

Three Day Hollyford Track Guided Wilderness Experience



A journey of discovery from
the Mountains to the Sea



Guide discussing botanical information

An introduction to one of New Zealand's greatest walks

In the heart of spectacular
Fiordland National Park, the
dramatic Hollyford Track
is one of the greatest guided
walks in New Zealand.
In three days you'll be
transported from the
mountains to the sea,
discovering the Hollyford
Valley by foot, jet boat and
finally helicopter.

Get yourself an outdoor education

Your expert and passionate guides
will bring to life the diversity of the
landscape as well as its flora and
fauna as we explore the track from
the mountains to the sea. Fascinating,
informative dialogue is interspersed
with tales of early Māori and the
pioneering families who followed and
struggled with Hollyford's isolation.

Not your usual walk in the park

Starting in beech and fern forest, over
three days we descend to coastal
podocarp forests and then finally
out onto the impressive sand dunes
of Martins Bay at the mouth of this
once glacial valley. You'll leave the
Hollyford Track with new friendships, a
rejuvenated soul, a sense of achievement,
lifetime memories and the delight of
having experienced a very special and
unique piece of New Zealand.

Bring those old legs to life

Following the course of the Hollyford River,
the Hollyford Track is a low-altitude walk
along the valley floor, very achievable for
those with a reasonable level of fitness.
A huge benefit is that you only need carry
your pack on the first day, after which we
supply a small day pack which is more
than enough for your daily needs.

Below:
1. Lodge hosts preparing your
three course dinner
2. Walking at your own pace
certainly has its benefits



*Above: Mt Madeline dominates the
Pyke Valley rising above Lake Alabaster*

Personal service, cosy accommodation

Our small, intimate group sizes with a
maximum of just 16 on a trip - ensure
a very personal level of service. At the
end of each day you arrive to a warm
dry lodge, a hearty welcome from your
lodge hosts and the enticing aroma of
delicious cuisine and fine wines. Lodges
include all bedding and linen supplied
in twin-share rooms, shared bathroom
facilities and plenty of hot water.

*Below: Pyke Lodge at night
at the end of day one*



The final highlight

Always a highlight, the trip concludes
with a helicopter flight along the wild
West Coast before taking in glorious
Milford Sound from the air. Our luxury
small coach then takes you back to
Te Anau and Queenstown.



Itinerary



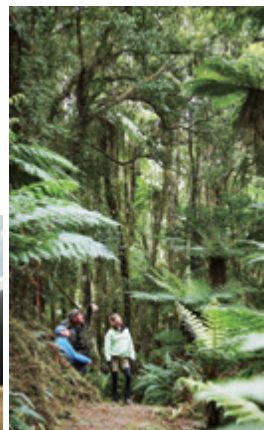
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Day One - 19.5kms (12miles)

Departing Queenstown, you'll travel alongside Lake Wakatipu before picking up those starting in Te Anau. Together you'll travel through the beautiful Eglinton Valley on your way to the start of the Hollyford Valley. Visit Gunn's Camp museum before walking alongside the swift clear waters of the Hollyford River beneath the gaze of the mighty Southern Alps, including Mt Tūtoko (2746m) and Mt Madeline (2537m). As the track undulates gently through native beech forest and beside impressive tumbling waterfalls you'll re-trace the footsteps of early Māori and pioneer explorers and enjoy interesting historical tales and interpretation of forest and bird life. A relaxed evening is spent at Pyke Lodge where you can visit our nearby glow-worm colony.

From top to bottom:
1 The upper Hollyford river
2 Beech forest and ferns
3 The majestic Eglinton valley
4 Hiking Little Homer Saddle

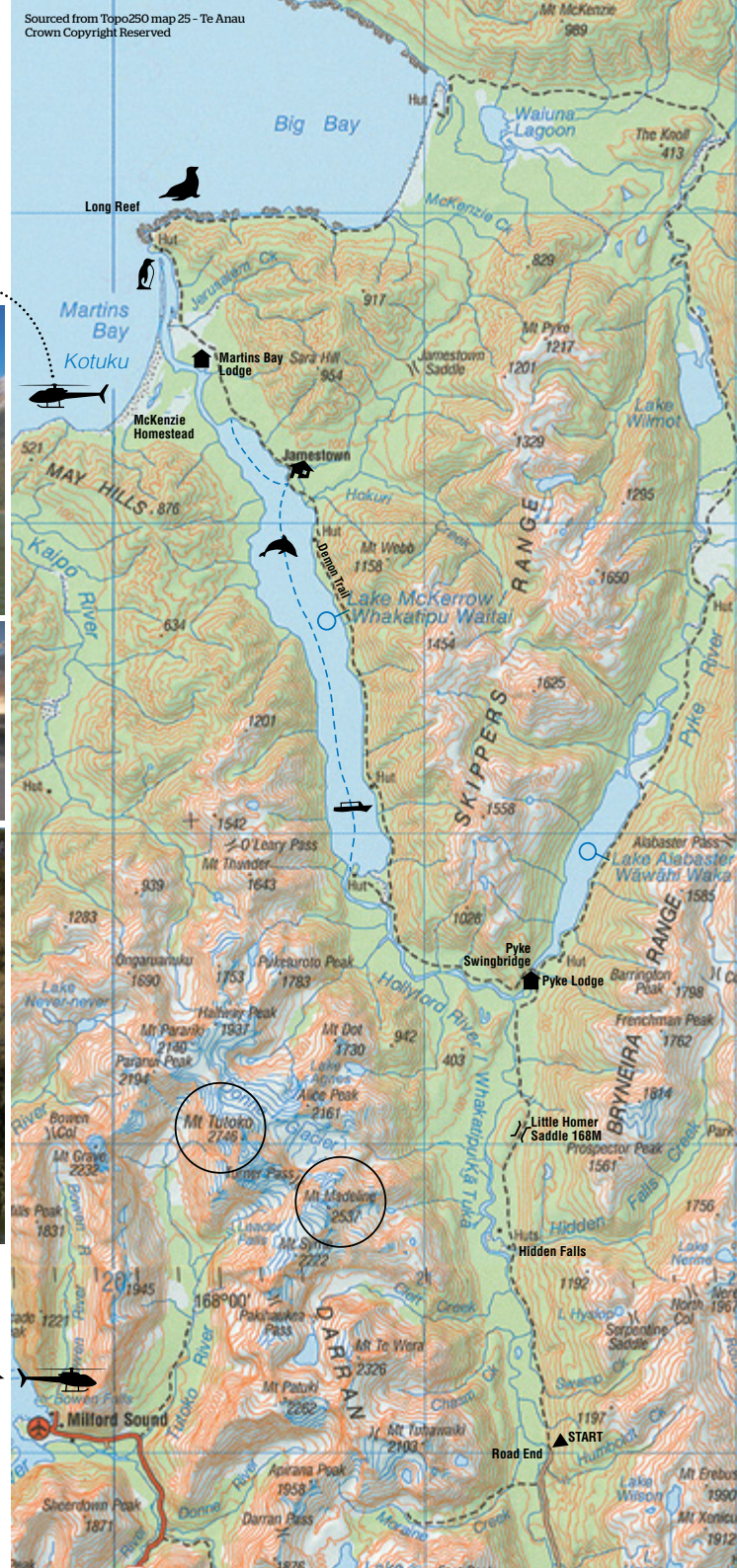


Day Two - 15kms (9miles)

Start the day with a tasty cooked or continental breakfast before visiting Lake Alabaster and learning the history and geology of the area. You'll have the option of crossing one of Fiordland's longest swing bridges before taking a short walk to board our jet boat. Enjoy a scenic ride down the Hollyford River and along Lake McKerrow. After calling in at the early pioneer settlement site of Jamestown, you'll walk through ancient Podocarp forest amongst native forest giants, some up to 1000 years old. Thunderous surf on the West Coast is a prelude to a bay of boulders where the rare Fiordland Crested penguin is a seasonal visitor. Further on Long Reef plays host to a rookery of native New Zealand fur seals. This evening you'll be hosted at Martins Bay Lodge, close to the mouth of the Hollyford River.



From top to bottom:
1 Jet boating down Lake McKerrow to the sea
2 Sunset across the beach at Martins Bay
3 The long Pyke River swing bridge
4 Milford Sound from the air



Key



Seals: A permanent New Zealand Fur Seal rookery is established at Long Reef. The big bulls leave in December and the pups are born through January.



Penguins: The rare Fiordland Crested penguins are nesting from October - December. They return in March to moult but are reclusive at this time.



Dolphins: A pod of Bottlenose Dolphins are regular visitors to the lower river and Lake McKerrow and can sometimes be spotted as they play in the bow wave of the jet boats as we pass through the area.



Jamestown: Named after the former Superintendent of Otago James MacAndrew. Laid out in 1870 and sold off unsighted to prospective tenants. Little now remains with the site having been totally reclaimed by native bush.



Freephone 0800 832 226
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Day Three - 8.5kms (5miles)

After another hearty breakfast you'll explore Martin's Bay Spit, a famous landmark separating the powerful Tasman Sea from the Hollyford Valley, and a coastal landscape that's a world away from the previous days. Your guide knows all about the native flora of this unique environment, helping you discover the diversity of this truly remote area. Learn about lifestyle of the early Māori and their pounamu trails that pass through the valley. You're encouraged to explore the isolated beach and sand dunes in your own time, giving you the chance to reflect on this intrepid journey. Returning to Martins Bay Lodge for lunch, say goodbye to your lodge hosts before boarding your helicopter for a scenic flight along the rugged coast into the truly spectacular and dramatic Milford Sound -- marvel at the grandeur of vertical granite walls rising from the sea. In Milford you'll be met by your coach driver and travel the impressive Milford Road through the famous Homer Tunnel and journey back to Te Anau (for approx. 4.30pm) and Queenstown (for approx. 7pm).

Ngāi Tahu's tourism roots extend back to when our ancestors were the guides for many of the first European explorers. Now tourism allows Ngāi Tahu to extend to visitors our manaakitanga (hospitality) and provide rich experiences within our natural environment, now and for generations to come. Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei - For us and our children after us.

