

alpine rock week

nz remote

season
dec-april

price
NZ\$ 4,800

guide-client ratio
1:1

7 days



Bonus

technical gear provided

The Darran mountains - Fiordland National Park. One of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. It is an area where snow-capped mountains, rivers of ice, deep lakes, unbroken forests and tussock grasslands produce a landscape of exceptional beauty. Some of the best examples of animals and plants, which were once found on the ancient super-continent of Gondwana, still exist here.

Based at Homer Hut not far from the township of Milford, this location offers an amazing array of objectives. The approach walk into these peaks is well rewarded by amazing views of the range and beautiful steep vistas of the fiords out to the Tasman Sea.

Such is the range of peaks in the Darran Mountains that the summit week could cater for diverse objectives including:

- A week focussed on **strong climbers** looking to extend their skills by climbing in an alpine setting OR
- For **trampers** wishing to increase their technical skills and take on the impressive peaks and journeys of the region

Possible itineraries would include:

Ascent of Moir's Mate

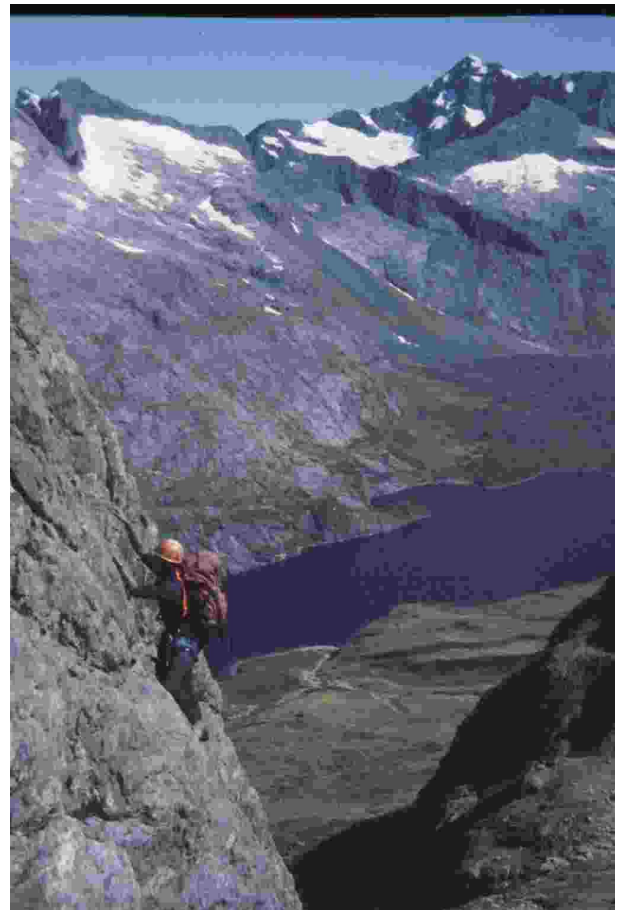
via the classic Bowen-Allan Corner 8 pitches fine intro to Darran Mountains Diorite Climbing. Grade 17 (or easier climbing via the North Ridge). The approach is close to Homer hut. Travel to the climb, as is common in the Darran Mountains, is very exposed.

Macpherson-Talbot traverse

A skyline traverse of the massif affording panoramic views of the region. Be amazed at the pioneers courage and resilience to find a route through this region to link the Wakatipu with Milford. Start from Homer hut heading to Homer Saddle over the Talbot's ladder to Mt Macpherson. Travel on the ridge above Mcpherson cirque to Talbot. (Mount Talbot also offers climbers some technical routes on the East ridge. A scenic peak atop the Psychopath wall and impressive views into the Gertrude valley) Continue on to Gertrude saddle and Black lake, quick swim if you are game! Descend Gertrude saddle Track to hut.

Gertrude Saddle-Barrier Traverse

Another panoramic journey with views towards Lake Adelaide and the amphitheatre of Sabre, Marion and Barrier Knob. Climbers will be drawn to the impressive climbs on Barrier knob and surrounding peaks; Trampers to the impressive terrain before them with possible journeys out to the Hollyford via Moraine Ck.



You will be instructed in the skills to travel in exposed and technical terrain with the use of axes, crampons and roped travel.

Other itineraries are offered in the area such as Mt Sabre which could be combined to the above.

Mt Sabre (2162m) alpine rock ascent

The finest rock peak in the Darran Mountains, Fiordland National Park.

This is a stunning ascent via the north buttress on diorite rock. The toe of the mountain is in alpine greenery. From Wanaka we drive through the scenic township of Te Anau towards the famous Milford Sounds. We overnight at Homer hut.

An early morning start we depart for Gertrude Saddle, enjoying the views of Milford Sound and the peaks of the Darran range. After arriving at the Saddle and traversing around Barrier Knob, we descend steep ground down Giffords Crack into the stunning Adelaide cirque.

From Lake South America and Lake Adelaide we boulder hop or walk across and up to Phil's Bivvy. A good day's crossing.

An early start takes us up steep grassy slopes to the Yak pastures where we begin. 12 pitches of superb alpine granite grade 16 Alpine Rock. You need to be fit to carry a pack and climb confidently up to grade 18/5.8. From a belay ledge the vistas open out over Barrier Knob, through Adelaide Saddle towards Milford Sound and the sea (also views of the snowy giants, Mt Tutoko and Madeline).



experience required

Good balance and secure footing. Rock climbing experience an advantage.

logistics

duration 7 days

price NZ\$ 4,800 1:1
 NZ\$ 2,950 1:2
Mt Sabre: 1:1 only

access drive to Milford Sound

season January-March
Mt Sabre: February-March

guide-client ratio 1:1 or 1:2

prerequisites Good balance and secure footing. Rock climbing experience an advantage.



Mt Sabre: 14 hours return endurance required. You need to be fit to carry a pack and climb confidently up to grade 18/5.8.

accommodation bivvy & hut

bonus ▲ technical gear included, except rock shoes

The price includes; Qualified Guide and permit fees, all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees, some technical equipment, and 12.5% NZ Goods and Services Tax. Additional expenses are for rental equipment.

about aspiring guides

- ▲ Since 1990... our website has details on our team.
- ▲ **We are about action.** We will spend as much time in the mountains as possible actually climbing peaks and developing skills. You don't gain judgment, skills and safe practices in the classroom.
- ▲ We are **specialists** in ascents and instruction courses. Attending one of these specialist courses will shortcut the road to mountaineering proficiency.
- ▲ Our trips offer the 'wilderness' approach to the mountains. We retain the option to stay in alpine huts ... with fine weather we will base ourselves from alpine camps (often combined with an overnight bivouac). This factor alone offers a greater perception and awareness of the mountain environment.
- ▲ Our **specialist** guides are NZMGA / IFMGA certified. They have impressive backgrounds with inspiring futures. They are friendly and personable; focused on delivering a safe, enjoyable and informative trips. In order to gain these qualifications guides must undergo rigorous training and assessment on climbing skills, instructional skills, avalanche training and assessment, wilderness first aid, rescue training and much more. The qualification takes many years (5-7) to attain and ensures you are receiving a professional service.
- ▲ We maintain a maximum guide to client ratio of 1:4 to reduce our impact on an area and give participants the best possible attention by the guide.
- ▲ Our activities are based in the Mount Aspiring, Westland, Cook, Fiordland National Parks, one of the most scenic and unspoilt alpine regions in the world. There are numerous peaks and routes of various difficulties making this an ideal training ground for any of the world's mountain ranges.
- ▲ The most important attributes in mountaineering are a solid climbing standard and mountain awareness; sound judgement of your own ability; good preparation and decision-making skills

we care about you

Our philosophy here at Aspiring Guides is such that we aim to cover all aspects of a mountaineering 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 recognise that the world of mountaineering presents a challenge right from the start; namely; getting the detailed information, selecting the right option and having faith in the guiding company you decide to invest your time and money with.

location and itinerary

We will meet you in Wanaka at the scheduled appointment time, usually 8:30am on day one. The Aspiring Guides office is situated at 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 with 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

NZ\$500 deposit per person confirms your booking. Full payment must be made 60 days before commencement date. If the balance is not received by the specified date, we reserve the right to cancel your booking and your deposit will be forfeited, unless a delay in your payment has been agreed by a director of Aspiring Guides Limited. 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

The mountains are immune to human plans and expectations. We need to make our plans flexible to allow for inclement weather and other unfavourable conditions. When the weather is bad in the mountains we will make a decision whether to attempt entering the mountains on each given day. We do not believe that entering the high country soaked to the skin and a bad forecast is a good idea. Your guides are very experienced and will attempt to the best of their ability to make the best decision they can. In the unlikely event adverse weather prevents a trip from immediately moving into the mountains, you have the opportunity to carry out sub alpine adventures and skill development activities until the conditions improve. This decision will be made by your guides to optimise and make valuable use of your time. Fortunately there is a lot which can be achieved during bad weather from Wanaka. Some of the best rockclimbing in New Zealand is 15 minutes drive from our office. These cliffs are set up with sport climbing routes as well as quality 'natural' lines providing an ideal venue for ropes skills training, developing rescue techniques, and even for working on your rock climbing skills.

In the unlikely event of weather and/or conditions preventing an expedition in the Fiordland National Park, an alternative venue/ascent will be recommended.

In the unlikely event of a trip being held up longer than anticipated in the mountains, for any reason, AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF NZ\$450 PER GUIDE PER DAY IS CHARGED (this is a cost price and will be divided between the trip participants). Your guide/s are working until you return to our offices at the trip finish.

In summer the general mountain climbing season runs from November through to mid May with the warmest month being January with 16 hours of daylight on the longest day. Temperatures can remain high during this period by day and drop to - 5 degrees Celsius overnight.

In November and December we can expect more snow cover on the routes, and as temperatures warm up into the summer months of January and February, we traditionally experience more settled weather and mixed climbing conditions such as snow, rock and ice). March and April bring late summer conditions which are mainly a combination of rock and ice routes. Generally we experience our first alpine snowfall mid May onwards.

meals and snacks

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.

maps and guidebooks

We have maps and guide books available for purchase in our office. Alternatively, we can post these to you.

valuables and luggage

Additional luggage and valuables can be securely stored at our office during your trip.

insurance

We strongly recommend that all our clients carry travel insurance which covers you while travelling to and from NZ, luggage mishaps, and in case you have to cancel your trip. The New Zealand Accident Compensation System (ACC) will cover most of the expenses relating to an evacuation and/or medical treatment/rehabilitation in the unlikely event of an accident occurring. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for personal medical conditions. You are not entitled to bulk payments for compensation and you cannot claim damages for costs under the ACC act (no legal action can be made in NZ). Whilst our focus is on safety we will not be responsible for any evacuation or medical costs resulting from any accident. Likewise equipment damage or loss remain your responsibility. Some insurance companies can provide adventure activities' cover - if you wish to investigate this option further, please contact our office for information.

communication and messages

Our climbing trips and courses are in radio and satellite phone communications with our Operations/Safety base and the Department of Conservation local office who manages each National park area. We obtain weather information and coordinate helicopters through these channels. In some circumstances mountain radio links are available for the relay of any urgent messages.

fitness & health

To make the most of your learning experience it is advisable to be fit enough to partake in the activities with enough stamina to get the most participation and enjoyment. We have two editorials on our website (Online Magazine) on how to prepare for mountaineering. Your guide places special focus on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

how to book

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 information and ask for more information from you, e.g. dietary requirement, trip objectives and/or concerns, height and weight, fitness and any equipment rental required.

You can fly to Wanaka from Christchurch on a twice daily service (www.airnz.co.nz). Alternatively if this connection is not possible from Christchurch, fly to Queenstown, which is 1.5 hours by shuttle from Wanaka and costs NZ\$35 - http://www.time2.co.nz/transport/wanaka_connexions. Wanaka Connexions also shuttle from Christchurch and Dunedin to Wanaka. Direct Trans-Tasman flights are available to Queenstown, Dunedin & Christchurch. Intercity express coachlines provide a service from Christchurch to Wanaka departing 7:45am and arriving at Wanaka 2:10pm. (contact 0800-100-663 or www.intercitycoach.co.nz).

We look forward to sharing your aspirations...

and the opportunity of climbing with you in the future

the team @ aspiring guides

