



lake nerine alpine circuit guided hike

Great Walks of New Zealand itineraries allow you to explore New Zealand your way. We offer different levels of accommodation, catering and comfort so that travellers can choose a trip that suits their style and budget. With many logistical inclusions, our trips allow you more freedom to

explore nz your way

be completely immersed in the journey. We have something for all fitness abilities with a grading system that defines our trips from introductory to challenging. You can choose to set your own pace on a flexible self-guided itinerary or enjoy the benefits of an experienced local guide on a small group tour. With a range of active adventures throughout New Zealand, from well-known tracks to less-visited trails and forays on private land, Great Walks of New Zealand offers opportunities to discover postcard-perfect landscapes, pure wilderness, rural lifestyles and unique kiwi experiences.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Note: Please note this trip requires a minimum of 2 travellers for a guaranteed departure. It is a bespoke trip, where your group will be the only ones travelling on a given departure date.

* Your preferred date is subject to guide availability at the time of booking.

TRIP NAME:	LAKE NERINE ALPINE CIRCUIT GUIDED HIKE
TRIP CODE:	GWN
TRIP DURATION:	6 DAYS
GRADE:	CHALLENGING
ACTIVITY:	TREKKING
ACCOMMODATION:	3 NIGHTS WILDERNESS CAMP, 2 NIGHTS HOTEL/MOTEL
DATE DETAILS:	DAILY DEPARTURES POSSIBLE DECEMBER TO MARCH SUBJECT TO GUIDE AVAILABILITY.

highlights

- Breathtaking circuit crossing Park Pass and North Col
- Camp beside the tranquil, deep-blue waters of Lake Nerine
- Escape the crowds and immerse yourself in one of the most pristine and secluded corners of Mt Aspiring National Park
- Perfect for photographers and nature lovers
- A demanding but rewarding tramp for experienced hikers
- True New Zealand backcountry hike

the trip

The Lake Nerine Circuit is an unforgettable alpine adventure, weaving through the breathtaking landscapes of Mt Aspiring National Park. This demanding high-route traverse follows the main divide, crossing over Park Pass at the head of the Rockburn Valley and North Col at the head of the North Branch of the Routeburn. Along the way, hikers are rewarded with sweeping mountain vistas, dramatic ridgelines, and pristine alpine terrain. A true highlight of the journey is an overnight camp by the serene waters of Lake Nerine, where rugged rock knolls frame the crystal-clear lake, and panoramic views stretch as far as the eye can see. Remote, untouched, and utterly awe-inspiring, this circuit is a must-do for experienced trampers seeking a truly wild and magical backcountry experience in New Zealand where very few get to hike this pristine wilderness.

your leader

An excellent guide can make the difference between a trip of a lifetime and just an ordinary trip. That is why we work hard to make sure we hire the best guides. Our handpicked professionals come from a range of backgrounds. Each has extensive outdoor and hiking experience and a passion for New Zealand's wild and beautiful backcountry. Our guides will ensure that your time with us is truly inspiring, a huge amount of fun and safe. All guides are trained in Mountain Safety First Aid.





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itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Arrive Queenstown
Day 2	Depart Queenstown for Glenorchy (hike approx 10.4km/ 5-6 hours)
Day 3	Hike to Park Pass and beyond (approx 18kms / 6-7 hours)
Day 4	North Col and North Branch of Routeburn Track (approx 18kms, 6-7 hours)
Day 5 hours)	Hike through to Routeburn Flats. Transfer to Queenstown (approx 10kms / 4-5 hours)
Day 6	Trip ends in Queenstown

detailed itinerary

Note: IMPORTANT: Please note that this 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.

DAY 1 Arrive Queenstown

Make your own way to Queenstown, New Zealand's Adventure Capital, where you will be able to check into your accommodation from 2.00pm. The afternoon is yours to enjoy the many sites that Queenstown has to offer. This afternoon there will be a gear check (done remotely) at a pre-determined time to ensure that you are fully ready and prepared for the adventures to come. Spend the evening enjoying the many dining options on offer in Queenstown, or simply relaxing before your adventure begins.

meals: NIL

DAY 2 Depart Queenstown for Glenorchy (hike approx 10.4km/ 5-6 hours)

This morning, you will be collected from your Queenstown accommodation ready for your alpine adventure over the next few days. We will drive out to Glenorchy, where the magic of Middle-earth came alive in Lord of the Rings, and the gateway to some of New Zealand's best hiking trails, Lake Nerine being one of them. Here is where our true backcountry hiking adventure will begin, taking us into remote regions of New Zealand that very few others have discovered. The trail starts in virgin bush leading into the Rockburn Valley. There are many options of campsites along the side of the river, or depending on how the group is feeling, we may decide to push through to Theatre Flat for a second shorter day. Our home for the evening will be a wilderness camp set up where we find a great spot to camp or a sufficient clearing.

meals: L,D

DAY 3 Hike to Park Pass and beyond (approx 18kms / 6-7 hours)

This morning we carry on up the valley through the impressive Theatre Flat, flanked by smooth slabs and jagged peaks. A short climb through the last of the bush brings us into the upper valley and to Park Pass beyond. From Park Pass we follow the steep ridge before descending to the alpine tarns. Your companions along the way are the snowy Fiordland peaks of Madeline and Tutoko. The tarns overlook the Rockburn Valley with views across to the Park Pass glacier and east to the peaks of the Earnslaw massif. Not a place to rush with plenty to explore before the final short climb over the saddle to arrive at Lake Nerine. Plenty of time in the afternoon to swim, take photos and relax in this stunning part of the National Park.

meals: B,L,D





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DAY 4 North Col and North Branch of Routeburn Track (approx 18kms, 6-7 hours)

Make sure you fuel up at breakfast this morning as today is perhaps the most challenging day of the trip. Lake Nerine catches the first rays of the morning sun but we shortly leave these behind as we cross on to the shady western aspects of Nerus Peak, overlooking Hidden Falls creek that drains into the mighty Hollyford River. A traverse route brings us to North Col and the head of the North Branch of the Routeburn. Here begins the challenging long descent to the flats over a variety of rough terrain including scree, scrub and following river beds. Camp next to the towering rock walls of Somnus this evening.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Hike through to Routeburn Flats. Transfer to Queenstown (approx 10kms / 4-5 hours)

Following a couple of long days on the circuit, we reach our final day and a gentle few hours on ever improving tracks until we reach the Routeburn Flats. From here the contrast is felt as you jump onto the busy Routeburn track after days of remoteness and solitude, arriving back to the road end and completing the circuit. We transfer back through to Queenstown, where perhaps a celebratory drink or dinner is in order and the sharing of photos and stories of your adventures.

meals: B,L

DAY 6 Trip ends in Queenstown

Your trip ends on check out from your accommodation in Queenstown. Please contact us if you wish to extend your stay and need extra nights accommodation.

meals: NIL

additional deposits

Due to the requirements of our tour partner we require the prepayment of an additional deposit which is non-refundable. This payment is required at the time of booking together with our normal non-refundable per person deposit. This prepayment should not be viewed as an additional cost. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.

inclusions

- 2 nights central hotel/motel accommodation in Queenstown, twin share
- 3 nights wilderness camping in tents
- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Professional qualified guide
- All group camping equipment (excluding sleeping bag and mat)
- Return private transport from Queenstown to the trail head
- Water and snacks while trekking
- Access and concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- New Zealand Goods and Services Tax (GST)

items not included

- International or domestic flights and taxes
- Transport to/from Queenstown
- Drinks (other than water)
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses (e.g. phone calls, internet, laundry, shopping etc)
- Water bottle (help us save the environment and bring your own drink bottle or hydration system)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)





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getting there

BY CAR

Queenstown is easily accessible by road from anywhere in the South Island. Most are very scenic journeys or often narrow and winding roads, so allow plenty of time.

BY AIR

Most people find it easiest to fly into Queenstown's International/Domestic Airport as it is only a 2-hour journey from there to Te Anau. It is also possible to fly into Dunedin or Invercargill, however you would need a car to get to Te Anau from these locations. For schedules and bookings visit: www.airnewzealand.co.nz or www.jetstar.com/nz

BY BUS

The Intercity coach links Queenstown to other regional New Zealand cities. For schedules and bookings visit: www.intercity.co.nz

TRANSFER SERVICE

Return transfers to/from trailheads and Queenstown are included in the trip.

trip grading - Challenging

CHALLENGING - GRADE 7

This trip grading is described as our CHALLENGING level. You need to be very fit with previous trekking experience and in good health. The track is rugged, steep and exposed and you may need to wade through water at times. Hikers should be able to maintain steady pace up hill for an hour between rest stops and there are some days you will be walking 6-8hrs per day (not including rests). You need to be capable of 1000m + ascents and descents during a day and for 4 consecutive days. Comfortable on rough and unmaintained tracks. Comfortable in a range of adverse weather conditions. Trip is recommended for those with previous hike experience using huts or camping and looking for their next remote hiking challenge. A sure footing is required and the trip will be physically demanding. It is important that you are realistic in the self-assessment of your skills and experience and that you attempt this trip if you do have previous outdoor, multi-trek experience. Alpine environments are prone to change quickly, so quick adaptation may be necessary.

Suggested preparation: We recommend one hour of aerobic type exercise, four times a week for at least 4 months prior to your trip.. This can include swimming, jogging, hard walking or cycling. Day walking, including hills and/or stairs with a pack in variable weather conditions is also recommended at least once a week.

accommodation

pre tour

We can arrange additional nights in Queenstown pre or post tour if required. Please ask us for details and costs. Subject to availability.

during tour

Accommodation in Queenstown is based on twin/double share rooms with ensuite bathroom. All linen is supplied. Free Wifi is provided for guests. Rooms have coffee and tea making facilities, hair dryer, TV and are modern and comfortable. Location is just on the edge of the CBD, making it easy walking distance to the restaurants, cafes and shops.

A single supplement is compulsory in Queenstown should you be travelling on your own or should you wish to have your own room if you are travelling with others in your party. Please note that we are not able to guarantee this accommodation exactly but the description above is for the accommodation normally used. If this is not available then an alternative will be found and if the standard is different you will be advised at the time of booking.





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Accommodation along the Lake Nerine Circuit is in wilderness camps. You will spend 3 nights wild camping with some of the best views and locations in New Zealand. The camps will be in remote and undeveloped natural areas. All gear including tents, sleeping bags, food, and cooking equipment etc will need to be carried in and there are no amenities such as toilets, water taps, or shelters. Wilderness camping offers a true backcountry experience, allowing adventurers to fully immerse themselves in nature, enjoy solitude, and explore untouched landscapes.

fast facts

VISAS	Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*
CLIMATE	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.

One of the most important thing travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses. This means the weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity. The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a dry climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to 30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C.

Weather is an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will distinguish you from the others. The New Zealand weather can be fierce but also benign and required clothing can vary somewhat according to the time of year or the current weather.

Some of the passes or terrain in this trip cannot be safely negotiated in adverse weather conditions. Should the guide determine weather or mountain conditions make the passes unsafe to cross, alternative hiking routes will be utilised.

MIN GROUP SIZE	2
MAX GROUP SIZE	4

SPECIALIST GEAR REQUIRED A complete gear list will be provided to you upon booking.

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to Great Walks of New Zealand clients and is operated by our partners. You will be joining a group of other adventurers from across New Zealand and around the world.

private groups

If the dates do not suit we would be happy to discuss a private departure with you. If you are a group of 2 to 4 people please get in touch to talk about organising a date and itinerary that suits your schedule.

how to book

To book a Great Walks of New Zealand trip, complete our booking form on our website www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz or contact our office.

Great Walks of New Zealand
Toll Free NZ: 0800 496 369
Regional NZ and all Other Countries: +64 9 368 4163
Email: info@greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz





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Use the hashtag #greatwalksofnz on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz or contact our office.

IMPORTANT NOTE

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY PREVIOUS INFORMATION FOUND ONLINE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.