



New Zealand's Wild West Coast

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT·SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ New Zealand's Wild West Coast

With its glorious fjords, glaciers, mountains, lakes, and rivers, the rugged West Coast of New Zealand's South Island is an active traveler's dream. Hike at Franz Josef Glacier, take the famous Queen Charlotte Track, go white-water rafting in Buller Gorge, and picnic below the dramatic Rob Roy Glacier. Fly over the spectacularly remote New Zealand World Heritage Area (Te Wahipounamu) in a helicopter and return by jetboat. Along the way, enjoy exclusive lodges and out-of-the-way hamlets, taste world-class sauvignon blanc and pinot noir, and encounter rare Fiordland crested penguins.

Details

Arrive:	Blenheim, New Zealand
Depart:	Queenstown, New Zealand
Duration:	11 Days
Group Size:	4-15 Guests
Minimum Age:	14 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"My first experience with MT Sobek was a trip to New Zealand. Everything about it met or exceeded my expectations. The guides, the dining, the accommodations, the activities were all top notch and I would recommend MT Sobek without hesitation!"

Ann Z.

"Our adventure through the wild west coast of New Zealand was a trip of a lifetime. Our guides were phenomenal. The places we hiked, kayaked, jet boated, rafted, and helicoptered into were spectacular."

Sandra D.

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Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek has been exploring the Pacific for over 20 years, working with the best local guides for an immersive and fun experiences.

REASON #02

Our classic New Zealand trip is one of our most popular itineraries thanks to its perfect blend of active adventure and relaxed cultural exploration.

REASON #03

Our adventure combines the romance of New Zealand's famous wine country, with the rugged west coast, and New Zealand's iconic Queenstown.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Hiking 2-8 miles per day, plus wine tasting, helicopter rides, kayaking, and whitewater rafting on Class III-IV rapids.



LODGING

Comfortable, contemporary, and amenity-laden hotels, mostly situated within spectacular natural settings.



CLIMATE

Temperatures can vary between 50F to 90F during the day and can include sunshine, rain, and even snow at higher altitudes.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Jeremy's love for New Zealand's wild places comes from his early years where he spent most weekends and holidays roaming the National Parks of New Zealand. As an adult he's continued that, and spent the last 15 years working as a freelance mountain biking, hiking, and sea kayak guide in New Zealand, Turkey, Ireland and Scotland. When he's not guiding for MT Sobek, he's studying for a degree in Environmental Studies, examining maps, planning adventures, and working with school groups near his home in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds in the South Island.

Jeremy Martin

Raised in the Thames Valley of the North Island, Chris is a fourth generation New Zealander. Her childhood involvement on the family farm ignited an enduring connection with nature and the outdoors. Chris enjoys all types of Outdoor pursuits and has hiked, climbed, kayaked, cycled, sailed and skied into many of the remote corners of New Zealand. She derives so much pleasure in sharing and exploring her spectacular country that she undoubtedly enjoys her trips every bit as much as her guests.

Chris Cameron

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN BLENHEIM

Meet your MT Sobek representative outside of arrivals at the airport in Blenheim. This is the heart of Marlborough's renowned wine country, famous for its excellent sauvignon blanc. Relax with lunch at one of the winery restaurants, then check into your hotel. Gather in the evening for a welcome dinner at another winery with the group.

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

START THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

Take a stroll around the town of Picton, then set sail across Queen Charlotte Sound towards Ship Cove. Begin your hike on the Queen Charlotte Track, which takes you through a lush coastal forest preserve of tree ferns, nikau palms, and other plants. Stop at the remote Furneaux Lodge, which overlooks the calm, clear water of the bay and is surrounded by virgin forest, unchanged since Captain Cook's first visit to the inlet in 1770. Part of the beauty of this historic destination is the isolation: no roads lead here.

Activity: 4–5 hours/9 miles hiking with 1,542' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

CONTINUE ON THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

After breakfast, walk to Punga Cove to take in great views of the Marlborough Sounds before taking a boat ride around Queen Charlotte Sound. The Punga Loop section of the track generally follows the coastline around Endeavour Inlet, much of which consists of regenerating native bush, with a predominance of manuka, kanuka and five finger. Once back in Picton, begin your journey to Nelson. Situated at the top north-west of the South Island, it is the sunniest region in New Zealand, with long, golden beaches, untouched forests, and rugged mountains.

Activity: 3–4 hours/7 miles hiking with 950' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

SEA KAYAK TO TONGA ISLAND

Start early for an invigorating day of sea kayaking in Abel Tasman National Park. Start at the northern beach of Onetahuti and paddle to Tonga Island, where you can watch a colony of sleek, black seals in their natural environment. Tides permitting, explore the spectacular Tonga Arches and enchanting Shag Harbour, or head

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south to Bark Bay followed by a lazy drift on Falls River. Stop at a dreamlike golden sand beach for a picnic lunch before returning to Nelson for the evening.

Activity: 4–5 hours kayaking

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

RAFT ON THE BULLER RIVER

Don a wetsuit and put in for a raft trip on the Buller River. Experience exhilarating, Class III-IV whitewater rafting as the water surges through granite gorges topped with lush beech forest. Afterward, drive along the river towards the West Coast before heading south to Punakaiki, home to the dramatic limestone country of the Paparoa National Park.

Activity: 2 hours rafting Class III-IV rapids

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

HIKE AT PAPAROA NATIONAL PARK

Spend the morning hiking near Punakaiki in Paparoa National Park. Continue on to the town of Hokitika and take a stroll through the spectacular Hokitika River gorge. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore the wild beach adjacent to your hotel or check out the artisan stores in town, many of which include carvings of locally sourced jade (known here as greenstone).

Activity: 3 hours/6 miles hiking with 460' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

EXPLORE OKARITO

Continue south to the seaside hamlet of Okarito and hike through lush rainforest on a trail above the ocean. At the top, take in 360-degree views of the area, including wild coastline and the glaciated Southern Alps towering dramatically above the rainforest. On a clear day, enjoy stunning views of New Zealand's highest peak, Mt. Cook

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(known in Maori as Mt. Aoraki). End the day with a hike in the valley below Franz Josef Glacier. Tonight, dinner is on your own.

Activity: 2–3 hours/3-6 miles hiking with 518' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L

DAY 8

VISIT FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

Set out on a morning hike to explore the Franz Josef area on foot. If weather permits, book an optional helicopter ride for aerial views of glaciers and mountains, or book the highly-recommended "Heli-hike" package that takes you onto the glacier by helicopter. Strap on crampons and follow ice steps cut by the guides on a route that takes you through crevasses and ice ridges and leads you onto the middle of the glacier for spectacular views of the icefall and lower glacier.

Activity: 2–3 hours/6-7 miles glacier hiking

Meals: B, D

DAY 9

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE BY AIR & BOAT

Head inland by private transport and follow the Haast River. Board a helicopter in Makarora and enjoy a spectacular flight into the heart of the 2.7-million-hectare South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, or "Te Wahipounamu." After exploring this incredibly remote and beautiful area, hike alongside the Wilkin River through lush rainforest before meeting your jet boat for an exhilarating ride back to Makarora. Transfer to the Southern Lakes District, where deep blue lakes are surrounded by large snow-capped mountains, and arrive at the idyllic town of Wanaka.

Activity: 3 hours/4.5 miles hiking with 460' elevation gain & 1,115' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

HIKE TO THE SPECTACULAR ROB ROY GLACIER

Take an awe-inspiring drive to Mount Aspiring National Park and hike up to the Rob Roy Glacier. This spectacular area was the setting for The Lord of the Rings, and it's one of the best day hikes on the South Island. Hiking up a narrow glacial valley, take in views of tumbling rivers, towering snowfields, and lofty mountain peaks. Travel

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through forest to a dramatic alpine cirque with fabulous views of the Rob Roy Glacier towering overhead. After lunch, return to the trailhead for a drive back into Wanaka.

Activity: 4–6 hours/8 miles hiking with 1,540' elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

DEPART FROM QUEENSTOWN

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast in Wanaka before taking one last scenic drive over the Crown Range to Queenstown where the trip ends. Spend a few extra days on your own exploring Queenstown, or fly back to Auckland and connect with your homeward-bound flight.

Meals: B

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Dates

Feb 5 - 15, 2019

Mar 5 - 15, 2019

Dec 21 - 31, 2019

Jan 27 - Feb 6, 2020

Mar 2 - 12, 2020

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Pricing

2019

\$ 8,295 per person

Additional Cost

\$ 1,300 Single Supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead adventure guide(s)
- All necessary kayaking and rafting gear
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure day airport transfers

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Lunch on Day 8 and dinner on Days 4 and 7
- Optional tips to your lead adventure guides
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Airport transfers if arriving outside Day 1 and departing outside Day 11
- Optional travel protection

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➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

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Awards



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