

# Guided Hiking in Nelson Lakes



## Highlights

Spend three days exploring the Nelson Lakes National Park, home to New Zealand's most impressive lakes and beautiful landscape. Flexible guides and gourmet food provide an unforgettable experience as you explore the diversity of the park and breathe the fresh air of New Zealand.

Situated at the north of New Zealand's south island, Nelson Lakes National Park is home to the largest lakes in the area; Rotoiti and Rotoroa. They are products of glacial movements thousands of years ago, and the imprint left by the ice is to be seen several places in the landscape. The birdlife is particularly rich, as is the amount of beech trees and colours of the alpine plants. Each day, you will explore a new section of the park, and by the end of the three days, you will understand why the Nature Recovery Project works so hard to conserve this nature area.

The highlights on this trip are in its diversity – from long walks along ridges and trails, to peaceful strolls along the lakesides, it will feed your senses and inspiration with all this region has to offer. You will be guided to explore several aspects of the park, from seeing Lake Rotoiti from the sides of Mt Robert - just above the bushline for the best view of the lake and surrounding valleys - to strolling along its still shoreline, whilst exploring the hills and undergrowth nearby.

## Is it for me?

Feel like exploring some of New Zealand's majestic nature, but without having to stay in tents and camp overnight, or carry large amounts of luggage? This is the tour for you. A relaxing pace, hotel beds, luxurious food and hot showers are part of the itinerary – in other words a nature break without renouncing any of your normal comforts, but full of experiences to remember. Suitable for all, single and group travellers alike, though the relaxed atmosphere and hotel setting signals couples or groups would be more comfortable with the structure of the days, at least if you want company in the evenings.

## Accommodation

Both nights are spent at the Alpine Lodge, a cosy hotel by the foot of St Arnaud. Clean double rooms with all facilities await you, and the hotel offers a spectacular view from the shores of spectacular Lake Rotoiti and the surrounding bush growth, typical of New Zealand. A single room is available with a \$100 price supplement.

Food is a major priority on this trip, and restaurant dining is included in the price, which means you will be eating like a true king (or queen) each night, in the hotel restaurant. All other meals, including snacks and tea/coffee are provided throughout the day.

## Itinerary

On the first day, you will be picked up from your accommodation in Nelson, and taken to the Nelson Lakes region. Both nights will be spent at the Alpine Lodge, from where you will make your day trips. Due to changing weather conditions, the order of the different options will be decided by the guide to give you the maximum possible enjoyment and outcome.

Option 1

Prices from

**734** GBP (3 days) per person

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From Mt Robert Car Park, you ascent to Paddy's Track and Bushline Hut, where spectacular views of Lake Rohiti and the surrounding valleys are to be seen. On your descent, you follow the Pinchgut Track that trails its way along and into beech forests.

#### Option 2

Depending on group and weather conditions, this trip can be as short as 9 and as long as 19 km. If the latter, you will start by taking a 'water taxi' up Lake Rohiti, and start from the Cold Water Hut, heading through Travers valley and over the swing bridge to reach Lake Head Hut, where the short trip option begins. From here, it is a three hour walk through beech forest to St Arnaud, from where you will return to your accommodation.

#### Option 3.

Lake Rotoara is the starting main feature of this trip, which goes through Podocarp forest accompanied by the sound of birdsong and running water, as you explore the shores and views on offer. Once satisfied, you head back to Lake Rotoiti, from where you will ascend a hill that has been shaped by New Zealand's glacial movements – now host to a variety of Kanuka, Manuka and Lichen forests, sheltering the mossy rocks that were once moved by the ice. 16 km in total.

#### Option 4

After a drive to the area of Rainbow Ski, the day is spent trekking the St Arnaud Rigde, next to Lake Roititi. The view across the lake is unbeatable, and lunch will be besides a lovely mountain lake before return to Nelson.

## Details

### Getting there

You will be picked up from your accommodation in Nelson on the first day.

### Price includes

Price quoted is based on 2 people sharing, single supplement of NZ\$100 on request (subject to availability)

Two nights ensuite accommodation at Alpine Lodge, all meals (restaurant dining all evening), guiding services, and transport during trip.

### Typical Duration

3 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

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