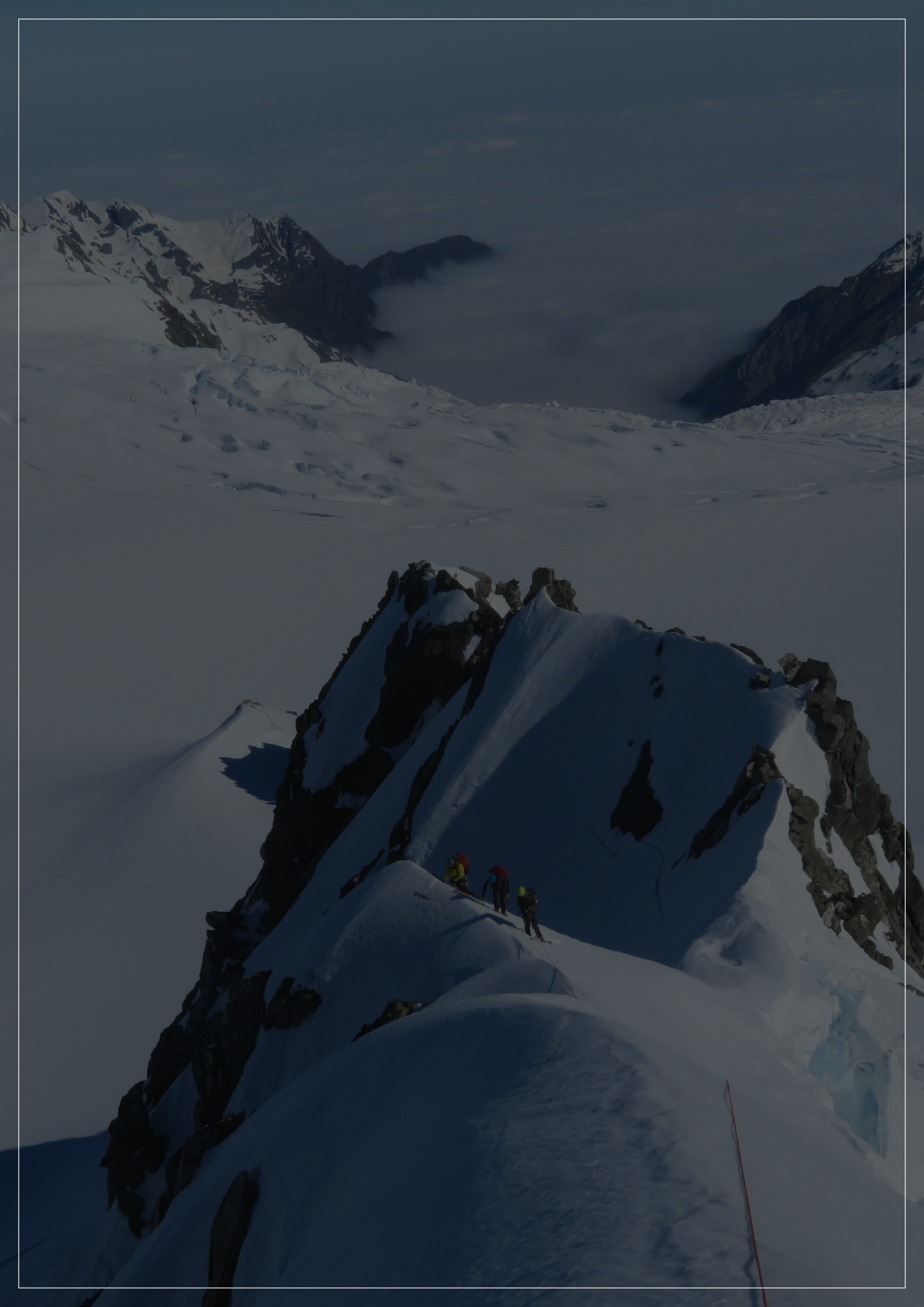




ASCENTS WEEK



2021/22 TRIP NOTES





ASCENTS WEEK TRIP NOTES

2021/22 TRIP DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand
November to April

Duration: 7 days

Departure: ex Wanaka, New Zealand

Price: NZ\$7,850 for 1:1 guide to climber ratio
NZ\$4,350 each 1:2 guide to climber ratio



▲ Choose your favourite style of climbing on an Ascents Week. Photo: Taichiro Naka

The Southern Alps have an extensive array of peaks of different character and technical challenge. Your options can range from attempts to scale the 3,000m/9,850ft peaks or merely climbing to your heart's content on smaller objectives. Our Ascents Week is structured to allow you to climb a variety of peaks from an alpine hut in one of several high mountain venues. You also have the option to bivouac out to access the more distant peaks and add to your alpine experience.

You may already have an idea of the peaks you wish to climb or we can help formulate a plan in line with your experience and objectives. Whilst the focus is on climbing peaks, your guide will ensure that you have the necessary skill set for your planned climbing itinerary.

We offer a 1:1 and 1:2 guide to climber ratio. The more technical routes will be limited to a 1:1 ratio for safety reasons.

OUR GUIDES

Adventure Consultants employs only NZMGA or IFMGA qualified guides, the most advanced training and certification program in New Zealand and internationally. They are professional mountaineers and operate to the highest industry standards.

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 5–7 years to attain and ensures you are getting a world-class professional service.

Being a great climber alone is not enough to work with us; our standards demand that trip leaders are great guides as well. You will find your guide friendly, approachable and focused on providing a safe and enjoyable trip in line with your objectives and comfort level.

Success with the highest margin of care is always a hallmark of our approach, promoting the realisation that even extreme pursuits such as high-altitude mountaineering can be undertaken safely.



▲ Climb high in New Zealand's Southern Alps. Photo: Jean Baptiste Chandesris

SAMPLE ITINERARY

The following is a sample outline for the Ascents Week:

DAY 1: MEET & ACCESS THE MOUNTAINS

We meet at the Adventure Consultants office in Wanaka at 9.00am, where we are introduced to our guide. We then discuss and organise personal equipment and receive last minute gear advice. Rental equipment is fitted and final purchases made.

Possible areas to visit for the week are discussed. The Mount Aspiring and Westland regions are possibilities, but a decision is made to go to the Tasman Glacier in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. Our guide finalises all the food for the week whilst we get our newly sorted gear packed.

The weather forecast still looks promising so we drive to Aoraki Mount Cook village, 2½ hours north of Wanaka and fly straight to Tasman Saddle Hut by ski plane. By that same afternoon, we are strapping on crampons for a warm-up walk on the glacier up a nearby ridge, revising glacier travel and rope skills.

DAY 2: REVISION & WARM UP CLIMB

Up bright and early! We head out onto the glacier towards the South Face of Mount Aylmer (2,699m/8,854ft) for some moderately steep ice climbing. There is another group on the South Face as it is a popular instructional climb, but with our guide leading the way,

we fly past them in our small group. It's then back to the hut for an early dinner and time for our guide to discuss the options for the following day with us.

DAY 3: ASCENT

An early start sees us roped up and away well before dawn, up the Anna Glacier for an ascent of Mount Elie de Beaumont. At 3,109m/10,200ft, it offers a commanding view out to the Tasman Sea. Turning to the south-west, we can also see the mighty Aoraki Mount Cook and surrounding peaks.

We arrive back at the hut in time to rest our legs over a cup of tea and watch the sunset while our guide prepares dinner. The weather forecast on the hut radio suggests that the high-pressure system is holding, so conditions are looking good for the next day.

DAY 4: ASCENT

Today is another alpine start. We leave the hut at 4.00am to cross the glacier for ascents of Mounts Green (2,837m/9,307ft) and Walter (2,905m/9,530ft). We climb to the plateau between the two peaks during the early hours of the morning and then belay up the classic steep snow and ice of the North East Ridge of Green. From the top of Mount Green, we enjoy a well-earned lunch and take in the surrounding panorama with stunning views of Malte Brun to the east and Aoraki Mount Cook again. With the wind picking up from the west, Mount Walter is left for another day. We return to the hut after a long day, with some cloud starting to spill over the divide. A front is expected to pass over the region tomorrow.



Climb where the conditions are best. Photo: Andy Cole

DAY 5: WEATHER DAY

We awake to windy conditions and cloud around the hut with light rain, so it's a relaxing breakfast and time to discuss the options with our guide.

The weather looks set to continue for the day but there are a few books to read while resting tired bodies. The forecast is good for the next few days and our guide discusses the option to commence the two-day walkout tomorrow or climb another peak. Another peak it is!

DAY 6: ASCENT

With rested legs, we head out early, well before dawn in clearing skies and with heavy packs. Down the glacier we go to a spot just above Darwin Corner, where we stop to make a gear dump. After a quick rest, we ascend the West Ridge of Mount Darwin (2,952m/9,685ft).

We arrive at the summit close to midday with spectacular views across the Malte Brun Range. We descend and bivvy on the Tasman Glacier under a starry night.

DAY 7: FLY OUT & RETURN TO WANAKA

We awake for breakfast and have time to take it all in before we pack our gear for the flight out. Another spectacular flight over the Southern Alps and we are back for lunch at Aoraki Mount Cook village. We then begin the drive back to Wanaka. Once back in Wanaka it is time for a sort out and clean-up of all the gear at the office before heading to our accommodation for a shower. Then it's downtown for a social evening and recollections of the week over a meal.

CLIMBING SEASON

We guide the high peaks all year as conditions allow, although our main climbing season is from November through to April. 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 (snow, ice and rock). From March through April, late summer conditions exist, which result in a combination of rock and ice routes. However, from May onwards cooling temperatures can bring snow falls to the Alps and the days begin to get noticeably shorter.

We specialise in winter climbing and ice climbing from July to September. Whilst the days are shorter, the mountains are virtually abandoned. Our guides are also experienced ski guides so enquire about combining ski touring with your course!

WEATHER

New Zealand has a maritime climate and the weather is always a consideration in the high mountains. For the climbing season (November to April) the average temperature ranges from around -5°C up to 20°C. During the winter, this can drop to -15°C. There is no heating source in the huts, so you need to be prepared for cold overnight temperatures.

On your trip, it is possible that some adverse weather may affect our climbing plans however the programme is designed to be flexible to take advantage of the best weather window in the area the weather is best at the time.

ACCOMMODATION DURING THE TRIP

Adventure Consultants will provide your accommodation while the trip is running, which is from 9.00am on Day 1 until 5.00pm on Day 7. All food and accommodation

outside this time will be at your expense. In the mountains you will stay in mountain huts with shared bunkrooms and basic facilities. There are no single rooms available. Some mountain nights may be spent in tents or bivvies, where you will be more exposed to the elements but the final decision on this will be made by the guide after weighing up all the factors.

For overnights in Fox Glacier and Aoraki Mount Cook villages, you will be accommodated in dormitory style Alpine Club huts. In Wanaka, this will be a dormitory style backpackers with shared bathroom facilities.

You may decide to upgrade to single accommodation in Wanaka, Fox Glacier township or Aoraki Mount Cook village at your own expense.

GROUND & AIR TRANSPORT

Return ground transport from Wanaka to the trip venue is included in the cost of the trip.

A helicopter or ski-plane flight into the alpine region is also included in the course fee. Aircraft access alleviates long and tiring walks into the alpine region with heavy packs. It allows you to start the course fresh, gain more valuable instructional time and take advantage of fine



▲ Climbing alpine rock on Malte Brun. Photo: Steve Moffat



▲ Climbing steep ice on Mount Alack. Photo: Grant Rayner



▲ Spectacular views from the summit of Mount Madeline. Photo: Steve Moffat

weather periods. For this reason, we utilise helicopters or ski planes depending on availability and the region we operate in.

The bonus of booking with Adventure Consultants is that you get an all inclusive price, including an egress flight out from the mountains so you can spend the maximum amount of time climbing rather than walking out.

EQUIPMENT

Climbing in the Southern Alps requires the highest quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment while keeping your pack as light as possible.

Your guide will go through a comprehensive equipment checklist with you at the beginning of your trip.

The final equipment taken may vary subject to seasonal weather and route conditions. All group equipment including ropes and cooking equipment will be provided by Adventure Consultants.

We can offer secure storage at our office for your luggage and valuables during the trip.

GUIDE BOOKS & MAPS

Included in your Ascents Week trip is a complimentary copy of *A Climbers Guide to New Zealand Mountaineering Techniques*. Written by Adventure Consultants guides Guy Cotter, Dean Staples and Mark Sedon, the 'ACG' was published specifically as reference material which you will find useful before, during, and long after your course has finished.

The *Aoraki Tai Poutini—A Guide for Mountaineers* by Rob Frost and *The Mount Aspiring Region: A Guide for Mountaineers* by Allan Uren and Mark Watson offer a good insight into the variety of peaks and routes in these respective areas.

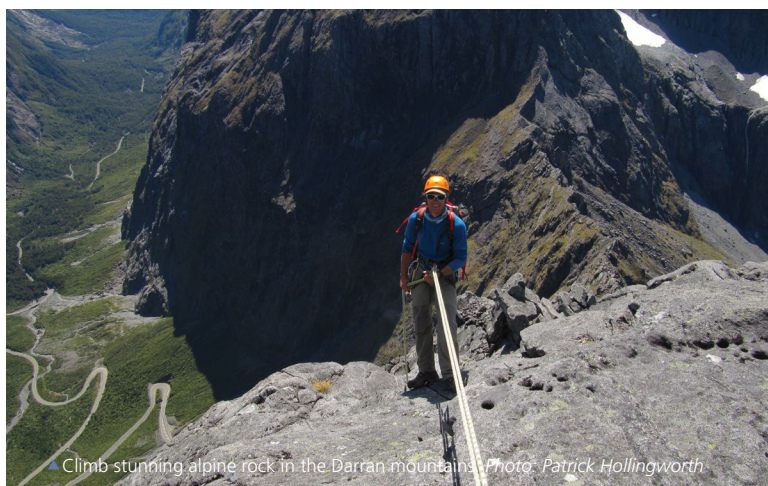
It is useful to have your own map for navigation exercises. Your guide will advise you of the relevant 1:50,000 topographic maps required when the course begins. The above books and maps can be purchased from our office in Wanaka.

COMMUNICATIONS & MESSAGES

Our guides are in radio/cell phone/satellite phone communication with our operations base and Department of Conservation headquarters throughout the trip. This assists us with schedule and weather forecast updates, helicopter/plane coordination and safety back up. Urgent messages can be relayed via our office to the field if required. Each party carries a locator beacon for additional security.



Brush up on your rope skills. Photo: Taichiro Naka



Climb stunning alpine rock in the Darran mountains. Photo: Patrick Hollingworth



▲ We'll help you achieve your climbing goals. Photo: Trevor Streat



▲ Improve your snow and ice climbing. Photo: Jean Baptiste Chandesris

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your climbing experience, we encourage you to work on your fitness prior to the trip.

You will find that training with a 15kg/33lb+ pack is the best preparation for the mountains, with the aim of getting 'pack fit' and building your endurance. Your guide places special focus on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

Our registration form requests that you advise us of any medical problems you may have and any medications you are taking. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

We place emphasis on providing nutritious meals and a good supply of snack food throughout the trip. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out trip cancellation and travel insurance to protect yourself in the case of injury or mishap prior to or whilst on our trips. Whilst our focus is on safety and our track record supports this, the mountains do have hazards and there is always the potential for mishap.

If you were injured whilst on the trip, the New Zealand Accident Compensation Commission (ACC) would pay rescue costs upon review of the circumstances and authorisation by the police. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for medical conditions. You may not be eligible for bulk compensation payments from ACC and you are responsible for any medical or evacuation costs beyond the cover provided by ACC.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

We commence the course from our base in Wanaka. Air New Zealand and Qantas/Jetstar provide daily flights from Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington to neighbouring Queenstown. There are also direct international flights from most major Australian cities to Queenstown.

A shuttle service operates several times daily between Queenstown and Wanaka (approximately one hour driving time and at a cost of \$35 each way), check <https://www.ritchies.co.nz/wanaka> for details.

Bus services also operate daily between Christchurch and Wanaka (approximately 6 hours travel time).

Wanaka has a range of accommodation from backpackers to youth hostels, motels, hotels and luxury lodges.

We are happy to assist with your accommodation and bus transfer arrangements.

PRICE

The price for our 7-day Ascents Week is:

NZ\$7,850 for 1:1 guide to climber ratio
NZ\$4,350 each for 1:2 guide to climber ratio.

All prices are subject to change without notice.

The price includes:

- Guide fees
- Hut fees
- All meals and snack foods whilst on the trip
- Group equipment such as ropes, tents and stoves
- Ground transport ex Wanaka
- Complimentary copy of *A Climber's Guide to NZ Mountaineering Techniques* by Guy Cotter, Dean Staples and Mark Sedon
- Department of Conservation fees (37125-GUI)
- New Zealand Goods and Services Tax (15%)
- Aircraft access and egress

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank: Bank of New Zealand
For the Account of: Adventure Consultants Limited
Account Number: 02 0673 0043443 00
Account Type: NZ Dollars

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

To confirm place on the trip, we require a completed registration form with a deposit of NZ\$1,000 per person.

BALANCE

The balance payment is due 60 days prior to the trip start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

- Cancellations outside of 60 days incur a NZ\$500 cancellation fee.
- For cancellations made within 60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations made within 30 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.



▲ Take your climbing to the next level. Photo: Mark Austin



- For cancellations within 15 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS TRIP

If you would like to join us for an Ascents Week, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/new-zealand-ascents/ascents-week/book-now>.

CONTACT US

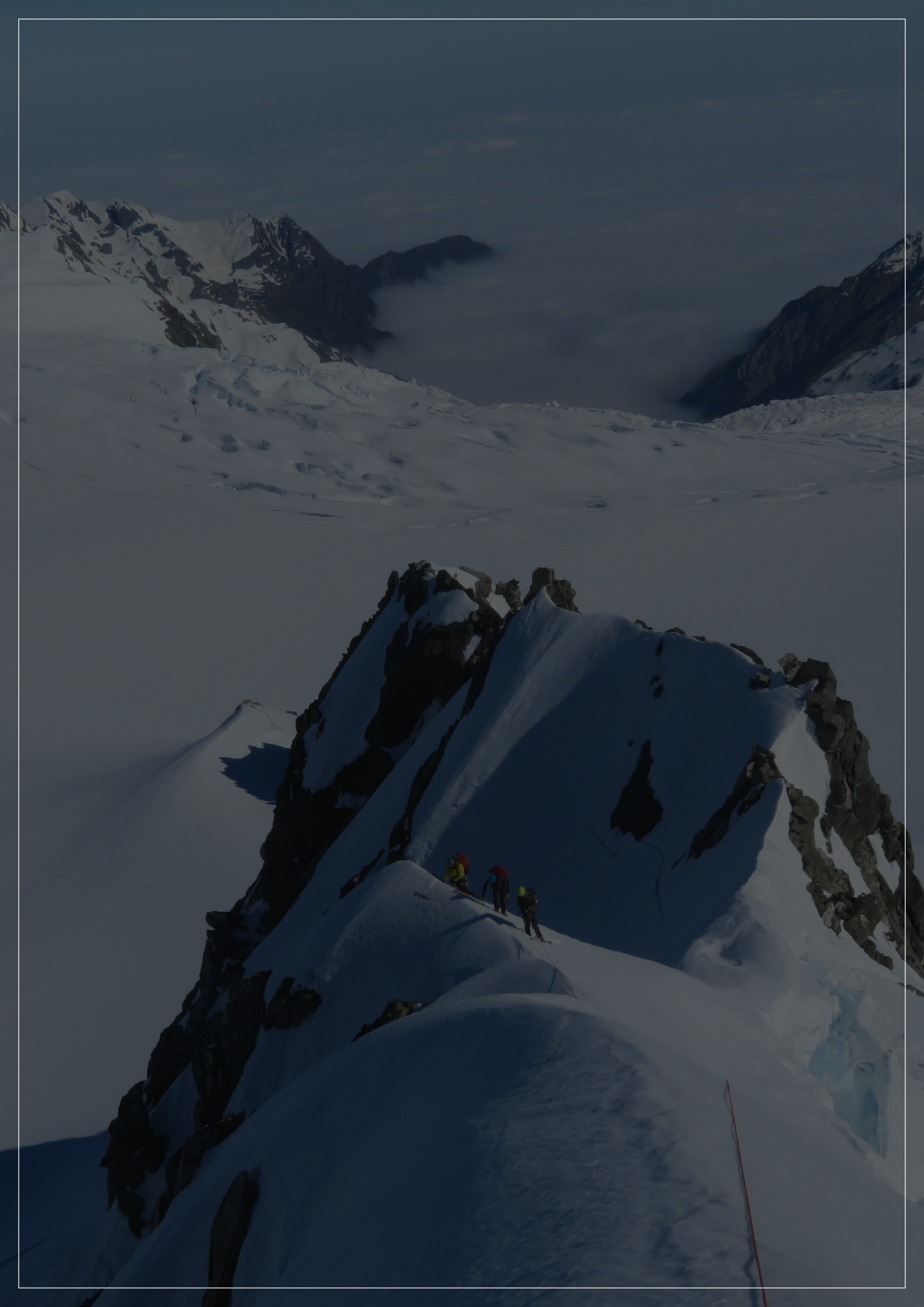
For further information contact us at:

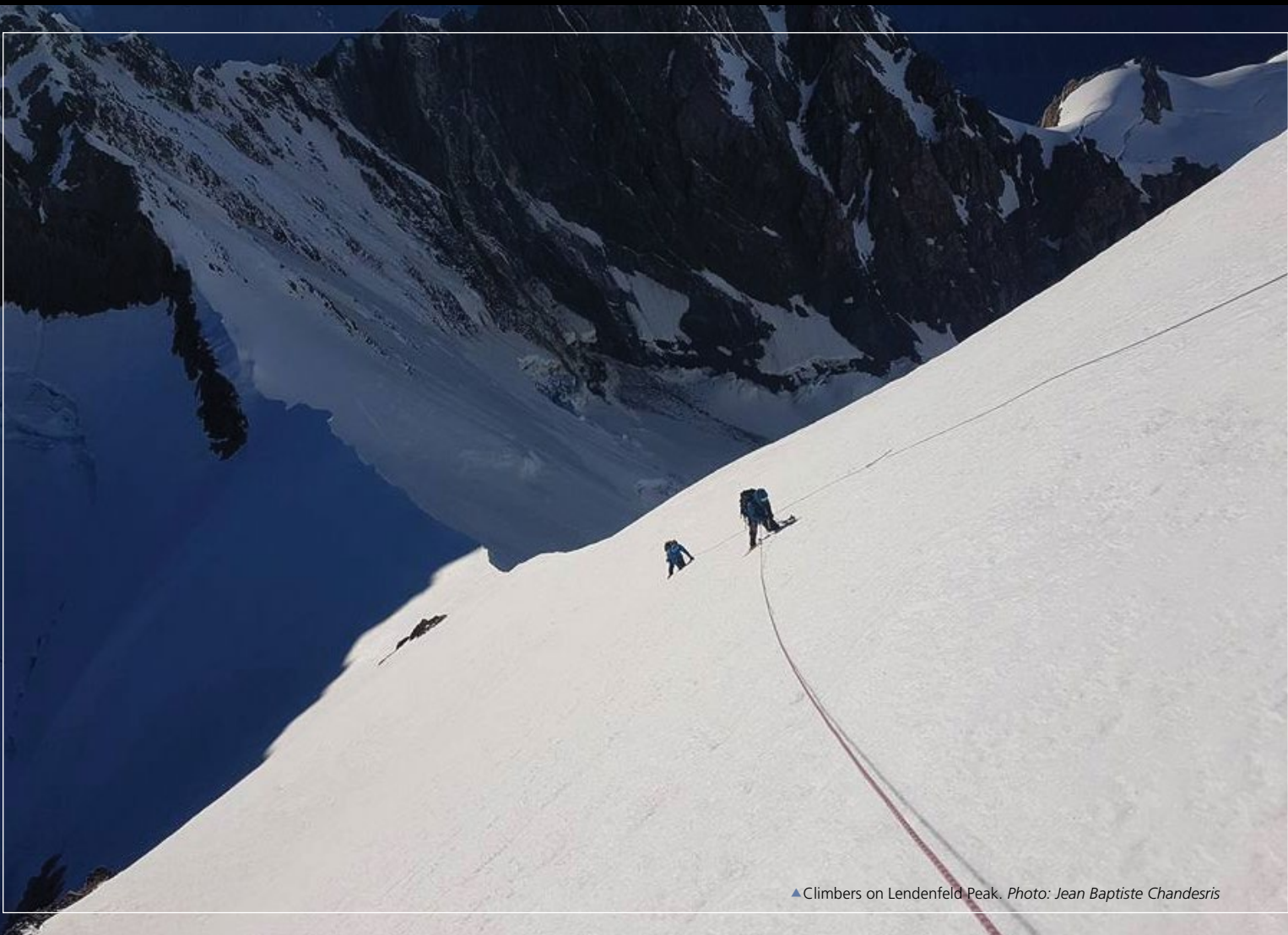
Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 739
Lake Wanaka 9343
New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 443 8711

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Web: www.adventureconsultants.com





▲ Climbers on Lendenfeld Peak. Photo: Jean Baptiste Chandesris



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



All material Copyright © Adventure Consultants Ltd 2021