

ADVENTUREX

WITHOUT ADVENTURE... WHAT IS LIFE?

Heli-Boating in South Island, New Zealand

A Paddler's Paradise

If you're looking for fast flowing, adrenalin-pumping whitewater then look no further. The beautiful West Coast gives rise to some outstanding rivers, some of which are so remote they are only accessible by helicopter. The astoundingly clear waters of the creeks and rivers will captivate you whilst the picturesque scenery will charm you. There are a multitude of top rivers just screaming to be run! And with some of the world's leading expedition kayakers such as Mike Abbott or Koryn Gould to guide you, you cannot help but improve your river running and play boating skills. The people of New Zealand speak of a 'right to adventure' – and they're not wrong. This is a definitely a trip not to be missed!

Adventure Itinerary

Day 1:

On arrival at Christchurch airport you will be met by your guides. With your gear packed onto the waiting vehicles and after a little sight seeing in town we will head north towards the Hurunui River. At Jollie Brook camp, over a few glasses of wine and some nibbles, we will explain in a little more detail what lies ahead on your journey into the wilds of New Zealand. A hearty evening meal is prepared to prime you for your first day on the river tomorrow.
(Included: Lunch & Dinner)

Day 2:

A leisurely start for your first morning. The Hurunui has some fun sections to warm up your muscles. Traditionally we will paddle the Hawarden Gorge and the Maori Gully, although there are several great sections to choose from. Rewarding rapids such as 'The Cauldron', 'Devils' Elbow' and 'Magic Roundabout' should provide you with a pretty all round work out. No doubt the evening will bring out the stories around the campfire!
(Included: All meals)

Day 3:

After an early start and a scenic drive up the coast to Kaikoura, time permitting we get a chance to take a trip out whale watching or to swim with the dolphins. We will stop in Blenheim for a home cooked brunch en route to Murchison and the great Buller River. The trip will also take us past the impressive 11 metre Maruia Falls, a fantastic photo opportunity whilst watching your instructors paddle off this huge drop. We should arrive in the afternoon in time to paddle the 'Doctors Creek' section - an excellent Class II and III whitewater run. We will base here at Murchison for the next 2 nights.
(Included: All Meals. *Kaikoura Whale Watching, Dolphin Swimming Not Included*)

Day 4:

Today's whitewater is pure fun. We have so many sections to choose from and normally we run the lot. With great play sections such as 'Earthquake', 'Gravity', and 'O'Sullivan's' there will be plenty of entertainment. And also the adrenalin pumping hit at Ariki Falls. After snacks and dinner back at camp there will also be time to head out on the evenings and paddle the Matakaitaki and the Glenroy before bed.
(Included: All Meals)

Day 5:

After breakfast we head away on the gorgeous drive through the Buller Gorge to Westport and your first glimpse of the Tasman Sea and the West Coast. As we drive south we will pass by the spectacular Punakaiki Rocks in the Paparoa National Park. This amazing natural phenomenon with its layer upon layer of limestone sheets is slowly being eroded by the power of the sea and creating huge blowholes best viewed at high tide with a strong sea swell. We stop for a quick coffee or ice cream before continuing down the coast, past Greymouth to the Lake Mahinapua campground; World famous in New Zealand for its great range of beers!

(Included: All Meals)

Day 6:

The morning brings high excitement as our helicopter arrives to fly us into the Whataroa River, (pronounced Fot-a-roa) and one of the best kayak runs on the West Coast. The bird's eye views are breathtaking as you fly over the magnificent mountains and canyons that you will later be paddling through. With no road access you will be able to enjoy the sights and sounds of New Zealand's native bush undisturbed and delight in the best paddling you can find anywhere. This is river running "Kiwi Style".

(Included: All meals)

Day 7:

Our day begins with another thrilling helicopter flight into the magnificent Hokitika River - you will begin to feel like you are starring in your very own Bond Movie. The fantastic Class IV rapids in the midst of clear emerald waters, through some dramatic limestone canyons, make this a much-celebrated section of river. After a well earned drink at the Mahinapua Pub we will board our 'Boaters Bus' once more to continue our journey south to Lake Paringa, our camp for the night and, on a clear day, an impressive view of Mount Cook, Australasia's highest mountain.

(Included: All meals)

Day 8:

After a filling breakfast we will make our way up to Clarks Point to meet our helicopter, which will ferry us, and our equipment, into the Landsborough River for our first New Zealand multi-day. On a clear day we can see Mount Deacon and the spectacular glaciers surrounding it. We set up camp in the most stunning setting you will ever find. This is wilderness paddling at its best.

(Included: All meals)

Day 9:

Watching the sunrise in this part of the world is gorgeous. As the sun lights up the surrounding mountains be sure to take the time to soak up the tranquillity of New Zealand's natural landscapes. The lads will prepare you a hearty cooked breakfast before we pack up our gear raft and put on the river. There are some amazing rapids today including the infamous 'Hellfire' and plenty of play spots along the way. As we pull into camp for the night you can also try your hand at fishing for Rainbow Trout. But don't worry, we have alternative plans for dinner should you be unsuccessful. No doubt by this evening the river stories around the campfire will go on well into the night.

(Included: All meals)

Day 10:

We take the opportunity to enjoy a floating breakfast this morning alongside the gear raft to our take out and our waiting vehicle for the scenic drive back to Queenstown. Along the way we will stop in the scenic resort of Wanaka for lunch, before visiting the oldest hotel in New Zealand at Cardrona and finally reaching our hotel for the night. There are some great restaurants to explore in Queenstown and enjoy a little luxury on the banks of Lake Wakatipu.

(Included: Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 11:

After a relaxed start to the day we will paddle the fun, medium volume, Kawerua River, the only river to come out of Lake Wakatipu. This takes us over Smiths Falls and underneath the bridge, world famous for people throwing themselves off, the original 47 meter A.J Hackett bungy bridge. A few more rapids and we reach the roar of 'Dog Leg', a fun 400 metre Class IV bouncy wave train.

A sumptuous lunch of cold meats, salads and drinks before we head off to paddle the 'Roaring Meg' section. A powerful release of water from a still functioning 1930's power station, gives rise to a classic section of big volume Class III+ IV whitewater of which 'Terminator' is often the highlight. We are back at the hotel by the evening for a meal out in town.

(Included: Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 12:

We offer you a rest day today so you can take in the sights of this great town. Queenstown has so much to offer and the guides will be happy to book you in on any of the excursions. From a scenic paragliding flight to a blast down the river on the World famous Shotover Jet you will be spoilt for choice. Or take a more leisurely trip by paddle steamer out to the high country sheep station (ranch) at Walter Peak.

(Included: Breakfast)

Day 13:

We make an early start this morning for the scenic drive up towards Geraldine. En route we pass by Mount Cook, which, weather permitting, should give us some more fantastic opportunities for photos. Today we take on the best big water run in the country, on the Rangitata River, featuring amazing Grade IV rapids such as 'Pig's Trough' and 'The Pinch' to name just a couple. And what better way to finish this magic paddling trip around New Zealand than with a good ol' Kiwi barbeque. Overnight in our gorgeous lodge as the sun sets on your paddling adventure.

(Included: All meals)

Day 14:

We drive to Christchurch for your return flights home.

(Included: Breakfast)

The Details

What Is Included:

- Transfers to and from Christchurch International Airport and throughout the South Island on our bus.
- Accommodation, on Days 9 through to Day 13 in a tourist hotel or lodge. This will be on a share twin basis with someone also on your kayaking trip. Single supplements are available
- All transfers to and from the river.
- Helicopter shuttles into at least 3 rivers.
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 to dinner on Day 9. On Days 10 and 11 breakfast and lunch are included but dinner is your choice from the vast array of restaurants on offer. On Day 12 only breakfast is included and from Day 13 through to breakfast on Day Fourteen all meals are inclusive. We can cater for any dietary requirements, just let us know.
- All necessary kayaking equipment. We have boats and paddles as well as pfd's, helmets, spraydecks and spray jackets but we recommend you bring your own kit for such an extensive paddling vacation.
- All camping equipment *excluding* sleeping bags.
- Fully NZRGA qualified, experienced kayak instructors. We have a strong team of professional guides with at least 10 years experience running rivers internationally. They are extremely professional and make up one of the most experienced river teams in the world. They will make every effort to make your trip one of the most memorable, optimising your fun without compromising on your safety. They all hold advanced first aid qualifications and in the unlikely event of an injury they have the expertise and professionalism to deal with it.
- All necessary permits and licenses from the New Zealand Government.
- A very cool AdventureX T shirt!

Please Note: Not included are flights, visas, departure taxes, travel insurance, inoculations, sleeping bags, video or DVD of your trip, alcohol, personal items or gratuities. You will also need to budget for meals in town which are not included in the price and any extra accommodation outside of what is provided.

Getting There:

Nobody will dispute it's a long way to New Zealand, but we will guarantee it's worth it. This will be the best holiday you have ever had.

FROM THE UK & EUROPE

There are plenty of options from the UK and Europe to New Zealand. We recommend booking early since flights can quickly become fully booked in the New Zealand summer (January and February). You can fly either through the USA with Air New Zealand or through Asia with Singapore Airlines or Cathay Pacific.

Exploring New Zealand:

New Zealand is an adventurer's paradise. Whatever your preference there are plenty of options for extending your trip. There are some gorgeous multi-day trekking options from 2- 5 days walking through New Zealand's pristine bush and mountainous areas.

Abel Tasman national Park offers some of the best sea kayaking to be found anywhere in the world. It's clear water and golden sandy beaches will leave you enthralled. You can even pull fresh mussels off the rocks for dinner.

The North Island offers some unique adventure opportunities. Try 'Black Water Rafting' in Waitomo, climb Mount Taranaki or visit a sheep station (ranch) and try your hand at sheep shearing.

Whatever you fancy doing, the best way to see New Zealand is with 'Kiwis' who simply enjoy sharing their passionate sense of adventure and their love of this beautiful country. Please do contact the AdventureX team if you require any information about adventure options in New Zealand.

Maori Culture:

The Maori People of New Zealand offer an extraordinary insight into their land. Early Polynesians paddled enormous 'wakas' (canoes) to explore the forested Aotearoa. (Land Of The Long White Cloud).

If time allows on your vacation, a trip to Waitangi is well worth a visit. Here the Waitangi Treaty was signed in 1840 bringing peace between the Maori and the White Man (Pakeha). Many of our clients have made a visit to Rotorua and experienced Tamaki Tours -a wonderful team of men and women who help you gain insight into Maori Culture. You are given the customary welcome, experience the wonderfully unique singing and dancing of the tribes people, and enjoy a traditional 'Hangi', which is the Maori way to cook food, in a deep hole in the ground.

Transport Services:

New Zealand has rental cars available which are relatively inexpensive and offer a great way to explore the country. Unless you are around the main cities, there is little traffic except the occasional flock of sheep crossing the road.

New Zealand has 3 trains. The very relaxing, but infrequent service, between Christchurch and Greymouth called the Trans Alpine Express, is a gorgeous journey crossing the Southern Alps. There are good bus services in New Zealand although again, these are relatively infrequent. Air Travel has become very cheap in New Zealand. Air New Zealand or Virgin Blue offers great service and low cost flights between major centres.

Jabs:

None required - unless you have an allergy to sheep!

Exploring Auckland:

If you have an extra day and night in Auckland, you can sample the wonderfully relaxed atmosphere in the 'City Of Sails'. Once home to the Americas Cup, the kiwis proudly display their match winning boats and offer the chance to go out into the beautiful Waitemata Harbour and experience the grace and speed of these beautiful yachts. Tasty bars and restaurants surround the central city area.

Exchange Rates:

New Zealand remains quite good value to visit. At time of printing USD\$1 was worth NZD\$1.59, GBPE1 equal to NZD\$2.94 and €1 worth NZD\$2.01. You can get a good meal for around NZD\$20 and a beer or glass of wine for around NZD\$5.

Retail Therapy and New Zealand Specialties:

New Zealand has a large range of fantastic souvenirs for you to fill your bags or kayaks with before the journey home! Well known for fabulous carvings in the beautiful native woods from both islands – these make exquisite presents. A common gift in New Zealand is a Maori Bone Carving, all individually designed and based around ancient Maori symbols with specific meanings. The 'fish hook', for example, gives you safe passage over water but before you go out and buy yourself one, consider that it is deemed to be bad luck to buy one for yourself, they should always be gifted to others. The guides will be happy to explain the symbols to you. You can also get beautiful jewellery made from Paua (Abalone) and of course, with all those sheep, there are plenty of woollen garments to choose from. Don't forget to try some of the fantastic wines on offer in New Zealand too.

River Flows:

Due to the mountainous geography in New Zealand, weather conditions tend to pass fairly quickly. You tend to get wetter weather on the West Coast of the South Island, but this makes for great boating! Sustained rain like anywhere can cause river levels to rise dramatically. Our team has been paddling this part of the world for more than 10 years and knows ideal flows and weather conditions. If conditions arise that are unexpected, we have the knowledge and experience to move to other rivers in the area. The prime time for the best possible weather and water levels is January and February.

Climate and Clothing:

In the southern hemisphere, the summer season falls from November to March so during January and February the days should be fairly warm. Make sure to bring plenty of sunscreen and lip balm. The water is glacier and snow melt and is therefore quite cool. We suggest you bring your regular paddling gear that you would paddle in at home including drytop, wetsuit shorts and thermal layers, and do bring a rain jacket as well. Evenings and nights will be chilly, 15-20 degrees so you should definitely bring a fleece for the evenings around camp. A full set of suggested equipment will be sent to you on booking.

Fitness and Safety:

Safety is our foremost consideration at all times whether on or off the river. All our instructors are chosen for their extensive international experience. They each have at least 10 years running rivers around the globe. All have first aid qualifications of the highest standard including at least 1 medic on each trip and we carry an extensive First Aid kit and Satellite Telephone with us at all times. They are considered professionals in their field and dedicate their lives to sharing these wonderful river trips with others.

Our guides are some of the most well known expedition boaters in the world, Mike being part of the team that paddled the infamous Tsangpo in Tibet. They are also *NZRGSA Sanctioned Kayak Instructors*. We have a maximum ratio of 4 clients to 1 instructor allowing your paddling to grow. AdventureX also has all the necessary permits and licenses to run all of these rivers in New Zealand.

For you to get the most out of your trip, we suggest a 'bombproof roll'. This will allow you to get more enjoyment out of your trip. If you feel you need help in ascertaining if this trip is for you, please contact our office staff. They are well versed in giving advice on these subjects.

Please let us know if you have any medical conditions or are taking any medications that you think we should be aware of.

Boat Choice:

For those clients who wish to bring their own kayak, we recommend something that will be good as a river runner. Creek boats are ideal but for the more experienced kayaker a smaller boat may suffice. We also carry a couple of spare boats so if you chose to bring a smaller boat but need something a little bigger for the occasional river then this isn't a problem.

Personal Equipment:

After years on the river the guides have found exactly what is necessary to feel comfortable kayaking by day, cosy around the camp at night and totally in style in town before and after the trip. Therefore our equipment list will mean that you will be perfectly attired and outfitted for your whole trip and well under the baggage allowance. A full list of what we recommend will be sent to you upon booking confirmation.

Many of our paddling clients prefer to bring their own kayak equipment on a trip such as this in order to feel as comfortable as possible. We have an extensive range of river running kayaks available in excellent condition, but we leave this choice to you. Many airlines are 'kayak friendly' and although some may charge you a small excess most are happy to take your craft if you are not over the baggage allowance. We recommend a good paddle bag for your blades and we strongly recommend you to bring your own paddling kit such as helmet, pfd (less than 2 years old and Type III), dry top, spray deck, wetsuit shorts, river shoes, paddle (we have spares) and your thermal layers.

*Note - Research has shown that taking your PFD as 'carry on' baggage greatly **reduces** the chance of the foam being compressed compared to check on baggage.*

Finally...

Please remember that things do change, prices go up and down, activities stop running or change format and weather can send the best laid plans out the door. AdventureX will do its best to provide what is described above but please take into consideration the nature of the journey that you are embarking on and the country that you are travelling in and understand that a certain degree of flexibility is necessary!

New Zealand is a safe fun country to visit. You will love every moment of your paddling vacation to, quite possibly, the ultimate paddling destination in the world. Where else can you paddle with some of the best paddlers in the world, on their home rivers and 8 rivers in 2 weeks?! Join us for your ultimate paddling holiday!