



A full range of conditions and temperatures can be expected in the New Zealand mountains in winter and participants need to be suitably prepared with suitable clothing, eyewear, and ski or splitboard touring equipment. Your guide will do a comprehensive check of your gear at the start of the course to ensure it is in good working order and fit for purpose and there will be the opportunity to purchase or hire gear that is not deemed suitable.

If there is anything you don't have or have any questions, please get [in contact](#) with us.

Body

- Base layer top and bottoms (merino or polypro, no cotton)
- Mid-layer top (fleece or windproof)
- Insulating jacket (synthetic fill preferred)
- Waterproof jacket
- Softshell or waterproof ski trousers

Head / Face / Hands

- Sun Hat or cap
- Warm hat & neck gaiter (eg Buff®)
- Sunglasses
- Goggles
- Helmet (ski touring or downhill and mountaineering rated recommended)
- Lightweight gloves
- Warm gloves

Accessories

- Backpack, around 40 - 50 litre capacity, enough for carrying overnight equipment. Ideally with an avalanche tools pocket.**
- Water bottles (1.5 to 2 litres capacity)
- Small container of sunblock & lip balm

* Mandatory

** Available to hire \$20 per item per day

Feet

- Ski touring or snowboard boots (snowboard mountaineering boots recommended)
- Ski/snowboard socks

Ski touring, technical gear, and safety

- Ski or splitboard touring equipment including skins and ski/splitboard crampons*

Technical gear (Can be provided)

- Walking ice axe and boot crampons
- Lightweight ski touring harness
- Long (120cm) and short (60cm) prusik loops
- 4x carabiners
- Ice screw
- Shovel, transceiver (with fresh batteries), and probe

Overnight

- 2+ season sleeping bag and liner**
- Hut slippers (optional)
- Head torch and spare batteries
- Personal toiletries (blister kit & personal medication)

OPTIONAL – Personal preference items

- Notepad and pencil
- Micro traxion®
- Compass
- Topomaps
- Inflatable pillow



What to Expect

The high mountain huts of the Aoraki/Mount Cook region are accessed by helicopter. They are remote, basic huts. There is no reliable phone reception but they do have charging facilities for small electronic devices. The huts are equipped with mattresses, crockery and cookware.

All equipment and food will be carried from the helicopter landing to the hut. For some of the huts, this involves a short uphill hike so everything must fit in backpacks. At the end of the trip, you may ski down the glacier with all your equipment to be picked up by the helicopter.

If there is a delay getting into the mountains, or the trip has to exit early, the course will be based at NZAC Unwin Lodge in Mount Cook village. Local rock climbing and accessible venues will be utilised to continue with the instruction.

Preparation

If you need accommodation in Wānaka the night before and after the trip, shared and private rooms are available for clients in our [Kea Lodge](#) which is adjacent to the WMG Base.

Unless otherwise agreed, trips start at the WMG Base at 8:30 on the first day of the trip where there is off-street car parking and luggage storage available. It is also possible to arrange to be picked up from accommodation in town.

Ski or Splitboard Crampons

Ski crampons are very specific to ski widths and binding types so are not available to hire in Wānaka. Also, they can be difficult to source for older-style bindings, especially at short notice. We recommend getting these organised as early as possible. You may not need them. But if you do need them, you'll be very very glad you've got them (although it may be possible to get by without them at the expense of added effort and slower travel).

Insurance

WMG fees do not include insurance for personal circumstances (including but not limited to travel, injury, medical, and equipment).

We strongly recommend you obtain:

- Travel insurance to cover you in the event of a trip cancellation by either you or us, for trip changes, or for medical emergencies to cover you for your personal health needs;
- Personal and third-party insurance for the cover of damage or loss of equipment and property.

We do not accept liability, responsibility, or any expenses for insurance-related costs incurred by participants in preparation for or participation in our trips and courses.

