



## 9 Day 4WD New Zealand Adventure Exclusive to Great Divide Tours

**1-9 March 2011**

We know Australia has some amazing 4WD country, but across the ditch is the land of the long white cloud with mountains and flooded coastal scenery of a type unknown in our great country. For over 15 years I have wanted to do a 4WD tour of the South Island and in 2010 the opportunity presented itself. The result was an outstanding 4WD trip through a magnificent country. I'm now pleased to say we are offering this as an annual option to our extensive list of 4WD tours.

You will be led by my counterpart in New Zealand an experienced 4WD tag-along operator on the South Island by the name of Steve Beston. Steve has been conducting 4WD tag-along tours around the amazing mountains and Fiordland country of New Zealand for several years.

Due to the heavy snow that lies in the mountains the window of opportunity to conduct this type of 4WD tour in the Sth Island is very limited running only from January to April. With Steve I have developed a fantastic 7 day Sth Island 4WD tag-along to be led by Steve starting from Lake Tepako near Christchurch.

During my test run of this tour in 2010 I found it ideal to arrive the day before at Christchurch, there is an ideal motel (the Airport Gateway Motel) within 5 minutes of the airport, they even arrange pick up from the airport in their limo! Of course you can head over to New Zealand at any time you wish to do some sight seeing before or after the 4WD tour.

Here is the itinerary for this amazing trip, your arrival and departure times from New Zealand are at you own choice as long as you are ready to go from Christchurch on 1 March.

**1 March** – Collect your hire 4WD in Christchurch do some shopping for your trip (advice on what you need will be forwarded by Vic) and drive to the beautiful Lake Tepako in the heart of the South Island, allow say 4 hours for the 230 kilometre drive. Accommodation in Lake Tepako has been arranged for you. Stroll around the turquoise blue lake to the Church of the Good Sheppard, fantastic scenery. Meet your guide Steve Beston and enjoy dinner with your travelling companions at a local restaurant

**2 March** Assemble at Lake Tekapo in the MacKenzie Basin 8.00am to meet our New Zealand guide Steve Beston. We then head to Black Forest High Country Station via Burkes Pass, do the track on edge of Lake Benmore (the beautiful turquoise coloured lake) in the morning with amazing views of the lake and then follow the Pylon track in the afternoon through very rugged country more akin to an Afghanistan landscape, we may encounter the native NZ Falcon and Deer. Exit from this track over the Benmore Dam, part of the Pukaki Hydro scheme, the biggest and most ambitious hydro scheme undertaken in New Zealand until construction of the Clyde Dam. Stay at Omarama that evening. We will enjoy a great meal in a local restaurant with lots of character.



**Lake Benmore in the distance (on our 2010 tour)**

**3 March** Travel down the Lindis Pass to Dalrachney Station, spend the day trekking on Dalrachney, including one of the most impressive switchback tracks in the South Island. Amazing views of the Ahuriri Valley, Southern Alps, Mt. Melina (6000ft) and Mt. Martha (6250ft) in the range immediately Northwest of Dalrachney. Lunch beside the Lindis River and keep an eye out for deer which are plentiful on Dalrachney. Stay at Omarama again in the same accommodation that evening.



**The Switch Back track on Dalrachney station is awesome**

**4 March** Head up and over the Omarama Saddle ( 4000ft ) on the St. Bathans Range, one of the most stunning views in the South Island, Mt. St. Bathans (7000ft), Mt. Aspiring (one of the highest peaks in NZ), the MacKenzie Basin, Mt. Cook ( the highest mountain in NZ ) and the Hawkdun Range. Descend into the West Branch of the Manuherikia River Valley crossing the stream many times down the valley exiting at the old gold mining village of St. Bathans and the incomparable St. Bathans Pub. All the buildings in the village have been restored to their original condition as they were in the 1800's and there is an impressive Lake carved out of white rock by the sluicing of the gold miners right beside the Pub. Stay at Alexandra that evening beside the mighty Clutha River, one of the biggest rivers in the world for volume of water carried.



**A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow**

**5 March** Head to Cromwell past the Clyde Dam on the mighty Clutha River, NZ's largest Hydro Power Station, follow Lake Dunstan formed by the damming of the Clutha to a private High Country Station in the wine growing country of Central Otago. Trek through the grapevines at the start of the trek then on up through the schist outcrops and into the alpine scenery of the Pisa Range stopping for lunch beside one of the many tarns in this area. Climb on up to Mt. Pisa, ( 6000ft ) one of the highest tracks on our itinerary and take in the glorious vista out over the valley with Lake Dunstan in the foreground and the Dunstan Mountains forming the perfect backdrop. The alpine scenery on this range is different from anything else on the trip and feels more like being on the moon. From these lofty heights we head to the famous Cardrona pub via the testing facility where the worlds top vehicle and tyre manufacturers test their products in controlled conditions under extreme temperatures.



**Crossing the Pisa Range**

**6 March** Today we will guide you over the Crown Range to the famous Queenstown Basin, pass through the historic mining village of Arrowtown and travel part way up the Skifield Road to Coronet Peak to reach Skippers Canyon Track. This track was built by hand over a 20 year period from 1863 to provide access for gold miners working the Shotover River, one of the richest gold producing rivers in NZ's history. The track follows the tortuous path of the Shotover River providing spectacular views of the river and surrounding scenery. The track takes us past remnants of the gold mining days to Skippers the main settlement for the miners. There is a bungy jumping and a jet boating operation on the way for those that feel so inclined. Weather permitting we will have you back at Arrowtown around midday and the afternoon has been kept free to allow time to yourself to explore Arrowtown and nearby Queenstown, NZ's most famous tour destination. The meal this evening will be in the charming village of Arrowtown.

**7 March** From Arrowtown we follow the Kawarau Gorge and Kawarau River which is the confluence of the Shotover and Arrow Rivers and runs into the mighty Clutha. From here we climb up over Duffers Saddle East of the Remarkable range and trek through to the isolated Nevis Valley which is snowed in for 6 months of the year. There are multiple crossings of the Nevis River as we make our way South taking in the local gold mining history before entering Lorne Peak Station and climbing out over the Hector Mountains, an extension of the Remarkable Range, to Tenants Peak ( 5000ft ). From the dizzy heights of the Hector Mountains we get a spectacular view out over Lake Wakatipu, the Garvie Mountains, the Old Man Range and the Mataura River famous for its trout fishing. This evening is spent in Kingston village in Southland Country on the edge of Lake Wakatipu.



**We drive over the top of the Remarkable Range!**

**8 March** Southland is quite different from the MacKenzie Basin or Otago where we have been so far, it is now one of the richest dairying areas of NZ but is very sparsely populated and incorporates the North and South Mavora Lakes nestled between the Livingstone and Thomson Mountains. This track follows the Lake shore through pristine Beech Forest and on up to a hut at the head of the valley. Lunch is an extended affair on the edge of the lake as the solitude of this area is hard to leave behind and allows us to reflect on the incredible scenery we have traversed the past few days. This evening is spent on the shores of Lake Te Anau in Fiordland, in the heart of the tourist area and the jump off point for Milford Sound. We finish the guided tour with prize giving in a local restaurant.



**The track follows the edge of the Mavora Lake**

**9 March** You can extend your stay and visit Milford Sound and other amazing locations on the South Island, the option exists to continue the hire of your 4WDrive. Otherwise, return to Christchurch, a full day's drive and drop off the hire 4WD at the airport. Accommodation tonight is at your own arrangement.

**Tour fee**

NZ \$4990 for two people (Note Australian value will vary depending on dollar value at time of booking, currently approx \$4000 Australian.)

**What is included:**

7 day NZ guided 4WD tag-along tour as described above (note weather conditions may dictate variation to the itinerary) with your specialist New Zealand tour guide Steve Beston from NZ 4X4 Treks.

8 nights accommodation, all evening meals except the last night on Day 9.

Station and Dept. of Conservation access fees and prize giving.

Hire of a fully equipped 4WD vehicle for 9 days from Christchurch and back to Christchurch.

Hire vehicle details:-

You will be provided with a four wheel drive vehicle fully equipped with 2 way UHF radio, towrope, tent, table and seats, self inflating camping mattresses, gas bottle and stove, plates, mugs, bowls, cutlery, lantern and torch, cleaning bowl, pot scrub, detergent, dish towel, pots and pan, can opener , sharp knife, bottle opener, clothesline, pegs, rubbish bag, water container, and chilly bin (esky to us Aussies).

Basic insurance on the hire vehicle is an excess of \$2000 this can be reduced to \$500 with the payment of an extra \$35 per day.

**What is not included:**

Flights to and from Christchurch

Fuel in the hire vehicle

Breakfast (unless otherwise stated)

Lunches

Day 9 evening accommodation.

Insurance reduction to \$500 for just \$35 per day.

**What do you need to bring:**

You need to bring warm clothing, woollen beanie, cap, sleeping bag, boots, wet weather gear, sunglasses, sunscreen, toilet gear, towels and it pays to stock up on nibbles in Christchurch before departure.

The weather is a study in extremes from still sunny days to high winds and snow, however the cold fronts don't last long in the South Island and are followed by crystal clear days, great for getting the most out of the scenery.

To book this tour act NOW, email Vic at [info@greatdividetours.com.au](mailto:info@greatdividetours.com.au) or call him on 02 9913 1395 to notify your intention to join the trip or complete the online booking form on the Great divide Tours website [www.4wd.net.au](http://www.4wd.net.au)