

# Hollyford Track Guided Walk 5 day Experience

## Overview



Tramping adventure on beautiful Hollyford Track

*The Hollyford Track is a fantastic 5 day Fiordland hike from the mountains to the sea at Martins Bay or vice versa. The total track is 56km and accommodation is in back country 'cabins' (DOC huts) with basic but adequate facilities, often with amazing views out to the surrounding mountains.*

*Trips are accompanied by experienced guides that will be able to tell you some of the history of the area and point out the natural features in the area. All food and safety equipment provided.*

*We specialize in small groups with the option for those with more time to return via the challenging Pyke - Big Bay Route or head on up the coast to Jacksons Bay.*

## At a glance

**Departure:** We depart Gunns Camp or Milford Sound although can depart Queenstown by prior arrangement

**Season:** The 5 day Hollyford experience is year round whereas due to jetboat operations the shorter option is only available Oct – April

**Grade:** Moderate

**Duration:** 2 days (although 4 – 5 days recommended)

**Walking distance:** The complete track is 56km although shorter options are available during summer season and ideal for families or those short of time

## Highlights

- World Heritage Area
- Milford Sound scenic flight
- Fiordland Crested Penguins (July – November)
- Fur Seal Colony
- Possible sighting of Dolphins
- Snow capped mountain views
- Glaciers & Waterfalls
- Sheer rock walls of the Darran Mountains
- 1000 year old forestry
- Historic Jamestown
- Sunsets over the lake

- *Remote but comfortable Hut accommodation*
- *Fiordland's longest valley*
- *The only major track that can be walked in any season as rarely cut off by snow and also connects to the Fiordland Coastline*

#### **Includes:**

- *Scenic flight*
- *Jetboat trip (shorter trips only)*
- *Experienced guide(s)*
- *Wildlife and Penguin viewing (depending on season)*
- *All meals included*
- *Snacks and refreshments*
- *Overnight accommodation in huts*

#### **Accommodation in Huts**

*We stay in the DOC backcountry huts where sleeping is in a bunk style room and food is cooked on a camping stove by your guide. All huts have heating, mattresses and a toilet, table and bench for meals and often in amazing locations in the middle of nowhere, the remoteness is often a highlight for many.*

#### **Itinerary (5 day hiking experience described here )**

#### **Day One (L, D)**

**Lower Hollyford Road to Hidden Falls Hut, 2-3 hr, 9 km**

*After arriving from either Queenstown or Te Anau we start our adventure. We cross the swing bridge over Humboldt Creek and follow the old road to the start of the track. The track follows the river bank, with occasional views of the Darran Mountains.*

*We cross a typical Fiordland swing bridge before arriving at Hidden Falls – a stunning waterfall with ample photo opportunities. Depending on weather conditions, we can chose to stay here or head on to the larger Alabaster Hut for our first night*



Hidden Falls Hut, Hollyford Valley



### *Hidden Falls Hut to Lake Alabaster Hut, 3-4 hr, 10.5 km*

*From here we head out through a section of lowland ribbonwood/ podocarp forest draped with colourful mosses and ferns that New Zealand is famous for*



Happy at Little Homer Saddle, Hollyford Track

*The track then enters tall beech forest before the climb to Little Homer Saddle, with views of Mt Madeline and Fiordland's highest mountain, Mt Tutoko (2723 m).*

*We descend to Little Homer Falls (60 m) and continue to the Hollyford/Pyke Rivers confluence. Beyond this is Lake Alabaster Hut our accommodation for our first night.*

## **Day Two (B,L,D)**

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Lake Alabaster Hut, Hollyford Track

### *Lake Alabaster Hut to McKerrow Island Hut, 3-4 hr, 10.5 km*

*From here the track is less frequented and more remote, so your guide will be able to point out the route. Good boots are recommended as this part of the track can be rocky and sometime wet under foot*

*The track meets the Hollyford River again and we continue through the New Zealand bush with regular stops for points of interest or comfort breaks. During wet weather – there may be some mud to traverse – all part of the Fiordland adventure and hence the reason gaiters are recommended.*

### *McKerrow Island to Demon Trail Hut, 1.5 hr, 4.2 km*

*Once we reach Lake McKerrow we are on the famous Demon Trail a historic part of the track which has flat parts between undulation sections. We cross a number of streams before arriving at the Demon Trail Hut for the night*



Demon Trail Hut

## **Day Three (B,L, D)**

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### *Demon Trail Hut to Hokuri Hut, 5-6 hr, 9.6 km*

*We continue along the demon trail, following the shores of Lake McKerrow before arriving at Hokuri Hut for our accommodation for the night*

### Day Four (B,L,D)

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Hokuri Hut to Martins Bay Hut, 4-5 hr, 13 km

*Shortly after leaving Hokuri Hut is Hokuri Creek. Here we can experience a typical New Zealand 3 wire bridge. We follow the lake shore past the bay where the settlement of Jamestown once stood and your guide will be able to tell you about the history of the area.*

*After a lunch stop, the track leaves the lake and continues for another hour to the Hollyford Airstrip and Martins Bay. Our final nights accommodation is Martins Bay Hut, situated at the mouth of the Hollyford River. From July to November, seals and Fiordland crested penguins can be seen around the coast close by.*



Martins Bay Hut, Hollyford Track

### Day Five (B,L)

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*Another opportunity to visit the seals and penguins and if time permits we explore Big Bay before our flight back to Milford Sound. Depending on weather conditions and flights available there is an option to cruise Milford Sound (extra cost) before saying farewell to your guide and heading off back to Te Anau or Queenstown*

### Extra days

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*We also have the option of resting up at Big Bay before embarking on another trek up the remote West Coast (enquire for further details)*

**Price per person (min 2 people)**

**\$1798 nzd**



# PACKING LIST

## What to bring

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS – For comfort and safety all clients MUST bring the equipment below.

- *Jacket/Coat – wind and waterproof with hood*
- *Boots – sturdy, good fit, protected with dressing/polish*
- *Treking pants/trousers*
- *Tops/ shirts – quick drying sports or hiking tops are best.*
  - *Avoid cotton as although cool in the summer, it can be cold when wet or sweaty*
- *Thermals – long sleeved top and long johns (quick drying)*
  - *The kiwi way is to wear them under shorts and they can double up as sleep wear/pajamas*
- *Socks – 2-3 pairs*
  - *Good pair of walking socks and a warm pair to wear in the evening round camp*
- *Underwear*
- *Warm hat, beanie or balaclava*
  - *Even in summer the weather can turn cooler in the evenings*
- *Warm gloves or mittens*
- *Mid layer pullovers: fleece tops or polartec type are ideal (light and quick drying)*
  - *Cotton hoodies are not as warm and heavy when wet*
- *Shorts*
- *Pack – with a waterproof liner such as the yellow “NZ Mountain Safety Council” pack liner.*
- *Pack should be light, strong, comfortable, 60-90 litres for overnight trips where you are carrying your own gear and able to carry up to one quarter of your weight.*
- *Sleeping bag – good quality down or synthetic fibre.*
- *Sleeping Mat – closed cell foam, or a self-inflating airbed.*
- *Torch – small with spare bulb & batteries.*
- *Drink Bottle*
- *We can normally fill up along the way in streams so 1 litre is normally sufficient*

- *Toiletries/wash kit, toilet roll and any personal medication if required*
- *Insect repellent*
- *Sunscreen, lip balm and sunhat*

### **OPTIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

- *Gaiters or Puttees – to keep out water and gravel*
- *Over trousers – waterproof and windproof, essential if you get cold quickly*
- *Comfortable lightweight shoes to wear round camp in the evenings*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Binoculars*
- *Earplugs for light sleepers*
- *Watch/ alarm clock*
- *Travel wipes/ tissues*
- *Swimwear*
  - *The rivers/lakes are great to cool off in although spare underwear is often substituted*
- *Blister plasters/band-aid or tape*
  - *Although we do carry a first aid kit too*
- *Camera, spare batteries and spare memory card*