

Day Walks around Te Anau



Highlights

Discover the spectacular Lake Marian in Fiordland, South Island on a guided New Zealand day hike. Tramp through forests and past waterfalls until you reach the impressive lake hidden in a glacial valley. With a maximum group size of 6 people, you can rest assured you will be walking at a pace you are comfortable with and get incredible insight from your local guide.

The fiordlands of New Zealand are like nowhere else on Earth and attract tens of thousands of tourists every year. Along with Milford and Doubtful Sounds, Hollyford Valley is one of the highlights of South Island and is a hotspot for hikers and nature lovers alike.

The tour starts from Te Anau, a small town surrounded by alpine roads and serene lakes. The town is considered by many to be the gateway to many of New Zealand's tramping attractions, one of which being the scenic Lake Marian and its myriad of nature trails nestled deep in the heart of Lower Hollyford.

Lake Marian stretches across an impressive glacial valley. Standing at the edge and seeing the vast mountain range reflected in its mirror-like surface is a brilliant climax to a day of tramping.

Of course, arriving at the lake is only half the fun. The drive along Milford Road to the start point of the trek is majestic, with gorgeous alpine scenery flanking each side of the road. After arriving in Lower Hollyford, the walking begins and the tour guide couldn't be more knowledgeable about the region. They know the best spots for photos and are happy to regale stories as you hike through the lush forests.

From the snow-covered Darran mountainsides to alpine waterfalls, the variety of things to see in just one day is astounding - a truly world-class walking trip!

Is it for me?

The Lake Marian tour is an astonishing hike through paradise. The fiordlands of New Zealand are a must-see, and this guided hike takes you through some of the best bits. Two essentials for the trip: a camera and plenty of insect repellent!

A moderate level of fitness is required for this trip as it is a full day's hike and you will encounter some steep slopes and rocky terrain. The maximum group size for the walk is 6 people, so you can rest assured that the walk will be at a comfortable pace and that there will be plenty of chances to stop and take in the views.

The only problem you may encounter is catching good weather – the fiordlands are incredibly wet and prone to storms all year round. Whatever the weather all you need is the right attitude to enjoy your day, and the ability to cast aside your usual interpretations of what is good and what is not. If you need some help with this then let your guide's enthusiasm show the way.

Accommodation

Lunch for the tour is available on pre-order, but most travellers bring along a packed lunch. The guides will provide warm drinks and energy snacks for the walk.

Prices from

93 GBP (1 day) per person

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Itinerary

You will be collected from your accommodation in Te Anau before being driven to Lower Hollyford via Milford Road. The journey will take you through some amazing scenery and is famous for its alpine views.

Once at Lower Hollyford the hike commences. The small group (maximum of six people) will be led by the guide on a gentle meander alongside streams and waterfalls before ascending into a steep beech tree forest. The walk to Lake Marian takes around three hours - along the way will be plenty of opportunities for nature watching and photo taking.

Once at the lake you'll be free to spend time soaking in the dramatic scenery and breaking for a picnic lunch should the weather conditions be suitable. At your own pace the group will be led back to the Hollyford pick-up point for a return coach trip to Te Anau, aiming to arrive back at around 6pm.

Details

Getting there

Te Anau is a popular tourist destination and as such is quite straight-forward to reach from most cities and towns in New Zealand by car.

Available

Oct—Apr

Typical Duration

1 day

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed