



# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## TRIP DURATION

6 days, 5 nights

## GRADE

**Moderate - challenging** hikes with uneven mountain terrain, you need to be reasonably fit and enthusiastic. Suitable for women who walk 2-3 times per week between 5-10km with hill training. Hikes can be between 4- 8 hours with steep incline and declines.

## START AND FINISH LOCATION

Queenstown, New Zealand

## ACTIVITIES

Hiking, helicopter ride, jet boat spin

## ACCOMMODATION

Backcountry alpine huts

## INCLUDED

All meals, transport and alpine hut accommodation itemised in itinerary

## GROUP SIZE

10 women and two female guides

## SUMMARY

**New places, new challenges, new experiences. A women's New Zealand adventure at its best!**

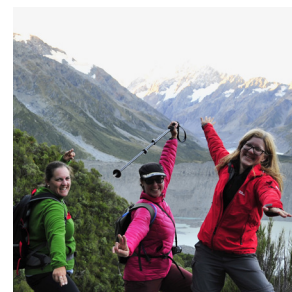
This women's New Zealand adventure is designed for those who enjoy a bit of a challenge and like to get off the tourist tracks and into the real backcountry.

A small group of like-minded women sitting around a fire, miles from anywhere and spinning yarns with bursts of laughter about the team's response to the challenges faced during the day - river crossings, icy plunges in alpine lakes, carrying a full pack and preparing a meal together at night. This trip is for women wanting to push their personal boundaries, all with the supportive of leaders who understand how to hike slow, prepare yummy meals and take you to the best adventure locations.





# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## WHY TRAVEL WITH WOMEN WANT ADVENTURE?

Women Want Adventure trips are a unique experience specifically tailored for women with a community focus.

All our female guides are outdoor recreation qualified and experienced to ensure your trip is safe, supportive and enjoyable. Our services provide more than a travel holiday. Women Want Adventure trips connect like-minded women who want to try new things, create lasting friendships and connect to a welcoming group of women. We make sure trip numbers are suitable for the terrain and all women feel welcome and comfortable on every outdoor encounter.

## THE TRIP

You will be hiking in the remote and stunning Mt Aspiring National Park where the grandeur of the landscape will take your breath away. For those that need their adrenalin fix, this trip includes a helicopter flight into a remote hut, two days walk from civilisation and a thrilling jet boat ride back out.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking into Mt Aspiring National Park
- Helicopter flight
- Daily hiking and overnight hikes
- Hiking with a supportive group
- Jet boat spin
- Two qualified female guides to accompany the group
- Delicious meals prepared for you

## INCLUDED

- **Activities:** Helicopter ride, jet boat spin
- **Included meals:** Outlined in itinerary
- **Transport:** Per daily itinerary
- **Leaders:** Two female guides
- **Safety:** Communications and First aid Kit
- **Meals:** Welcome dinner day 1 and farewell dinner

## TRIP SUMMARY

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>DAY 1</b> | Arrive into Queenstown for a pre-trip dinner |
| <b>DAY 2</b> | Mt Aspiring National Park                    |
| <b>DAY 3</b> | Mt Aspiring National Park - Makarora         |
| <b>DAY 4</b> | Makarora – Siberia Hut - Gillespie Pass      |
| <b>DAY 5</b> | Siberia Valley hiking                        |
| <b>DAY 6</b> | Siberia Hut - Queenstown                     |

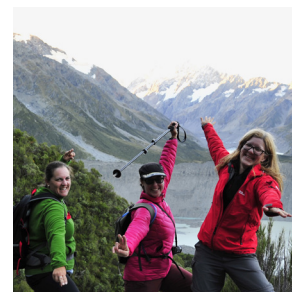
## EXCLUDED

- Flights to Queenstown, New Zealand
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal nature – alcohol, coffee purchases etc
- Optional adventure activities
- Pre and post accommodation in Queenstown





# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## DAY 1

### Arrival into Queenstown

Please arrive into Queenstown and meet your guide at Pinewood Lodge accommodation at 5.00pm. A briefing will be held in the common area at Pinewood Lodge to go over the following days hiking and allocate any gear you may need to carry. This is also your chance to meet other women attending and prepare for the hiking ahead. As a group, we will then head out for a welcome dinner at 6pm - a short 10 minute stroll into town where your guide will book a restaurant. Accommodation is not included, however we suggest you book at Pinewood Lodge as this will be your pick up location the following day and much easier logistically to be with the group.

## DAY 2

### Mt Aspiring National Park

This morning we are picked up in Queenstown at 8am for the drive via Wanaka to Raspberry Flat in Mt Aspiring National Park for the first overnight hike. It is then time to hoist your pack and head up the valley. We follow the Matukituki River up valley up to Aspiring Hut. The high glaciated peaks revealing themselves as we hike gently up the valley. On reaching the hut we take a quick cup of tea and get ready for a steeper hike without our backpacks. From Aspiring Hut if the weather permits, we climb steeply through beech forest to the tree line. You will be rewarded with a jaw dropping view of the Matterhorn-like Mt Aspiring (3033m). We then descend back along the same track to the hut. Tonight, we prepare and eat our first meal together in the wilderness.

**Accommodation** Aspiring Hut

**Hiking** 6 hours hiking graded medium - 9-14km

**Meals** Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks

## DAY 3

### Mt Aspiring National Park - Makarora

This morning we take a hike up a side valley to view the Rob Roy Glacier. We cross the Matukituki River swing bridge, and then follow the trail through native beech forest along the Rob Roy Stream, a wild glacial river that tumbles down the valley through a series of a steep rocky gorges. We reach the treeline after a reasonable climb and the beech forest gives way to alpine vegetation. The hanging glacier beneath Mt Rob Roy is spectacular. The glacier is active, and you may be able to hear and see the ice cracking from this safe viewing point. The cheeky alpine kea may also join us for a little light entertainment. The descent back down the valley to our vehicle is easy-going. We then drive back to Wanaka and on to Makarora for our night in cabin accommodation. We then dine in the local kiwi pub nearby - a good way to build the team spirit. (2 hours drive).

**Accommodation** Makarora cabins - Twin Share

**Hiking** 6 hours graded medium - 14km

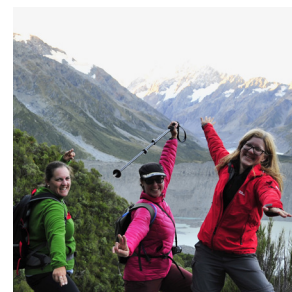
**Meals** Breakfast, lunch, snacks and local pub dinner







# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## DAY 4

### Makarora – Siberia Hut - Gillespie Pass

No need for coffee this morning, the scenic helicopter flight into the heart of this World Heritage Area will be exhilarating enough for some. We fly around ice carved peaks and get up close to cascading waterfalls, nestled amongst New Zealand's most beautiful mountains and glaciers. We land downstream from the hut in the remote Siberia Valley. Today our goal is to reach the summit of Gillespie Pass at 1600m. From the pass enjoy the stunning sense of elevation as we look down the steep slopes into the Young Valley. The views of nearby Mt Awful (2192 metres are 'awfully good' too! The hike starts with an easy path along the Siberia Valley floor, before the trail leaves the valley and zig zags its way up through forest into the Gillespie Stream basin. It then gets challenging and steep for the final push up to the top of the pass (but the views will be well worth it). We return the same way and enjoy our first night in the wonderfully remote Siberia Hut.

**Accommodation** Siberia Hut, bunk beds (shared cabin)

**Hiking** 8 hours graded medium to challenging

**Meals** Breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner



## DAY 5

### Siberia Valley Hiking

Today we explore the other side of the valley and climb up to Lake Crucible. This challenging hike takes us even further into the awe-inspiring mountains of Mt Aspiring National Park. It is a steep climb initially through beech forest and delicate alpine herb fields. The last part of the hike climbs on to an ancient terminal moraine which formed the lake at the foot of Mt Alba. Set at 1172m this lake often fills with avalanche debris over the winter and stays frozen well into the summer. For those daring enough, your challenge today is to take a dip in this lake! After lunch we make our way back down the valley to the Siberia Hut. Together we prepare another tasty meal, before relaxing on the veranda gazing at the clear and starry southern sky.

**Hiking** 7 hours hiking graded medium to challenging

**Accommodation** Siberia Hut, bunk beds (shared cabin)

**Meals** Breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner

## DAY 6

### Siberia Hut - Queenstown

It's an early pack up and start today as we have a jetboat to meet for 11.00am. Head down the valley – following an old pack track high above the Siberia River. We gain spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and waterfalls of the lower Siberia Valley. A jetboat meets us just downstream of the confluence of the Siberia and Wilkin valleys and carries us on a thrilling 40 minute journey downstream to Makarora. After lunch we drive alongside the gorgeous glacial Lake Hawea. We stop here in the village for showers and to prepare the group before the flight home. The drive to Queenstown takes us over the golden tussocks of the Crown Range, stopping off at the historic Cardrona Hotel (if time allows) for a drink before on the way. No doubt there will be some napping on the minibus journey back to Queenstown where the guided portion of the trip finishes between 4-5.30pm. Farewell dinner in town at 6.30pm.

**Hiking** 4 hours graded easy-medium

**Accommodation** Not included. Ladies to book their last night

**Meals** Breakfast and lunch. Farewell dinner included, drinks excluded



# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## GRADING Moderate - Challenging

This trip requires you to hike anywhere between 4 - 8 hours on some days. There are hills, steps and steep sections on the trails. We go slow and work as a team. We advise women who book this trip keep up a regular walking routine at home (2-3 times per week) mixed with hills. To enjoy these hikes you need to be fit and have good balance/mobility. Sometimes the footing is unstable. Hikers need to be good on their feet and be comfortable on rough or slippery ground. Hikers should be able to maintain a slow but steady pace uphill for an hour between rest stops. This is not a trip for women who have not trained or in good physical condition .

## GUIDES

Our female guides are an enthusiastic and informed lot who thrive on taking travelers through what they know and love about New Zealand. Before hitting the road and trails as trip guides, they must complete a comprehensive in-house training program and be qualified in Outdoor Recreation. It's this training that ensures our guides are qualified to operate their trips at the highest possible standards.

## FACEBOOK GROUP

We will provide you with a link to the private Facebook Group 60 days prior to departure via an email link. Only women attending who have paid a deposit will be sent the link invite to connect, meet up, ask questions etc. Please ask us if you have any questions about this group.

## FOOD ON YOUR TRIP

Women Want Adventure strives to provide wholesome and nutritious meals on every trip. Where and when we can, we cater for dietary requirements. Our guides have fabulous skills to prepare meals in wilderness environments. The types of food you can expect on your trip include:

<b>Breakfasts</b>	cereals, toast, porridge, beans + hot drinks
<b>Lunches</b>	varies each day. Salad wraps, stir-fry meals, cold meats and sandwiches
<b>Dinners</b>	varies daily from curries, pasta, vegetarian stir fries, meat and vegetables
<b>Snacks</b>	Muesli bars, dried fruit, fresh fruit, nuts and seeds (please pack any personal snacks you prefer)

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Women with special meal requirements or food allergies must ensure they inform Women Want Adventure of this **at the time of booking**. Food for the trip is purchased prior to commencement and special requirements cannot be catered for after departing. We provide the below substitutes, please bring your own staples if you require specific foods not listed below:

<b>No Pork</b>	(Alternative to Ham provided)
<b>No Dairy</b>	(soy and almond milk provided)
<b>Vegetarian</b>	(we easily and healthily cater for vegetarians)
<b>Vegan</b>	(we cater for vegans)
<b>Gluten Free</b>	(GF cereal, bread, wraps, pasta, snack bars, sweet and savory biscuits provided)

## WATER BOTTLE/ BLADDER

All women must bring their own water bottle or bladder on this trip. We recommend at least a 3 litres capacity. The sale of bottled water contributes to an enormous environmental problem around the world. In addition to the water in bottles, the production of a 1 litre plastic bottle takes 2 litres of water and 200ml of oil. A large proportion end up in limited landfill or discarded in waterways and natural environments. A water bladder is most suitable for this trip.

## HEADLAMP OR TORCH

A headlamp is essential for this adventure. Please bring spare batteries with you.

## CLOTHING & CLIMATE

New Zealand can reach below zero at night and sometimes even snow. Please ensure you pack appropriately. Warm jacket, thermals, woolen hat is advisable. Daytime temperatures range between 5-22 degrees during this period of your travel. You must pack according to the packing list provided and be prepared for wet, windy and cold weather. At night, temperatures can drop to 0, even in November/ December.





# New Zealand Helicopter, Hiking & Jet Boat Trip



## TRAVEL INSURANCE

For this trip it is compulsory to purchase a international travel insurance policy which covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. It is also strongly advisable that Australians have current ambulance cover in the case of emergency evacuation or incidents requiring ambulance transportation.

Your travel insurance must provide cover against personal accident, death, medical expenses and emergency repatriation with a recommended minimum coverage of US\$200,000 for each of the categories of cover. We also strongly recommend it covers cancellation, curtailment, personal liability and loss of luggage and personal effects. You must provide proof of your travel insurance on the first day of your trip; you will not be able to join the trip without it. If you obtain travel insurance through us you acknowledge that you are satisfied with the level of insurance we have arranged.

## PROBLEMS AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please call our office number on 0403918346 and also leave a message/call our team in New Zealand on phone: +64 3 310 8188 | NZ: 0800 697 232 or send an email to [womenwantadventure@outlook.com](mailto:womenwantadventure@outlook.com)

## ESSENTIAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Important notes

1. This trip is a hiking trip with Women Want Adventure in New Zealand
2. This trip requires you to pack ALL items listed on the packing list, including a sleeping bag and hiking pack. You can hire items from us if needed.
3. Trip commences and finishes in Queenstown, New Zealand



## Common FAQs

**Is dinner in Queenstown included on the first day?** Dinner on night one is included, but not accommodation. Your guide will book a restaurant.

**Is pre and post accommodation included?** Accommodation is not included pre and post trip. We advise booking at Pinewood Lodge in Queenstown as this is the pick up location on the following morning after arrival. We will also provide a simple early breakfast here on the day after arrival before we head off into the shuttle bus so you can have a bite to eat.

**Can I book elsewhere in Queenstown instead of Pinewood?** Yes of course, however you will need to make your own way with your bags to Pinewood to meet the group before we leave for the hiking at 8am. Your guide will put on a simple breakfast in one of the Pinewood Lodge cabins so you can have a bite to eat before jumping on the shuttle bus. Please be at Pinewood by 7am as eating breakfast with the group.

**Can we leave things at Pinewood Lodge that we don't need when we're out hiking?** Yes. Wherever you end up staying, most hotels accommodate for this.

**What are the temperatures like in New Zealand during this period?** New Zealand is a land of 4 seasons in one day. It is safe to say temperatures can drop to 5 or cooler at night and top of 23. It can even snow in November, so you must be prepared for cold weather (and wet weather). It is hard to judge the weather in alpine environments but it almost always rains on us at some point!

**When does the private Facebook group start?** The Facebook Group for your New Zealand trip will open 60 days prior to departure. We will email everyone with a link.

**Do we need a warm outer layer?** Yes. This will be your down jacket. You will also need your fleece jumper and thermal top and bottoms. It may seem silly in November but we have been out hiking with groups and it started to snow on us mid-hike and was freezing. It's always better to be prepared. You can also use the down jacket as a pillow!

**Do we need waterproof pants and waterproof jacket?** Yes. waterproof pants are an outer layer you can walk in to keep your legs dry. You only really need one pair of these as they dry quickly. It might be the case you don't end up wearing them if the weather is clear, however if it's raining on your trip you will need these, plus the jacket.

**Do we bring our own mugs/plates and eating utensils?** No, we supply these and each person will be carrying their portion + shared food items between the group. You're welcome to bring your own if you prefer.

**What sleeping bag rating is best for this trip?** We recommend a sleeping bag that goes down to -5. This will cover you if it gets colder. Most huts we can heat with an inner fire or heat from cooking. It can again, get cold so -5 is always a safe bet. It's better to be too hot and open up your sleeping bag to cool off. \*Sleeping bag hire \$40+gst

**If we are staying in a hut, why are tents and sleeping mats provided on the packing list?** New Zealand has private and public alpine huts. These are managed by national parks and are not an accommodation style hut, they are backcountry basic huts with shared sleeping in bunks (they are great!). We also bring some tents and mats along with us for safety + you may like to camp just outside the hut if someone is snoring or you are more comfortable in a tent. Your guides will explain this on your arrival.

**Do we pack a pillow?** We suggest packing a camping small pillow. You will not be able to carry a normal size pillow in your overnight pack.

**What size pack is best and can I hire one?** A 55-65L pack size is best. These means you can carry all the food, clothing and gear for the duration of the hiking with you to the hut. From the huts, you can empty out your bag and still use a 60L pack for the day walk. Some packs you can take off the "brain" of the pack, so it becomes smaller. You could also bring a fold up backpack, but this needs to be strong enough to carry water and your clothing items.

\* Pack hire is \$50+ GST

**Do I need a day pack?** Yes. Still bring another smaller day pack with you 20-25L. This comes in handy for keeping it on the bus for shuttle time, keeping smaller items handy.

**Should we bring ear plugs?** Yes! Very handy for hut sleeping.

**Will we be sent the guides details?** Of course. Closer to the trip we will connect you with your guide from WWA and guide in New Zealand so you have their contact.