



5-DAY SNOW EXPLORER TOUR

HAKATOURS
NEW ZEALAND

Escape the crowds of Queenstown and get a taste of New Zealand's best club fields on this five-day snow tour of the South Island.

The Snow Explorer really is off-piste heaven - leave the beaten track behind and sample four epic mountains considered by locals as NZ's best-kept-secrets: Porters, Broken River, Mt Olympus/Temple Basin and Craigieburn.

Whilst these names may not ring a bell now, we guarantee by the end of your trip they will be the only thing you'll want to talk about.

Starting and ending in Christchurch, this tour best suits intermediate to advanced skiers and snowboarders as you'll be using nutcrackers and rope tows to climb the slopes at most locations. But don't let this put you off - our expert guides are on hand to help, and most people adjust to using these tools after just a couple of runs.

You can book additional nights' accommodation in Christchurch before your tour starts, or an extra night on the last day to make things easy.

If you'd prefer room to yourself, you can upgrade to a private room (available for the first two nights of the tour only). Upgrading your first two nights of accommodation to a private room starts from \$199.

Please note that due to unforeseen weather conditions changes may need to be made to the itinerary. Luckily, our tour guides are super flexible pros, so they'll make sure you have the very best time no matter where the trip takes you.

REGULAR DEPARTURES OVER WINTER. [VIEW OUR AVAILABILITY ONLINE](#)



TOUR INCLUSIONS

AWESOME INCLUSIONS

- ▶ 5 lift passes to 4 different mountains.
- ▶ 4 nights of dorm share style accommodation.
- ▶ Continental breakfasts every day.
- ▶ Two dinners.
- ▶ Tow protection gloves.

ALL HAKA 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 snow experts who are passionate about NZ.

SMALL GROUPS

Because you're more than just a number!



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - CHRISTCHURCH TO SPRINGFIELD | PORTERS

DAY 2 - SPRINGFIELD | BROKEN RIVER

DAY 3 - SPRINGFIELD TO CRAIGIEBURN | MT OLYMPUS/TEMPLE BASIN

DAY 4 - CRAIGIEBURN

DAY 5 - CRAIGIEBURN TO CHRISTCHURCH





CHRISTCHURCH / SPRINGFIELD

DAY 1 - CHRISTCHURCH TO SPRINGFIELD PORTERS

We depart Christchurch at 6am and pick up our hire gear (for those that need it) en-route to Porters, best 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 T3T-Bar.

For the next two nights we stay at Springfield Lodge, a snow sports enthusiast's haven, complete with unrivalled views and an outdoor spa pool to enjoy after a big day on the slopes.

INCLUDED

Breakfast
Lift Pass

SLOPE INFO

Porters

Difficulty: 15% Beginner, 35% Intermediate, 50% Advanced
Height: 1950m
Vertical: 610m
Skiable Area: 350ha

DAY 2 - SPRINGFIELD BROKEN RIVER

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. Now well-established, this ski field is a testament to their years of effort and dedication.

You'll earn your turns at Broken River! After a 15 to 20-minute hike to the first rope tow, learn the techniques you'll need to get started on these slopes.

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 nut crackers, 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 metres 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.

INCLUDED

Breakfast
Lift Pass
Harness & Nutcracker

SLOPE INFO

Broken River

Difficulty: 10% Beginner, 30% Intermediate, 60% Advanced
Height: 1920m
Vertical: 420m
Skiable Area: 300ha



MT OLYMPUS / TEMPLE BASIN

DAY 3 - SPRINGFIELD TO CRAIGIEBURN MT OLYMPUS/TEMPLE BASIN

Today, depending on weather conditions, we'll head to either Mt Olympus or Temple Basin.

Mt Olympus ski area is also known as 'the playground of the gods'. 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!

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 lattes 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 advanced terrain).

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

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

INCLUDED

Breakfast
Lift Pass
Harness & Nutcracker
Dinner

SLOPE INFO

Mt Olympus

Difficulty: 10% Beginner, 55% Intermediate, 35% Advanced
Height: 2096m
Vertical: 450m
Skiable Area: 60ha

Temple Basin

Difficulty: 10% Beginner, 50% Intermediate, 25% Advanced
Height: 1753m
Vertical: 427m
Skiable Area: 320ha



CRAIGIEBURN

DAY 4 - 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.

Your dinner tonight at the Craigieburn Lodge is also included.

INCLUDED

Breakfast
Lift Pass
Harness & Nutcracker
Dinner

SLOPE INFO

Craigieburn

Difficulty: 20% Beginner, 55% Intermediate, 25% Advanced
Height: 1811m
Vertical: 503m
Skiable Area: 400ha

DAY 5 - CRAIGIEBURN TO CHRISTCHURCH

One last snow day mastering the slopes of Craigieburn before blazing a trail back to Christchurch where your tour ends at around 8pm.

You're more than welcome to book an additional night of accommodation with us in Christchurch.

INCLUDED

Breakfast
Lift Pass
Harness & Nutcracker

SLOPE INFO

Craigieburn

Difficulty: 20% Beginner, 55% Intermediate, 25% Advanced
Height: 1811m
Vertical: 503m
Skiable Area: 400ha



FAQ

WHAT IS THE TOUR BUS LIKE?

We normally use an 8-seater Toyota Hiace, with a trailer for all your gear.

WHO ARE THE TOUR GUIDES?

Our tour managers are all passionate snow enthusiasts. They are there to ensure you have the best time possible. Head Guide Mike Burton is a true legend with more than 10 years' experience carving up New Zealand slopes. Burto knows these mountains even better than the back of his hands - mostly because he spends so much time wearing winter gloves.

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 poor conditions - going to a different mountain when possible. If not possible, we will refund the wholesale rate for your day lift pass.

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

Unfortunately, no. This tour is for intermediate to advanced skiers and snowboarders because of the type of terrain and use of nutcrackers and rope tows.

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 it and progress much quicker. Your gear will be matched to suit your ability and experience.

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF A SNOW TOUR GROUP?

The maximum size of a Snow Explorer tour is 8 people.



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 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 tell you about the best secret spots and powder stashes - they know the mountains like the back of their hand
- 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 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!