



AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Volunteer-Led Excursions Worldwide

New Zealand South Island – Hike & Explore the Hidden Gems

Feb. 10 - 23, 2023

Trip #2304



Torrent Bay, New Zealand

Trip Overview

New Zealand is a country with endless adventure opportunities. Are you looking for a hiking adventure combining spectacular coastal trails, an Island National Park, a future Great Walk, and sea kayaking or a boat tour in a unique fiord? Are you interested to learn about first explorers and see wildlife you have never seen before? If this sounds exciting, then join us on our New Zealand South Island trip.

The first part of our adventure takes us to Nelson and Abel Tasman National Park. This Great Walk has moderate to vigorous hiking and spectacular ocean views. We will experience all of this in luxury, staying at splendid beachfront lodges with ocean views.

After completing Abel Tasman, we move south to hike and explore parts of Rakiura (Stewart Island) on the southern tip of the South Island. Rakiura is the third largest island in New Zealand. Rakiura means “The Land of Glowing Skies” in the native Maori language. This will become apparent if we get to see the Aurora Australis, which often appears in these southern skies. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to see Tokoeka (or brown kiwi).

Next we enjoy a challenging backcountry hike on the Humpridge Track, soon to be designated one of New Zealand’s Great Walks. This will be one of the trip’s main hiking challenges, a 3-day backcountry hike staying in privately-owned lodges on the Humpridge Track in Fiordland National Park. The trail takes us through diverse and stunning scenery, from sea level to sub-alpine views. Accommodations are in twin/double rooms and include all bedding, hot showers, and meal service.

Next we explore Te Anau and hike part of the Kepler Track followed by a visit to Patea (Doubtful Sound), which means “Place of Silence” in Maori. A sea kayak or cruise aboard the Patea Explorer will allow us to experience the dramatic landscape of majestic mountains, sheer cliffs, echoing birdsong, and cascading waterfalls. There is no road to Doubtful Sound and getting there is an experience in itself ... This is truly a “Hidden Gem”.

On our last night we will enjoy a gourmet BBQ and sheepdog show at Walter Peak high-country farm followed by a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown aboard the 110 year old steamship Earnslaw.

Our trip ends after breakfast the next morning where participants can catch a flight back to the USA or continue their adventure in New Zealand.

Trip Difficulty

This trip is rated per the AMC Rating scale of Vigorous (#5) to Strenuous (#6) with some easier days (See Daily Itinerary Summary Table). The trip consists of 10 hiking days interspersed with some cultural/wildlife exploration days. Participants should be capable of hiking 5 – 9 hours a day (including breaks) and most typically 7.5 to 14 miles (most elevation changes from 0 to 1600 ft. but two days of 3000+ elevation). Most days we carry a daypack (estimated 15 - 16 lbs.) with the rest of our gear being transported between our accommodations. For days 2 and 3 of the Humpridge Track we will carry a daypack plus a change of clothes between lodges, so our packs could weigh 16 - 18 lbs.

We recommend participants begin a conditioning regimen a month or two prior to the trek (which is generally harder in December/January if you are in the northeast of the USA).

Reference AMC trip activities rating link: <https://www.outdoors.org/outdoor-activities/difficulty-ratings>

Daily Itinerary

International trip: Depart USA Feb 8 or earlier to arrive in Nelson, New Zealand (NSN/NZNS) on February 10, 2023, Day 1.

Day 1 – Friday Feb. 10

AMC participants are expected to arrive in Nelson Airport around midday. Shuttle to the hotel. Participants can rest or freshen up, then meet for the first trip meeting and group dinner.

Hotel: TBD

Meals: (D)

Day 2 – Saturday Feb 11 - Bus transfer and Start the 3-day Abel Tasman Coastal Track

After breakfast, transport pickup at the hotel for a scenic one hour drive through the coastal orchard and vineyards to Motueka and Kaiteriteri. Scenic cruise 1 hour 40 minutes the length of the golden Abel Tasman coast north to Totaranui for the start of Abel Tasman trek. Hike with daypacks from Totaranui Beach to Guesthouse including a tidal crossing. Other gear will be transported to Lodge by outfitter. (2.5 -3 hrs; 4.5 mi; 340' elev. gain).

Meadowbank Homestead

Guesthouse

Meals: (B, L, D)



Totaranui Beach

Day 3 – Sunday Feb 12 - Hike

Awaroa to Torrent Bay

Hike along the coastal track through native forest and golden sand beaches from Meadowbank Homestead to Torrent Bay Lodge. Stop at beaches, swimming and picnicking at one or more of the beaches (6 - 7 hours; 10.5 - 11 miles; 400' elev. gain).

Torrent Bay Lodge

Meals: (B, L, D)



Torrent Bay Lodge

Day 4 – Monday Feb. 13 - Hike Torrent Bay to Marahau; Transport back to Nelson

Hike from Torrent Bay Lodge to Marahau stopping at a number of beaches and overlooks. At the end of the trail a scenic one hour drive arriving back in Nelson by 6 pm.

(4 - 5 hours, 8 - 10 miles; 400' elev. gain).

Hotel in Nelson

Meals: (B, L)

Day 5 – Tuesday Feb. 14 - Transfer to Rakiura (Stewart Island)

Early morning transport to Nelson airport. Fly to Invercargill, private vehicle transfer (30 min) to Bluff, ferry from Bluff to Rakiura (Stewart Island), brief stop in Invercargill to pick up lunch supplies, 1pm check in for one-hour ferry to Rakiura (Stewart Island). After settling in, a guided walk and introduction to the fishing village of Oban ending at the island's social hub, the pub for dinner.

(2 hours; 4.5 miles; 350' elev. gain).

Kaka Retreat, Stewart Island (single, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, single with private bath);

www.kakaretreat.co.nz

Meals: (L, D)



Oban, Rakiura (Stewart Island)

(photo credit Venture Southland & permission to use by Tamarillo)

Day 6 – Wednesday Feb. 15 - Hike Rakiura Track & Explore Wildlife Sanctuary (Ulva Island)

We will prepare breakfast and picnic lunch at the motel with supplies purchased from Oban's general store. Today's program combines a hike along a coastal section of Rakiura Track, one of New Zealand's Great Walks, three water-taxi transfers and a visit to Ulva Island wildlife sanctuary.

Part of the group (less than 10) to go on 1/2 day hike in the morning and visit the Ulva Island wildlife sanctuary in the afternoon. The second group will visit the wildlife sanctuary in the am, and do the hike in the afternoon. After dinner, another guided night-walk to hear and hopefully see kiwi.

(3.5 hours, 5 miles, 750; elev gain/loss)

Kaka Retreat, Stewart Island (2nd night)

www.kakaretreat.co.nz

Meals: (B, L)



Rakiura Track (Stewart Island)

(Photo Permission by Tamarillo Active Travel)

Day 7 – Thursday Feb. 16 - Optional Horseshoe Point Hike; Transport to Humpridge Track

Free time up to 3pm (options to sea kayak, rent a bike, visit local museum and Heritage Centre, etc. or hike with AMC leaders around Horseshoe Point with great views across Foveaux Strait to the south coast of New Zealand's South Island and a potential swim at Dead Man Beach (2 hours; 3 miles; 250' elev gain/loss).

3pm check in for a one-hour ferry back to Bluff. Private vehicle transfer 1.5 hours to the small country town of Tuatapere, with a side-trip en-route to the summit of Motupohue (Bluff Hill) for the magnificent 360 degree panorama over southern New Zealand and across the ocean to Rakiura (Stewart Island). Arrive Tuatapere, Last Night Lodge, in time for 7 pm dinner.

Last Night Lodge, Tuatapere (twin/double rooms with shared bathrooms)

Meals: (B, L, D)

Days 8 – 10 Friday - Sunday Feb. 17 - 19: Humpridge Track

The Humpridge Track is designed as a 3-day backcountry loop-walk in Fiordland National Park taking hikers along the rugged south coast of the South Island, up to the subalpine zone of Hump Ridge and through large dense tracts of native forest. Overnight accommodation is in twin/double-rooms in privately-owned lodges. All bedding, linen, and towels are supplied. Hot showers are available in shared bathrooms. 3-course dinners, full breakfast, and packed lunches with snacks and fresh fruit each day are provided along with expert local guides walking with the group.

Day 8: Friday Feb. 17 Flat Creek to Okaka Lodge (5 - 6 hours; 7.5 miles; 3280' ascent)

After a hearty breakfast we start our 3-day back-country experience (luggage can be stored at Last Night Lodge). On this, our first day, we take a short helicopter flight from Rarakau trailhead to Flat Creek where we begin our hike. Our backpacks are transported by helicopter to our lodging. (5 - 6 hours, 7.5 miles, 3280' ascent)

Meals:(B, L, D)

Day 9: Saturday Feb. 18 - Okaka Lodge to Port Craig Lodge (7 - 9 hours; 12.5 miles; 320'ascent/3600' descent)

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 10: Sunday Feb. 19 – Port Craig Lodge to Rarakau Trailhead (5 - 7 hours; 12.5 miles; 600'

ascent/600' descent) At the end of the hike, private transportation 1.5 hours to Te Anau. Dinner is on your own.

Marakura Lakeview Motel, Te Anau (Twin/double rooms in 2-bedroom/1-bathroom apartments with full kitchen facilities) www.teanauholidaypark.co.nz/marakura

Meals: (B, L)

Day 11 – Monday Feb 20 – Choice of shorter or longer hike on the Kepler Track, Fiordland National Park, another New Zealand Great Walk

Both hikes begin with a short water-taxi transfer across Lake Te Anau to Brod Bay and end with a 15 minute private vehicle transfer back to our accommodations. We will enjoy a group dinner, chez nous, that evening at our Marakura Lakeview Motel accommodations with full kitchen facilities.

1. Brod Bay to Rainbow Reach car-park (4 - 5 hours; 9.5 miles; 80' descent)
2. Brod Bay to the treeline (3000 feet) or Luxmore Hut returning to Kepler Track car-park (6 - 7 hours; 14 miles, 3000 ' ascent/descent)

Marakura Lakeview Motel, Te Anau (Twin/double rooms in 2-bedroom/1-bathroom apartments with full kitchen facilities) www.teanauholidaypark.co.nz/marakura

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 12 – Tuesday Feb. 21 – Sea Kayaking or Boat Cruise in Doubtful Sound



Doubtful Sound

Doubtful Sound cruise

(photo permission to use by Bill Puricelli)



(photo permission by Real Journeys)

Private vehicle transfer (20 min) to Lake Manapouri. Scenic cruise (1 hr) across the lake to a bus transfer (45 min) over Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound, one of the great fiords within Fiordland National Park. Doubtful Sound is lesser known, but has been described as Milford Sound on steroids.

Here you can choose to experience the majestic mountains, sheer cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and undisturbed wildlife of Doubtful Sound via either:

1. Guided sea-kayaking in stable, two-person, sit-inside sea-kayaks.
2. A cruise aboard the Patea Explorer through Doubtful Sound.

Upon return across Wilmot Pass and Lake Manapouri, the group will get to Te Anau around 5:45 pm for pre-dinner drinks at Fiordland Cinema's bar with a short film *Ata Whenua -- Shadowland*, shot mostly from helicopters across extremes of season, climate, and terrain in the remote corners of Fiordland National Park. www.fiordlandcinema.co.nz/ata-whenua-shadowland

Following the film, for those who wish, we will return to our accommodations for a casual "take out" (New Zealand pizza?) dinner.

Marakura Lakeview Motel, Te Anau (Twin/double rooms in 2-bedroom/1-bathroom apartments with full kitchen facilities) www.teanauholidaypark.co.nz/marakura

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 13 – Wednesday Feb. 22 - Free Morning, Farewell BBQ Dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm with Sheep Demo followed by Earnslaw Steamship Cruise Across Lake to Queenstown.

Free morning in Te Anau (Options to bike, visit Te Anau's Glow-worm caves, wildlife sanctuary). After lunch we'll enjoy another very scenic 2 hour drive through back-roads to Walter Peak High Country Farm and restaurant on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. There will be time for a walk around the farm and its heritage gardens and a possible swim in the lake before our Farewell BBQ dinner.

At 9 pm we'll cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown in style aboard the 110 year-old steamship Earnslaw, a true icon of New Zealand. When we get in, is a 5-minute walk along a well-lit, level footpath from the wharf to our hotel.



Walter Peak Farm & the Earnslaw

(photo credit Real Journeys)

Novotel Lakeside Hotel (4-star), Queenstown (twin/double rooms with private bathrooms) ms).

www.tinyurl.com/NovotelLakesideQueenstown

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 14 – Thursday Feb. 23 – Check out & trip ends

After breakfast, continue adventure on your own in NZ or fly home

Meals: none

Possible Itinerary Changes

While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, or governmental or ranger recommendations). The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip.

Also, the Adventure Travel Committee specifically empowers the leader to exclude any individual from a trip activity if the leader feels that there is a significant individual or group safety or health risk.

Accommodations, Meals and Transportation

Trip price is based on accommodations in two persons/rooms (subject to confirmation). Single participants will be assigned same-gender roommates. We will stay at private lodges & hotels/motels. Nelson (hotels), Abel Tasman (private lodges), Stewart Island (motel), Tuatapere & Humpridge (Private lodges), Te Anau (motel), Queenstown (hotel). Some will have private bathrooms and some shared.

Meals included on the trip are listed as (B - breakfast, L - Lunch, D - dinner) at the bottom of each day in the "Daily Itinerary". Hearty breakfasts, ample bag lunches, varied dinners (if you have a dietary request, we will accommodate as best we can reviewing meal options with the chef/kitchen crew). South Island Transportation - all transportation via ground (except Day 1 getting to the hotel) is included in the trip price and conducted by an outfitter or subcontracted personnel. Water taxi transportation on Rakiura (Stewart Island) is included. Short helicopter ride at the start of the Humpridge Track is included. Ground transportation from Queenstown hotel to airport on the morning of Day 14 is not included in the price of the trip.

Air Transportation on the South Island - Air flight from Nelson to Invercargill is the responsibility of the participants. Leaders will give all flight details and times for participants to book in a timely manner.

Summary of Daily Itinerary Table with location/times/distance/elevation

| Day | Date | Hike/Walk | Distance (miles) | Time* (hrs) | Gain (feet) | AMC Rating |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Fri. 2/10 | No Hike, walk around Nelson, group dinner | n/a | n/a | n/a | |
| 2 | Sat. 2/11 | Hike from Totaranui beach to Awaroa Meadowbank Homestead guesthouse | 4.5 | 2.5 - 3 | 250 | Easy |
| 3 | Sun.2/12 | Awaroa to Torrent Bay Lodge | 10.5 – 11.0 | 6 - 7 | 400 | Vigorous |
| 4 | Mon. 2/13 | Torrent Bay Lodge to Marahau | 8 – 10 miles | 4 – 5 | 400 | Mod-Vigorous |
| 5 | Tue. 2/14 | Guided walk around Oban | 4.5 | 2 | 350 | Easy |
| 6 | Wed.2/15 | Hike part of the Rakiura Track | 5 | 3.5 | 750 | Easy |
| 7 | Thurs. 2/16 | Free time or Optional hike around Horseshoe Point | 3 | 2 | 250 | Relaxed |
| 8 | Fri. 2/17 | Humpridge Track – Flat Creek to Okaka Lodge | 7.5 | 5 - 6 | 3,280 | Strenuous |
| 9 | Sat. 2/18 | Humpridge Track – Okaka Lodge to Port Craig Lodge | 12.5 | 6 - 7 | 320 up, 3,600 down | Strenuous |
| 10 | Sun. 2/19 | Humpridge Track – Port Craig Lodge to Rarakau trailhead | 12.5 | 5 - 7 | 600 up, 600 down | Strenuous |
| 11 | Mon. 2/20 (Kepler Track) | Two Options 1)Brod Bay to Rainbow Reach car-park or 2) Brod Bay to Treeline, to Kepler Track car park | 1) 9.5 2) 14.0 | 1) 4 -5 2) 6 -7 | 1) 80 down 2) 3,000 up/down | 1)Vigorous OR 2) Strenuous |
| 12 | Tues. 2/21 | No hike – sea kayak or boat in Doubtful Sound | n/a | n/a | n/a | Sea Kayak or Boat |
| 13 | Wed.2/22 | No hike | n/a | n/a | n/a | |
| 14 | Th. 2/23 | No hike | n/a | n/a | n/a | |

* Times are walking time only and do not include photo stops or lunch.

Weather & Time Zone

Average temperatures in the Nelson, NZ area in February are High 74 F and Low 56 F. In Invercargill the temperature ranges from a minimum of 48 F to 66 F. In Nelson the wettest month is December with 4.46" ave. Stewart Island's warmest month is February with an average maximum temperature of 64 F. Typically there are some days with some rainfall and the average monthly rainfall is just under 3 inches in both Nelson and Stewart Island areas. The average sea temperature is about 51 F near Stewart Island and 65 F in the Nelson area.

In February, New Zealand will be on NZDT (New Zealand Daylight Time) , which is 16 hrs. ahead of DST.

Trip Price

The AMC Member price is \$6,200. The non-member price is \$6,300. To join the AMC (2021 pricing \$50 individual, \$75 family) click [here](#).

The price for this excursion is based on quotes or estimates obtained at the time the trip was planned. The final price of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases we incur will be shared by trip participants. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is more likely than a price increase. All Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis and refunds, if any, are issued after the trip's financial accounting is complete.

In accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing the leader's costs. Beyond this, the leaders are not allowed to realize any profit from this excursion. The trip price includes an AMC overhead fee to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions. The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If these possibilities concern you, individual travel insurance is recommended. More information about included emergency medical and evacuation insurance, as well as about optional and recommended travel insurance, will be provided to participants in their formal acceptance letters, which will be sent out when the trip has the required number of accepted applicants.

What trip price includes:

- Double occupancy hotel or motel in Nelson, Oban (Stewart Island), Te Anau, Queenstown
- 11 breakfasts, 12 lunches are mostly picnic lunches, 10 dinners
- Abel Tasman guided Trek (3 days, 2 nights lodging and all meals)
- Round trip ferry to Rakiura (Stewart Island)
- Guided hikes on Rakiura (Stewart Island) - 2 days, 3rd day (optional)
- Water taxi to explore Ulva Island
- Humpridge guided Trek with a short helicopter ride from Rarakura trailhead to Flat Creek to start the hike (pre-hike lodge in Tuatapere, 3 days, 2 nights on trek at lodge and all meals)
- Short and long hike options on Kepler Track
- Exploring Te Anau including admission to short film - *Ata Whenua - Shadowland*

- Day trip with round trip travel across Lake Manapouri to Doubtful Sound with sea kayak or boat cruise on the Sound
- Cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamship *Earnslaw*
- Ground transportation from Nelson hotel (day 5) to airport, all ground transportation (via private operators) all other times except the Day 14 transport to Queenstown airport.
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance

What trip price does NOT include:

- International flight from your home to Nelson, New Zealand (South Island)
 - Ground transportation from Nelson airport to hotel (Day 1)
 - In New Zealand flight from Nelson to Invercargill
 - New Zealand Government Entry Requirements for US Citizens
 - US Citizens traveling to New Zealand under the visa waiver program are required to have an New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority NZeTA. NZeTA is valid for multiple visits for up to two years. NZeTA can be obtained for NZ\$9 via App (download NZeTA iPhone app - Apple Store OR NZeTA Android app - Google Play) OR NZ\$12 online (<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/general-information/visa-waiver-countries>)
 - US citizens traveling to New Zealand are also required to pay an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). This levy is assessed when a person applies for an NZeTA or New Zealand visa. Obtain your IVL before you travel through a NZ free app you download on your phone (see above) or online (NZ \$35) <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/your-journey-to-new-zealand/before-you-travel-to-new-zealand/paying-ivl>
- Your trip leaders will be happy to help you obtain their appropriate travel authorization and to pay the tourism levy.
- Ground transportation from Queenstown hotel to airport
 - 2 Breakfasts, 3 dinners
 - Beverages (non alcoholic and alcoholic)
 - insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, evacuation, or for baggage loss.
 - All other expenses are not included

How air travel is to be handled:

While participants' airfare is not included in the trip price, leaders may assist participants in making suitable reservations. Participants will be told when and where they must join the group for the official start of the trip's planned activities. Once your air tickets are purchased they are your responsibility – Do not make any non-refundable travel plans until told to do so by the leaders. The leaders will send out a document with a list of suggested flights from your home airport, which will work to get you to Nelson in time for the start of the trip.

The price for the excursion is based on quotes or estimates obtained at the time the trip was submitted to the Adventure Travel Committee for approval (June 2021). The final price of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. If the trip's financial position is strong enough at the start, the leaders may make partial refunds during the trip, in the form of payments towards some meals and/or free time activities. Which would otherwise not be included. Trip participants will share any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases we incur. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is considerably more likely than a price increase. All Adventure Travel

trips are run on a non-profit basis and refunds, if any, are issued after the trip's financial accounting is complete.

Participant Trip Requisites

- **Health** - Participants must be in good health and able to do moderate to strenuous hiking. Medical facilities in New Zealand are known to be of high standard. It is advised that participants bring with them any prescriptions and medications needed for the duration of the trip.
- **Physical Conditioning** - The trip is moderate to strenuous (in terms of distance, time, and elevation gain/loss) hiking on maintained trails. Trails in New Zealand are generally well maintained, however, they can be rocky and uneven. You should be in good physical condition, in particular, to hike days 3 and 4 in Abel Tasman (heat and distance), Humpridge Track (3000 ft. elevation gain and loss on 2 days), and the more strenuous Kepler Track option should you opt for that (day hike with elevation gain of 3000 ft and elevation loss of 3000 ft on the same day).
- **Adaptability** - An important criterion for this trip is the ability to be flexible. Please note that the itinerary may be modified due to transportation and weather details. Safety will always take priority in the leader's decisions.
- **Understanding the Trip Purpose**: This trip is designed for everyone to experience the "hidden gems" of New Zealand through shared participation in an organized group environment. Participants are expected to arrive promptly for scheduled activities. AMC trip participants are known for their cooperative efforts, and expectations are that all participants be considerate of others sharing this AMC Adventure Travel experience.
- **Being a Team Player** - We will be more than just a group, we will be a team. As members of our team, you will be responsible for yourself as being a part of the group. Being a team player also means proper communication as to your whereabouts and your personal health. Although we are all adults, the trip leaders have a responsibility for the overall safety of the group and part of that is knowing where everyone is at all times. Especially when traveling in a group and in a foreign country, you should tell someone about your intentions. Similarly, you should tell one of the leaders if you become ill or do not feel you are physically capable of safely participating in any of the activities.

Experience & Risks

When you participate in this activity, you should be prepared both physically and mentally, and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly. We are not responsible for your safety - You are.

Nonetheless, it may happen on any trip that the trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of group or individual safety. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity is an example of a condition that might result in a participant being unable to perform one or more activities. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

Prior to being accepted as a participant in this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities. Please do not be offended by our questions.

Safety

As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with volunteer leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. Participants should be aware there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips and camps, and transportation in vehicles, on foot, by boat, or on a bike. When you apply for acceptance onto a trip, please carefully read and sign the *Adventure Travel Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement* and call if you have any questions.

AMC Mission

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreational and educational principles and mission of the club. The leaders will encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace environmental and conservation principles and local regulations.

Application Process

Group size is 14 participants and 2 leaders. To apply:

1. **Complete our new AT streamlined online application at this link:**
<https://forms.office.com/r/4Y5fxiTRbs>
2. **Send this [Hiking and Group Travel Reference link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NtYrqTEWjWQMONrMt6lMCD4jvc4Lzbpcwl7gkElsXKo/edit?usp=sharing)** to two references who can vouch for your hiking ability and group compatibility. You can copy/paste the link into your email to your references:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NtYrqTEWjWQMONrMt6lMCD4jvc4Lzbpcwl7gkElsXKo/edit?usp=sharing>). If you are an active outdoors person with limited hiking references, please reach out to Jeanne or Michael for guidance (see contact info below).
3. **Mail your \$2,000 deposit check, made out to the Appalachian Mountain Club to:**
 Jeanne Blauner, 509 Neck Road Unit 4, Lancaster, MA 01523

You will be considered qualified for the trip when the leaders have determined by conversation with you that the trip is a good match. Prior to your acceptance as a participant in this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities. Your check will not be deposited unless we offer you a spot on the trip. Deposit checks from the wait-listed applicants will not be cashed until we offer them a spot on the trip AND they accept. When the trip is declared a "GO", we will send all participants the names and email addresses of each participant. We will use email as our primary method of communication for this trip.

Payment Schedule

Final Payment: Balance of \$4,200.00 due no later than September 1, 2022. Please make payments by check payable to the "Appalachian Mountain Club" and mail to:

Jeanne Blauner:
 509 Neck Road Unit #4
 Lancaster, MA 01523

Participant Cancellation Policy

The AMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy is based on the premise your cancellation may not raise the cost to other participants or the leaders. Once you are notified the trip is declared to run as scheduled, the minimum cancellation fee is \$200. If actual costs (expenses already incurred on your behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of your registration and cancellation) are higher, they will be assessed instead. Should the leaders be able to replace you with another acceptable participant, you may be charged a reduced penalty. This will generally not be determined until after the trip. Failure to make trip payment(s) in a timely manner is considered a cancellation.

On rare occasions AMC Adventure Travel may need to cancel all or a portion of a trip due to force majeure (e.g. terrorism, local health conditions, natural disaster, changes in local regulatory environment, etc.) In the event of such a cancellation, your trip fee will be refunded less any trip expenses already incurred plus any non-cancellable future trip expenditures. AMC Adventure Travel is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by you in preparing for the trip (including non-refundable air tickets, visa fees, gear or medical expenses, etc.)

This trip is likely to fill quickly. If you are interested, you should apply as soon as possible. When registration is complete, we will send participants the names, and emails of all those going on the trip. In the unlikely event the trip is cancelled due to not enough acceptable participants applying, everything you have paid will be refunded in full.

Risk of Trip Activities

Participants should be adequately prepared for cold and hot weather hazards such as wind chill, hypothermia, dehydration, rain, sun exposure and insect bites by ensuring they have sun protection, personal first aid kit, bug repellent and extra layers in their day pack during each day's activities.

Terms, Conditions and General Information

Please carefully read the [Adventure Travel Standard Terms and Conditions](#)

AMC Trip Leaders

Leader: Jeanne Blauner



Jeanne has been leading outdoor adventures for over 40 years for AMC and Sierra Club among other groups. Jeanne is a backcountry leader with the AMC Boston Family Outings leading hiking, camping, canoe, and winter trips. Jeanne is past Chair of AMC Boston Family Outings and former Boston Chapter Membership Chair. She joined AMC Adventure Travel in 2014 and has led AT trips to the Jungfrau region in Switzerland, Machu Picchu, Morocco, New Zealand, and Fiji-Tonga. In addition, Jeanne has led over 30 national & international weeklong Sierra Club trips since 1980 including the Dolomites in Italy, the Dordogne region in France, and the Austrian Alps.

Contact information: Jeanne Blauner, at jablauner@comcast.net or at h/(978) 202-5606.

Associate Leader: Michael Wainer

Michael is a new Adventure Travel Associate leader who recently co-lead a hike with Carl Rosenthal in Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Park. Michael has been leading hikes and weekend trips with the AMC Boston Chapter Family Outings Group since 2016 along with leading hikes at AMC August Camp (Mt. Rainier & Little Lyford in ME). He has been a participant on six different AT trips: The Jungfrau in Switzerland, The Beara Peninsula in Ireland, The AV1 in the Italian Dolomites, Nepal and part of Peaks of the Balkan trail in Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo. Michael has completed the NH 48 4K and is working on his second round. He has SOLO Advanced Wilderness First

Aid and CPR certifications. In 2015 he was diagnosed with Celiac disease, which requires a Gluten Free diet. He has learned to travel around the world (some remote and strenuous trips) while managing his diet restrictions. He is sensitive to diet issues and enjoys helping others to travel without having to worry about whether they can be safe and comfortable on a trip.

Contact information: Michael Wainer, at wainer18@hotmail.com or at c/(617) 549-2731.

Partial Gear List (Leaders will provide a more “inclusive” gear list at the later date)

Daypack

Hiking Poles and good hiking boots

lightweight lodge/hut shoes or sandals (to wear when in lodge or hut after day hike)

Extra hiking shirts, socks, pants/shorts (synthetic types that can easily be washed and dried for reuse)

Clothing for lodges/motels

Sun Screen, sunglasses, sun hat

gloves, warm hat or headband

Rain gear, fleece or warm sweater (optional light wind jacket)

Daypack, water bottles, camelback

Camera with extra battery and memory card(s)

Headlamp and extra batteries

Electrolyte tablets (to put in water for hot days)

Personal

Prescription and OTC personal medications

Personal First Aid kit

Contact lens supplies (if applicable)

Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, etc.

Plastic bags, thick ones and large enough to keep things dry inside your daypack

Bathing suit, pack towel

Water shoes or Crocs (For Abel Tasman tidal crossings & for the day that we sea kayak)

Photo Credits

Unless stated otherwise, photos are used by permission of Michael Wainer

References

- [New Zealand](#)
- [New Zealand Tourism & Travel Guide](#)

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/new-zealand.html>
- [New Zealand travel guide - World Travel Guide](#)
- [Air New Zealand](#)
- [Kiwi Facts & Characteristics :: Kiwis for kiwi](#)
- [Abel Tasman Coast Track – New Zealand Hiking Trails | Tourism ...](#)
- [Kia Ora, welcome to Stewart Island](#)
- [Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara: Places to go in Southland - DOC](#)
- [the Hump Ridge Track](#)
- [Te Anau, Fiordland | 100% Pure New Zealand](#)
- [Kepler Track – New Zealand Hiking Trails | Tourism New Zealand](#)
- [Facts about Doubtful Sound | Go Blogs | Go Orange NZ](#)
- [Queenstown New Zealand | Official Tourism Website](#)