

**LAND ON A GLACIER
OR
FALL IN LOVE
WITH A GOLDEN-HEAD TAKAPU**

There's only one place in the world a sports enthusiast can start a four-hour hike in a rain forest and end it on a glacier – New Zealand, a South Pacific gem and the first ground to see dawn each day.

If you ever wanted a “James Bond meets the Sierra Club” vacation, the New Zealand Outdoors Adventure trip offered by Birmingham-based Australia 2000 Travel is for you. “The Outdoors Adventure trip is 17 days of spectacular scenery, challenging hikes, chartered yachts, underground limestone caves, kayaks, rain forests, Maori feasts, volcanoes, glaciers, white water rafting, jet boats and helicopters, against the background of native culture, food and wine,” says Karen Hardy Hodgson, President of Australia 2000 Travel. “This is a trip for people who would rather *do* than *watch*.”

A fifth-generation Aussie with a passion for her native land, Hodgson has taken great care to avoid tour busses and standard sight-seeing fare on this excursion, an expedition that feeds every sense and provides physical challenge, served on a platter of local culture in the only place on earth that has alpine parrots and dinosaur lizards.

Traversing the North and South Islands of New Zealand, the March 9 – 24, 2002 trip is perfect for the audacious and venturesome, those looking for thrill as well as beauty and challenge.

“Participants need to be fit enough to endure a four-hour, uphill hike on uneven or loose rocky ground,” Hodgson says, although several parts of the adventure allow for optional, less rugged activities. The group is limited to twelve people, who will be accompanied by Karen Hardy Hodgson and several native New Zealanders – affectionately called “Kiwi’s” after the indigenous bird and tree whose fruit is enjoyed around the globe.

Hodgson’s trips to New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Tahiti maintain a strong connection to the people and culture, offering participants opportunity to dive fully into a faraway life, meet the natives and enjoy the legendary hospitality and abundance of the paradisiacal South Pacific.

The full itinerary of the New Zealand Outdoors Adventure is attached. For further information or to schedule an interview with Karen Hardy Hodgson, please contact Lisa Lapides-Sawicki at Lapides Publicity Group (248) 399-8200.

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