

TRAMPING THE HOLLYFORD TRACK, NZ

WHO WENT: Rachael Oakes-Ash, 40



West coast wilderness



The lady and the tramping

INTO THE JUNGLE
My idea of tramping is to cross the road for a latte, but there are no cafes to be found on the Hollyford Track in the glacial valleys of the South Island. I've signed up for the three-day Hollyford Wilderness Journey, and in day one we're expected to do 17 kilometres. Yikes.

On the upside, who knew this was a way to meet men? Seven, to be precise, from various parts of the North and South Island and a couple from across the ditch. As the sole girl (now dubbed Snow White), I reckon things are looking up.

The rugged Hollyford Valley was first explored by Europeans in the 1860s and settled by a complete madman, Davey Gunn, in 1926. Bard (our guide, and the keeper of cake) tells tales of Davey sewing his torn scrotum together with nylon

before rowing 16 kilometres and then trekking another 20 to save victims of a plane crash in this area in 1936. As you do.

The gushing waters of the Hollyford River are pure enough to drink from the bank. As rain sets in, I dream of dry beds and open fires.

Thank the river gods for the home-baked buns and German-inspired stew at Pyke Lodge. It sits on the banks of the river and is said to be haunted. If there are ghosts running along the corridors, I don't hear them through a sound slumber.

WILD RIDES

Day two and more tramping, though only a mere 12km before we board a jetboat to cross Lake McKerrow and the tectonic plates deep below. Glacial waterfalls tumble over sheer cliffs into the lake like giant crystal earrings, and Bard steps in with stories of Jamestown, an abandoned European settlement close by.

Soon we reach the rugged west coast of Martins Bay, home to the Fiordland crested penguin and New Zealand fur seal. Did I mention it's raining again? That, and the black sand, adds to the windswept atmosphere of the bay. We navigate the boulder homes of penguin families, keep our



TRIP NOTES

Getting there

The trip starts with a private bus pick-up in Queenstown or Te Anau and a drive to the Fiordland National Park. Air New Zealand flies direct from most major cities to Queenstown. See airnz.co.nz for flights.

The cost

\$1655 for an adult (\$1235 for a child). This includes all meals, guided walk, jetboat, accommodation, transfers and helicopter flight. Visit hollyfordtrack.co.nz or phone 0800 832 226.

When to go

The guided walk runs from October to April. The minimum number in a group is four, and the maximum is 16.

distance from the seals, and fight over the fire when we reach Martins Bay Lodge.

A new day brings beach exploration and a chopper ride out of here. I shotgun the front seat for a bird's-eye view of the glaciers on top of the peaks leading into Milford Sound.

I'm no Davey Gunn, but I return with the proud smell of an adventurer and, thankfully, no stitches. **WHI**



Crossing Lake McKerrow

STOCKISTS

You can do this: sailing

- Page 25
- Burke Smart Marine (09) 358 2850
- Columbia columbia.co.nz
- Electric electricvisual.com
- Garmin garmin.com
- Hutchwilco hutchwilco.co.nz
- Keen keenfootwear.com
- The North Face thenorthface.com

On your marks

- Page 40-41
- adidas (09) 523 5005
- Asics asics.co.nz
- Brooks (09) 580 1006
- New Balance 0800 623 0432
- Nike 0508 478 478
- Puma (09) 302 1023

Don't sweat it

- Page 43
- Jo Malone 0800 JOMSHOP or (09) 309 4418
- Mitchum Available from supermarkets
- Nivea nivea.co.nz
- Pure Fiji 0800 PURE FIJI
- QV Available from pharmacies
- Revlon revlon.co.nz
- Rexona Available from supermarkets
- The Herb Farm (06) 326 8633; herbfarm.co.nz

Just open the fridge

- Page 45
- A'Kin 0800 168 169
- Dr. Hauschka 0508 423 737 x. 821
- Tebe (09) 236 1020; tebe.co.nz
- Trilogy trilogyproducts.com
- Zoya zoya.com.au

Lights, camera, action

- Page 94-101
- adidas (09) 523 5005
- Asics asics.co.nz
- Black Basics Kingan Jones (09) 360 2684
- Carlson (09) 3612137
- Le Specs 0508 EYEWEAR
- Puma (09) 302 1023
- Rebel Sports (09) 375 2880
- Stella McCartney for adidas (09) 523 5005
- Swatch Concept (09) 845 1390; or Pascoes (09) 377 8351
- Workshop (09) 303 3735

25 simple tricks for flawless skin

- Page 102-107
- A'Kin 0800 168 169
- Cetaphil Available from pharmacies
- Dermalogica 0800 4 DERMAL
- DermaNew 0800 800 097
- Dr. Hauschka 0508 423 737 x. 821
- Elizabeth Arden (09) 529 3200
- Evolu (09) 376 7255
- Garnier 0800 427 6437
- Jane Iredale janeiredale.co.nz
- L'Oréal Paris 0800 655 444
- Neutrogena Available from pharmacies
- QV Available from pharmacies
- RoC 0800 804 711
- Tebe (09) 236 1020; tebe.co.nz
- The Cancer Society 0800 226 237
- The Herb Farm (06) 326 8633
- Trilogy trilogyproducts.com