

black peak tour



winter season
july to october
2011

Price

3 days

NZ\$1,200 per person 2 pax
plus helicopter approx NZ\$225

NZ\$1,100 per person 3 - 5 pax
plus helicopter approx NZ\$190

access
fly in, tour out

guide ratio
1:5 maximum
1:2 minimum

bonus
1 day weather contingency

2011 dates :

BP#1 Aug 11-12-13

BP#2 Aug 23-24-25

BP#3 Sep 12-13-14

This is a **stunning** adventure for the more experienced skier/boarder. We kick off the trip with a helicopter flight to the summit of Black Peak and riding superb untracked snow down the flanks of the mountain. We have access to some of the world's most spectacular alpine settings. Sunrises, sunsets and the magnificent views of surrounding peaks will leave you literally gobsmacked. Our private hut (1800m) on the mid reaches of Black Peak (2283m), is the perfect base for our overnight backcountry touring trips.

Black Peak is nestled in the heart of the Harris Mountains, Lake Wanaka, with Mount Aspiring and the Treble Cone Ski Area close by. Our hut sleeps 4 comfortably, and can manage up to 6. It is stocked with sleeping bags, heater, lighting, cooking equipment, and an outside toilet with a view!

tour content

The objective of this tour, besides churning up as much snow as possible, -is to demonstrate safe backcountry travel in an alpine environment. It is designed specifically with the independent mountain traveller in mind.

Costing you less than staying in a ski resort, backcountry touring can provide you with the ultimate experience. Skiers, telemarkers or boarders alike: if you can handle the untracked and have an adventurous spirit, don't deny yourself.

For your safety and enjoyment it is important that you can handle the untracked and/or variable snow and skiing with a pack; and snowboarders must be set up for backcountry travel with snowshoes and poles or a split snowboard with poles. We welcome telemark skiers (high boots and climbing skins are required).

experience required

For your safety and enjoyment it is important that you can ski or board the untracked and can carry a pack. Strong intermediate skier or boarder with backcountry touring experience.

access

Black Peak is a 5-7 hour skin/snowshoe from the summit of Treble Cone Ski Area or a 10 minute helicopter flight from the valley floor. While the reasonable cost of flying in saves time and energy for the ensuing days of touring, we like to travel out on skis/snowboard as part of the experience/learning. In doing this, we make informed judgement calls on the route taken, slopes to ski, slopes to avoid, and ongoing objective analysis of weather and snow conditions.

sample itinerary

prior to departure Meet with your guide at our offices 5pm on the evening prior to departure. Equipment is reviewed and your guide checks on the equipment required for the tour. Rental equipment is issued and last minute purchases can be made. A plan is made for the following morning.

days 1-3

We drive up the magnificent Matukituki valley to a waiting helicopter. We fly to the summit of Black Peak, ride down to the hut to drop excess gear. Our backpacks are light because sleeping bags, cooking gear and other necessities will already be in the hut.

Depending upon conditions, we may choose to circumnavigate Black Peak itself and enjoy a vista of Mount Aspiring. Checking out the surrounding mountains, we may drop into Escapade Bowl on the lakeside of Black Peak which offers steep chutes and excellent terrain for freshies. Focus will be on terrain evaluation (steepness of terrain, exposure, snow conditions). We will also talk about laying a proper track (considering climbing efficiency, steepness, speed, objective dangers etc.). Everything learned up to now will be applied for the trip out of Black Peak on day three.

tour dates

BP#1 Aug 11-12-13

BP#2 Aug 23-24-25

BP#3 Sep 12-13-14

logistics

duration	3 days - plus 1 weather contingency day (book your private group for any 3 days this winter subject to hut availability)
price	NZ\$1,1200 per person 2 pax - helicopter extra (approx NZ\$225) NZ\$1,100 per person 3 - 5 pax - helicopter extra (approx NZ\$190)
access	Fly-in* tour out
season	August & September & October - check with our office for hut availability or join a tour
guide-client ratio	1 guide : 5 clients maximum (2 minimum)
prerequisites	Strong Intermediate skiing or boarding, previous ski touring experience. We carry light packs as our hut is self-contained with essential items
accommodation	Private heated hut with sleeping bags and kitchen utilities, separate toilet
bonus	▲ 1 day weather contingency

The price includes: NZMGA qualified guide, all meals and energy foods, warm hut and bedding, and 12.5% NZ Goods and Services Tax.



location and itinerary

We will meet you in Wanaka at the scheduled appointment time, usually 5pm on the evening before your course start. 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 ski season. 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. 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.

we care about you

We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable therefore we offer a 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 backcountry 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 outdoor world 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.

weather

Let's explain the one day weather contingency ... Aspiring Guides provide a free one day weather contingency in case the weather is unflyable on day one. Your start day could be delayed by one day.

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 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, we will delay the trip start by a day.

If the weather continues to remain unstable and we are unable to fly into Black Peak hut, we will tour in an alternative location and activities will be introduced until such a time as the weather clears and the mountains can be entered (or) until the finish dates of the tour.

It is very rare for a course not to get into the mountains. In the unlikely event of a course 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 course participants). Your guide/s are working until you return to our offices at the course 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.

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 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 tour be?

Initially the tour will be structured around instruction of techniques whilst acclimatising you to the mountain environment - then the days will be longer and more challenging. Most days will involve 8 hours of activity. Some aspects of the mountains may seem foreign at the outset, but your guide is there to help ease you through these new challenges.

fitness & health

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. 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

