

Key Information

Costs and koha

For Rakatahi programs, there is no cost to participate outside of travel costs. For Pakeke programs, there will be an associated participation cost which will be explained upon acceptance. Participation on the program is a rare opportunity and the investment is significant. While there is no requirement, we ask whanau to consider how you might like to give back in some way. This could be in the form of baking for the hīkoi, petrol vouchers to assist with travel or by other means.

Hīkoi transport

Hīkoi transport will vary depending on availability of drivers and facilitators. Transport will always be provided to and from Queenstown and sometimes from the West Coast and Christchurch.

Fitness, health & safety

The program management actively look to manage all health and safety aspects and will endeavor to implement correct management procedures to eliminate, isolate or minimize hazards where possible. Facilitators and drivers have the necessary certifications and experience for this trip and group size, and will be operating in alignment with the Hollyford Track protocols (used in their commercial, guided tour, operations). Te Ara Whakatipu has access to necessary safety equipment (including radios, clear procedures and back up support in the event of an incident or emergency).

That said, there will still be inherent risks on the program, including:

Te Haerenga: A supervised 21km hike (42 km hike return + daily smaller walks) through the exposed outdoor elements crossing forests, ledges, large hills, bridges, creeks, coastal landscapes, etc.

Mahi (service) & ringa wera ringa kaha (kitchen work)

Te reo me ōna tikanga (language and culture)

Various jet boat excursions with a commercial operator

Optional swimming on a remote coastline or river swimming (supervised, weather permitting)

Exploration of Ngāi Tahu tangata and open discussions

Mahinga kai (food gathering)

The consent part of our application form outlines more detail about health and safety. To enhance health and safety, our compulsory pre-course 30-minute phone kōrero includes an in-depth chat about medical history and conditions.



Fitness

A medium to high level of fitness, and the ability to walk with a pack for 21km, is strictly necessary and required as there are no alternative transport options.



No cellphones or contact during course

There will be no access to cell phones or technology while in the Hollyford Valley. If there is an event at home, whānau will be able to make emergency contact with rakatahi through the Hollyford Track Office 03 442 3000 and ask for Lesley. (Mobile details above). For non-urgent contact, you can email Kara also.

Behaviour

All rakatahi will be expected to always conduct themselves in a respectful manner. It will also be important for everyone to work in together to ensure an enriching experience for all. It is critically important that everyone listens and follows instructions – especially when on track when undertaking each outdoor activity. Adhering to behavioral expectations and instructions are essential for the health and wellbeing of the hīkoi participants.



Code of conduct:

- Taking care of one another and being respectful to rakatahi, kaumātua, tribal leaders, and manuhiri always
- Always following instructions
- Being respectful of the natural environment
- Participating in all activities as part of the rōpū
- Helping in the kitchen
- Cleaning up after ourselves and each other
- Acting as representatives of your respective whānau and hapu
- Communicating concerns, especially physical ailments/discomfort/limitations, to the crew immediately if they occur

Those not adhering to the above will be issued two opportunities to improve behavior. In the unlikely event that misbehavior continues and is having a detrimental effect on the individual and or the rōpū health and wellbeing, then unfortunately, the rakatahi will need to return home at the expense of the family.

This cost could be substantial and therefore we ask that you ensure that your son/daughter is aware of the consequences of their behavior.

Te Ara Whakatipu is a cellphone, technology, smoking and alcohol-free kaupapa.