



gut cancer foundation kepler & hollyford challenge 2026

Great Walks of New Zealand itineraries allow you to explore New Zealand your way. We offer different levels of accommodation, catering and comfort so that travellers can choose a trip that suits their style and budget. With many logistical inclusions, our trips allow you more freedom to

explore nz your way

be completely immersed in the journey. We have something for all fitness abilities with a grading system that defines our trips from introductory to challenging. You can choose to set your own pace on a flexible self-guided itinerary or enjoy the benefits of an experienced local guide on a small group tour. With a range of active adventures throughout New Zealand, from well-known tracks to less-visited trails and forays on private land, Great Walks of New Zealand offers opportunities to discover postcard-perfect landscapes, pure wilderness, rural lifestyles and unique kiwi experiences.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| TRIP NAME: | GUT CANCER FOUNDATION KEPLER & HOLLYFORD CHALLENGE 2026 |
| TRIP CODE: | SOG9316 |
| TRIP DURATION: | 3 DAYS |
| GRADE: | INTRODUCTORY TO MODERATE |
| ACTIVITY: | GUIDED HIKING |
| ACCOMMODATION: | 2 NIGHTS HOTEL |
| DATE DETAILS: | → 2026 27 FEB - 01 MAR |

highlights

- Feel the spray as you jet boat the Waiau River on route to the start of the Kepler hike at Lake Manapouri
- Lush rainforests, wetlands and wilderness lakes and rivers
- Views of epic Southern Alps from the Hollyford Track
- Escape the main tourist routes through the Hidden Valley
- Two consecutive nights accommodation in Te Anau, the gateway town of Fiordland

the trip

This unique trip offering, combines two iconic NZ Trails, the Kepler and the Hollyford. Great Walks of New Zealand, teaming up with Gut Cancer Foundation New Zealand, allows participants to not only explore the stunning nature found in our own backyards, but allows those taking part to raise funds for a very worthy charity.

All travel and trip related costs for the Kepler & Hollyford Challenge 2026 are to be met by the individual taking part. As this is a fundraising challenge, we request you fundraise/donate a minimum of \$2000 to help improve outcomes for gut cancer patients in NZ. You will be able to setup your own online fundraising page to help raise your fundraising target for your trip. The team at the Gut Cancer Foundation will be in touch with you upon registration and will provide you with a link and support to set this up. Ongoing tips and advice will be provided to help you reach your fundraising goal.

** PLEASE NOTE: Should you not reach minimum fundraising targets by a time frame set by Gut Cancer Foundation, you may be removed from the trip and your deposit refunded. Please note that minimum numbers are also required for the trip to be guaranteed.





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your leader

Your guides are trained outdoor enthusiasts who are passionate about the natural and human history of the area you are walking through. They will bring the landscapes to life while providing a safe and memorable walk. All guides are trained in first aid as your safety is of paramount importance. They may have to adapt the day's walk depending on your fitness and weather or track conditions. While they will make every effort to meet your needs, please adhere to their professional decisions if circumstances demand this.

itinerary at a glance

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Day 1 5-6 hrs | Arrive Queenstown, transfer to Te Anau. Challenge begins - 15.5km walk/approx |
| Day 2 | Hollyford Track, Hidden Falls - hike approx 15kms /5-6 hrs |
| Day 3 | Depart Te Anau, transfer to Queenstown |

detailed itinerary

| | |
|--------------|--|
| DAY 1 | <p>Arrive Queenstown, transfer to Te Anau. Challenge begins - 15.5km walk/approx 5-6 hrs</p> <p>Make your own way to Queenstown, New Zealand's Adventure Capital, where you will be collected from a central city location this morning to be transferred to Te Anau. This 2-hour scenic drive south along the stunning shores of Lake Wakatipu and the countryside of Southland will bring you to Te Anau, the gateway of Fiordland National Park. We start the journey with a jet boat down the majestic Waiau. This picturesque river is lined by ancient beech tree forest and features in The Lord of the Rings. Arriving at our drop point, we lace up our boots for today's challenge - a 15.5kms walk along the lower portion of the Kepler Track from Lake Manapouri through to the Control Gates. The track is mostly flat hiking through native forest, expansive wetlands and a swing bridge. A group dinner will be enjoyed tonight at Black Dog restaurant in Te Anau.</p> <p>meals: L,D</p> |
| DAY 2 | <p>Hollyford Track, Hidden Falls - hike approx 15kms /5-6 hrs</p> <p>Your guide will collect you this morning and will then drive along the first half of the Milford Road before leaving the main highway and venturing deep inland along the Hollyford Valley. A 17km drive will take you past historic sites before reaching the start of the Hollyford Track. The hike to Hidden Falls is 7.5km and will take 2.5-3hrs. The Hollyford River is a gin-clear example of a wild West Coast river as it charts its path towards the Tasman Sea. Enjoy the lush rainforest and views of the epic Southern Alps including Fiordland's two highest peaks, Mt. Tutoko and Mt. Madeline. Your first glimpse of Hidden Falls will take your breath away. Lunch will be taken in a scenic spot and you will retrace your steps back to the van, and journey back to Te Anau. A celebratory dinner will be enjoyed by the group tonight at 6.30pm at the Fat Duck in Te Anau to celebrate all that has been achieved.</p> <p>meals: B,L,D</p> |
| DAY 3 | <p>Depart Te Anau, transfer to Queenstown</p> <p>Enjoy a relaxed breakfast before transferring back through to Queenstown where your challenge officially ends.</p> <p>meals: B</p> |

additional deposits

Due to the requirements of our tour partner we require the prepayment of an additional deposit which is non-refundable. This payment is required at the time of booking together with our normal non-refundable per person deposit. This prepayment should not be viewed as an additional cost. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.





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inclusions

- Transport between Queenstown and Te Anau at the start and finish of the trip
- 2 nights accommodation in Te Anau (based on twin share)
- 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners
- Tea & Coffee on guided walks
- Guided walk on Kepler and Hollyford Tracks
- Professional Local Guide
- Transfers to/from your accommodation and the walk start/end
- Jet boat down the Waiiau River to Lake Manapouri to start the Kepler hike
- Access and Concession fees paid to Department of Conservation

items not included

- International or domestic flights and taxes
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks other than water
- Additional hiking snacks throughout the day
- Personal expenses (e.g. phone calls, internet, laundry, shopping etc)
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)

getting there

BY CAR

Queenstown is easily accessible by road from anywhere in the South Island. Most are very scenic journeys so allow plenty of time.

PARKING & TRANSFERS

Queenstown Airport provides long and short term parking for a fee. Advance bookings are recommended, town center car parks have a daily cost for Pay & Display spaces. Visit: <https://queenstownparking.co.nz/> or <https://airportparkingqueenstown.co.nz/> Your accommodation provider in Queenstown may store your car while you are away walking if you are staying with them upon your return.

BY AIR

Most people find it easiest to fly into Queenstown's International/Domestic Airport as it is only a 2-hour journey from there to Te Anau. It is also possible to fly into Dunedin or Invercargill, however you would need a car to get to Te Anau from these locations. For schedules and bookings visit: www.airnewzealand.co.nz or www.jetstar.com/nz

BY BUS

The Intercity coach service links Te Anau with Queenstown. For schedules and bookings visit: www.intercity.co.nz

TRANSFER SERVICE

Return transfers from Queenstown to Te Anau are included in the cost of your trip.

trip grading - Introductory to Moderate

INTRODUCTORY TO MODERATE - GRADE 4

These trips involve a combination of what is described in our Introductory and Moderate levels. The emphasis is on introductory activity with several moderate stages. These adventures involve walking for up to 6 hours a day at a steady pace. You will need a good level of fitness and must be in good health. Walks will involve carrying a small daypack, 25L in size is good. Be prepared for potential variable weather conditions. Care needs to be taken as some sections can be slippery when wet. A good level of fitness is required and your preparation should include climbing and descending stairs, hills on uneven terrain. We suggest that you undertake regular exercise - swimming, cycling, jogging, stair or hill walking - three to four times a week for three months prior to your journey. During the walking stages you will need to carry your daily requirements such as water, lunch, spare clothing and personal items.





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dietary requirements

Most straightforward dietary needs can be catered for with advance notice. Bear in mind this is a reasonably remote location and variety may be limited. Please talk to us if you have very specific requests. We will do our best to cater for you but you may need to bring along your own supplements.

joining instructions

On confirmation of your trip you will receive a Pre-Departure kit. This will include all the important details you need such as what to bring, joining instructions and what to expect.

accommodation

pre tour

We can arrange additional nights in Queenstown pre or post tour if required. Please ask us for details and costs. Subject to availability.

during tour

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best location possible. Accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis with ensuite bathrooms and all linen. Mobile phone reception, wifi and laundry facilities are available. The lodge is close to the centre of town and within walking distance of a great range of cafes and restaurants.

** Single rooms are on request only and will depend on final trip numbers prior to being available. We can discuss options with you closer to the time when final payments are due.

fast facts

VISAS

Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

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. 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 dryer 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.

MIN GROUP SIZE

8

MAX GROUP SIZE

16

SPECIALIST GEAR REQUIRED

Daypack, water bottle, sturdy walking shoes or boots, sun hat, sunscreen, rain jacket/pants, warm clothing, lightweight walking clothes. A comprehensive gear list is included in the Pre-departure Information provided on booking





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luggage

We stay two nights at the same accommodation property during the trip, which allows less packing and unpacking of luggage. You only walk with a day pack on your walks while your main luggage remains at your accommodation.

special notes

This trip is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to Great Walks of New Zealand clients and is operated by our partners. You will be joining a group of other adventurers from across New Zealand and around the world.

how to book

To book a Great Walks of New Zealand trip, complete our booking form on our website www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz or contact our office.

Great Walks of New Zealand

Toll Free NZ: 0800 496 369

Regional NZ and all Other Countries: +64 9 368 4163

Email: info@greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz

follow us

Connect with us on social

FACEBOOK:

Like our page at facebook.com/greatwalksofnz

INSTAGRAM:

Follow us at instagram.com/greatwalksofnz

Use the hashtag #greatwalksofnz on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website www.greatwalksofnewzealand.co.nz or contact our office.

IMPORTANT NOTE

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY PREVIOUS INFORMATION FOUND ONLINE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.

