

# private instruction



  
**summer**  
november to april

  
**Price\***


#	6 days	8 days	10 days
2	\$2,850	\$3,550	\$3,800
3	\$2,330	\$2,850	\$3,250
4	\$1,990	\$2,450	\$2,800

The 6, 8 or 10 day Private Instruction Course is designed to introduce you to a wide range of skills which will enable you to move with confidence through the mountain environment and if you desire, on to the more technical routes. You will find this course the best way to achieve the required skills, as it will be structured around your group's skill levels and progress at a comfortable pace.

You have the option to create your own itinerary and content, alternatively we will suggest an itinerary dependent upon your **aspirations**.

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.

  
**access**  
fly in  
\*flight out location dependent

  
**guide ratio**  
minimum 1:2  
maximum 1:4

  
**Bonus**  
customise your own course

- you choose
- ▲ dates
  - ▲ location
  - ▲ your party

most technical gear provided

## course content

Under the security of your guide, you will be learning by actually climbing peaks at a level that is conducive towards mountaineering competency. By participating in the Private Instruction Course your guide can introduce you to and teach the following 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
- ▲ mountain first aid

We will also aim to climb a few peaks during this time, to consolidate those very skills.



## sample itinerary

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This is a sample outline for other alpine courses. On a private instruction course **you call the shots** - use this itinerary as a guide to what you could achieve.

day one	We meet at 8:30am at the Aspiring Guides office in Wanaka. A gear check and course brief is done. Your guide will discuss your group's aspirations in more detail. We drive to Fox Glacier and weather permitting we fly into Centennial hut. Alternatively, if the weather is unsuitable for flying, a walk up to the glacier for some ice-climbing instruction. After flying in, we set up camp using either a snowcave, tent or mountain hut. Snow craft skills and cramponing 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. Crevasse travel skills are introduced and a walk out onto the glacier is followed by an introduction to glaciology and route finding by your guide. You can learn to identify the features of the mountains and associated nomenclature. Feel free at all times to ask questions. A hands-on lesson on rope care / management and prussiking.
day two	An early start and the group goes off to climb a small peak, along the way learning and practicing snow anchors as well as belaying and pitch climbing techniques. The group ascends to a summit with views galore and time to eat a well earned lunch. The afternoon is spent alpine rock climbing and abseiling before returning to camp.
day three	An early departure from the bivvy sees the course using glacier travel techniques arriving at an ice climbing area as the sun rises. Several hours are devoted to learning cramponing and ice climbing techniques followed by crevasse rescue systems. A lesson on weather prediction after dinner at the camp ends the day.
day four	Up again at the crack of dawn and the group moves to a hut for breakfast before moving up to climb a nearby peak, combining the variety of techniques learned so far. A successful and tired group returns to the hut at 3.00 pm and rests in the sun outside the hut. The guide discusses alpine rescue scenarios and considerations. A radio call provides the latest weather forecast each evening.
day five	The weather still holds so the course members set off early to climb a nearby peak. Excellent views can be had from here so don't forget the camera. Abseil anchors are set up and everybody gets to practice this technique before descending from the peak.
day six	Bad weather rolls in from the SW giving a chance for the group to practice anchors before going out into the murk to practice white out navigation. A discussion on mountain first aid and a hot meal finish the day. Being in the mountains/glacier and looking at the sea is unique, but has its drawbacks, as many climbers have experienced. Mountain weather can be volatile.
day seven	The weather remains grim. We cover course topics. Being confined to the hut does not mean the learning ceases. Hut topics include: avalanche awareness & snow safety, rescue systems, navigation, weather analysis.
day eight	The weather clears so the course members set off early to climb the nearby Minarets (3000 metres). Excellent views of Mt Cook/Tasman. A rescue lowering system is taught then executed by the group. The group establishes a snow cave camp lower on the glacier.
day nine	A well deserved sleep in rests everyone. After a group discussion a decision is made whether to walk out across the glacier to a lower hut, or prioritise outstanding course topics yet to be covered. The group may elect to work further on skills and fly out from a higher hut. This decision is made with consideration to weather, group fitness, and course content.



day ten

The group flies out as early as possible to the Fox township. If time permits, the group heads to the Lower Fox glacier for a session on ice skills. Later the group arrives back in 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 makes plans for the next adventure over dinner and a few drinks.

## bonus extras

- ▲ Most of your technical equipment is included the price of your course, making the "extras" affordable.
- ▲ All accommodation during the course will be provided: hut, bivvy, tent or lodge (except the last night).

## logistics

duration 6, 8 or 10 days

price	Number of People	6 Days*	8 Days*	10 Days*
	2	NZ\$2,850	NZ\$3,550	NZ\$3,800
	3	NZ\$2,330	NZ\$2,850	NZ\$3,250
	4	NZ\$1,990	NZ\$2,450	NZ\$2,800

Prices are in NZ dollars (and include Goods & Services tax). This course is usually based at Centennial or Pioneer huts in the Westland National park but this can vary depending on the weather & conditions. Walking out of Mt Aspiring National Park is a good option therefore eliminating the extra cost to fly out at the end of your course. Overall, this equates to the course price being roughly similar in both locations.

access Fly-in (fly-out location dependent \* flight out extra)

season November – April

guide-client ratio 1 guide : 2 clients minimum and 1 guide : 4 clients maximum  
See our Summit Week package for 1:1 guiding

prerequisites This is dependent on your own group. 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 technical climbing equipment is supplied
- ▲ Mountaineering handbook

The trip price includes: qualified guide/instructor, permit fees, one way flights into the Westland National Park ex-Fox Glacier, all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees, some technical equipment, instruction manual. Additional costs are for any rental equipment required and your flight OUT of the mountains if required. Some equipment may be purchased through us – we can offer a 10% discount on recommended retail price on some items.

## 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

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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

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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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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

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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 requirements.

## 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. 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. 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.

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). Wanaka Connexions also shuttle from Christchurch and Dunedin to Wanaka. Direct Trans-Tasman flights are available to Queenstown, Dunedin & Christchurch. Intercity express coachlines provide a service from Christchurch to Queenstown & 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

