

# FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*



## 12-DAY SNOW ODYSSEY TOUR

For a few years now, we've received feedback from many customers who love our Snow Safari, but want us to run a longer journey that explores lesser known club fields in the South Island.

Forget the mass market and commercial ski fields in Queenstown – we will take you to regions that are rich in history with strong pioneering folk carving the area into the diverse, challenging and natural playground that it is today.

The Odyssey is not for the faint hearted as we ski/ board eight different mountains over 12 Days through awesome, but challenging, terrain. Mountains such as Temple Basin, Broken River and Craigieburn may sound unfamiliar now, but we guarantee you will fall in love with them!

This tour is suited to intermediate to experienced skiers and snowboarders only. All tours start on a Monday and end on a Friday, which means you can extend your trip in Wanaka and Queenstown.

As we start early in the morning, you can opt to stay with us in Christchurch the night before we depart – only having to walk downstairs on day one makes for a stress free morning. Likewise, you can book an extra night at the Lodge on the last day so you are not in a rush once we go our separate ways. You are welcome to finish your trip in Queenstown; we can arrange extra accommodation here as well.

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OR PHONE US NOW

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# FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### ALL SNOW TOURS INCLUDE

#### ORIENTATION TOUR OF EVERY MOUNTAIN

we give you the low-down on every location

#### ALL TRANSPORT AND MOUNTAIN TRANSFERS

taking you to our favourite snow locations

#### BREAKFAST EVERY DAY

heaps of options for everyone (you too, vegans!)

#### HIGH-END HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

dorm share, upgrades available

#### EXPERT TOUR MANAGER

friendly, knowledgeable and passionate about NZ

#### SMALL GROUPS

because you're more than just a number!

### AWESOME INCLUSIONS

9 days of skiing with 14 mountain options

9 continental and 2 fully cooked breakfasts

4 dinners (including two group meals at Craigieburn Lodge and two "High Country Fare" dinners at Ohau Lodge)

Rope tow gloves and nut-crackers

Maximum of 8 guests per tour



## ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 – PORTER HEIGHTS (CHRISTCHURCH TO SPRINGFIELD) **B**

DAY 2 – BROKEN RIVER (SPRINGFIELD) **B**

DAY 3 – MT OLYMPUS (SPRINGFIELD) **B**

DAY 4 – TEMPLE BASIN (SPRINGFIELD TO CRAIGIEBURN) **B**

DAY 5 – CRAIGIEBURN TO TEKAPO **B**

DAY 6 – TEKAPO **B**

DAY 7 – MOUNT DOBSON (TEKAPO) **B**

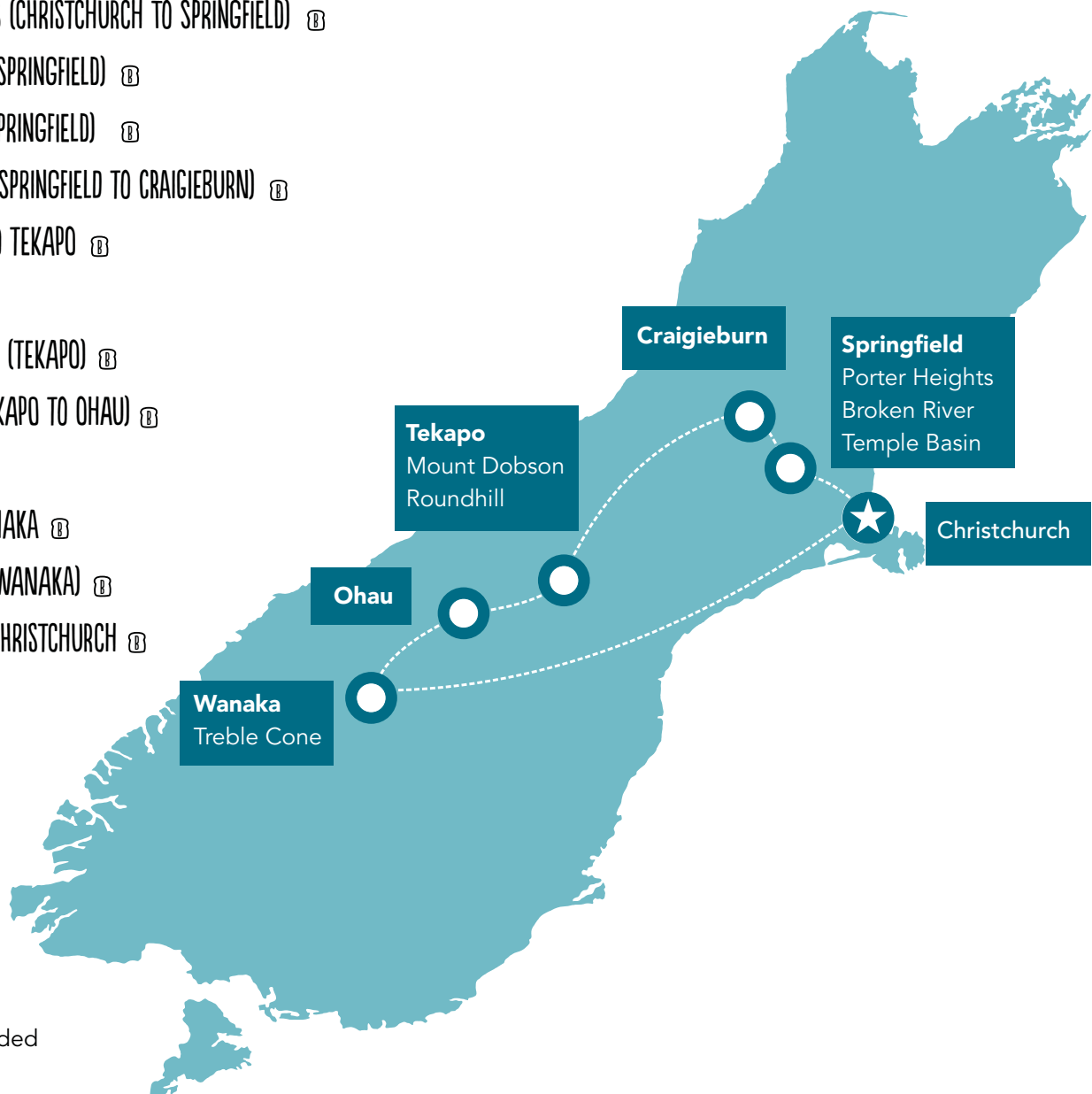
DAY 8 – ROUNDHILL (TEKAPO TO OHAU) **B**

DAY 9 – OHAU **B**

DAY 10 – OHAU TO WANAKA **B**

DAY 11 – TREBLE CONE (WANAKA) **B**

DAY 12 – WANAKA TO CHRISTCHURCH **B**



**B** Breakfast included

**D** Dinner included





## CHRISTCHURCH | SPRINGFIELD

### DAY 1 – PORTER HEIGHTS (CHRISTCHURCH TO SPRINGFIELD)

We depart Haka Lodge at 7am and pick up our hire gear (for those that need it) en-route to Porter Heights, known for its relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Porter's lifts run up two distinct valleys: Big Mama (which towers above the right of the base area) and Bluff Face (which towers above the left). At 620m, Big Mama boasts one of the largest vertical drops in one lift-accessed run in New Zealand. Easy backcountry riding is available from the top of the T3 T-Bar.

For the next 3 nights, we stay in Springfield, a snow sports enthusiast's haven, complete with relaxing hot pools.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Porter Heights

Difficulty:  
15% Beginner, 35% Intermediate, 50% Advanced

Height: 1950m  
Vertical: 610m  
Skiable Area: 350ha

### DAY 2 – BROKEN RIVER (SPRINGFIELD)

Get ready for a true adventure at Broken River. This ski field was born in the early 1950s when the founding members were only 20 and 28 years old. Their hard work and dedication brings you this now well-established ski field.

The terrain here consists of a large open basin serviced by five electrically driven, high capacity rope tows. This mountain has the perfect platform to learn to ride nutcrackers, making it a great spot for our second day of riding.

Don't worry if you have not ridden tows before – our Tour Manager will help you with your technique and most people take a few times to get it right; it's all part of the experience! Tow protection gloves are provided.

The highest point is 1820 meters and the total vertical is 420 metres, with lots of off-piste terrain available. A short trek offers access to the back basins, Craigieburn Valley and some incredible terrain.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Broken River

Difficulty:  
10% Beginner, 30% Intermediate, 60% Advanced

Height: 1920m  
Vertical: 420m  
Skiable Area: 300ha



## SPRINGFIELD | CRAIGIEBURN

### DAY 3 – MT OLYMPUS (SPRINGFIELD)

Mt Olympus ski area, dubbed 'the playground of the gods', is the first of many club ski fields you will experience on tour. The area is a south facing basin set high in the Craigieburn Range – perfect for trapping powder dumps. 450m of vertical drops over 60 hectares of varied terrain provide skiing and riding from beginner to extreme.

From the top of the Main Tow and the Top Tow there are plenty of choices with terrain to suit intermediates or the most advanced skiers. A little walking from the Top Tow opens up even more terrain in this wide open bowl. With the relatively low skier numbers and the choice of terrain, it can take up to a week to get tracks on some slopes!

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Mt Olympus

Difficulty:  
10% Beginner, 55% Intermediate, 35% Advanced

Height: 2096m  
Vertical: 450m  
Skiable Area: 60ha

### DAY 4 – TEMPLE BASIN (SPRINGFIELD TO CRAIGIEBURN)

Our day starts off with a 45 minute walk from the car park, taking in some of the most spectacular views of the Arthur's Pass National Park, Mt Rolleston and the surrounding mountains.

Temple Basin, the club, was founded in 1929 and still has that pioneering feel and represents a true alpine environment at the heart of Arthur's Pass National Park. We leave those who prefer groomed slopes, a chairlift and latte's at home.

Renowned for its steep and big mountain terrain, you have the choice of three tows: Cassidy (sunny smooth runs), Temple (faster and steeper) and Downhill (ridgeline and advances terrain).

We can also check out the awesome chutes at Bills Basin and the popular backcountry area of Mingha Valley.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Temple Basin

Difficulty:  
10% Beginner, 50% Intermediate, 25% Advanced

Height: 1753m  
Vertical: 427m  
Skiable Area: 320ha



## CRAIGIEBURN | TEKAPO

### DAY 5— CRAIGIEBURN

For big mountain skiing, Craigieburn has a well-deserved cult following among Kiwis. Steep and deep, with wide open powder bowls and lofty narrow chutes accessed by three high capacity rope tows servicing a vertical rise of 503m, Craigieburn leaves little to be desired.

Terrain at Craigieburn Valley is varied, exciting and challenging, with the infamous 600m vertical descent of Middle Basin (which is often compared to a heli-skiing experience) accessible by a short traverse from the tow. Craigieburn Valley offers something for everyone – except beginners.

And when you come off the hill at the end of a big day, we will grab a well-earned drink at the ultra-cosy Craigieburn Lodge which is also our accommodation for the next two nights.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Craigieburn

Difficulty:  
20% Beginner, 55% Intermediate, 25% Advanced

Height: 1811m  
Vertical: 503m  
Skiable Area: 400ha

### DAY 6 – CRAIGIEBURN TO TEKAPO

Today is an allocated non-ski day but this is totally weather dependent; if it has dumped, or if we have missed a ski day on days 1–5, we'll get in a half days skiing on the way to Tekapo.

We depart Craigieburn Lodge after breakfast and head south stopping, for a hot drink on the road.

We then make our way to beautiful Lake Tekapo where we can check out a salmon farm for super fresh sushi, take a walk around the lake or just relax. This evening how about a night time star gazing tour at Mt John, an international dark sky reserve that showcases the southern night sky through super powerful telescopes.

#### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Scenic Flight





## TEKAPO | OHAU

### DAY 7 – MOUNT DOBSON (LAKE TEKAPO)

This morning we wake up alongside the turquoise Lake Tekapo, just a stone's throw from Mt Dobson ski field. This mountain is famous for its all day sun, stunning scenery, groomed trails and an awesome off-piste... what more could we ask for?

Like many of the mountains we have visited, Mt Dobson also has that laid back and friendly Kiwi vibe, along with some really cool features like the large natural half pipe and miles of untracked snow. Mt Dobson is a definite treat for those wanting to explore uncrowded trails.

A rope tow, platter, T-Bar and triple chairlift provide access to a variety of intermediate and advanced runs serving 14 trails over an area of 400 hectares.

Tonight there is the option of relaxing under the stars in the Lake Tekapo hot pools... bliss!

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Mount Dobson

Difficulty:  
20% Beginner, 50% Intermediate, 30% Advanced

Height: 2030m  
Vertical: 400m  
Skiable Area: 400ha

### DAY 8 – ROUNDHILL (OHAU)

Roundhill is one of New Zealand's best kept secrets, with incredible terrain including the country's highest vertical drop – The Wall, a staggering 783 metres.

Nestled deep on the side of Lake Tekapo, it boasts a stunning backdrop of the heart of the Southern Alps, as well as incredible terrain for all levels.

A highlight of this trip is the two nights we stay at Lake Ohau Lodge near the shores of the lake. Even though it has the incredibly friendly culture of a ski lodge, it is actually run more like a hotel and we totally love the 'faded glamour', roaring open res and panoramic lake views of this property.

For the next two evenings, a 'high country fare' three course meal is included (vegetarian options available). You will also enjoy two hot breakfasts while here.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Roundhill

Difficulty:  
20% Beginner, 45% Intermediate, 35% Advanced

Height: 2133m  
Vertical: 783m  
Skiable Area: 550ha



## OHAU | WANAKA

### DAY 9 – OHAU

Ohau is an off-piste heaven with plenty of challenging terrain and good hiking to access the wide open powder bowls from the ridge line.

Nestled deep in the spectacular Mackenzie High Country, Ohau is one of the favourite ski fields for experienced skiers and snowboarders in New Zealand. Whilst the ski area is contained within one valley and is reasonably small at only 125 hectares, the skier to hectare ratio is also incredibly small.

As with every morning, breakfast is included. However, today is slightly different; we sit down and enjoy the hospitality of the Ohau staff as they serve you breakfast in the dining room. Eat up! You'll want plenty of energy for another day on the slopes.

#### SLOPE INFO

##### Ohau

Difficulty:  
20% Beginner, 50% Intermediate, 30% Advanced

Height: 1825m  
Vertical: 400m  
Skiable Area: 125ha

### DAY 10 – WANAKA

After breakfast we continue our journey south to Wanaka. Today is an allocated non-ski day but, once again, the same rules apply from day six: if it has dumped, or if we have missed a ski day previously, we are off skiing.

Today you can skydive over Lake Wanaka, hire a mountain bike or just soak in the laid back ambience of Wanaka.

#### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Skydiving over the Southern Alps  
Tiger Moth Acrobatic Plane Ride  
Heli-Skiing Wanaka





## WANAKA

### DAY 11 – TREBLE CONE (WANAKA)

Today you have the choice of chilling out in the haven that is Wanaka or taking part in an optional activity, such as Sky Diving or Heli Skiing.

Wanaka is a great place to relax and recharge your batteries – with some great lakeside cafe's and restaurants to discover. Your guide will have plenty of recommendations.

Tonight we enjoy our last night together with an end of tour dinner – where we have a few beers, a great meal, and a few laughs of course. But don't forget, there is one more mountain day tomorrow.

#### **SLOPE INFO**

##### **Treble Cone**

Difficulty:  
10% Beginner, 45% Intermediate, 45% Advanced

Height: 1960m  
Vertical: 700m  
Skiable Area: 550ha

### DAY 12 – TREBLE CONE (WANAKA)

Today is our departure day, but first we hit Treble Cone, which features challenging runs, un-groomed powder and a huge abundance of infamous natural pipes, chutes and hits.

Spread over three large basins and covering 550 hectares, Treble Cone has the longest vertical rise in the Southern Lakes (705m), longest groomed intermediate runs (4km) and spectacular views over Lake Wanaka and Mount Aspiring. You have the option to extend your trip in Wanaka, grab a shuttle to Queenstown where we have our own Lodge, or drive back to Christchurch with the tour group.

We depart Wanaka at 3pm to arrive back into Christchurch at approximately 10pm. Most people opt to add an extra nights accommodation in Christchurch due to our late arrival.



## FAQ

### WHAT IS THE TOUR BUS LIKE?

We use a customised four-wheel-drive van, with a maximum of 8 people. There is always room to lounge about and make yourself comfortable!

### WHO ARE THE TOUR GUIDES?

Our Tour Manager Burto is a passionate snow-enthusiast with heaps of experience in guiding. He is there to ensure you have the best time possible.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF A MOUNTAIN IS SHUT?

We make amendments to our tour route on the rare occasions that any mountains are shut or have very poor conditions – going to a different mountain if at all possible. If not possible, we will refund the wholesale rate for your lift pass.

### I HAVE NEVER USED A ROPE TOW BEFORE – WILL I BE OKAY?

A small group tour like this is perfect for people that have not used rope tows before because our Tour Manager can spend the time with you to give you instruction and advice. Everyone struggles at the start using rope tows so it's just a matter of being persistent – it is expected it will take you at least a few attempts until you get the feel for it. It is all part of the experience!

### I'M A BEGINNER. IS THIS TOUR SUITABLE FOR ME?

No. This tour is only appropriate for skiers and boarders with at least an intermediate level ability. If you are new to skiing, check out our Snow Safari.

### WHAT IS THE HIRE GEAR LIKE?

Skis are from 4FRNT, Atomic and Salomon. Boards are from Burton and Academy. Poles are from Scott. Clothing is from Aggression and ski boots are from Nordica.

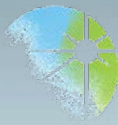
Equipment/gear will be hired on the morning of day one and you will have the same gear for the duration of the tour, which means you can get used to your equipment for maximum comfort and ride time.

### CAN YOU HELP ME OUT FOR EXTRA DAYS BEFORE AND AFTER THE TOUR?

Yes, we can arrange trips to Mt Hutt near Christchurch with accommodation in Methven, or time at Coronet Peak or The Remarks, with accommodation in Queenstown.

### WHAT IS THE SIZE OF A SNOW TOUR GROUP?

The maximum size of a snow tour is 8 people. We book out in advance for during peak season so our average passengers can be very close to 8.



## TOP 10 REASONS TO COME ON A HAKA SNOW TOUR

- 1** Forget about hiring cars and using chains – all our snow tours include daily transport direct from your accommodation to the snow.
- 2** Stop looking for accommodation – your accommodation is pre-booked and guaranteed by us. We own our very own nationwide backpacker chain, Haka Lodge which are award winning hostels, with super friendly staff.
- 3** Sit back and relax after a hard a day on the mountain and be taken to your next destination.
- 4** Included breakfast – on a Haka Tour, your guide will have breakfast waiting for you in the morning, so you'll have heaps of energy for the day ahead!
- 5** Make great new mates. We restrict our tours to a maximum of 8 people, as our core philosophy is that small groups make for a far better experience.
- 6** Our Tour Manager will show you the best secret spots and powder stashes – they know the mountains like the back of their hand, and they can give you tuition and advice to improve your technique.
- 7** When you hire gear with us, you use it for the whole tour, so you only need to get fitted out once.
- 8** Talk to your guide if you want any extra lessons – these can be easily arranged.
- 9** Pre-book any extra activities you definitely want to do, and we guarantee you a spot. These can be booked on the road, but during peak season popular activities often sell out.
- 10** We know the best places to eat and drink, so don't hesitate to ask your guide – they are there to make your life awesome!

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