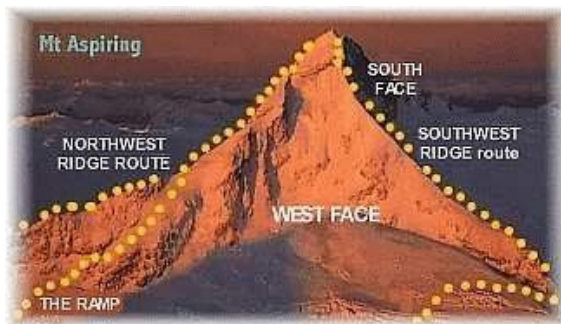


# mount aspiring

the matterhorn of the south



Mount Aspiring is a majestic peak. Aspiring Guides are your local alpine specialists for this classic ascent.

The North West Ridge of Aspiring is an ideal but challenging mountain for climbers who already have a basic grounding in alpine skills. There are a variety of rock and snow approaches that may be used to attain the upper slopes of the North West Ridge, with the ultimate choice being determined by your guide according to seasonal changes in glacial conditions. The classic South West Ridge offers sustained and exposed snow and ice climbing for the more technically adept. Good cramponing skills are paramount, and expect to be thrilled by the exciting finish to this wonderful climb.

An ascent of Aspiring takes on average 12 - 16 hours return from the standard point of departure. The walk out from the mountain is a further two days through spectacular alpine scenery. A good base level of fitness and endurance will ensure that you have a rewarding trip.

Alternatively, if conditions dictate, we ascend via the entirety of the North West ridge (Shipowner Ridge - mixed snow and rock) which involves climbing and traversing a series of rock ledges and gendarmes which lead up to the summit ridge. Both these routes are rewarding and exhilarating climbs.


We also guide the Classic South West ridge and the North Buttress; these are more technical routes, guided on a 1:1 ratio and are subject to current route conditions and your skill level.


## aspiring national park


Welcome to Mount Aspiring National Park and its wonderful mixture of remote wilderness, high mountains and beautiful river valleys. It is a walker's paradise and a must for mountaineers. The views are endless and unforgettable. Mt Aspiring National Park straddles the southern end of the Southern Alps. The closest towns are Wanaka, Queenstown, Glenorchy and Te Anau. It is one of New Zealand's larger parks at 355,543 hectares and it lies alongside the largest, Fiordland National Park.


The park is part of Te Wahipounamu - Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area. Ancient Maori trails led through parts of what is now park. Travellers passed through in search of pounamu (greenstone), much valued as a material for tools, weapons and ornaments. After European settlement many of the valleys were farmed and exploited for minerals such as scheelite. Remnants of these activities can still be found in and around the park. Tourism development began in the late 1880s. Even then it was possible to take a guided trip into the Routeburn Valley.


The park spans a large area, from the Haast River in the north to the Humboldt Mountains in the south. Large valleys, carved out by ancient glaciers, dissect high mountain ranges. Mt Aspiring itself is the only peak over 3000 metres outside Mount Cook National Park. One of the most unusual areas in the park is the Red Hills 'mineral belt' in the southwest. Here the concentration of magnesium in the soil is so high that only a few hardy plants survive.



**season**  
 late september to april  
 winter ascents on application



**price**  
 from NZ\$ 4,050pp 5 day fly-in  
 NZ\$4,900pp 7 day walk-in


**access**  
 fly in, walk out  
 or walk-in and out


**route**  
 north west ridge  
 grade  
 2+  
**guide ratio**  
 1:1 or 2:2 or 3:3


**route**  
 south west ridge  
 grade  
 3+  
**guide ratio**  
 1:1


**mount aspiring**  
 maori name  
 tititea  
 height  
 3027m, 9928ft


**bonus**  
 optional 1 day weather  
 contingency

includes air access  
 technical gear provided

Beech forests dominate below the bush line. Each beech species favours slightly different growing conditions so while you might find red beech in sunny, frost-free situations, you will find silver or mountain beech at higher altitudes, happily surviving winter snow falls. Ribbonwoods are among the first to colonise open areas (caused by slips and avalanches); these are among New Zealand's few deciduous trees. Above the bushline are snow tussock grasslands and herbfields with mountain buttercups, daisies, and ourisias.

Rifleman, bellbird, South Island robin, yellow crowned parakeet, mohua (yellowhead), tomtit, South Island fantail and New Zealand pigeon are common bush birds. Towards evening, native bats and moreporks (small owls) may be seen and heard. Blue ducks and paradise shelducks live in the valley. Introduced animals include whitetail deer in the lower Routeburn valley, red deer throughout the forested areas and chamois about the mountaintops. Possums, rats and stoats are widespread. Introduced brown and rainbow trout are found in the lower Route Burn and brown trout are present in Lake Howden.

The park's alpine areas are home to the threatened rock wren and the high-profile kea. These mischievous mountain parrots have been known to take an unhealthy interest in visitors' packs and tents.

Mount Aspiring is often referred to as the 'Matterhorn of the South'. The local Maori people have several names for the peak, .... 'Tititea' which means Glistening Peak and 'Te Maakahi o Tuterakiwhanoa' which comes from the traditions of the Waitaha people and describes the wedge (maakahi) of a legendary figure, Tuterakiwhanoa who used it to shape landscapes.



## sample itinerary

day one	Meet your guide in Wanaka at our office 8:30am. Check equipment. Drive to Raspberry flat helicopter staging area (approx 1 hour down the magnificent Matukituki Valley). Dress for alpine landing, then fly into Bevan Col (the start of the glacier). Here we fit crampons, work on skills such as self-arresting, rope management, cramponing. We rope together for glacier travel, and walk over the glacier for approximately two hours to Colin Todd hut (1800m) or camp if the weather is fine. Mid summer rewards us with light until 9-10pm.
day two	You've heard of an alpine start, now it's your turn. We wake EARLY, have breakfast, and start out by the light of our headlamps. By the time the sun rises, we're well into our adventure, and have gained a good amount of elevation. Then terrain and views become progressively more impressive. Finally, the summit! (1220m of vertical ascent) Descend back to our camp or the hut for the night.
day three	Rest day or further skills.
day four	Walk down from the Bonar glacier through the snowline to French Ridge hut or via Bevan Col depending on conditions.
day five	Walk lower down through the bush line to the Matukituki Valley floor and meander along the river back towards the Raspberry flat car park and road end. We drive back to Wanaka feeling exhilarated.

**NB :** Please note that this itinerary is a **sample only** and the actual itinerary may vary at the discretion of your guide. Weather, conditions and personal ability and needs may make changes necessary or advantageous to the participants.



## experience required

---

### north west ridge

As you are under the security of your experienced guide, an ascent of the north-west ridge of Aspiring has no real demand for previous mountaineering experience on a 1:1 guide-client ratio. Good balance and foot placement is required for “The Ramp” (pitched climbing up 40-degree snow). Good endurance and fitness is also an asset - an ascent of Aspiring from the hut averages around 14 hours return.

### south west ridge

Some degree of previous mountaineering experience or rock climbing is recommended for the south-west ridge route of Mt Aspiring. Good balance and foot placement is also required. We will ask for details of your previous climbing experience on registration.

## access

---

The walk into the Mt Aspiring region is a long and beautiful walk. If you prefer to walk-in and walk-out, the format will be 7 days. We usually walk-in to French ridge hut on day one, or for a more direct approach, after 10 to 12 hours we arrive at Bevan Col or Colin Todd Hut where we base ourselves for the climb. If a porter is used to assist with load carrying to French Ridge Hut there is an additional fee of NZ\$300.

The majority of our guests prefer to utilise helicopter access to Bevan Col which alleviates the walk in, and most importantly can allow us to take advantage of fine weather periods. We believe that it is wise to use favourable weather conditions as quickly as possible, and for this reason we have included aircraft access in our price. By using a helicopter for access, you can maximise your energy on the mountain and your time spent climbing. If flying, fresh food can also be taken in to add to the enjoyment of the expedition.

## egress

---

It is possible to fly out from Bevan Col, but the usual practice is to walk out. This can either be via the Bevan Col route (a very long days walk over difficult terrain) or to the Quarter Deck and then down French Ridge to French Ridge Hut. Please be aware that walking out usually takes 2 days, and must be undertaken as part of the trip. Your guide will decide which route is most suitable for the conditions at the time. The cost of a helicopter out from Bevan Col is approx. NZ\$600-1000 depending on loadings, whether a backflight is available, and which helicopter company is available.

## bonus extras

---

- ▲ 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 and we are unable to fly in. This means that your 5-day ascent could start one 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

---

grading	NW ridge 2+ SW ridge 3+
duration	5 days fly-in, walk-out or 7 days walk-in, walk-out no helicopter option plus 1 weather contingency day
price	from NZ\$ 4,050 for 5 day fly-in walk-out NZ\$4,900 for 7 day walk-in walk-out
access	Fly-in and walk out or walk-walk option If you prefer to walk-in and walk-out, the format will be 7 days. We usually walk-in to French ridge hut on day one, or for a more direct approach, after 10 to 12 hours we arrive at Bevan Col or Colin Todd Hut where we base ourselves for the climb. If a porter is used with load carrying to French Ridge hut there is an additional fee of NZ\$300.
season	November through April. Winter ascents may be scheduled. For a true alpine experience, book from September - early January. Later than this the temperatures change the conditions to alpine rock and ice/snow conditions (NW ridge route) until it snows again in winter from May
guide-client ratio	1:1 or 2:2 or 3:3
prerequisites	Good balance and secure footing. Previous use of crampons, and a good level of fitness. Rock climbing or use of ropes a great advantage.
accommodation	Hut or tent or bivvy
bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ Optional 1 day weather contingency</li> <li>▲ Most technical gear provided</li> </ul>

The price includes: qualified guide and permit fees, all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees, some technical equipment, helicopter access and landing fees (for the fly/walk option). Additional expenses are for rental equipment, porter fees (if used) and for flight out if required. Early confirmation is particularly encouraged for the coming season.

---

Also check out our website for details on our Aspiring Expedition Course - 8 days - 1:2 ratio  
[http://www.aspiringguides.com/adv\\_mt\\_aspiring\\_expedition.html](http://www.aspiringguides.com/adv_mt_aspiring_expedition.html)

---



## 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 alpine guiding and instruction courses.
- ▲ 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

## we care about you

---

We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable therefore offer a bonus one day weather contingency on all fly-in 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

---

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

---

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

---

### 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 expedition ascent of Mount Aspiring 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 5/7 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 I expect on my 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

---

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 requirements.

## maps and guidebooks

---

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

## valuables and luggage

---

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

## insurance

---

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

---

Our climbing trips and courses are in radio and satellite phone communications with our Operations/Safety base and the Department of Conservation local office that manages the Mt Aspiring 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

---

To make the most of your adventure 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

---

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

