9 DAYS ALPINE EXPLORER

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The ultimate 9-day winter experience for those who want to see and do it all! Travel to the most stunning highlights in the South Island. See mountains, glaciers, rainforests, rugged coastlines & NZ’s best ski fields. Journey over the Southern Alps, hike by Mount Cook & try once in a lifetime activities.

blue text = optional activity (book as you go)

DAY 1: Leave Christchurch for the picturesque village of Methven, a snow magnet during the winter months in the shadow of NZ’s best ski resort, Mt Hutt! This field offers breathtaking views along the Southern Alps and across the Canterbury Plains to the Pacific Ocean.

DAY 2: It’s time to dust off your ski gear and hit the slopes! We’ve included mountain transfers and a full day lift pass to NZ’s best ski field. If this isn’t for you, enjoy a massage or an optional Lord of the Rings tour. Head to Tekapo & our perfectly located accommodation where soaking in the Hot Pools (included free) is an ideal way to end the day. Take in the views at the world’s largest International Dark Sky Reserve. Optional Earth & Sky Observatory.

DAY 3: Get up close to NZ’s highest peak - Mount Cook. Tour the world class Information Centre before hiking to the spectacular Hooker Glacier or see Tasman Valley on an optional 4WD & Argo tour. Relax around the fire at our accommodation located by NZ’s highest peak, Mount Cook.

DAY 4: We venture to NZ’s most celebrated family run field & a locals favorite, Ohau. With shuttle transfers & a full days lift pass included we enjoy an early start & panoramic views to Mount Cook & Lake Ohau. This ski field is suitable for all abilities but if you prefer, just relax at the lodge or explore the area by foot or bike. Enjoy your lodge accommodation with an open fire, hot meal & stunning lake views.

DAYS 5-6: Travel the dramatic Lindis Pass through an alpine area of tall tussock covered mountains and roadside snow on our way to the ‘Adventure Capital of the World’ - Queenstown. We spend 2 nights in centrally located accommodation that’s ideal for all this alpine town has to offer. Optional Milford Sound boat cruise, bungy jumping, skydiving, scenic lake cruises or take to the mountains skiing and snowboarding just to name a few! This town has a buzzing vibe with something for everyone along with great hikes & cycle options.

DAY 7: Just when you think the scenery can’t get any better...it does! Welcome to the remote and rugged scenic beauty of the West Coast, with its jaw dropping views & great short walks. Tonight, we stay in glacier country at the picturesque village of Franz Josef. Our accommodation is nestled in lush rainforest and located close to the Glacier Hot Pools, a haven of natural tranquility to unwind and relax.

DAY 8: Explore one of NZ’s most unique natural wonders – Franz Josef with an optional guided heli hike or guided heli ice climb. Franz Josef is a quaint village offering scenic short walks or explore by bike or air with an optional skydive. See nature at it’s best with a kayak trip amidst the lush ancient rainforest of the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary.

DAY 9: Great rides & hikes with stunning views over Westland Tai Poutini National Park. Visit Hokitika, home to Greenstone factories, to see the skilled craftsmen at work before travelling over the Southern Alps! We stop to enjoy a short mountainous walk before arriving into Christchurch early evening for our final farewells.

TOUR INCLUSIONS: In addition to numerous free walks, use of bikes and accommodation in lodges & hostels (2-6 guest share) the tour includes:
8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners - Tekapo Hot Pools - Knowledgeable & friendly driver/guide - Mt Hutt mountain transfer & full day lift pass - Ohau mountain transfer & full day lift pass