



## Tui (Queenstown)

**Hike Routeburn Track • Cycle Hollyford Valley and Manapouri • Sea Kayak Milford Sound  
Scenic mountain flight to Siberia Hut • Jet boat ride • Hike Mt. Aspiring National Park and  
Franz Josef Glacier**

**8 days: Queenstown - Christchurch**  
**Fare: US\$2299 + tax**

*The Tui is our shortest South Island trip. It's an action-packed, adventure-oriented itinerary that works well if you are looking for an incredible adventure vacation but don't have a lot of time to see our country, or as part of a longer trip to New Zealand. You can fly from home on a Friday evening, sleep on the plane, and then be back at work by Monday, 10 days later. We always offer plenty of choices for activities, but remember, it's your vacation so nothing is compulsory! Anyone in reasonable shape can do the activities we offer. You'll see some great parts of New Zealand, but we won't pretend you're going to see it all. The Tui trip is about quality not quantity! We run the Tui trip in two directions – from Christchurch to Queenstown and from Queenstown to Christchurch. The version we put on our website happens to be the Christchurch to Queenstown direction, but the Tui is a product of many years of evolution and fine-tuning and works well whichever way you do it.*

### **Sunday Arrive, hike Routeburn Track, cycle Hollyford Valley**

Your trip starts in Queenstown, a small lakeside town set among the mountains of the South Island. You'll need to be in Queenstown by around 11:30am. We'll meet you there and head down to Te Anau for lunch, before continuing on to The Divide where we'll hike part of the Routeburn Track. This hike gives us unsurpassed views of the Hollyford Valley, from mountains to sea, as well as Lake Marian and Mt. Christina. When we get back to the trailhead, you'll be fitted with a 21-speed front-suspension *Specialized* mountain bike for a spectacular ride through the Hollyford Valley. This remote and gently-rolling backcountry road is lined with unspoilt beech forest and surrounded by towering peaks – take your time or go as hard as you want – either way, this is a ride you'll never forget! If cycling isn't your thing, you can skip it and just enjoy the scenery. All our activities, including cycling, are optional. We'll end up at Hollyford Camp, an isolated and rustic establishment, originally set up in the 1930s for the workers who built the nearby Homer Tunnel and Milford Road. This is a beautiful, tranquil place with a dozen cabins scattered around a museum and historic general store, still operating to this day. Hollyford Camp is right next to the Hollyford River and is surrounded by the mountains of Fiordland National Park. It's definitely not a 5-star hotel, but it's a great little place, and a wonderful location to hang out for our first night!

**ACCOMMODATION:** *Hollyford Camp, Hollyford Valley – rustic but idyllic OR Milford Lodge, Milford Sound (L,D)*

**Andrew:** *“Hollyford Camp is a famous Kiwi icon – a slice of old-time New Zealand, if you will – but the facilities are pretty basic compared to all the other places we stay on the Tui. Bill and Helen, who run the place, have put a lot of love into the camp while aiming to maintain the old-world charm of a workers camp from the 1930s. It really is a chance to experience our history.”*

### **Monday Sea kayak Milford Sound, cycle to Lake Manapouri**

It's an early start today. We'll have a short drive through the Homer Tunnel, emerging at the top of a spectacular alpine road winding its way down to Milford Sound. The lush rainforest carpeting the lower slopes of the mountains gives way to the massively steep, glacier-carved slopes and waterfalls of the Darren Range. Milford Sound, rated the 8th Natural Wonder of the World by Rudyard Kipling, is breathtaking. Sheer rock walls plunge thousands of feet to the Tasman Sea and waterfalls cascade into the deep blue water. Most people see Milford Sound from the deck of a

cruise ship but we've got a better way – gliding along in a sea kayak causing minimum disruption to the seals and dolphins, which are very friendly and often eager to visit. This is an awesome trip, run by specialist kayak outfitters, and it's equally suitable for beginners or experts. After your morning's paddle, we'll head back to Hollyford Camp for lunch before continuing on to Lake Te Anau. You'll have a chance to cycle along the peaceful country road that meanders its way through southern farmlands to Lake Manapouri Inn, beautifully located on the lake's edge. Again, if you prefer, you can skip the cycling and just enjoy the great views out over the lake and the surrounding mountains of Fiordland National Park.

ACCOMMODATION: *Lake Manapouri Inn, Manapouri* (B,L,D)

*Tuesday* **Queenstown and a local hike**

Today we'll travel from Manapouri back to Queenstown in the morning and then the rest of the day is up to you! You can either head out around the shore of Lake Wakatipu with your guides to hike one of the local tracks that take in great views of The Remarkables mountain range and other peaks towering above the lake, or if you prefer, we can drop you off in town on the way and you can check out the town and participate in one of the many awesome activities on offer in the area.

ACCOMMODATION: *Queenstown apartments, Queenstown* (B,L)

*Wednesday* **Hike Ben Lomond or free day in Queenstown**

Today you have two options – a full day hike or a free day to yourself – it's up to you! For those keen for a challenging alpine hike, after breakfast we'll hike up Ben Lomond Track. Ben Lomond, one of Queenstown's prominent peaks, was named by the early Scottish settlers in the area who were reminded of the highlands of their home country. We hike up through forested slopes which then give way to alpine tussock-land leading us to the summit of Ben Lomond. From this vantage point you'll find yourself immersed in amazing views over Queenstown Bay and Lake Wakatipu which are themselves dwarfed by the surrounding mountains such as Mt. Aspiring.

As an alternative, you can have a free day with no activities scheduled, although we'll certainly help with suggestions if you like. Queenstown, where ACTIVE NEW ZEALAND is based, is a great place to spend a couple of days. You'll find all the comforts of civilisation: massage therapists, restaurants, sidewalk cafés, window-shopping and adrenaline pumping activities! You'll also find some incredible optional activities here such as biking, hang gliding, hiking, white-water rafting, jet boating, skydiving, horse trekking, fishing and wine tours – it's all here! Your guides can help you during the trip to book any of these optional activities. Queenstown is not a big place – the population is about 8000 – but there's plenty to do! Or, you can do nothing and just soak up the atmosphere.

ACCOMMODATION: *Queenstown apartments* (B)

*Thursday* **Start Mt. Aspiring National Park options**

This morning we'll drive to Makarora, on the eastern side of Mt. Aspiring National Park. 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 in the small farming village of Makarora. After lunch, we head off for our various activities:

**MAKARORA ADVENTURE OPTION IN MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK**

*Thursday (continued)* **Scenic flight, hike Mt. Shrimpton**

If you prefer comfortable accommodation with modern amenities instead of a mountain hut, then this is the option for you. You'll head out for a mind-blowing scenic flight into Mt. Aspiring National Park for a bird's eye view of the lower Southern Alps. After landing down back in Makarora, you can hike the Mt. Shrimpton track. This is a steep hike with a 2500 foot (750 metre) elevation gain, but the views from above the treeline are worth it! Or you can take the afternoon to kick back, relax and soak up the mountain views from your accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION: Makarora Wilderness Resort, Makarora

(B,L,D)

*Friday*                      **Jet boat Wilkin River**

After a relaxed start, we'll take a thrilling jet boat ride up the Wilkin River, into the heart of Mt. Aspiring National Park, before hooking up with the rest of the group in Makarora and carrying on to Franz Josef.

- OR -

**SIBERIA VALLEY WILDERNESS OPTION IN MT. ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK**

*Thursday (continued)*        **Scenic flight, hike Lake Crucible**

If you like the idea of staying in one of New Zealand's most isolated mountain huts, then this option is for you! We'll start with a dramatic scenic flight alongside the snowy Southern Alps to the Siberia Valley airstrip. You can hike up the trail to Lake Crucible for great views of this glacial valley while dinner is whipped up back at the hut. Tonight you'll be served a candle-lit dinner in one of the most glorious places in the world. This is also one of the few backcountry huts where you can chat with a resident hut ranger from New Zealand's Department of Conservation. Rangers are often keen for a yarn around the camp fire, and can offer further insight into the flora and fauna of Mt. Aspiring National Park.

This is the only night on the *Tui* where accommodations are a little more basic, but we'll be back in civilisation the next day. You don't have to carry a very heavy pack – our guides are pretty tough and they'll carry the lion's share of the load. 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.

ACCOMMODATION: Remote wilderness area, Mt. Aspiring National Park – incredible!

(B,L,D)

*Friday*                      **Hike Siberia Valley, jet boat Wilkin River**

After an early start, we spend the morning hiking to The Forks, at the head of the Wilkin River, where we will be met by a jet boat for an exhilarating ride back to Makarora, where we'll hook up with the rest of the group before carrying on to Franz Josef.

*Friday (continued)*        **Finish Mt. Aspiring National Park options**

After regrouping in Makarora we'll have a picnic lunch, before a beautiful drive over Haast Pass to the South Island's West Coast, before heading up the coast to Franz Josef by late afternoon.

ACCOMMODATION: Franz Josef lodgings, Franz Josef

(B,L,D)

*Saturday*                      **Hike at Franz Josef Glacier**

Just down the road from Franz Josef township there are two formidable glaciers descending from the mountains to the sea. In terms of scenery, this place is just off the chart, and we'll spend most of the day hiking at Franz Josef Glacier. We'll hike up through the rainforest to either Alex Knob or Roberts Point, both of which give great views of the terminal face, lower reaches and lateral moraines of the Franz Josef Glacier. We only do these hikes in good weather, as the rocks get very slippery in the rain. If it's raining, we'll do a shorter walk to the terminal face of Franz Josef Glacier and up to the historic Tatara Tunnels.

*Heli-hike option (add US\$299 + 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 (1300m) 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 civilisation.

*The heli-hike is extremely popular, 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.*

Heli-hikers generally return a little earlier, so we all rendezvous at a local café, and head north. From Franz Josef we head up the coast to Hokitika to check out the local art galleries and pounamu carving workshops ('pounamu' is Maori for jade). This rural West Coast town is situated right on the beach with the Tasman Sea providing a unique backdrop for our final night together.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Beachside lodgings, Hokitika (B,L,D)

### *Sunday* **Hike in Arthur's Pass, depart for home**

We'll get in one last hike before heading to Christchurch. We take the short drive into the Southern Alps and up to Arthur's Pass where we'll hike up to Devils Punchbowl. Then, after lunch, we'll head to Christchurch to arrive in time for your flights to Auckland and back home. This will have been a very exhilarating week, and you'll be relaxed and refreshed! See the itinerary for the *Kauri* trip if you want to take a few more days to see the North Island as well. (B,L)

## **Important Information**

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The *Tui* is an activity-oriented trip around the South Island. We've chosen interesting and comfortable accommodations throughout. Some places are quite luxurious, but many of the other places we stay are off-the-beaten-track – and don't have many accommodation options – but they are really, really spectacular. Our clients often say a real highlight of the trip is meeting their New Zealand hosts. We think you'll love the places we stay! We prefer to stay in comfortable bed and breakfasts, lodges and apartments. Rooming is based on twin-share, although single rooms are available upon request. As there's such a variety of accommodations on this trip, some places will have ensuite bathrooms and some will have shared bathrooms, so we may ask you to share a bathroom with other group members on occasion.

**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 by about 11.30am on the first Sunday, and departing from Christchurch after 3pm (domestic flights) or 4pm (international flights) on the last Sunday.

**PICK UP INFORMATION:** On the first day of the trip we can either pick you up from the Station Building in Queenstown at 11.30am or at the Queenstown airport in front of the information desk at 12 noon.

**DROP OFF INFORMATION:** On the last day of the trip we can drop you off at the Christchurch airport in time for the flights above, or anywhere in central Christchurch.

**TRIP DIRECTION:** To keep our group sizes down, we run *Tuis* in two directions within the South Island – from Christchurch to Queenstown and from Queenstown to Christchurch. This itinerary happens to be written up in the Queenstown to Christchurch format. Whichever direction you take, you'll do all the activities we've mentioned, just in a different order. This trip is a product of many years of evolution and fine-tuning – it works well whichever way you do it!

**FITNESS:** We incorporate plenty of adventure activities and our focus is on getting you out of the vehicle, out of stress-mode, and into the scenery! Like all our trips, you don't need to be young or really fit – but this trip is all about action and pace, and it's definitely not designed for couch potatoes. Every one of the days on the trip will be unforgettable. We manage the level of commitment to suit your experience and we have an impeccable safety record. We hold all relevant government transport and outdoor guiding licenses and our staff are highly trained and experienced.

**EXPERIENCE:** You don't have to have any outdoor experience at all to enjoy the *Tui*. We offer trips that allow you to make the most of New Zealand's incredible outdoor environment. Our highly trained experienced guides will look after you! You won't be carrying a heavy pack and you don't need to have ever been in a sea kayak to enjoy kayaking Milford Sound. You don't need to be a serious cyclist to enjoy some of the rides we have available either. In fact, we have so many options available that you don't need to ride at all if you'd rather hike, fish, or just laze around! All we ask is that you be energetic and in reasonable shape and you'll have an incredible time on the *Tui*.

**FLEXIBILITY:** Because of the off-the-beaten-path and non-commercial nature of some of our accommodations on this trip, we sometimes need to change a night stop. For instance, every now and then Hollyford Camp is booked out. We try to make as few changes as possible, but we ask that you know we retain the flexibility to make sure your trip is as good as it can be.

**INCLUDED:** The trip fare is US\$2299 + 12.5% NZ government taxes. We quote all prices in US dollars, so our guests 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 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 you have 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 organise accommodation for you if you want to arrive earlier or leave later.
- Transport as required, in comfortable vehicles, aircraft, jet boats, and whatever else is required.
- All your meals, except in Queenstown where we've found people prefer to check out the wide range of restaurants. Alcohol is not generally included, although we do spring for a few drinks here and there!
- All hiking, cycling, and kayaking described in the itinerary, except optional extra activities. 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 Queenstown. 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 hang gliding, bungee jumping, jet boating, skydiving, and so on, others prefer to focus more on the hiking, paddling and cycling, 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-dime 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!**

*Itinerary valid through April 2009*