


# Rabbit pass

Wilkin to East Matukituki Trek



  
season  
mid dec - mid april

  
price  
\$1,750 p.p.

  
access  
fly or jetboat in  
walk out

  
location  
Mt Aspiring National Park -  
World heritage area

  
grade  
hard

  
Group size  
max 5; min 2

  
**Trek dates: 4 days**  
**2012**  
Dec 18-21 & 27-30  
**2013**  
Jan 12-15 & 27-30  
Feb 15-18  
Mar 9-12; 26-29



Not just another trek, **Rabbit Pass** is one of New Zealand's great adventures. **Four days** of some of the finest mountain terrain New Zealand has to offer. From rain forest to hanging glaciers there is no better way to escape the crowds and usual tourist trail.

The Rabbit Pass Guided Trek is located in New Zealand's Mount Aspiring National Park. This challenging four day hike takes you from ancient Beech forest to alpine meadows. This spectacular area is designated a **World Heritage Area**. Here, surrounded by glacier covered peaks and waterfalls, is one of the **greatest collections of alpine plants in the world**. This is also home to the Kea, the only alpine parrot on earth.

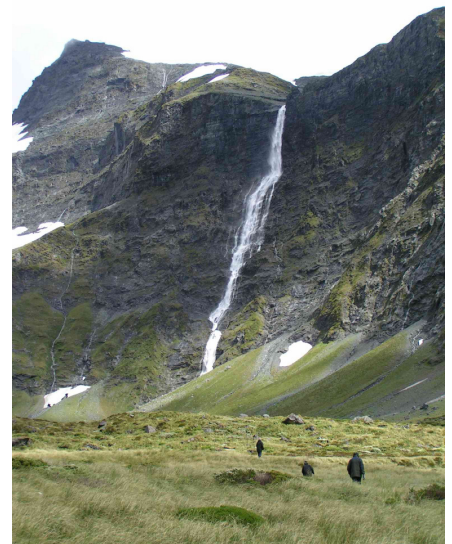
Our professional guide will ensure your safety as we explore this remote and seldom visited area. Hiking times are kept achievable (5-9 hours hiking a day) to leave time for relaxing photography or side trips. All food and overnight gear is supplied; all you carry is a light day pack.

Evenings are spent at our spectacular campsites. Our camps are our home in the hills and we pride ourselves on luxurious and environmentally aware sites. Sit back in the door of your private tent while we prepare an outrageously good meal. We supply everything you need to relax and enjoy this alpine paradise.

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 no-one else can 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 with 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, literally off the beaten track. 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 no where 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.

If you want a challenging “real NZ” trekking experience, this is without a doubt “THE” trek to do in Mount Aspiring National Park. Once the grassy flats of the Wilkin valley are left behind there are no more huts. The unspoilt mountain valleys, alpine meadows, huge waterfalls and awesome campsites provide you with an **unforgettable** experience.

## itinerary

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day one	Upper Wilkin Camp Day. We meet with transport and guide at 8:30 a.m. and travel 45 minutes to the small village of Makarora. Here we board a small fixed wing aircraft and fly into the heart of Mount Aspiring Park. A leisurely 2-hour walk brings us to the Top Forks Hut. The walking is not difficult but it is exciting with numerous river crossings and your first taste of wilderness travel. The afternoon is spent exploring this marvellous area.
day two	Pass Day. The route follows the southern fork of the river into bush and rises to open out into sub-alpine vegetation. The pass is reached after 3 hours and we break for sushi. Once the Waterfall face is breached, the pass is crossed in 2 hours. The 1-2 hour walk down to the camp at the base of the pass finishes with a good food and comfortable camping.
day three	Gorge Day. This day starts with a 2-hour wander down river to Ruth Flat a mountain paradise, which must be visited to be believed. The river becomes gorged and the route again climbs out of the forest into the sub-alpine. After a 3 hour uphill bush walk the trip crosses high above the gorge for 1- 2 hours. The same camp luxuries greet you along with a high alpine view of Mount Aspiring and the Coxcomb Ridge.
day four	Matukituki Downhill. A leisurely breakfast of blueberry pancakes and a 1-hour descent through native bush, gets you to the fantastic rock swimming pools. The trail follows the river through majestic beech forest for 3 hours. Gradually signs of civilization appear as the valley opens out. One last river crossing and the trip of a lifetime draws to a close. The van is waiting for the 40 minute ride back to Wanaka. We usually arrive back in Wanaka around 4:30pm.

**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.

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## trek dates 2011-2012

## or book your own private trek

<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
18-21 27-30	12-15 27-30	15-18	9-12 26-29

## logistics

duration	4 days (if you preferred a longer trek, consider the Gillespie/Rabbit Pass 8 day trek)
price	NZ\$1,750 per person (min 2 – max 5)
access	Fly or jetboat in and walk out
season	December – late April
guide-client ratio	1:5 maximum 1:2 minimum
prerequisites	Previous trekking experience essential. You will carry only light packs. See our Difficulty scale below. <b>To enjoy</b> your Rabbit Pass trek you need to be fit and have good balance. The track is rugged, steep, and exposed. Sometimes the footing is unstable scree and you will wade through many rivers and sidestreams. Hikers should be able to maintain a slow but steady pace up hill for an hour between rest stops. The trip is appropriate for people with good balance who are okay on exposed ground. You will only carry a light daypack and each days walking is designed to be 5-9 hours long (not including rests). If you are unsure about how you would do on this trek, ask us for a grading questionnaire.
accommodation	Hut for night one, Tent or bivouac camping options for the other nights
maps	F38 Wilkin, E39 Aspiring

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

## difficulty scale

Hard grade. Light packs. Very good fitness and stamina. Previous trekking experience essential. Comfortable on exposed ground.

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

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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

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The trip starts 8:30am on day one, although we will meet you the evening before at your accommodation to check through your gear and finalise last minute details. 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 (a list will be emailed during the initial stages of booking).

## 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 excellent 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