

Call of the Wild

The World's Longest Running Adventure Travel Company for Women
Since 1978



Wild New Zealand: The South Island February 12 – 27th, 2011

Rating: Moderate/Challenging Day Hiking & Multisport

Group Size Limit: 12

Trip Leaders: Celine Stokowski & Tony Thrupp

Cost: \$3795 USD

Accommodations: 13 nights lodging=11 nights motels/hotels, 2 nights wilderness lodge

Wild New Zealand provides the best of South Island activities at a relaxed and enjoyable pace. Challenge yourself as you kayak on a lagoon with awesome views of Mt Cook, take an optional hike on the Franz Josef Glacier, see glowworms in an ancient landscape and do a multi-day hike on the Outer Queen Charlotte Track. You'll also enjoy time to shop for beautifully crafted greenstone in Hokitika and cruise the famous Milford Sound. See Fiordland, Aspiring, Westland Tai Poutini and Paparoa National Park as well as Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park. The hardest challenge you'll face will be leaving this remarkable country.

The Maori name for New Zealand is Aotearoa, meaning Land of the Long White Cloud. Carved by water, buckled by earthquakes and scorched by volcanoes, this is a land of time gone by where forces continue to shape the island nation. Wildlife here evolved for eons in total isolation, resulting in a country where the birds ruled, the bat is the only native land mammal and much of the fauna is endemic (found only in New Zealand). New Zealand is home to three World Heritage Areas; you'll visit the Te Wahipounamu Heritage Area, encompassing Westland, Mount Cook, Mount Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks.

Don't forget the people! Kiwis, or New Zealanders, are world famous for their laid-back approach to everything and anything, their sense of humor and their friendly nature—traits that are truly contagious. Come and experience the best of Wild New Zealand.

Feb 12, Day 1, ~ Fly to Queenstown, New Zealand

You'll depart the U.S. at the latest on Saturday Feb 12, heading to Queenstown, New Zealand, the "adventure capital of the world".

Feb 13, Day 2, ~ Travel Day

You will lose a day as you cross the international dateline. The good news is that you gain a day on the return trip home.

Feb 14, Day 3, ~ Arrival in Queenstown, Orientation, Hike overlooking Lake Wakatipu

Arrive at Queenstown airport by 12:30pm Monday where your guides will meet you. Once we group up, we have a short orientation before hitting the hills to stretch our legs and get beautiful

views of Queenstown's Lakes Dispute and Wakatipu. We'll get to know each other as we dine out as a group and then just relax and enjoy the view or shop Queenstown's many stores.

(Lunch)

Feb 15, Day 4, ~ Cruise of Milford Sound

It's an early wake up call, but it is well worth it! Drive the scenic Milford Road into the heart of Fiordland National Park to take a nature cruise of world famous Milford Sound. It is an amazing mix of travel and sights. Sheer walls with cascading waterfalls surround the road and sound, fur seals and bottlenose dolphins are often seen in the sound and at times, rare penguins can be observed. After a full day, drive back to Queenstown. For those who want to see it all, take an optional short flight over the impressive Darren Mountains as you fly back to Queenstown instead of driving (+NZ\$325) or if you want some extra time in Queenstown, fly both ways instead (+NZ\$230). You'll understand why this area has become world famous!

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 16, Day 5 ~ Hike Mt Iron, River Safari

Today we head north to the lakeside town of Wanaka and hike Mt Iron, an impressive, glacial rocky knoll which offers commanding views of Lake Wanaka and Aspiring National Park. Next, we continue north as we head down a massive glacial valley to the "Gates of Haast", where the Haast River is confined to a narrow gorge. Next, take a comfortable jet boat ride on the Haast River. The boat is fully enclosed, ensures excellent visibility and is driven by a highly experienced and local guide so you can sit back, relax and learn about the history of the area.

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 17, Day 6 ~ Ship's Creek, optional activities Franz Josef Glacier

Today we say good-bye to the beech forest and enter the unique podocarp forests of the West Coast. Along the way, we visit Ship's Creek to take an education walk along the beach to a stunning lagoon. A short drive then brings us to Franz Josef, a township nestled in a World Heritage Area and Westland National Park. This afternoon, you can hike on the Franz Josef glacier for a once in a lifetime experience. Geared with spikes, you'll explore the caves and crevasses of the glacier -- the colors of the ice will leave you breathless. Half day (NZ\$105) and heli-hike options (NZ\$TBC) available. For those who want a less strenuous activity, take a walk just up to the terminal face of the glacier or take an exhilarating helicopter scenic flight over temperate glaciers and around NZ's highest peaks, Mt. Cook and Mt. Tasman (NZ\$TBC).

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 18, Day 7 ~ Sea kayak on Okarito Lagoon, hike to the Okarito Trig

Today, we visit the small community of Okarito. This town of 50 inhabitants used to boast over 5000 people, all on the search for gold. Okarito also boasts New Zealand's largest unmodified wetland. We'll sea kayak on this lagoon with a local guide, exploring secret passageways through towering forest, featuring abundant bird life. Dry off and stretch the legs as we walk to the Trig lookout to admire the 360 views of mountains, lagoon, rainforest and ocean.

(Breakfast, lunch)

Feb 19, Day 8 ~ Shop for greenstone, Punakaiki

We leave Franz Josef and travel north up the coast to Hokitika, the Pounamu greenstone (aka Jade) capital of New Zealand. We'll have time to shop the many artisan galleries and craft stores. Learn about the history, origin and processing of greenstone on a free tour and watch carvers as

they work the jade stone into masterpieces. Our final destination is Punakaiki, nestled between the dramatic coastline and Paparoa National Park.

(Breakfast, dinner)

Feb 20, Day 9 ~ Hike in Paparoa National Park, Pancake Rocks

Today we do a half day hike on part of the historic Inland Pack Track, which showcases Paparoa National Park, a palm-treed paradise with massive limestone canyons and easy to explore caves. Next visit the Pancake Rocks, an unique coastal rock formation with some amazing blowholes. Enjoy an educational walk through the Pancake Rocks, visit Paparoa National Park's Department of Conservation office, and shop local craft shops.

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 21, Day 10 ~ Gloworm Cave Tour, Soak in Natural Hot Springs

North again to the tiny settlement of Charleston where we will embark on a truly otherworldly adventure. This is a superb eco-cave tour where you travel by train through primeval rain forest and explore the enormous Nile River Caves. You walk amidst a pristine ancient "wonderland" of stalactites and stalagmites & "galaxies" of Glow-worms in the large dry upper levels of the cave. We then leave the West Coast and head inland to Maruia Springs, a thermal oasis surrounded by bush-clad mountains and rushing streams. The hot springs are open all night, so there's no limit to your soaking pleasure. Optional massages available too so you can really pamper yourself!

(Breakfast, lunch)

Feb 22, Day 11 ~ Lewis Pass, Maori Tour

After a morning soak, we head over Lewis Pass to Kaikoura, a coastal town known for its marine activities and the first town in the world certified as a Green Globe community. In Kaikoura, we will visit a local Maori landholding. We'll be invited in a Maori household to learn about the Maori culture, the flora and fauna of the area, and a try our voices on a waiata (song) for the occasion.

(Lunch, dinner)

Feb 23, Day 12 ~ Seal Colony, optional activities in Kaikoura

Today we visit some local residents on the coast - a NZ fur seal colony. Hear their impressive barks and get some up close photos as they go about their daily business. If you want, carry on and walk this beautiful peninsula back to our motel. Alternatively, choose from several activities for the afternoon. Go swimming with Hector, or Maui, dolphins (NZ\$165). They are the smallest and rarest of sea living dolphins, but these mammals are definitely the most friendly and playful. This experience will invigorate your soul. Or for a more relaxed but just as exciting experience, go whale watching to see a variety of marine life which could include several varieties of whales, dolphins, seals and birdlife (NZ\$145).

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 24, Day 13 ~ Sawcut Gorge, free afternoon in Picton

Continue north up the east coast to Picton, the gate way to the Marlborough Sounds. Along the way, we hike to Sawcut Gorge, a spectacular chasm which is only 6 feet across in places. We'll then enjoy a well earned rest in Picton as you prepare for tomorrow's multi-day hike.

(Breakfast, lunch)

Feb 25, Day 14 ~ Start of multi-day Outer Queen Charlotte Track

We'll explore the beauty of the Marlborough Sounds area over the next three days on a privately owned and guided hiking track. The owners of the property are dedicated to sustainable living and conservation while redeveloping all the pastoral farmland into a Wilderness Park and NZ's first commercial carbon sink. Start the trip with a boat shuttle across the Sounds to Ship Cove where we meet the local guides. Our luggage will be transferred to the lodge so we can enjoy walking with daypacks. It is mostly a natural forest walk, with a feature being the variety of flora present over a short distance. You will journey from the coast to heights of about 2300 feet to get some outstanding views from the more open areas.

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 26, Day 15 ~ Outer Queen Charlotte Track

Today it's a full days hiking as we loop from our lodge to the Cape Jackson lighthouse. The emphasis here is on very special coastal scenery and wildlife. The Cape Jacksons passage is a natural intersection of the sea and over a period of time all sorts of creatures including the odd human will pass by. A favorite is to watch the penguins "fly" in the pools below. You will always see all sorts of sea birds feeding in the tide race and often schools of dolphins pass by. Our hosts will provide us with special insights into the area.

(Breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Feb 27, Day 16 ~ Outer Queen Charlotte Track, depart for US

Today, we leave the hospitality and beauty of the Outer Queen Charlotte by boat back to Picton. A short bus ride takes us to Blenheim where you will depart back to the US feeling invigorated and refreshed -- and no doubt planning another adventure to New Zealand! You will arrive home on Sunday, most likely in the morning.

(Breakfast, lunch)

Note: Itinerary subject to change at leader's discretion due to weather and other contingencies. Some activities are weather dependant.

WHAT YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Experienced Leadership
- 13 nights lodging (double-occupancy/twin share)- Please see Accommodation section below for details
- Meals as indicated on daily itinerary ie. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*
- Ground transportation (including Nelson if needed for airport departure)
- Activities listed in itinerary (except when listed as optional)
- Permit fees for use of public land
- Basic accident medical coverage (New Zealand's ACC program)
- Support booking optional activities

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare to and from New Zealand from overseas
- Airfare within New Zealand. You will have additional connecting flights from Christchurch or Auckland to Queenstown and Blenheim depending on your carrier. - Please see Arrival and Departure below for details.
- Any New Zealand departure taxes not already included in your airfare
- Meals not listed on daily itineraries

- Optional activities. Prices quoted for optional activities are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change.
- Personal items such as drinks, laundry, toiletries
- Travel Insurance. Please see Travel Insurance section below for details
- Tips to local NZ guides or service staff

About tipping: People on our trips often ask us about gratuities, so here are some guidelines: Each person usually tips \$5-\$10 per day for each trip leader depending on the level of service. Your guides take care of many extra details to give you a safe and fun trip. Tips at the end of the trip are a way of showing your special appreciation if you feel that your guides have given very good service to you. Tips to local NZ guides and service staff are not “standard” in New Zealand but are appreciated. Whether or not to tip while in NZ is therefore left to the individual.

DAILY ACTIVITY AND MILEAGE OPTIONS

There is a mix of easy to challenging hikes on this trip. Some days have options for you to choose from. See below for details of your daily activities.

- Day 1 ~ Travel Day. Remember to stretch and drink plenty of water on the flight
- Day 2 ~ This is the day you lose as you cross the international dateline
- Day 3 ~ Arrival in Queenstown, moderate hike on 12 Mile Loop Track (2.5 hrs, 4 miles, +-700ft)
- Day 4 ~ Cruise of Milford Sound
- Day 5 ~ Moderate hike of Mt Iron (2 hrs, 3 miles, +-1000ft), River Safari (1 hr)
- Day 6 ~ Easy walk around Ship’s Creek (1 hr, 1 mile, +-0ft), Optional hikes to the Franz Josef Glacier, one easy (2.5 hrs, 4 miles +-0ft), one moderate (4.5 hrs, 5 miles, +-700ft)
- Day 7 ~ Sea kayak Okarito Lagoon (3 hrs), moderate hike Okarito Trig (1.5 hr, 2 miles, +-600ft)
- Day 8 ~ Easy walk to Pancake Rocks (1 hour, .5 miles, +-0ft)
- Day 9 ~ Moderate day hike in Paparoa National Park (3-4 hrs, 6 miles, +-500ft)
- Day 10 ~ Glowworm cave tour (2 hrs walking on uneven surfaces)
- Day 11 ~ Maori tour (3.5 hrs, easy hiking involved)
- Day 12 ~ Seal Colony visit (drive up to colony, optional hike), optional activities in Kaikoura
- Day 13 ~ Moderate/challenging hike of Sawcut Gorge (3 hrs, 4.5 miles, +-100ft)
- Day 14 ~ Moderate/Challenging Hike OQC Track (6-8 hrs, 7 miles, +-2300ft)
- Day 15 ~ Moderate Hike OQC Track (5-6 hrs, 7.5 miles, +-minimal)
- Day 16 ~ Depart OQC Track, Leave Blenheim for Auckland, and then US

HOW TO SIGN UP

First, call (650 265 1662) or fill out our quick reservation form on our website <http://www.callwild.com>. We will hold your space for 7 days while you are completing the application process, making travel arrangements, and mailing your deposit check or paying via credit card.

Next, send in completed and signed Trip Application. The Trip Application is available by fax, mail, or from our Web site at www.callwild.com. After receiving your deposit and application, we will send you confirmation of your reservation and an information packet on your trip.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

We strongly suggest that you take out trip cancellation insurance. Call of the Wild does not issue cash refunds, whatever circumstances may cause a cancellation. Depending on the time of your cancellation, you may or may not be eligible for a credit for another trip; please read our refund and cancellation policy at www.callwild.com. We also include a copy in our trip packets; or you may phone our office. You may be committed to going on your trip, but people have been

forced to cancel due to circumstances beyond their control or because of a completely unexpected misfortune. To sign up for Travel Guard insurance call us for a brochure or visit www.callwild.com. For certain coverage, you must purchase insurance within 14 days of making your initial deposit with Call of the Wild.

ACCOMMODATIONS

13 nights lodging: 2 nights in Queenstown motel; 1 night Haast hotel; 2 nights Franz Josef Motel; 2 nights Punakaiki motel; 1 night Maruia hotel, 2 nights Kaikoura motel, 1 night Picton hotel, 2 nights Outer Queen Charlotte mountain lodge.

We have picked our accommodations for their conveniences, great locations, and interesting hosts! Learn the true meaning of "kiwi hospitality". We will not be staying at four-star hotels but our lodgings are comfortable and spacious. Rooms are double occupancy and all have its own bathroom. You will have access to washing machines and dryers at all the motels except at Maruia Springs. The Outer Queen Charlotte has mountain lodges in gorgeous wilderness. They have twin share rooms, each with an ensuite bathroom.

Single Room Upgrade: You can choose to have your own room for an additional US\$1000. This includes single rooms at all of our motel stays. Due to the unique location and character of some of our accommodations, there are limited single spaces available, so make your single room upgrade reservation now to guarantee your space.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

There are three main airlines that fly from the US to NZ: Qantas, United, and Air NZ. Most international flights into New Zealand arrive in Auckland (on the North Island). There are some that arrive in Christchurch (South Island). In either case, you will then need to connect to a Queenstown flight (South Island) after going through customs. Queenstown flights need to arrive by 12:30pm. This should not be a problem as international flights arrive in the very early morning in New Zealand.

You will be departing NZ from Blenheim so you will need a connecting flight from Blenheim to either Christchurch or Auckland before heading back to the US. Flights from Blenheim need to be from 3:45pm onwards. There are several flights out of Blenheim that fit this requirement.

Some people decide to come early in order to explore Auckland or just acclimatize in Christchurch. The best place to get information on accommodation in Auckland is on the internet or ring the office for suggestions. A great place to stay in Christchurch is Central Park Motor Lodge: 15 Riccarton Road, enquiries@centralpark.co.nz Phone: +64 3 343 2033 -Fax: +64 3 343 2090 - Reservation Freephone: 0800 663 664. They are within walking distance of the town center, Arts Centre and Botanical Gardens. Please be aware that you will need to meet us at the Queenstown airport on day 1.

WEATHER

New Zealand is a group of three islands lying within the roaring forties (latitude 40-49). February is the middle of summer and usually is warm with clear skies, but heavy rain and cold weather is *always* possible in New Zealand (hence the beautiful rainforest!). So come to New Zealand prepared for inclement weather! The clothing listed on our equipment list means you will be well-prepared for any New Zealand weather you may encounter. Please take time to make sure your clothing is appropriate for these conditions.

We will make every effort to follow our itinerary as planned, however, on some occasions the itinerary must be altered to accommodate Mother Nature. All activities undertaken by participants of Wild New Zealand are all-weather adventures and occur rain or shine. However, if safety issues arise due to severe weather events, the itinerary will be modified without hesitation. Your guides are trained and experienced in the weather of New Zealand.

QUALIFICATIONS

Wild New Zealand is a moderate trip designed for those who have a sense of adventure. Specifically:

Dayhikes: You do not have to be a buffed-out marathoner to take part in these activities, but you must be physically fit and have reasonable hiking experience. New Zealand trails are often rough and wet -you will often get wet feet! Hikes can require negotiating tree roots, rocks, boulders, walking in sand, multiple river/creek crossings and hiking steep sections.

Optional hike on the Franz Josef Glacier: This is a moderate to challenging hike up and down steep ice steps. No glacial experience is required but it helps to have a good level of fitness. You choose the pace at which you wish to move. Those with a fear of heights, people from ages 5-90 years old and people with disabilities including blindness have successfully completed this hike.

Kayaking: You need never have been in a kayak to enjoy your sea kayaking on Okarito Lagoon. You will get an upper body work out though as you do have to paddle! We will be using two-person kayaks.

Optional Dolphin Swim: Be able to swim and float with a snorkel. There is an option to go on the boat for viewing purposes only so you don't have to swim to see the dolphins or choose to go on the Whale Watch instead.

Outer Queen Charlotte Track: To enjoy your walk you need to be able to carry a medium sized backpack containing your personal belongings weighing 10-14lbs for ??? hours over ??? miles of mountain tracks each day. Your other luggage will be transported to the lodge by boat. We encourage you to walk at your own pace, there is no pressure to walk with others or keep up with the fastest walkers. There is always a guide at the front and rear of the party. The track surface varies from smooth well-formed paths to rough terrain broken by rocks and tree roots. There are steep rocky downhill sections and you may have to cross small streams and wade in deep water after heavy rain. Previous hiking experience is required. The best way to get ready for the hiking on this trip is to hike. Get out there and start walking! All hikes allow for you to walk at your own pace and remember, you don't need to carry a huge backpack either.

Hiking shoes or boots should be purchased in advance if need be and worn several times to ensure comfortable wanderings. Our best trips are those where everyone is equipped with a positive attitude, the sensitivity to recognize the needs of the group, and a sense of humor!

CONDITIONING

The best aerobic and strength conditioning for hiking is hiking! If possible, hike on steep, rocky trails and even with wet feet occasionally too as NZ trails often require the crossing of streams. Of course, most of us can't hike on wilderness trails every day. So, the next best alternative is to spend time running and hiking on inclined trails with a daypack. If you can't get to a trail,

Stairmasters, Nordic trainers, and treadmills are good for your aerobic capacity and weights are good for your strength. You want especially to strengthen your quadriceps, also your back, and upper body. How many months ahead of your trip you start conditioning depends on your general level of fitness. Someone with a good level of fitness should begin conditioning at least 8 weeks before this trip.

ABOUT YOUR TRIP LEADERS

Celine Stokowski is a native of California who spent her childhood camping with her family throughout the US. She discovered New Zealand through a university exchange program. During her time in New Zealand she hiked many of the popular walking tracks, not to mention meeting her husband. With a degree in Business Administration and many years in offices, Celine decided she needed a change of career. She attended the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor School in New Zealand to study Outdoor Education. Upon completing the course, she entered a career in the outdoors, guiding on the Franz Josef Glacier for three years. She has also been a scout leader in New Zealand and guided for Call of the Wild for many years.

Tony Thrupp started tramping since in his early teens and has been a professional wilderness guide in NZ and the US since 1999. After completing a degree in Resource Management from Lincoln University, NZ, he fled the office he was bound for and began work on the Franz Josef Glacier, where he became one of the Senior Guides, responsible for training and supervising other guides. Since deciding to follow the eternal summer, he has guided in the wilderness in the US, leading teenage work crews and expeditions in the backcountry of Oregon and Alaska.

Celine and Tony have built their own eco-friendly house and spend much of their time managing their land (20 acres) to create a self-sustaining home. Their young daughter Sierra takes up much of their time too!

THIRD PARTY ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

Independent third parties provide several of the activities in which we participate. The activity providers we have selected are licensed in the areas they operate and are chosen for their commitment to safety, quality, and learning. There will often be a Wild New Zealand guide accompanying you on these activities.