



Aoraki/ Mt Cook National Park

# GRAND EXPLORER

14  
days

South  
Island



**Activity Level: 2-4**

## Style

*You'll be treated to wonderful accommodation in stunning locations, restaurants serving the best Kiwi fare and unique experiences reserved for the lucky few.*



Start  
**Queenstown**



Finish  
**Queenstown**

## *The Grand Explorer*

*The ultimate way to explore New Zealand's South Island.*

### **Day 1 – Arrive Queenstown & walk on the Kepler Track**

After meeting your guide and fellow travellers, we'll head to Fiordland National Park for your first Great Walk. The Kepler Track is renowned for its vivid green moss, lush beech forest, and stunning mountains. We'll walk along one of our favourite sections of the Kepler Track, meandering through glorious native beech forest.

**Stay: Te Anau**

### **Day 2 – Explore the Milford Track and cruise Milford Sound**

Pristine native forest awaits on our hike to Giants Gate Falls on the world famous Milford Track. We'll then spend the afternoon experiencing the cascading waterfalls and towering peaks of Milford Sound on our boat trip of the fiord.

**Stay: Te Anau**

### **Day 3 – Explore Arrowtown**

Arrowtown is a quaint, gold mining town bursting with history. We'll enjoy a walk along the Arrow River Trail, a favourite with the locals. This afternoon, we'll journey to the heart of the Southern Alps. Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park is bursting with snow-covered mountains and glacier-fed lakes.

**Stay: Aoraki/ Mt Cook Region**

### **Day 4 – Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park**

Some of New Zealand's most spectacular hikes are in Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park. Today you'll have the option of hiking the Hooker Valley Track, Kea Point Track, and Red Tarns Track. These hikes deliver views normally reserved for only serious mountaineers. You'll also have the option to explore the village at your leisure or upgrade to an optional heli-hike or glacier lake boat tour.

**Stay: Aoraki/ Mt Cook Region**





Mt Aspiring National Park

### Day 5 – Explore Tekapo & walk Rakaia Gorge Walkway

Today's journey takes us from the mountains to the ocean. This morning, we'll explore the lakeside town of Tekapo before travelling through the fertile plains of Canterbury. This afternoon we'll enjoy a scenic walk on the Rakaia Gorge Walkway before making our way to Christchurch.

**Stay: Christchurch**

### Day 6 – Swim with or watch dolphins

Today's the day for wildlife lovers. We'll don wetsuits to swim with a pod of dusky dolphins in their natural environment. Dusky dolphins are typically found in pods of around 100 and are well-known for their acrobatic feats and interactive behaviour. Tonight, we stay in Kaikoura, a seaside settlement on the East Coast, with a richly populated marine reserve for a backyard.

**Stay: Kaikoura**

### Day 7 – Walk in Nelson Lakes National Park

Today, we'll head to Nelson Lakes National Park where we will enjoy a tranquil walk along the shoreline of Lake Rotoiti, before heading into the native beech forest on the stunning Honeydew loop trail. Then, you'll head to Abel Tasman National Park for the night.

**Stay: Abel Tasman National Park**



Hokitika Gorge



Westland Tai Poutini National Park





Kepler Track



Kayaking in Abel Tasman National Park



Paparoa National Park



Milford Sound, Fiordland

### Day 8 – Hike Awaroa to Bark Bay

Today, you will embark on a truly stunning, expert guided walk from Awaroa to Bark Bay. You'll follow the coastal track through lush native forest, before reaching more of the regions much-loved golden sand beaches. As always, you can choose to walk as much or as little as you want.

**Stay: Abel Tasman National Park**

### Day 9 – Kayak in Abel Tasman National Park

Today, we will take a boat cruise into the serene Torrent Bay, before exploring some of the most idyllic and iconic parts of the Abel Tasman coastline by kayak. Tonight, we will stay at the award winning Maruia Hot Springs where you can relax and unwind.

**Stay: Maruia Hot Springs**

### Day 10 – Explore Paparoa National Park, Lewis Pass and Pancake Rocks

With its towering limestone cliffs and lush vegetation, this area feels like something straight out of Jurassic Park. Today, we'll hike through Paparoa National Park, check out the blowholes and limestone formations of the Pancake Rocks. We will also explore the magnificent Lewis Pass.

**Stay: Punakaiki**

### Day 11 – Walk Hokitika Gorge and Point Elizabeth Walkway

Today, you'll enjoy mountains, beaches and a tantalisingly crystal blue gorge, all in one day. We'll kick start the day with a walk along the stunning Point Elizabeth coastal walkway. We'll then travel to Hokitika, known as the

greenstone capital of the world, where we'll explore the magnificent Hokitika Gorge. Hokitika Gorge is one of the West Coast's most instantly recognisable scenes.

**Stay: Franz Josef**

### Day 12 – Glacier Country & Southern Alps

Keep your camera handy today to capture the picture-perfect views of Lake Matheson as we enjoy our Glacier Country hike. We then head to Monro Beach which is home to an abundance of native flora and fauna, including the Fiordland crested penguin.

**Stay: Wanaka**

### Day 13 – Siberia Valley helicopter, walk & jetboat

We'll begin the day with a scenic helicopter ride deep into the heart of Mt Aspiring National Park. After a tasty picnic lunch, we'll walk along a well-marked track through the thick forest linking Siberia Valley to Wilkin Valley. A jet boat will then take us back to civilisation.

**Stay: Wanaka**

### Day 14 – Lake Wanaka & Wine Tasting

This morning, you can choose to enjoy a guided hike or spend some leisurely time exploring the beautiful lakeside town of Wanaka. This afternoon, we'll finish our adventure in Queenstown with a farewell lunch and wine tasting at one of Otago's finest wineries.





GRAND  
EXPLORER



CALL US NOW TO PLAN  
YOUR ADVENTURE!

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