

# Gillespie pass

Young-Siberia-Wilkin round trip



season  
dec-april

price  
\$ 1,540 p.p.

access  
walk-in / jetboat out

location  
Mt Aspiring National Park -  
World heritage area

grade  
moderate/hard

Group size  
max 5; min 2

Trek dates: 4 days  
**2012**  
 Apr 6-9 (easter)  
 Apr 10-13  
 Nov 11-14 & 22-25  
 Dec 4-8 & 18-21  
**2013**  
 Jan 12-15 & 27-30  
 Feb 15-18  
 Mar 9-12 & 26-29

At over 1500m Gillespie Pass is a stunningly beautiful location. Well prepared track and bridges make this trek less daunting than Rabbit Pass, but it is still a challenge. The track begins in dense temperate rain forest and steadily climbs into wondrous alpine paradise. We finish the trip with a thrilling jet boat ride back to civilization. There are mountain huts we can use but often we camp out in tents. If the native flora is your interest, the primordial plant associations will amaze you. Eighty percent of the Native plant species are found nowhere else in the world! This is an experience you will never forget.

We guide **2-5 discerning clients** on the wildest back country trekking and hiking in New Zealand. We operate primarily in Mount Aspiring National Park out of Wanaka or Queenstown. We are professional mountain guides, not tour operators. Because we guide **small groups**, we can take you, not on the great walks, but the best walks ... where large tour operators cannot go.

We stay at **pre-placed camp sites** instead of crowded huts. This means you only carry a **light pack**. We rarely see other parties. All you need is appropriate clothing, a good pair of walking shoes or hiking boots (and a spirit of adventure). You will welcome the comfort of our fantastic home away from home and your guide will provide you plenty of good wholesome food. Join a trek, or book out your private trek on or around the dates listed below.

The Mount Aspiring National Park is a majestic and **seldom travelled** area. The surrounding peaks and huge tracts of unmodified native bush, give a feeling of timelessness. This is the basis of the area's reputation as having some of the most dramatic and undiscovered trekking in NZ. The park forms part of the Te Wahipounamu **World heritage site**. Many people do not realize that New Zealand does not have any large predators, no bears, no fox or wolf. There are no snakes in New Zealand. There are absolutely no animals which will harm you.

New Zealand is a truly unique country. Due to its geographic isolation many plants and animals have evolved which exist nowhere else on earth. The only way to appreciate this biodiversity and get a sense of how glaciation shaped the Southern Alps is to walk through the densely forested valleys, relax by the crystal clear rivers and endure the trek up to a high alpine pass.





Maori walked through what is now Mount Aspiring National Park in search of pounamu (greenstone). They discovered routes through the Southern Alps which would take them from the west coast into the interior. Towards the end of the 19th century the European settlers came “exploring”. They were looking for pastoral land, mineral deposits (mostly GOLD) and also routes through to the West coast. We now follow in the footsteps of Maori and the Pakeha surveyors as we trek through this stunning mountain wilderness.

## itinerary

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day one	We meet you at our offices on the lakefront in Wanaka. After checking through the group's gear, we depart for the township of Makarora. If the rivers are high then Jet Boat access to the start of the track is provided. The Young Valley is a wonderland of dense native forest and high peaks. The trail steepens and climbs steadily to tree line. Tonight we stay at the new Young hut. <i>20km -- 7 hrs -- 650m ascent.</i>
day two	The track winds its way up the valley sidewall under the awesome east face of Mount Awful. This is really an alpine paradise. The track climbs steeply alongside a rock bluff onto a snow grass spur that after 3 to 4 hours, leads to the pass. The climbing ends at Gillespie Pass and one of the great view points of the Southern Alps. From here there's an impressive view, with Mount Alba dominating the skyline. After a short downhill we walk through the forest to reach our camp next to Gillespie stream. <i>6hrs 550m ascent 550m descent.</i>
day three	We leave our packs behind today as we do a day trip to Lake Crucible. This unusual lake sits high above the Siberia Valley, nestled under Mt Alba. It is a steep climb through a forest, with a small river crossing, and finally the ascent through a snowgrass flat until you reach the lake. <i>7 km-- 7hrs 880m ascent 880m descent.</i>
day four	The Siberia Valley is a hidden oasis. From our camp the gentle track takes us through ancient Beech forest and open river flats. It is all downhill to rendezvous with our Jet Boat. The thrilling boat ride delivers us back to Makarora where our transport is located. <i>5hrs 650m descent.</i>

**NB :** Please note that this itinerary is a **sample only** and the actual itinerary may vary at the discretion of your guide. Weather, conditions and personal ability and needs may make changes necessary or advantageous to the participants.

## trek dates 2011-2012 or book your own private trek

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November 14 - 17 25 - 28	December 5 - 8 19 - 22 27 - 30	January 5 - 8 27 - 30	February 16 - 19 27 - 1 mar	March 19 - 22	April 6 - 9
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## logistics

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duration	4 days (if you preferred a longer trek, consider the Gillespie/Rabbit Pass 8 day trek)
price	NZ\$1,540 per person (min 2 – max 5)
access	Walk in, jetboat out
season	Dec-April
guide-client ratio	1:5 maximum; 1:2 minimum



**prerequisites**      **Moderate/Hard Grade.** To enjoy your Gillespie Pass trek you need to be fit and have good balance. The prepared track is rough and sometimes wet. Sometimes the footing is unstable. Hikers need to be good on their feet and be comfortable on rough or slippery ground. Hikers should be able to maintain a slow but steady pace up hill for an hour between rest stops. You will only carry your own gear plus a sleeping bag (no tent or food). Each day walking is designed to be 5-7 hours. There is plenty of time to rest, swim, and take photos.

**accommodation**      combination of hut and camping

**maps**                      F38 Wilkin

The trip price includes: *Guide and permit fees, group camping equipment, all trip related meals and energy foods, jetboat,, ground transfers ex Wanaka and NZ Goods and Services tax.*

## difficulty scale

Moderate/Hard Grade. This trip requires a moderate level of fitness. There is some off trail and a good uphill section. The trail is sometimes rough and muddy. Not suitable for children under 12.

Easy	Moderate	Hard
Average level of fitness. Age 12+. 5-6 hours each day. Light packs. Previous hiking recommended	Formed tracks perhaps rough or slippery. 6-8 hours each day. Long ascents/descents. Light packs. Previous hiking recommended.	High level of fitness and good balance. Max 8+ hours each day. Off trail, loose rock & insecure terrain in places. Occasional exposure where falling is a possibility if care is not taken. Previous hiking experience required. Large ascents/descents can be expected. Light packs.

## we care about you

We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable. Our philosophy here at Aspiring Guides is such that we aim to cover all aspects of a trekking trip with you. This includes preparatory housekeeping matters too: let us know what you do/don't like eating, any allergies/medical conditions, and any special requests. We have a sound environmental policy (small groups, avoidance of machine prepared tracks, zero waste, operated and owned locally). We are professional mountain guides not tour operators. We take you, not on the great walks, but the best walks.

## location and itinerary

The trip starts 8:30am on day one. The Aspiring Guides office is situated at Level One, 99 Ardmore Street, Wanaka on the main thoroughfare and only 50 metres from the shores of Lake Wanaka. Wanaka is the gateway to the Mount Aspiring National Park, and the Southern Alps. Our office staff can offer advice on accommodation and shuttle reservations, and of course, local attractions. Wanaka is very popular during the winter and summer months. Please arrange your accommodation as early as possible.



## booking and cancellations

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NZ\$500 deposit per person confirms your booking. Full payment must be made 60 days before commencement date. Should you cancel your booking for any reason you will receive a full refund less a cancellation fee: more than 60 days NZ\$200 per person, between 60 and 30 days NZ\$500 per person, between 29 and 15 days 75% of the total course or trip fee. Cancellation less than 15 days or during your trip no refund will be given.

## weather

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New Zealand is famous for its changeable weather. The mountains here are characterized by long sunny fine periods mixed with sudden and sometimes heavy rain or snow. Our experienced guides are well equipped to provide the best possible trip and have many years experience in judging the conditions. Travel in bad weather is an art in itself, the temperate rain forest here is absolutely beautiful in the rain. By using Wild Walks you give yourself the best chance of a successful dealing with whatever the weather may throw at you. It is very rare for trips to be cancelled due to weather; in the unfortunate event that this happens, there is a 50% cancellation fee. Once a trip begins there are no refunds. The trekking area of our website has detailed information on weather.

## meals and snacks

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Energy snacks and nutritious meals are an essential ingredient in helping you perform to your highest standard. We provide good wholesome meals and plenty of it. We cater for your specific dietary requirement.

## insurance

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Injuries are covered by the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). ACC pays for the majority of costs incurred in evacuation and treatment of injured people. They do not cover you in case of illness. For more information concerning what ACC covers check out <http://www.acc.co.nz/claims/am-i-covered/index.htm>. We recommend that you have travel insurance that will cover you in being repatriated to your home country. Most standard travel insurance policies that cover lost deposit or cancellation fees will cover you in case you are somehow prevented from participating in the trip.

## how to book

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To register for a trip, you can book online through our excellent website. Your deposit of NZ\$500 may be paid by Visa or Mastercard, or bank transfer (NZ only). The forms required can be found on our website. Our booking terms and conditions are detailed on our online booking form on our website. Balance of payment is required 60 days before your trip start.

We will send an appointment email approximately 4 weeks before your trip is due to commence. We will provide final appointment information and ask for more information from you, e.g. dietary requirement, objectives and/or concerns, fitness and any equipment rental required.

We look forward to sharing your aspirations....

and the opportunity of spending time with you in the future **the team @ aspiring guides**