

HOLLYFORD

# Fundraising Trip

22 APRIL 2026



HOLLYFORD  
CONSERVATION TRUST

FUNDED BY GENEROUS DONATION, GRANTS, VOLUNTEERS  
FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO [hollyfordtrack.co.nz](https://hollyfordtrack.co.nz)



**As a proud partner of the Hollyford Conservation Trust, Hollyford Valley Walk, owned and operated by Ngāi Tahu Tourism, is delighted to present an exclusive fundraising departure in support of one of Fiordland's most significant conservation initiatives.**

This rare and intimate journey invites both first-time explorers and returning Hollyford devotees to experience the valley at its most special. Guests will enjoy the newly upgraded Waitai Lodge at Martins Bay, now featuring private ensuite rooms and wood-fired hot tubs, offering a heightened sense of comfort at the edge of the wilderness.

Limited to just 16 guests, this special departure is an elevated version of the award-winning Hollyford Wilderness Experience, with all profits contributed directly to the Hollyford Conservation Trust. The itinerary includes an additional night at the much-loved Waitai Lodge, allowing more time to unwind, connect, and immerse yourself in this remarkable place.

Adding further depth to the journey, guests will be accompanied throughout by distinguished conservation leaders and storytellers. Special guest Lou Sanson, former Director-General of the Department of Conservation, will share his insights and stories from a lifetime dedicated to New Zealand's natural heritage. He will be joined by Ron Anderson, Chair of the Hollyford Conservation Trust, and Lindsay Wilson, the Trust's Conservation Manager, offering a rare opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the conservation work shaping the future of the valley.

The experience is led by two highly experienced Fiordland guides and brought to life through the renowned Hollyford manaakitanga. At Waitai Lodge, our dedicated hosts will deliver warm hospitality, exceptional food and carefully selected beverages, all to be enjoyed alongside the dramatic landscapes of Fiordland National Park.

The lower Hollyford Valley lies within the Fiordland National Park World Heritage Area, approximately 35 kilometres north of Piopiotahi Milford Sound. This extraordinary region encompasses a rich mosaic of ecosystems, from ancient podocarp forest and

wetlands to Whakatipu Waitai (Lake McKerrow), the Whakatipu Kā Tuka (Hollyford River), and coastal dunes cloaked in golden pingao, the largest dune system in Fiordland.

The Hollyford Conservation Trust is a registered charitable trust dedicated to restoring a healthy, thriving native ecosystem in the lower Hollyford Valley. Established in 2014 in partnership with the Department of Conservation and key stakeholders, the Trust has created one of New Zealand's most successful mainland island sanctuaries. An intensively managed predator-control area now spans more than 14,000 hectares, delivering exceptional conservation outcomes.

These efforts have led to a dramatic resurgence of native birdlife, including the return of flocks of kākā, tūi and kererū, and the revival of the valley's dawn chorus. Korimako (bellbird) numbers have increased eightfold, while ngiru-ngiru (South Island tomtit) populations have grown sixfold. Kakarua (South Island robin) have been successfully reintroduced and are now firmly established, and elusive wetland species such as matuku-hūrepo (bittern) and māātā (fernbird) are once again regularly sighted. With possums removed, the iconic rātā forest is recovering, its lush green canopy and vibrant red summer blooms returning to prominence. Looking ahead, the Trust's long-term vision includes the return of kiwi or tokoeka to the valley, with discussions already underway alongside DOC and Makaawhio.

**To join this once-in-a-lifetime experience and support the vital work of the Hollyford Conservation Trust, please contact our team on 03 442 3000 or email [info@hollyfordtrack.com](mailto:info@hollyfordtrack.com). Let us know you would like to join this exclusive departure and become a patron of the Hollyford Conservation Trust.**

**Cost: NZ\$4,995 per person (single supplement an additional \$2,250)**

## HOLLYFORD CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDRAISER ITINERARY



**DAY ONE // WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2026**  
Te Anau

**TRANSPORT FROM QUEENSTOWN:** 2:30pm (onwards) at most central hotels (excludes private residence)  
**OR:** 3:00pm at The Station Building, Duke Street  
**OR:** 3:30pm at Queenstown Airport  
**OR:** Make your own way to Te Anau and check into the Distinction Hotel & Villas.

**PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING:** Distinction Hotel & Villas, 64 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau

Please meet your Hollyford guide at 6:25pm for your pre-departure briefing, commencing at 6:30pm. An outline of the next few days will be given, and if you require rain jackets, walking poles and/or backpacks we will have them available for you here.

Dinner: Following your briefing, dinner will be available at The MacKinnon Restaurant located at the hotel.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Distinction Hotel & Villas, 64 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau



**DAY THREE // FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2026**  
Waitai Lodge & Martins Bay Area

Experience an impressive dawn chorus at Martins Bay – the birdlife is fantastic due to the extensive initiatives by the Hollyford Conservation Trust.

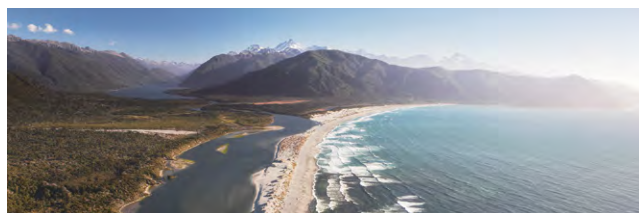
After breakfast, jet boat across to the sandspit and explore the Martins Bay sand dunes and beach. Hear stories of Chief Tūtoko and the early settlers before returning to Waitai Lodge for lunch.

After lunch there is an opportunity to walk through the towering podocarp forest, alive with bird song, then be collected by jetboat to visit the historic failed Jamestown settlement before returning to Waitai Lodge.

Into the afternoon and evening we will spend time at the lodge and around the Martins Bay area looking more closely at the Hollyford Conservation Trust project. We will hear directly from the Conservation Trust Chair (Ron Anderson) and the project Conservation Manager (Lindsay Wilson) on what it takes to bring a project together and the results that are occurring.

**WALKING DISTANCE APPROX. 5KM – 9KM**

You will use a day pack to carry your jacket, camera etc.



**DAY TWO // THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2026**  
Te Anau to Martins Bay

Today you will start your adventure in the Hollyford Valley.

Breakfast is included and will be available from 6:30am at the hotel. After breakfast, please meet your guide and fellow walkers at 8:30am at the hotel reception ready to embark on your journey to Martins Bay.

From Te Anau you will take a scenic bus trip through the majestic Eglinton Valley to Milford Sound. Upon your arrival into Milford Sound, you board your helicopter – flying from the truly spectacular and dramatic Milford Sound to Martins Bay. Enjoy an impressive lunch in our safari style tent, then set off on a walk into a dense coastal forest, rich with bird song. You will be transferred to Waitai Lodge via jet boat. Settle into your ensuite room, enjoy a hot shower, or soak in the wood fired hot tub, before a delicious three-course dinner. Then, sit back and relax with a drink while reflecting on a great first day.

**WALKING DISTANCE 8 KM**

You will use a day pack to carry your jacket, camera etc.



**DAY FOUR // SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2026**  
Waitai Lodge to Te Anau/Queenstown

After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to Waitai Lodge and the Hollyford Valley as you board the helicopter for a scenic flight along the rugged coastline and into the dramatic Milford Sound. You'll be met by our private coach and travel back to Te Anau arriving at approximately 1:00pm.

**OR** carry on through to Queenstown, arriving at approximately 4:00pm.





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## BE A PART OF CONSERVATION IN ACTION



**Lying at the end of the Hollyford Valley in World Heritage Status Te Wahipounamu, Fiordland National Park, New Zealand, Martins Bay is known as a 'biodiversity hotspot' with a range of landscapes, habitats, flora and fauna – both marine and terrestrial – unparalleled anywhere in Aotearoa.**



Habitats include fragile dune systems, a world recognised wetland, unique podocarp forest, and is the only place in New Zealand (arguably the world) where bottlenose dolphins enter a fresh water lake. Martins Bay – Whakatipu Waitai – is truly a treasure, or taonga, of Fiordland National Park and it is of vital importance that we protect it.

The Hollyford Conservation Trust is a charitable trust, who with the support of Department of Conservation, iwi and visitors, work to actively protect and enhance the native flora and fauna in the lower Hollyford Valley. Established in 2014, with an original goal of protecting 2,600 hectares via intensive predator and pest control. By 2023, the trust completed a major extension of the project to over 12,000 ha of predator control.

The Trust continues to work tirelessly to restore and protect the unique flora and fauna of the area. This included the reintroduction



of the previously locally extinct species, kakarui or South Island robin. In April 2019, 151 kakarui were released into the lower Hollyford, and the population is now thriving. This was the first of what the Trust hopes will be many more re-introductions of native species into the area.

By booking your spot on this special Hollyford Wilderness Experience trip you'll be helping to protect the extraordinary native biodiversity of this area, a very special corner of Fiordland and Aotearoa New Zealand.