

# Mt Aspiring Expedition Course



  
season  
november to april

  
price  
NZ\$3,200\*  
1 guide: 2 clients  
8 days

  
access  
fly in and walk out

  
guide ratio  
1:2  
(bring a friend)

  
bonus

most technical gear provided

free mountain skills  
handbook



This 8-day advanced technical course was developed to teach state of the art alpine climbing techniques.

It is structured with a focus on enabling a self-contained ascent of a 3000m peak in the future. The course builds upon a wide range of skills enabling you to move with confidence through the mountain environment and preparing you for more technical routes. Whether your preference is towards technical rock routes or classic ice climbs you will find the Aspiring Expedition Course a great way to attain the necessary skills.

**Mount Aspiring** (3027m/9928ft grade 2+NW ridge) is the only 3000m peak outside of Mount Cook National Park. It is called the Matterhorn of the South. The NW ridge can be accessed from the Bonar glacier by climbing up what is referred to as The Ramp. This involves up to 8-9 pitches of climbing on a snow / ice ramp which leads onto a ridge climb to the Summit snow cap. This involves snow and ice terrain up to the summit. *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.*

You will learn from very experienced and qualified guides the skills that have enabled them to excel in their own climbing and guiding careers. It is more than just a course. It is an opportunity to develop an approach to the mountains which has been tried, and proven, on many a successful venture by Aspiring Guides.

## course content

The emphasis of our Aspiring expedition course is to climb a 3000m peak whilst expanding and re-developing the following essential skills:

- ▲ snow and ice climbing
- ▲ belaying and rope skills
- ▲ glacier travel techniques
- ▲ route selection & navigation
- ▲ weather analysis and forecasting
- ▲ avalanche awareness
- ▲ camp management and emergency shelters
- ▲ crevasse and alpine rescue
- ▲ alpine rock climbing

## sample itinerary

day one	We meet at 8:30am in Wanaka, check weather and conditions. All gear is checked and rental equipment fitted. 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, 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. Cramponing and self arresting skills are taught and demonstrated by the guide and practiced until it becomes second nature. We go over the basic skills to ensure a consistency of technique before moving onto the more advanced skills.
day two	We perfect our cramponing skills. Snow anchors are built. Roping up for glacier travel and practice on glaciated terrain. Pitching up slopes is introduced.
day three	Today we make an ascent of Mt Rolling Pin. This allows us to put skills learnt on previous days into practice on an ascent.
day four	Today we can move into more technical aspects such as ice climbing and crevasse rescue. A radio call provides the latest weather forecast each evening.
day five	The weather still holds so our alpine start leads us into an ascent of Mt Aspiring. This will take a full day.
day six	A well deserved sleep rests everyone. Bad weather rolls in giving us a chance to focus on navigation and weather, and advanced rope skills that can be practised in the hut.
day seven	Ascent of Mt Bevan. After this we make our way off the glacier to the valley floor with a descent of Bevan Col to bivi in upper West Matukituki valley.
day eight	Walk to Raspberry flat and return to Wanaka (having already done a course debrief) and the rental equipment is returned. A much welcome shower and change of clothes is in order, then everyone swaps addresses and makes plans for the next adventure over dinner and a few drinks.

## logistics

duration	8 days
price	NZ\$ 3,200
access	Fly in and walk out
season	November to April
guide-client ratio	1 guide : 2 clients
prerequisites	Background in rock climbing and / or mountaineering, and a desire to extend yourself to new heights. A good standard of fitness is also required and makes any mountain experience more fulfilling (our website has fitness hints)
accommodation	Hut or bivvy



## bonus

- ▲ Most of your technical equipment is included the price of your course, making the “extras” affordable. You will need to bring/rent your own boots.
- ▲ All accommodation during the course will be provided: hut, bivvy, tent or lodge (except the last night).

The trip price includes: qualified guide/instructor, permit fees, air access, all meals and energy foods, hut fees, some technical equipment, instruction manual. Additional costs are for any non-technical rental equipment.

## course dates

Get a friend organised and book yourself in for an 8 day Expedition Course. 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 late May.

## 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

## we care about you

We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable. 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 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

In summer the general mountain climbing season runs from November through April 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.

The mountains are immune to human plans and expectations. Be prepared for all conditions, it could be hot, cold, sunny and stormy within a 24 hour period. When the weather is bad in the mountains we will make a decision whether to attempt entering the mountains on each given day. 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. Alternative locations and activities will be reviewed with you.

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.

## 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 requirement.

## maps and guidebooks

We have maps and guide books available for purchase in our office. Alternatively, we can post these to you. A mountaineering handbook (included in the price) will be given to you when we meet 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 that 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.

## how hard will the course be?

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Initially the course will be structured around instruction of techniques whilst acclimatising you to the mountain environment. A few days into the course the climbing days will be longer and more challenging. During fine weather periods and course dependent, you could start as early as 3 am when embarking on the longer ascents. Most days will involve 8-10 hours of activity. Some aspects of the mountains may seem foreign at the outset, e.g. sleeping in a snow cave or open bivouac but your guide is there to help ease you through these new challenges.

## 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.

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.

You can fly to Wanaka from Christchurch on a twice daily service ([www.airnz.co.nz](http://www.airnz.co.nz)). Alternatively if this connection is not possible from Christchurch, fly to Queenstown, which is 1.5 hours by shuttle from Wanaka and costs NZ\$35 - [http://www.time2.co.nz/transport/wanaka\\_connexions](http://www.time2.co.nz/transport/wanaka_connexions). Direct Trans-Tasman flights are available to Queenstown,



Dunedin & Christchurch. Intercity express coachlines provide a service from Christchurch to Wanaka departing 7:45am and arriving at Wanaka 2:10pm. (contact 0800-100-663 or [www.intercitycoach.co.nz](http://www.intercitycoach.co.nz))

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

the team @ aspiring guides

