

# autumn colours of central otago photography expedition



## trip highlights

Expert photography tuition by acclaimed Australian landscape photographer Peter Walton

Photograph the famous autumn colours of Arrowtown and Alexandra

Capture the splendour of Milford Sound before the crowds

Visit the beautiful lakeside township of Wanaka and the nearby lakes

Photograph some of the lesser known valleys of Fiordland with their spectacular viewpoints and towering rocky walls

Discover the small communities and rugged coast of the Catlin region

Learn of Otago's rich gold mining history that led to the settlement of Central Otago

Kawarau Gorge



**Trip Duration** 7 days

**Grade** Introductory level

**Activities** photography tour, day walks

**Accommodation** 6 nights motel/hotel accommodation

## Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our Autumn Colours of Central Otago Photographic journey led by Peter Walton. It's sure to be a unique experience and we hope you can join us.

We're extremely privileged to be working with Peter on this tour. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. Thanks to our experience we're confident to say that we offer the very best adventure travel tours available in New Zealand today.

There's simply no other collection of New Zealand itineraries that can match the geographic coverage, originality and overall quality of our active New Zealand adventure holidays. An Adventure South holiday aims to take you beyond the more popular and busy trails to provide you with a truly unique New Zealand wilderness experience.

We aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to the wide variety of natural wonders that New Zealand is famous for. Go forth, go south - join us on this amazing small group, value packed photographic adventure!

## why travel with Adventure South?

"Small Groups, Great Guides, Superb Holidays."

This comment encapsulates an Adventure South active holiday in New Zealand. The phrase was not born from a long and tortuous strategic planning process, it came from a client review! We could not have said it any better. Our client feedback also confirms that what helps make our holidays different are the quality of our professional guides. They share their humour, compassion and wilderness experience to ensure that you have a great holiday and the right degree of personal challenge.

On an Adventure South tour you can also expect the right, proven equipment is provided for your tour; the food is delicious, plentiful and can be catered to your dietary requests; your guides are all First Aid trained; that the itinerary you have chosen has been carefully crafted from decades of personal experience in the New Zealand wilderness, not from a guide book recommendation.

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## trip dates

**2012** 15 Apr - 21 Apr

## trip cost

Joining Queenstown: NZD\$3130 / AUD\$2495

## options & supplements

Adventure South does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

## the trip

What's the best time to photograph New Zealand? Ask any keen photographer who's been there and they'll tell you - autumn. The kaleidoscope of colours offer one of the most scenic opportunities to photograph this country's pristine landscapes as the warm reds and dazzling golds contrast against the bright blues and greens of the surrounding countryside.

Under the expert guidance of acclaimed landscape photographer Peter Walton, this itinerary will explore the Central Otago highlands and the rugged Southern Coast of the South Island, taking in all the 'must see' locations.

You'll experience New Zealand's most famous autumn towns, Arrowtown and Alexandra, as well as visit Milford Sound before the crowds arrive, providing an awesome optional cruise on the Sound beneath the huge walls of Mitre Peak, as well as the Catlins Coast. You will also visit the picturesque lakeside town of Wanaka, the nearby lakes as well as Kawarau Gorge.

This is no ordinary photography tour. With a maximum of just 12 participants, ample time will be set aside with Peter to ensure you come away with magical memories as well as improved photographic skills.

## about your leader

Peter Walton is acknowledged as one of Australia's finest landscape photographers. He has been romancing Australia with his camera for almost 40 years and operates the very successful image library Australian Scenics - [www.australianscenics.com](http://www.australianscenics.com).

A slideshow of his current favourite images can be seen on his personal website at [www.peterwalton.com](http://www.peterwalton.com).

Peter's iconic images are widely used by advertising agencies, the travel industry, in Australian landscape calendars and coffee table books.

His book titles include: "Tasmania" and "Red Centre", both published by Currie O'Neill, "Landscape Australia", published by Southbank Editions, and the very popular coffee table book "Australia's Most Scenic Drives", published by Reader's Digest ... over 100,000 copies sold to date. His work has also appeared on Australian Post stamps.

Peter will be joined by one of our local guides. All are certified in first aid and CPR.

### WHAT PETER IS SAYING ABOUT THIS TOUR:

In my 40+ years chasing photogenic landscapes, I've never seen more vibrant autumn colours than those in Arrowtown.

As we travel this beautiful area of New Zealand I'll be sharing my thoughts with you on how best to photograph it.

During the evenings I'll be presenting illustrated talks designed to take your photography to a higher level.

The topics I will cover include:

1. The three-way relationship between aperture, shutter speed and ISO.
2. Easy to apply principles that will improve the composition of your images.
4. The things I believe are important to successful travel photography.
5. What I do to my images in Photoshop to give them the greater impact.
6. How to produce striking panoramas by stitching multiple images together.
7. A technique for transforming colour images into exquisite black & whites.

You can be assured of returning home from this unique adventure inspired by your new found knowledge and passion for photography.

I hope you can join us.

Peter Walton.



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## at a glance

DAY 1	QUEENSTOWN, ARROWTOWN, WANAKA
DAY 2	WANAKA TO CLYDE
DAY 3	DAY TRIP TO ALEXANDRA LOCALE, RETURN TO CLYDE
DAY 4	CLYDE TO CATLINS
DAY 5	CATLINS TO KNOBS FLAT
DAY 6	MILFORD SOUND
DAY 7	KNOBS FLAT TO QUEENSTOWN.

## what's included

- Expert photography tuition by Peter Walton
- 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 6 evening meals (dinners will largely be a two course fixed menu and lunches usually picnic style self help)
- A professional local guide
- All internal transport
- Accommodation as detailed based on a twin share basis with private bathroom facilities
- Boat cruise on Milford Sound
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)

## detailed itinerary

### DAY 1 Queenstown, Arrowtown, Wanaka

Important: The night before your tour is to depart your guide will call your pre tour accommodation to advise what time they will collect you the following morning. (Please make sure you have given us information as to where you are staying). If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception – its really important that you check with reception if you have not heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the tour please call us in the NZ office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

From Queenstown we have a short drive across to the historic gold mining township of Arrowtown. This beautiful town has been largely retained in its early mining style with local schist building stones surrounded by beautiful poplar trees lining the roads which put on a spectacular display of golds, reds and oranges, providing plenty of inspiration for photographers. This location alone is worthy of a full day shoot but we extract ourselves for the stunning drive down the Kawarau Gorge before heading north to Wanaka, another beautiful lakeside township surrounded by the gold of poplar trees.

**meals: L,D**

### DAY 2 Wanaka to Clyde

With much of the day available to us for photography, we will split this day between the town of Wanaka, its local environment and across to the small township of Tarras. Here we hopefully will get to interact with the farming community as we slowly follow the highway down the side of Lake Dunstan formed by the Hydro dam at Clyde. The towering cliffs and rugged hillsides near Cromwell gorge also make for spectacular photography as does the small township of Clyde, home to the famous Otago Rail Trail.

**meals: B,L,D**



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## fast facts

### Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip\*

### Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip\*

### Leader:

Western Escort & local leaders in country

\*Ask our staff for more information

## DAY 3 Day trip to Alexandra locale, return to Clyde

Nearby Alexandra is held to be the cherry blossom festival and certainly home to magnificent displays of the autumn gold. Surrounding the town is spectacular rocky landscapes and rolling high country with hidden waterways and dams to explore.

**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 4 Clyde to Catlins

Travelling via quiet backcountry roads we drive south to the Otago historical goldmining region. We explore the gold mining past that links NZ to Australia and California as miners followed one elusive dream after another. The Clutha became the passageway to Central Otago and we follow this out to the eastern coast and eventually enter the coastal bushland of the Catlins, famous for its remote windswept beaches.

**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 5 Catlins to Knobs Flat

Between beaches and expansive native bush there are plenty of stunning landscapes to photograph. An early start allows us to take advantage of the light and choose from a number of beach options and amazing arches to visit, as well as small waterfalls and beautiful forests. Eventually we have to depart for the drive out to Invercargill and then along the windswept Southern coast before a dinner in Te Anau followed by a 45 minute drive into the Eglington Valley and our accommodation.

**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 6 Milford Sound

Benefiting from our location, we have a short drive into Milford Sound to capture this spectacular part of New Zealand in the early morning light. Our early arrival also ensures we beat the crowds to enjoy a cruise down the sound beneath the sheer rock walls that tower above the launch. By late morning we are back through the Milford tunnel and on a nearby track that takes us into the upper basin and its amazing quiet. Other trails provide equally spectacular views and eventually we return to our vehicle and back to our accommodation and a BBQ dinner.

**meals: B,L,D**

## DAY 7 Knobs Flat to Queenstown.

On our final day we have time to enjoy the remote locale of Knobs Flat. Eventually we drive back to Te Anau and can chose to either photograph the native forests and mosses around the Kepler track or head back for a final chance to revisit Arrowtown and the golds of this location. This superb photography tour ends when we deliver you to your hotel.

**meals: B,L**

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

## country information

Stretching North to South for over 2000 km, and split into two main islands - the North and the South Islands - New Zealand is a country of diverse landforms. From the Pacific Island beaches and rolling farmlands in the north, to the volcanic plateau and then onto the soaring mountains within view of the sea in the south, and the sub-Antarctic islands that dot the South Island coastline, the contrasts are many.

The South Island is the 12th largest island in the world. The west coast is dominated by the Southern Alps, which contain more mountains than the European Alps altogether, and home to New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3754m / 12,316 ft). The Main Divide, the chain of peaks that forms the backbone of the Alps from Arthur's Pass to Fiordland, splits the South Island into east and west. Several ice ages, and the fact that two continental plates are



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## responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel.

Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. The New Zealand travel industry has become a world leader in developing an external audit process to identify quality, and that process has been extended to now include a 3 level Enviro Mark based on company processes. We're very proud that we've received a Gold rating, the highest category; each year since this initiative began.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing.

We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

## trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors. These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

Trails on this itinerary are largely formed paths and tracks which can involve hiking for 2-3 hours at a time. Often information panels are available to provide more information but the Catlins region is more remote. For you to be able to really enjoy this trip we recommend that you are to walk comfortably, carrying your photography equipment, for a few hours at a time (with breaks included).

We recommend 60 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling, jogging or power walking) three times a week for the three months leading up to your trip.

sliding past each other forming the Southern Alps, means that the scenery is as rugged as the New Zealand fauna and flora is unique. The largest city in the South Island is Christchurch.

The North Island is the smaller of the two main islands of New Zealand. Its northern location means it enjoys a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and is much more vastly populated. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes. The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Auckland, also known as the 'City of Sails', is the largest city of New Zealand and found on the North Island.

With a population of 4.0 million people, the wilderness areas of New Zealand are many as most 'Kiwis' now live in an urban situation near the coast. The Maori are the indigenous people of the land and they named it Aotearoa 'Land of the Long White Cloud' upon their arrival 1000 years ago. Europeans settled in the early 1800s and the country is alive today with a market driven economy and a blend of European and Asia/Pacific influences to create a buoyant South Pacific culture.

## climate

As a general rule, November to April are the most ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors. One of the most important things travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses. The month of April provides the most visit autumn colours in the south island.

Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity. Because the weather can change so unexpectedly you should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions. This basically means having a good waterproof jacket and some warm clothing. You don't need to bring your winter wardrobe but a good fleece/jumper and good thermals are a must.

The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a drier climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to 30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C. Weather is an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will make you more prepared for your tour – any questions about what to expect on your tour talk to one of our sales team.

## a typical day

Photography tours may require early starts to ensure you make the most of the early morning light. The days will be balanced with activity, sightseeing as well as time with Peter to hone your photography skills.

## accommodation on the trip

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best locations possible. The accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis with private facilities. If you wish to reserve a room to yourself a single supplement is available at extra cost. Please note: although every endeavour is made to stay at the accommodation detailed in the itinerary, occasionally, due to seasonal shortages, we need to use other accommodation of a similar standard.

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## adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

## important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

## pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation speak to our staff as they can help with different suggestions.

## what you carry

Each of the walks are short day walks and you will only have to carry a day pack with personal essentials and your photography equipment.

## equipment required

An equipment list will be provided upon booking so you know what to bring. You will need to bring your own camera and any other photography equipment. Make sure you bring plenty of film or memory cards and your battery charger.

## what's not included

- Alcohol and soft drinks with included meals
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service
- Photography equipment
- Pre and post tour travel to Queenstown
- Travel Insurance

## subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at [www.advsouth.com](http://www.advsouth.com)

Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ>

## trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. A popular reason to travel with Adventure South is because of our small group sizes. These can fill quickly so it is important to check your availability well in advance. We always need to ensure other services, like train tickets or accommodations, are also available before we can confirm your place on our tours. To ensure we can assist you onto your New Zealand adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

## how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online ( <http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx> ) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from [www.advsouth.com](http://www.advsouth.com) . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South or your nearest World Expeditions office, along with your non-refundable deposit. If you're coming from outside New Zealand call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on [guide@advsouth.co.nz](mailto:guide@advsouth.co.nz)

