

## franz-tastic fox to franz josef trek



**season**  
november to april #

**duration**  
5 days



**price**

NZ\$2450 per person 2 pax  
NZ\$2250 per person 3-4 pax  
(min 2, max 4)



**guide ratio**  
1:2 min, 1:4 max



**access**  
fly in, fly out  
(flight out extra)



**scheduled dates 2011-2012**

FFF#1 14 - 18 nov  
FFF#2 12 - 16 dec  
FFF#3 9 - 13 jan  
FFF#4 13 - 17 feb  
FFF#5 12 - 16 mar



**bonus**

- ▲ 1 day weather contingency
- ▲ technical gear provided
- ▲ flight to Pioneer included

Fox and Franz Joseph Glaciers are famous for the day walks that happen on the glacier terminus where the ice is exposed.

However, these glaciers are enormous rivers of ice and it is the glacier's HIGHER ELEVATIONS where the real action begins. Up against the largest peaks in New Zealand the snow accumulates hundreds of meters thick before it flows slowly to sea level. These vast oceans of snow offer climbers and trekkers unparalleled opportunities. There are four huts in the area and many different options depending on ability, weather and snow conditions.

While many come to this area to climb the challenging peaks, simply travelling and exploring the Fox and Franz is an experience not to be missed. There are few places in the world that offer comparable views. Surrounded by enormous glaciers you can watch the sun set into the Tasman Sea - you can actually see the white surf on the coast. Trekking from hut to hut or simply doing day trips, you WILL be amazed.

**TRAVELLER'S TIP:** It is a 3.5 hour drive from Wanaka to Fox Glacier. The drive takes you over the beautiful Haast Pass into the famous west coast of the South Island. If your New Zealand itinerary already includes a visit to the west coast, why not incorporate the Franz-tastic Fox to Franz Josef Trek into your plans?

One of our guides, Gavin Lang, who has guided on the lower Franz Josef glacier, believes that no trip to the West Coast neves is complete without this "Franz-tastic" experience!

The Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers cut through dramatic glacial valleys to flow into temperate rainforest. While many glaciers world-wide have been retreating, these glaciers still flow almost to sea level, making them unique relics of the last Ice Age.

Although much melt occurs from the surface of the glaciers at lower elevations, this high snowfall continues to push ice down the valleys at very high rates. This is aided by basal sliding, caused by a layer of water beneath the glaciers, formed by the weight of the ice pushing against the valley floor. Both of these factors cause the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers to have flow rates that are up to 10 times faster than most valley glaciers.

Julius von Haast, geologist and explorer, named Franz Josef Glacier in 1863, after the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Approximately 7000 years old, and a remnant of a much older and larger glacier which originally swept right to the sea, Franz Josef Glacier extends 12 kilometres from its three feeder glaciers in the high snow fields of the Alps. Today the terminal face is a mere 19 kilometres from the sea and just 5 kilometres from the township.

### Maori Legend

Early Maori called this place Ka Roimata o Hinehukatere - The Tears of the Avalanche Girl (Hinehukatere). *Hinehukatere loved climbing in the mountains and persuaded her lover, Tawe, to climb with her. Tawe fell from the peaks to his death. Hinehukatere was broken hearted and her many, many tears froze to form the glacier.*

## skills progression

In addition to the satisfaction of each day's adventure, your guide will share a fundamental understanding of:

- ▲ Trip planning and preparation
- ▲ Glacier travel and crevasse rescue
- ▲ fundamental mountaineering techniques such as use of ice axe and crampons
- ▲ Mountain navigation
- ▲ Snowcaving and emergency shelters

## sample itinerary

day one	Meet your guide in Wanaka at 8:30am. Check equipment. Drive to the West Coast township of Fox Glacier (3.5 hrs). We fly by helicopter into Pioneer Hut (which has the most spectacular view of any mountain hut in the alps) at the top of the Fox glacier. We learn or refresh skills to allow us to move comfortably in this environment.
day two	We walk to Grey Peak which takes us higher up onto the very spine of the Southern Alps. Views of Mt Tasman and the eastern glaciers and lakes are a treat while we have lunch.
day three	We glacier-travel to Centennial Hut. Navigating the crevassed ice fields is an experience you will never forget.
day four	We will spend another night here at Centennial, so we either have a rest today, or take a day trip up to Graham Saddle for views of the Tasman Valley. Graham Saddle is the watershed for the Franz Joseph and Tasman glaciers.
day five	Travel to Aylmer Hut brings us down to the top of the Franz icefall. A helicopter rendezvous takes us back to Fox township.

## logistics

duration	5 days - plus 1 weather contingency day
price	NZ\$2,450* per person 2 pax, NZ\$2,250 per person 3 or 4 pax
access	Fly in and fly out. Flight out extra.
season	November to April - for dates earlier in the season (July to September) see details of our Summit to Sea Tour
guide-client ratio	Minimum 1 guide : 2 clients, maximum 1 guide : 4 clients
prerequisites	No technical experience required. This is a challenging trip requiring good fitness. Should be prepared to carry a 15 kg pack for 6 hours (not every day of the trip).
accommodation	Hut and perhaps 1 night snow caving

## bonus

- ▲ Most technical equipment and avalanche transceivers are supplied
- ▲ Flight included
- ▲ 1-day weather contingency

\*The price includes: qualified guide fee, flight into Pioneer hut, all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees, return ground transport ex Wanaka, and most of your technical equipment. The price does not include the helicopter flight out, and personal equipment (please refer to the list on our website).

## scheduled dates 2011 - 2012

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Join a scheduled trip, or book your own private trip on dates to suit

## 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 this trip. Our philosophy here at Aspiring Guides is such that we aim to cover all aspects of a glacier trekking 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 the mountains 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. 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 clients on fly-in trips. 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 are 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 day walks and rockclimbing in New Zealand are 15 minutes drive from our office.

In the unlikely event of weather and/or conditions preventing a Fox to Franz Josef trek from happening, an alternative venue will be recommended. Any additional expenses (helicopter, transport) will be added to your account. Your guide remains employed for 5 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 is 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

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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 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.

## 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.

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

the team @ aspiring guides

