



ROUTE & TOUR GUIDE info for 2011 & 2012



NZ ADVENTURES HIGH COUNTRY SAFARIS

NZ Adventures are offering four unique South Island 4x4 Safaris for 2011. Discover the hidden secrets of New Zealand's high country on one of our all inclusive low impact High Country tours by 4WD vehicle. Travel through some of New Zealand's greatest High Country Stations and iconic landscapes. Introduced in 2009 was the Mackenzie Explorer Safari which is centered mainly in the Mackenzie Basin. Or choose from our established favourites, the six day High Country Heritage, five day West Coast Heritage and the 5 day Southern Lakes Explorer tour. All are unique fully guided experiences for the discerning traveller and include good hotel/lodge style accommodation and quality meals.

NZ Adventures probably has by far the largest off road vehicle access resource in New Zealand. We travel through many private and Conservation areas usually restricted to vehicles and we are continually expanding our horizons. This is no bush bash, our routes are chosen for their scenic, cultural and historic values. Our Heritage Safaris are suitable for those without off road experience and our qualified guides are all enthusiastic about NZ's back country, its people and heritage, they genuinely enjoy taking you further into this remote and secret world than you ever imagined possible and will give advice and tips on off road driving as you wish.

HIGH COUNTRY HERITAGE 4X4 SAFARI - 6 DAYS - Low ratio vehicles, no 4WD experience required.

Our longest all-inclusive 4X4 Safari. This six day adventure chases the sunshine the length of the South Island, closely hugging the eastern side of the Alps and passing through many famous high country sheep stations. This is the land of golden waving tussocks, superb alpine views and wild braided rivers we have all seen in calendars and TV commercials. However our Safari actually lets you drive across many famous high country properties and is an insight into this self reliant way of life. We lunch on many of the stations and meet some of the Run Holders.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: (All routes provisional)

Day 1. Blenheim to Hanmer Springs. First up high country station tracks on Blairich and Tyntesfield Stations, before lunch on Middlehurst Stn and then entering Molesworth Station, NZ's largest farm property. Descend Jollies Pass coach track to Hanmer Springs. Note: dry weather may necessitate using Rainbow Station.

Day 2. Hanmer Springs to Methven. Through the Hurunui before crossing the Brothers Range, through Mc Donald Downs Stn, climb Blue Mountain for views from the coast to the Alps. Lunch on Richon Stn, then through remote Lees Valley, Ashley Gorge and on to Methven.

Day 3. Methven to Lake Tekapo. The day begins following the Rakaia River, around the Arrowsmith Mountains in Mona Anderson country, through Glenfalloch Stn with inspiring Alpine views before lunch on Lake Heron Station. We cut through the rugged Orari and Blue Mountain Stns on our way to Lake Tekapo.

Day 4. Lake Tekapo to Omarama. Into the dry Mackenzie high country into remote Black Forest Station back tracks via Mt Sutton. We picnic lunch at Black Forest Stn before skirting the Kirkliston Mountains on Te Akatarawa Stn, to the east of Lake Benmore before descending to cross the dam to Omarama.

Day 5. Omarama to Cromwell. We cross directly from the Mackenzie to Central Otago over the Omarama saddle, through Twinburn, Michael Peak and Dunstan Burn Stns for lunch at St Bathans historic pub and a look around this gold rush town. After lunch we climb 5000 foot Leaning Rock and travel along the Dunstan Mountains through Northburn and Moutere Stns. before descending to Cromwell.

Day 6. Cromwell to Wanaka. First up the rugged climb thru Bendigo Stn to the Logantown gold diggings in the Bendigo Historic area, followed by 4WDing and lunch at Cluden Stn. A quick run up the Cardrona Valley leads us to Waiorau stn for the zig zag climb up the old Miners Trail and on to Mount Pisa, 1964 m (5986 ft), the summit of the Pisa Range and our highest and last highlight on the tour. Our final night is spent on the mountain at the incomparable Waiorau Snow Park Lodge or the historic Cardrona Hotel.



COST - HIGH COUNTRY HERITAGE 4X4 & AWD SAFARI's - 6 DAYS

\$ 2499.00 per person share twin or double. Single room supplement (one person) \$450.00.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Quality double or twin share accommodation, each with private facilities.
- Buffet or set menu dinners each night.
- Big Kiwi breakfast each morning.
- Filling high country station or picnic lunches.
- Expert and friendly guides.
- Land access and DOC fees.
- Many exclusive Station access highlights.
- NZ's top 4x4 experience.

WEST COAST HERITAGE 4X4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS - Low ratio vehicles, no 4WD experience required.

This is a shorter, but by no means less exciting, off road tour comprising a loop of the top part of the South Island, and suits those with limited time, especially when driving from the North Island. Definitely a tour of contrasts this five day Safari begins with dry tussocklands of Central Marlborough before cutting through the divide to the incomparable native rain forest and mountain valleys west of the Alps. A strong pioneering theme is present as we explore old gold miners' ghost towns and travel over historic early high country routes. The tour starts in Hanmer Springs and finishes in Greymouth on the West Coast, an easy half days drive from Christchurch.



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: (All routes provisional)

Day 1. Hanmer Springs to Murchison. A day of spectacular Alpine scenery begins with the climb up Jollies Pass via the old Christchurch to Nelson Coach Road. Following the upper Clarence River we skirt Molesworth Station, via Lake Tennyson and Island Saddle. Once over the divide we descend through the Wairau Gorge through Rainbow Station to St Arnaud. Then the old Porika Stock Route and Braeburn tracks take us through the Nelson Lakes National Park to Murchison.

Day 2. Murchison to Murchison. Today we visit one of the Buller region's hidden gems, the beautiful and remote Glenroy Valley. This large private property features a deep braided river valley surrounded by pristine beech forest. The return to Murchison is via the magical Maruia Saddle track.

Day 3. Murchison to Westport . Another spectacular day along wilderness tracks through wild rain forest. We cross the Mackley River and climb on to the historic Denniston coal fields. Here we explore old mine workings before dropping down to the coast and on to Westport.

Day 4. Westport to Greymouth. Another all-day track. Today we travel back in time on the tortuous Big River Track through pristine beech forest and explore the areas fascinating historic gold fields and well preserved mining workings. Our stop tonight is in a top Greymouth hotel.

Day 5. Greymouth to Greymouth. The best is saved for the last. The morning is spent on the Napoleon Hill Creek gold fields, we travel down a rain forest gorge, with stunning four wheel driving through tunnels following an underground river and a spectacular run down the Waipuna River and Gorge.

Our final highlight is the rugged Taipo Valley track deep into the Souther Alps if time allows, otherwise it's a leasurily drive around the shores of the scenic Lake Brunner for our final dinner in Greymouth.

COST - WEST COAST HERITAGE 4X4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS

\$2199.00 per person share twin or double. Single room supplement (one person) \$315.00.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights quality double or twin share accommodation, each with private facilities, .
- Buffet or set menu dinners each night.
- Big kiwi breakfast each morning.
- Filling picnic lunches.
- Expert and friendly guides.
- Land Access and DOC fees.
- Many exclusive private and Conservation access highlights.
- NZ's top 4x4 experience.

SOUTHERN LAKES EXPLORER 4x4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS - low ratio vehicle and some previous experience recommended.

Run first in 2007 the Southern lakes Explorer is five day 4WD trip for those who are looking for a new and more challenging Safari. All the elements of our other Safaris are retained, good accommodation, top food, interaction with the land owners and the low impact approach to off road travel. The route covers stunning terrain in the Southern Lakes region with many exclusive private access treats. This Safari is suitable for low range 4x4s fitted with genuine (AT) all terrain tyres.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: (All routes provisional)

Day 1. Omarama to Alexandra, In less than 30 minutes we are off road in stunning high country terrain. The backdrop is the stunning Lindis Hills where we leave the Lindis Pass into historic Morven Hills Stn stopping for lunch at the Stn with the Snow family and viewing the historic 34 stand stone wool shed.

After lunch we head through Matakanui Station and on through the Dunstan Mountains to Alexandra for the night.

Day 2. Alexandra to Gore. Today we will travel the Old man range, the boundary between dry Central Otago and the lush plains of Southland. First up is the steep climb through Earnsclough Stn to Obelisk Rock at just over 5000 ft. Then its east and south along the broad top of the range to remote Potters Diggings for a picnic lunch. If conditions are favourable we commence the descent into the Waikaia Bush, the native beech forest a remarkable contrast to Otago's golden tussocks. Following the Waikaia River through lush farmland brings us to Gore our overnight stop. Note: Completing this route will be subject to dry weather conditions. If conditions are not suitable we have alternate routes; east along the Old man Range and including station tracks in the Beaumont area and a back roads run to Waikaia and onto Gore.



Day 3. Gore to Cromwell. Heading north west we again wind into the Mataura Ranges on Cattle Flat Stn before descending to cross the Mataura River (conditions permitting) and into the 100,000 acre Nokomai Stn, our stop for lunch with the Hore family. After our meal its on through Nokomai to connect with the isolated Nevis Valley, and the descent down Duffers Saddle to Cromwell.

Day 4. Cromwell to Cardrona Valley. Day four is another stunner as we head for Arrowtown and into the Arrow River. We travel up the Arrow River via some 26 river crossings to the remote and long abandoned gold mining settlement of Macetown. Explore the remains of the town and visit the site of Andersons's battery where the well preserved stamper battery can still be seen. Return to Arrow Town via the Arrow River, a short hop up over the Crown Range Rd takes us to the historic Cardrona Hotel for the night.

Day 5. Cardrona Valley to Waiorau Snow Park. Our final day begins with a scenic route up to Lindis Peak through Long Gully, Lindis Peak Stns and down to Nine Mile Stn with extensive views of the Lakes, Lindis Pass and the Dunstan Mountains. Crossing the Clutha we climb the eastern side of the Pisa Range with more stunning views overlooking Lake Dunstan, the Remarkables, Lakes and on a clear day Mt Cook. Mt Pisa at 1964 m (5986 ft) is the Safari'sl high point before descending to the Waiorau Snow Park Lodge for our final night.

COST - SOUTHERN LAKES EXPLORER 4X4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS

\$ 2299.00 per person share twin or double. Single room supplement (one person) \$375.00.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Quality double or twin share accommodation, each with private facilities.
- Buffet or set menu dinners each night.
- Big Kiwi breakfast each morning.
- Filling high country station or picnic lunches.
- Expert and friendly guides.
- Land access and DOC fees.
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- NZ's top 4x4 experience.

MACKENZIE EXPLORER 4x4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS - low ratio vehicle and some previous experience

recommended.

This was our new Safari for 2009 which centres on the elevated Mackenzie Basin of the South Island. Famous for its long hours of sunshine the Mackenzie as it is called was named after James Mackenzie, the legendary sheep rustler. Whom in 1855 drove a flock over the Mackenzie Pass into what was then a little known and uninhabited region. Guilty or not Mackenzie's run brought the region to notice and helped make famous the big blue skies and incomparable majesty of the basin. While exploring the Mackenzie in greater detail we tackle the new terrain and visit new stations in the Hunter Hills, Ewe Range, Dalgety Range, Lindis Hills, Hawkdun and Ida Ranges.



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS: (All routes provisional)

Day 1. Geraldine to Lake Tekapo via the Orari Gorge & Blue Mtn Stations and the Hunter Hills range.

Day 2. Lake Tekapo to Omarama, this day to be spent at the far end of Lake Tekapo in the stunning Macaulay Valley deep in the Southern Alps. We then travel via the Tekapo & Pukaki Rivers track to Omarama for the night

Day 3. Omarama to Omarama, this day takes us to Dansey Passes and new tracks in the Oteake Conservation area around Mt Buster. The day ends back in Omarama.

Day 4 Omarama to Alexandra, this day takes us via a 42 km new route thru Longslip and Dalrachney Stns.

Day 5. Alexandra to Lake Ohau via a new route along the west arm of the Mahuhirikia River thru Michael Peak and Twinburn Stns. We travel to Lake Ohau and up the skifield road to stunning and expansive views of the Mackenzie Basin before returning to Lake Ohau Lodge for our final dinner and nights accomodation

COST - MACKENZIE EXPLORER 4X4 SAFARI - 5 DAYS

\$2299.00 per person share twin or double. Single room supplement (one person) \$375.00.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Quality double or twin share accommodation, each with private facilities.
- Buffet or set menu dinners each night.
- Big Kiwi breakfast each morning.
- Filling high country station or picnic lunches.
- Expert and friendly guides.
- Land access and DOC fees.
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TOUR SCHEDULES AND AVAILABILITY

On the web site, www.nzadventures.co.nz click the web site link to download a booking form.

Click the the booking status link to download a form to show available numbers on each Safari.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VEHICLE SUITABILITY

All tours are suitable for shiny, street going, high clearance 4x4 vehicles fitted with low range gearboxes. The High Country Heritage All Wheel Drive Safari is suitable for vehicles without low ratio gearboxes. - for more info see the booking form. These are off road tours, not aggressive tough-truck bashes, your family 4x4 will be perfectly adequate. Vehicles do not require special modifications, but must be in sound mechanical order with special attention paid to tyre life. A detailed trip guide is sent on booking. Call NZ Adventures if you have any questions regarding skills or your vehicle's capabilities. *Note: Southern Lakes & MacKenzie Explorer Safari requires minimum all terrain tyres.*

EXPERIENCE

No, you do not require prior off road experience. However drivers must be competent and confident of their general driving skills. Drivers must also be familiar and confident driving on loose gravel roads. Prior to a Safari you can undertake some all day drives over windy gravel roads in your area as preparation. Once underway we will ease you gradually into the off road driving. The pace set off road is gentle and deliberate (forget Barry and Scotty in the Hilux ads) and you will be following close to the vehicle in front. All vehicles are supplied with radios. NZ Adventures guides will be monitoring progress and helping with advice both at the briefings and throughout the day.

Note: For the Southern Lakes & MacKenzie Explorer Safari's we recommend some previous off road experience.

FITNESS

Though you should be in good general health you don't have to be especially fit to enjoy the Safari. Though generally not suitable for children, we get people of all ages right through to elderly adventurers. There are lots of opportunities to get out and walk, but it is not required that you do so. We try to stick to 8.30 starts, 10.00am morning tea, 12.00-2.00 pm lunch and 7.30 dinner, however as we are going into genuine wilderness we can't run to coach tour timetables and some of the days may be up to 8-10 hours duration (depending on weather conditions or the speed of the group) which can make for a tiring day. It is always possible take the option to cut out part of the route on any day.



WHERE WE GO

More than just a chance to drive off road, these Safaris are a guided tour experience that is unique to NZ Adventures and unique to New Zealand. Though not tough-truck bashes NZ Adventures do take you far off the beaten track into truly magical country. Most of the tracks we use are hard based, often over stony ground but also hard packed clay. The range of terrain is enormous, from the pristine beech rain forest, valleys and passes on the West Coast Heritage Safari, to high tussock uplands and mountains on the High Country Heritage, Southern Lakes & Mackenzie Safari's. With our focus on environmentally sustainable off road touring NZ Adventures has gained the confidence of an unprecedented number of land owners and managers. Along the way we make many stops, for photos and to see historic sites, and to meet some of the back country characters. Our interpretative pack and maps will give further insight into the regions and properties we are travelling through.

GROUP SIZE - PASSENGERS - PETS AND BIKES

Group sizes vary between seven and 15 vehicles and twenty four to twenty eight people (smaller group sizes by special arrangement and price). You may travel with anywhere between one and five people per vehicle. We do not allow pets of any kind, nor are we licensed for mountain bike riding.

RISKS- RESPONSIBILITY

Though we aim not to damage vehicles or scare anyone, bear in mind though that these are genuine outdoor adventures in a rugged outdoor environment which is largely beyond our control. The tracks and structures we are using are not maintained and hazards seen and unseen are present. Some of the tracks climb to considerable heights and there are subsequently considerable drops from these tracks. Miscalculation on the part of the driver, or even those on foot could have very severe consequences. Rivers also pose hazards, as do other users and mountain weather. If you are not capable of, or prepared to take responsibility for your own actions in this outdoor environment, then this is not the trip for you. Consumption of alcohol during the day's programme is not permitted - but we hope to see you in the bar before dinner!

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

All accommodation is in 3-4 star motels, lodges or hotels and each room has private facilities. Meals are comprehensive: a choice of full cooked or light breakfast, filling picnic or homestead lunches, and 2-3 course set menu or buffet meals. Most establishments have bar facilities on site. Costs are based on twin share, double or single beds. Single room occupancy supplement entails extra cost. Accommodation and meals are NOT included for the night before each tour. Accommodation begins the night of first day and includes the final night. Meals begin with morning tea on the first day thru to breakfast on the morning the tour breaks up.



OUR GUIDES

NZ Adventures four wheel drive guides are all qualified 4x4 drivers, first aiders and experienced tour guides. We are all passionate about our back country heritage and welcome the chance to share it with you. Two guides are involved in each tour. They are equipped with a Nissan Patrol heavy duty 4x4 with 9 ton winch, recovery gear, tools, tyre repair kit, first aid, HF SSB radio and even tea making facilities. Don't think however that all this equipment gets used a lot - apart from the tea making gear which is always popular - we endeavour never to need to use a winch. For short bios on our guides see the web site – in the *about NZA* section.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

The only items not included in the safaris are; Drinks and refreshments, personal services, mini bars, laundry etc, Vehicle hire, vehicle expenses and fuel.

WANT TO HIRE A 4X4?

The mainstream hire companies do not encourage off road use, but may allow hires for our Heritage tours. However there are a limited number of 4x4 vehicles available for genuine off road hire available from Christchurch only. You will need to allow a day either side of the tour to from Blenheim (5 hours) Greymouth (3 hours) or Queenstown (7 hours). See the web site for details.

OVERLAND 4WD RENTALS: This company offer a variety of 4x4 vehicles including 6 cylinder Toyota Landcruiser VX and Toyota Prado out of Christchurch with various equipment options and some specially set up vehicles.

P.O. Box 13722 Christchurch, New Zealand Ph. 0800 493447 or Mobile 021 217 6442 www.overland.co.nz or email. info@overland.co.nz

RHODES RENTALS: Based in Christchurch with a variety of 4x4s including Toyota and Nissan double cab utilities and Toyota Prado and Surf. Address: 501 Blenheim Rd, Christchurch. Ph. 03 348 8219 or 0800 746 337 www.rhodesrentals.co.nz

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend you take out comprehensive travel insurance. Why? Because although accidental injuries are covered by ACC your non ability to attend isn't. Why might you not be able to attend? This can be for many reasons, your sickness or injury before tour commencement, other friends or relatives sickness. An unexpected death in the family. For vehicle recovery should this be needed. Problems with your vehicle requiring you to leave the tour for repair reasons and having to stay in a different town from the rest of the tour group. Cancellation of the Interisland Ferry or a problem on the way to the tour commencement. These are all situations that have happened on previous tours and for these reasons we do recommend that you consider the travel insurance question seriously.

PAYMENTS

A \$250.00 per person, non refundable booking fee is required to make a reservation. A Tax Invoice will be sent with your confirmation and preparation guide. Final payment date is approx. 90 days prior. This date is indicated on your Tax Invoice.

FURTHER DETAILS

Preparation : Start information and a preparation guide will be sent on booking.

Contact us: Visit our web site at www.nzadventures.co.nz for more details and pictures.

If you have any questions please call 03-7684176 or fax 03 768 0951 or email info@nzadventures.co.nz