



Hubert's Kea family trip

**Wildlife reserve and Kiwi viewing • Jet boat the Rakaia Gorge • Hike in Mt. Cook National Park and South Westland World Heritage Area • Rafting near Queenstown
Hike in Mt. Aspiring National Park and Franz Josef Glacier
Kayak Lake Mapourika • Visit Beaches and Rainforest of the West Coast**

13 days:	Queenstown – Queenstown		
Adult Fare:	US\$2799 + tax	2nd Adult Fare:	US\$2499 + tax
Child Fare (15 and under):	US\$1999 + tax	3rd Child Fare:	US\$1799 + tax

Family trips are a little different than regular adventure trips, and over the years we've entertained a lot of families in New Zealand. The Kea family trip is specially designed to ensure parents and kids enjoy a range of activities as a family, but also to provide opportunities for parents to get away on their own while our specialist Kea guides look after the kids. The itinerary is flexible, so we can make adjustments on the road to make sure everyone's having a good time. The accommodations are family-friendly and the meals are designed to suit all ages. We venture into several national parks, do an overnight hike to Mt. Aspiring Hut, check out one of New Zealand's most spectacular glaciers and do some unforgettable jet boating, rafting and hiking in various parts of the South Island. We maintain plenty of options for all ages and there'll be lots of activities to keep parents busy too! We use specialist guides on our family trips, who have lots of experience looking after kids and adults alike, such as Christiaan (or Lofty as he is more affectionately known), who has spent several years as an outdoor instructor, teaching kayaking, climbing and teambuilding skills with kiwi kids. New Zealand is a safe destination, and the Kea family trip is an awesome adventure for the whole family. To enjoy all the activities, children should be nine years of age or more, but with notice we can often cater to younger children too.

Tuesday Arrive, delve into "Puzzling World"

If you have arrived in New Zealand via Auckland, you'll need to take a short flight to Queenstown in the South Island, where we'll meet your family either in central Queenstown, or at the airport. You'll lose a day crossing the international dateline – but you get it back on the way home! If you've travelled from Europe or elsewhere, you'll have the weekend to get here and unwind before the adventure kicks off. We'll head over the Crown Range to Wanaka where we'll explore Puzzling World, one of the world's largest modern mazes with over a mile of passageways. Kids of all ages really enjoy trying to beat our wily guides through this labyrinth! Tonight we spend the evening in a lovely family-style homestead in Makarora.

ACCOMMODATION: *The Homestead, Makarora* (L,D)

Andrew: "While Puzzling World may seem less active than the other activities on this trip, I've seen kids of all ages have a wicked time here! It's great fun to make it to one of the platforms and "help" the others by giving them wrong directions!"

Wednesday Explore West Coast forests and beaches, discover glow worms

This morning we'll travel over Haast Pass to the wild West Coast, stopping on a deserted West Coast beach to stretch the legs and look for the friendly dolphins that often pass by this area. A little further north takes us to Lake Matheson for a short walk where you will be rewarded with an awesome vista - the Southern Alps stretching away to Mt. Cook in the distance. This afternoon we'll get settled into our accommodations in Franz Josef, where we'll be staying for the next two nights. After dark we can head out with flashlights for a short night walk to look for the native glow worm - and to listen for some of New Zealand's nocturnal birdlife, such as the Morepork.

ACCOMMODATION: *Franz Josef lodgings, Franz Josef* (B,L,D)

Thursday

Kayak Lake Mapourika, explore Franz Josef Glacier

It's an early start this morning for our kayaking trip on Lake Mapourika. This ancient lake was formed during the last ice age and its tranquility provides a great introduction to kayaking. This is an awesome trip, run by specialist kayak outfitters, and it's equally suitable for beginners or experts alike. After lunch back in Franz Josef, we'll take a hike up to the terminal face of the Franz Josef Glacier for breathtaking views. Franz Josef Glacier is one of the steepest and fastest moving glaciers in the world, and is unique in that it descends right down through the lush rainforest, almost to sea-level, from its névé high in the Southern Alps.

Heli-hike option (add US\$240 + tax)

A less strenuous, but outrageously scenic option today is to heli-hike on Franz Josef Glacier itself. After being fitted with crampons, ice axes and so on, you'll board a modern turbine helicopter and fly towards the highest peaks of the Southern Alps, landing on the glacier at 4,000 feet above sea level. Led by specialist glacier guides, you'll hike through the grand ice formations of the glacier, checking out its crevasses, seracs and tunnels - no previous experience required! The constant movement of the glacier means every day is different, so your guides will cut steps in the ice, and make sure you make the most of the conditions. At the end of your hike on the ice, you'll take another helicopter ride out of the mountains, and back to civilization.

The heli-hike is extremely popular with the general traveling public, so we offer advance reservations with the helicopter operators and guiding company. At the time of booking, or up until one month before your trip, you can reserve a space on the heli-hike, and we'll make sure a spot is held for you. You can leave your decision until you're actually on your trip, and we'll get you a spot if it's available.

After we've finished our various activities, we'll rendezvous at our accommodations for the night.

ACCOMMODATION: Franz Josef lodgings

(B,L,D)

Friday

Bushman's Center and free time in Hokitika

Today we'll head further up the coast to the Bushman's Center - a "living museum" that combines an inter-active history of the West Coast's early settlers with the chance to introduce the kids to brush-tail possums. We'll then continue on to Hokitika, where you can spend a little time checking out the local art galleries and pounamu carving workshops ("pounamu" is Maori for jade). The beach here is also a great place for playing games or making sculptures out of the driftwood and rocks washed up on the beach. This afternoon, we head over the Southern Alps to our accommodations for the next two nights.

ACCOMMODATION: Arthurs Pass lodgings, Arthurs Pass

(B,L,D)

Saturday

Farm show and hike in Castle Hill Basin

This morning after a hearty breakfast, we'll head to Cave Stream and hike to the top of Flock Hill. It's a bit of a climb, but it's worth every step as we arrive at an eerie limestone landscape where much of the recent movie "Narnia - the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was filmed. After lunch, we'll travel to the small farming community of Springfield, at the foothills of the mountains, where we'll check out a working New Zealand high-country sheep farm. We'll watch highly trained huntaway dogs rounding up stock and see a live sheep shearing demonstration. All the kids (young and old!) will have the chance to join in and give sheep shearing a go themselves.

ACCOMMODATION: Arthurs Pass lodgings

(B,L,D)

Sunday

Travel to Christchurch

After a relaxed start, we'll head through to Christchurch, the largest city in the South Island. Christchurch is a great place to spend a couple of days. You'll find all the comforts of civilization: massage therapists, restaurants, sidewalk cafés, museums, parks, art galleries, cinemas and shopping! You'll find some incredible optional activities here, such as jet boating, skydiving, horse trekking, punting on the Avon, fishing, and even balloon rides – it's all here! Or you can do

nothing, if you prefer to just soak up the atmosphere or lounge about reading a book.

ACCOMMODATION: *Central Christchurch apartments, Christchurch* (B,L)

Monday **Free day in Christchurch**

It's all up to you today – enjoy!

ACCOMMODATION: *Central Christchurch apartments* (B)

Tuesday **Wildlife reserve and Kiwi viewing**

Today we'll visit the Willowbank Wildlife Reserve. At Willowbank we'll get a great introduction to the wildlife of a country that has been isolated from the rest of the world for over 80 million years. You'll experience many of New Zealand's unique creatures first-hand, such as the Tuatara lizard, Kune kune pigs, the endangered Kiwi bird and of course the namesake of our trip – the Kea – our cheeky mountain parrot. After an afternoon exploring, we'll head south and inland to Methven.

ACCOMMODATION: *Methven Lodge, Methven* (B,L,D)

Wednesday **Jet boat the Rakaia Gorge, hike Peel Forest and star-gazing**

After breakfast, this morning's activity will knock your socks off! We'll experience a thrilling jet boat ride through the winding Rakaia Gorge. Jet boats are fast and maneuverable and were originally invented by a New Zealander to navigate our narrow shallow rivers. You'll be jetting down rapids, braided river sections and through shallow water less than a foot deep in places. This adrenaline-pumping, yet safe, activity is fun for the whole family. From Methven, we'll travel a short distance south to Peel Forest to hike through ancient podocarp forest, dense with many different types of ferns. The fern is a national symbol of New Zealand, worn by our famous rugby team - the All Blacks. After lunch in the area, we'll travel inland towards Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. We stay near the shore of Lake Pukaki - an unworldly turquoise-blue colored glacial lake. It's the middle of nowhere out here. The wide open spaces, regular clear evenings and lack of artificial light gives us the perfect opportunity to check out some of the Southern Hemisphere's constellations, including the Southern Cross and Orion's Belt. Our guides particularly enjoy teaching the kids a bit of basic southern astronomy, and they'll really bring the sky alive.

ACCOMMODATION: *Glentanner lodgings, Mt. Cook* (B,L,D)

Thursday **Hike in Mt. Cook National Park**

This morning it's a short drive to Mt. Cook village, at the head of Lake Pukaki. We have a few hikes available to us in the area, and our favourite is the stunning and little-known day hike (weather permitting) to the main ridge above Mueller Glacier. It's a tough slog up, but it's a real achievement for the whole family to share and you'll remember the view of the Mueller Glacier and the surrounding peaks of the Main Divide forever! There are other hiking options if you'd like to take it a little easier. The weather conditions are very important in this area, as it is a true alpine climate that sometimes has sudden weather shifts. If we aren't able to do the Mueller hike, we'll take an impressive hike up the Hooker Valley to a glacial lake at the base of Hooker Glacier, complete with icebergs!

ACCOMMODATION: *Glentanner lodgings* (B,L,D)

Friday **Start Mt. Aspiring National Park and Glendhu Station options**

At the time of booking, you have the choice of one of two different 2-day/1-night options - a backpacking trip in Mt. Aspiring National Park, or an overnight stay at Glendhu Bay Station - a large high-country sheep and cattle farm on the shores of Lake Wanaka. After lunch, we head off for our various activities:

MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK OPTION

Friday (continued) **Overnight hike in Mt. Aspiring National Park**

After leaving Wanaka we'll venture up the Matukituki Valley and hike for two to three hours into Mt. Aspiring

National Park, to reach our home for the evening - a mountain hut nestled in the valley. This track meanders through a World Heritage Area with majestic peaks, fresh mountain streams and natural beech forest all around us. Everyone will carry a pack, but it won't weigh much more than a regular day pack. You'll be carrying a sleeping bag, a few spare clothes and some food - no need for any more than that, although we'll provide tents and so on if you'd prefer to camp out under the stars. Mt. Aspiring Hut is a spacious and modern mountain hut, albeit in the middle of nowhere, and the scenery is off the charts with Mt. Aspiring looming 10,000 feet above you. For such a short walk, it's amazing how far you'll feel from civilization! Your guide will whip up dinner in the backcountry kitchen, while you and the kids relax in front of the fireplace and play some cards or tell tall stories! To minimize our impact on this beautiful but fragile environment, we limit availability on this option.

ACCOMMODATION: *Mt. Aspiring Hut, Mt. Aspiring National Park*

(B,L,D)

Saturday **Hike to trailhead**

We have a leisurely start today, enjoying breakfast and a cuppa while admiring the view, before hiking back out to the trailhead. Along the way we might encounter the cheeky Kea again – this time in its natural habitat – and though we don't feed them, you'll find they come really close to us in the hope that we'll throw some chocolate their way!

- OR -

GLENDHU STATION OPTION

Friday (continued) **Explore Glendhu Station and Lake Wanaka**

After leaving Wanaka we'll drive a short distance to Glendhu Bay, a sunny cove, tucked in beside the mountains, on the shores of Lake Wanaka. Glendhu Station ("Station" is the New Zealand word for a big ranch) is a 7,500 acre high-country sheep and cattle farm. The station has been farmed for three generations by the McRae family and the original homestead was first established in the 1880s. Glendhu Station is the perfect destination for a taste of New Zealand rural life and history. While we're here, we stay in a cottage on the farm. It's not a 5-star hotel but it's not far from being that either - with a spa bath, open fireplace and plenty of space for the kids to explore outside. It's an ideal location to soak up the atmosphere whether you're skipping stones on the lake edge or just relaxing by the fire. As there is also limited availability on this option, we offer the opportunity to stay at a comfortable lodge in Wanaka if both options happen to be full - or if you'd rather have this time to yourself.

ACCOMMODATION: *The Cottage, Glendhu Station*

(B,L,D)

Saturday **Relax at Glendhu Station**

After a relaxed breakfast you'll have the morning to do your own thing on the farm before meeting up with the rest of the group.

Saturday (continued) **Rafting near Queenstown**

After regrouping at Glendhu Bay we'll head through mountainous countryside towards Queenstown. We'll stop along the way for the best ice creams in the whole of New Zealand - you'll soon find out why! We'll then continue on through fruit orchards and vineyards, before arriving in Queenstown for a family rafting trip in Skippers Canyon. Set in a deep, beautiful, rose-lined schist gorge, it's a spectacular trip - perfect for the whole family. Queenstown is a great place to spend a couple of days. You'll have plenty of time to wander about and explore while you're here, and you'll find all sorts of options to keep you and the kids busy.

The Kea trip operates year around, with minor changes for the New Zealand winter. From June to September, rather than rafting, we continue on to Queenstown and jump aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw steamship for a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Once we arrive on the other side of the lake, you'll have a chance to learn about farming on this remote sheep station. The views back across Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown are amazing too.

ACCOMMODATION: *Queenstown apartments, Queenstown*

(B,L,D)

Sunday

Depart for home

This is the last day of your adventure around the South Island. You can book a flight back to Auckland for ongoing travel during the mid-morning. International flights from Auckland usually leave early evening, so if you're heading back to North America, you'll get home some time on Sunday, even though you left on Sunday evening! Flights back to Europe, of course, take a little longer. You'll be refreshed and invigorated from the good food, exercise, rest, and great times you'll have had with us in New Zealand!

(B)

Important Information

ACCOMMODATIONS: The *Kea family trip* is an activity-oriented trip around the South Island. We've chosen interesting, comfortable and family-friendly accommodations throughout. Where possible we will provide accommodation with two bedrooms for your family. In some places it's quite luxurious but many of the other places we stay are off-the-beaten-track - and don't have many accommodation options - but are really, really spectacular. We think you'll love the places we stay!

RECOMMENDED FLIGHTS: If you're flying in on the first day of the trip, or out on the last day, we recommend arriving in Queenstown between 10am and 1pm on Tuesday and departing anytime after 10am on the last day. If you arrive between 10am and 1pm on day one, the group can have lunch together in Wanaka before going to Puzzling World. In saying that, seeing as this is a private, custom departure later flight times are also possible, but may mean missing out on some of the activities on day one. On the last day of the trip, your guide can drop you off at the airport for flights departing between 10am and midday. Later flights are also possible, but it may mean having to organise your own transport to the airport (taxi shuttles to the airport are easy to arrange and cost around NZ\$30 per vehicle).

PICK-UP INFORMATION: On the first day of the trip we can either pick you up from the airport, or downtown Queenstown between 10am and 1pm, or at a pre-arranged time of your choosing.

DROP OFF INFORMATION: On the last day of the trip we can drop you off at Queenstown Airport after 10am, or anywhere in central Queenstown by mid-morning.

FITNESS: You and your kids need to have a reasonable level of fitness to enjoy yourself on the *Kea family trip*, but no more than the average family. This trip is all about family fun so the activities are suitable even for people with short legs! If you're concerned about your fitness level, or whether your kids are up to it, have a chat with us so we can help you choose between the *Kea family trip* and our other trips.

EXPERIENCE: You don't need any outdoor experience at all to enjoy our trips. All our trips allow you to make the most of New Zealand's incredible environment. Our experienced guides are highly trained and will look after you and your kids. You don't need to have ever been in a kayak to enjoy kayaking Lake Mapourika or in a raft or jet boat to enjoy those activities either. All we ask is that you be in reasonable shape, and that everyone's keen to have fun in New Zealand's amazing outdoor playground. We guarantee you'll have an incredible time. We manage the level of commitment to suit your experience, and we have an impeccable safety record. We hold all relevant government licenses and permits.

FLEXIBILITY: Because of the off-the-beaten-path and non-commercial nature of some of our accommodation on this trip, we sometimes need to change a night stop. For instance, every now and then the Cottage at Glendhu Station is being used by the farmer. We try to make as few changes as possible but we might have to make slight changes to make sure your trip is as good as it can be.

INCLUDED: We quote all prices in US dollars, so our families from all over the world can more easily relate prices to their own currencies. You can also join for shorter periods of time, at a pro-rated fare. The trip fare includes just about everything, specifically:

- All guiding services. We generally have two guides per trip, a Lead Guide/driver, and a Co-Guide who is responsible for meals and accommodations. This means we can really make sure your family has a great time! We operate with small groups, and we don't hesitate to offer a second departure when our trips start getting full.
- Comfortable accommodation for the entire period you are with us. We can also organize accommodation for you if you want to arrive earlier or leave later.
- All your meals, except in Christchurch where we've found people prefer to check out the wide range of restaurants. Alcohol is generally not included, although we do spring for a few cold beers or wine for the parents here and there!
- All hiking, kayaking, jet boating, and rafting described in the itinerary, except optional extra activities, such as the overnight trip to Milford Sound. We have estimated the rates for optional extra activities operated by local activity operators in US dollars, including all required equipment, but these rates may vary according to the USD/NZD exchange rate of the day. There are many optional activities available at extra cost, particularly in Christchurch. None of these activities are compulsory, and nor will your trip seem less awesome if you do the cheap or free options. Although some people enjoy sampling bungy jumping, skydiving, and so on, others prefer to focus more on the hiking, paddling and fun family activities, which is of course the reason you're coming to New Zealand in the first place!

NOT INCLUDED: This is your holiday, and we are serious about not nickel-and-diming you! You'll have a few meals and drinks to cover, extra activities if you choose them, and you'll probably feel like tipping your guides at the end of a fabulous time, but you won't be pulling out your wallet every few minutes on your ACTIVE NEW ZEALAND trip!

We'll see you soon!