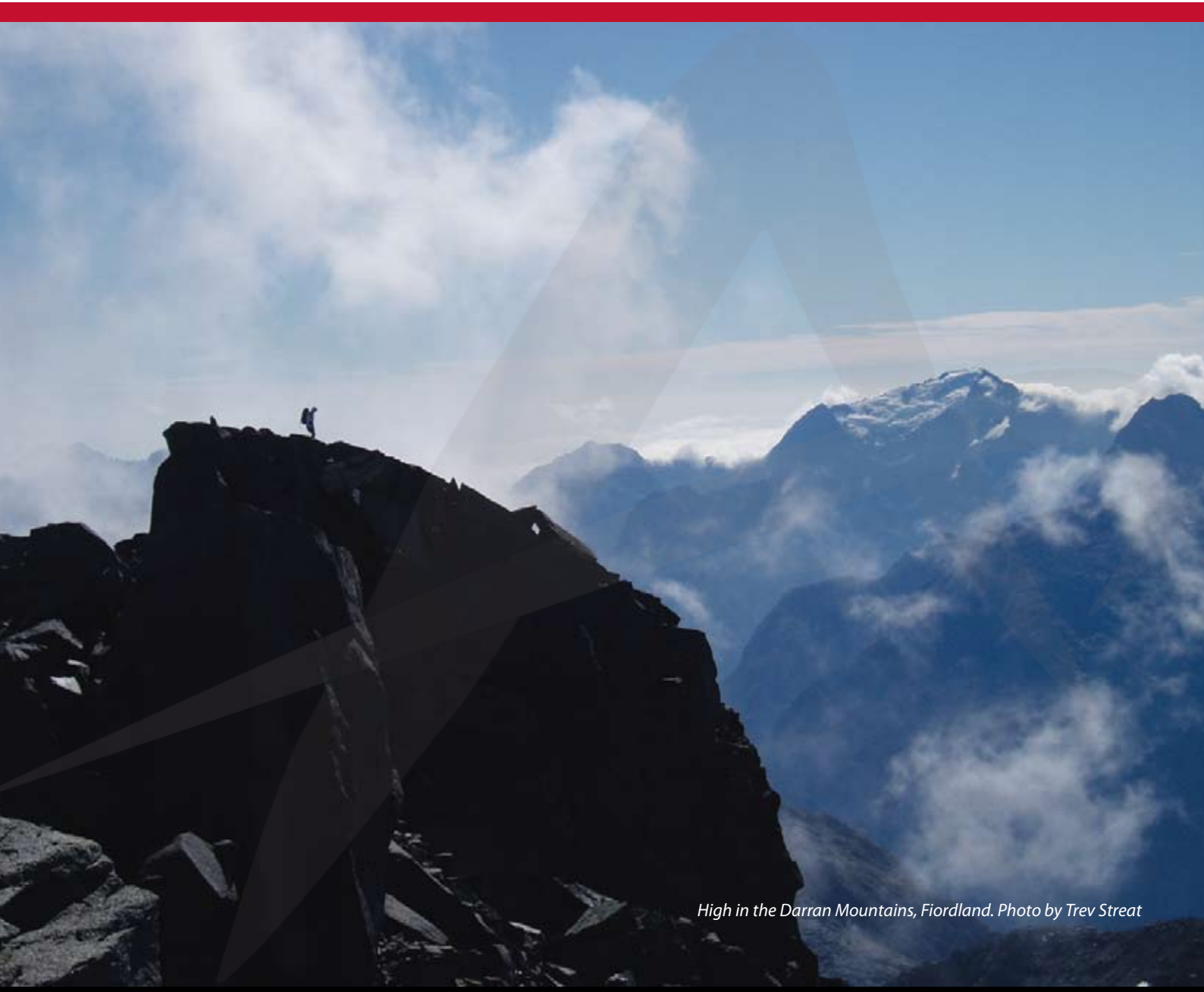


Alpine Guides

Aoraki/Mount Cook, New Zealand

Classic Alpine Rock Ascents

Summer 2010/11



High in the Darran Mountains, Fiordland. Photo by Trev Streat

Stunning rock routes, in places less travelled

Aoraki/Mt Cook, Westland, & Fiordland National Parks

8 or 10 day expeditions: Low guide to participant ratio

Dates scheduled to your travel plans

Leading New Zealand Guiding Since 1966

Classic Alpine Rock Ascents

Tucked away throughout the Southern Alps are many long, stunning rock routes, leading onto spectacular summits. The Classic Alpine Rock Ascents package allows one or two participants to seek out as many of these hidden gems as weather and time allow.

This program has been developed by senior AGL guide Sam Bosshard. Climbing alpine rock is Sam's great passion. Let him take you in to his favourite areas and then climb the best routes. These are mostly well off the beaten track and you will most likely have the mountain all to yourself!

You need to be a reasonably capable rock climber, and super keen to climb on some of the best, most sought after alpine rock routes in the Southern Alps.

Your Guide

Sam Bosshard is one of our 'senior' guides, and has worked with Alpine Guides since 1994. He has helped several new programs in order to share what he loves, long alpine rock routes...

Sam comes from a family tradition in the outdoors, but his guiding career really began through his passion for rock climbing. He enjoys getting on to quality rock on long routes, especially in locations like the Darran Mountains (Fiordland). His mountain experience includes alpine and heliski guiding in NZ, climbing and ski touring in Europe, big wall climbing in Yosemite, and guiding in Antarctica. Sam's mountaineering skills and personality have won over many AGL clients, so he is very much in demand. We recommend booking well in advance!



2010/11 Dates & Pricing

This program is designed for either 1 or a maximum 2 participants, per guide. Pricing for other durations is available, but we recommend a program of at least 8 days to provide maximum flexibility.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) in New Zealand rises to 15% on 01 October. Trips booked and paid in full by 30 September will beat the pre-GST rise price

Prices before 30 September 2010

Duration	8 days	10 days
1 person	\$5250	\$6250
2 people	\$3350	\$3750

All prices are per-person, in NZ Dollars

Prices from 01 October 2010

Duration	8 days	10 days
1 person	\$5350	\$6350
2 people	\$3425	\$3825

All prices are per-person, in NZ Dollars

The price includes the following:

- Guiding fees
- Alpine Guides Technical Manual (92 pages)
- All meals (including snacks and energy bars)
- Hut fees/ local accommodation as required
- Road transport, as required
- A range of technical equipment (see the Equipment Checklist on [page 8](#))

We buy fresh produce for every program we run so you are guaranteed to eat well. Most dietary regimes can be catered for. Please make a note of what you like to eat on your booking form.

Not included: Aircraft access. If required for the venue this is an additional cost.

All bookings must be made well in advance. There are no scheduled dates. Sam will work around your travel plans (subject to his availability). [Contact us with your proposed dates and we can take it from there.](#)

Flexibility

Some flexibility is possible with this program to work around weather disruptions. Sam may be available to postpone the start of the for up to 2 days if it is seriously compromised by bad weather. Please keep this in mind when thinking about booking your travel arrangements.

Experience Required

This trip can be designed to suit all levels of rock climbing ability, however some previous rock climbing experience is essential.

- You should be familiar with basic rope skills including belaying and abseiling. Training in rope work and other mountain skills will be included during the course of the trip.
- You must be very fit. Walking in with bivvy gear and food, plus technical equipment will be necessary for some climbs.
- You should also have a good head for exposure!

Climbing Season

Recommended timing is [January through March](#). This period generally affords the most settled weather patterns and the best chance for clean, snow-free rock.

Reporting Details

Unless otherwise arranged, Classic Alpine Rock Ascents is designed to start at 08:30 at Alpine Guides shop in Mount Cook Village, and finish at 17:00 on the last day of your program.

Trip Structure

Unless otherwise arranged the Classic Alpine Rock program will start in Mt Cook Village. You will then relocate by vehicle to your chosen venue. Some climbing venues may require aircraft access, to maximise your potential climbing time.

When organising a climbing trip like this (and dealing with New Zealand's temperate maritime climate) flexibility and not becoming fixed on a specific goals is important. The best approach is to have some general objectives, but be prepared to rely on Sam's judgement, and to travel to and climb in locations offering the best conditions at the time.

Relocating could involve anything from a 15 minute drive and helicopter flight into Twin Stream, to a 4.5 hour drive to the Darrans. Travelling by road gives the flexibility to relocate to alternative areas should weather conditions change.

A high level fitness is required as it may be necessary at times to carry heavy packs containing both camping gear and food, plus a full rack of technical gear and ropes. Basic snowcraft will be taught if necessary, as ice axe and crampons may or may not be needed to access the climbs.

Objectives

A selection of some of the many climbs available. Routes marked with an *asterisk are only available on 1:1 guiding basis.

Darran Mountains

The Darran Mountains in Fiordland are the first choice for many Kiwi alpine rock climbers both for the quality of the rock and for the stunning alpine scenery. The rock is primarily diorite and is great to climb on, being very coarse and solid.

Because of the hardness of the rock the glacial origins of the landscape are very much in evidence with incredibly sheer walled U-shaped valleys, sprinkled with small lakes and tarns, and all of this crowned by snow capped glaciated summits.

Many climbs are accessible as day trips from the hut, but peaks such as Mt Sabre would require a bivvy at the lovely lake Adelaide.

Potential objectives

Moirs Mate, 'Bowen Allan Corner'

A day trip from Homer Hut. 2.5 hours walk and climb along the exposed ridge from Homer Saddle lead to the bottom of the face. Then 10 pitches of slabs and cracks finishing with the amazing 2 pitch open book corner (crux grade 17) lead to easier scrambling to the summit. This is the classic introduction to serious Darrans rock.

Mt Sabre, 'North Buttress' *

A very long, serious, and sought after climb. A long day's walk takes one in to the huge 'Phil's Bivvy Rock' in Moraine Creek. An intricate route weaves up the waterfall face to get to the bottom of the route. 12 or so pitches of climbing straight up the prow of the Buttress (crux 17 but mostly easier) lead to 200m of easier climbing to the summit. And then you have to get down...

Mt Talbot, 'JC crack'

An early morning walk up past Black Lake leads to a small glacier under the east face of Talbot. This is



crossed, and then 8 pitches of grade 15 corner, chimney, and crack, lead on to the upper east ridge which is followed to the summit. The peak is then traversed in order to make the descent.

'Brothers in Arms/Craddock's Retreat'

Another day trip from Homer Hut, and again via Homer Saddle. A fantastic line, sustained grade 20-21 for 5 pitches up the steep face of the Mate's "little brother". The overhanging corner pitch halfway up the face is one of the best rope lengths in the country.

This is just a very small sample of what the Darrans has to offer... Any ability of rock climbing skills can be catered for in this amazing playground, be it an easier or harder technical challenge that you are after.

Reference: "The Darran Mountains", Craig Jeffries, 2nd Edition, 2006, NZ Alpine Club.

South Temple Valley

The South Temple is a tributary of the Hopkins Valley. At its head lie two impressive rock peaks. These are Bruce Peak and Steeple Peak. It is a scenic 5 hour walk in to the high bivvy site, firstly through native bush and then more open alpine vegetation.

Bruce Peak, 'Butterfly Buttress'

500 metres of sustained grade 12-14 climbing up the amazingly prominent buttress.

Steeple Peak

10 pitches of great climbing grade 15 lead straight to the summit.

Reference: "Barron Saddle – Mt Brewster", Ross Cullen, 2nd Edition, NZ Alpine Club

Fox Glacier

High on the Fox Glacier nevé are a number of fine rock routes. While you are climbing these routes you will be looking down the huge icefalls of the Fox Glacier and see waves breaking on the West Coast beaches!

These climbs are accessed from Pioneer Hut and this will involve the added cost of flying both in and out.

Mt Conway 'Moonshine Buttress'

Nine pitches sustained climbing at grade 14-15 with a crux of 17. The route goes straight up the spectacular pink buttress.

Mt Humdinger

Great climbing up the west face slabs, 7 pitches, up to grade 16.

Reference: "Aoraki Mount Cook, a guide for mountaineers", Alex Palman, 2nd Edition, NZ Alpine Club

Other areas providing excellent alpine rock:

- Remarkables (Queenstown): Double Cone – Single Cone traverse
- Glenorchy: Chinamans Bluff, 'The Ravages of Time'
- Mount Aspiring area: Mt Aspiring, 'North Buttress'

Aoraki/ Mount Cook area

- Mount Dilemma, 'Strauchon Face'*
- Mount Nazomi, Gledhill Buttress**
- Mount Malte Brun, 'West Ridge'*
- Mt Chudleigh, "Langdale Buttress"

Rock Grades

NZ uses the Australian rock climbing grade system.

AU Grade 16 is approximately French 5b, US 5.7, UK 4c VS.

Equipment Checklist

Refer to the equipment check-list on [page 7](#) for the specific



East Ridge of Mt Talbot, Darran Mountains

gear list for Classic Alpine Rock Ascents and the items of clothing and personal kit you will need.

Please use your discretion when selecting clothing. Plan for colder conditions after mid-March through November, and warmer conditions from December through mid-March. Check the “Notes on Equipment and Clothing” for more details. Contact us if you have any questions.

Optional items

Not compulsory. Feel free to bring along any of the items optional listed, if you wish.

[The rest of the details...](#)

You'll find answers to most questions in our additional detailed notes: [Pre-trip Information Notes](#), and [Equipment and Clothing](#).

These are designed to help you plan and prepare for your Alpine Guides trip. Download from our website using the links below.

Pre-trip Information

Includes details on bus travel to Mount Cook, insurance, personal fitness, accommodation, and more...

http://www.alpineguides.co.nz/download/notes/pretrip_info.pdf (600 Kb)

Equipment & Clothing

What to look for when choosing clothing and equipment for mountaineering in New Zealand

<http://www.alpineguides.co.nz/download/notes/equipment.pdf> (750 Kb)



Sam on Steeple Peak, South Temple Valley. Lake Ohau in background

Equipment & Clothing Checklist

Classic Alpine Rock Ascents

Use the check list below to ensure you bring along the gear specifically for your trip. Please try to let us know what you need to rent as soon as possible **before** you arrive. Get in touch if you have any questions.

	Bring ✓	Borrow ✓
1. Equipment provided free of charge		
Ice Axe (provided if required)		
Crampons (provided if required)		
Belay Device - ATC GUide or Petzl Reverso		
Ice Screw x 2		
Prusiks x 3 (1 long, 2 short)		
Karabiners: large screw-gate x 3, snap-link straight-gate x 5		

Use our gear free of charge, or bring your own

Calculate your approx. rental cost below. For the Classic Rock we charge 9 days rental.

2. Equipment and Clothing for rent	Bring ✓	Rent ✓	Cost/day	x # days	Total
Mountaineering Boot/Trekking Boots			15		
Sleeping Bag - 3-4 season bag			15		
Backpack, 60+ litres			7		
Helmet			3		
Harness - with plenty of gear loops			5		
Bivouac Bag			7		
Sleeping Pad			1		
Hiking Poles / each (optional)			5		
Storm Jacket			10		
Overtrowsers (full length leg zip if possible)			10		
Long sling - 4.5 metres tubular webbing, 16-19mm wide			1		
Rock shoes - comfortable fit essential			6		
Gaiters			5		
Total estimated rental cost					

3. Required Personal Equipment (not available to rent)

- Day Pack (20-30 litres) an essential item
- Headlamp
- Sunglasses - good quality wrap-around
- Water Bottles 2 x 1 litre widemouth (Nalgene)
- Water bladder system
- Waterproof pack liner
- First Aid Kit - basic kit, incl blister tape
- Toiletries, including toothbrush sun screen and lip cream
- Leatherman or Swiss tool
- Drinking mug

4. Required Personal Clothing (not available to rent)

- Underwear (2 sets)
- Socks (3-4 pairs for your mountaineering boots) a thin pair can be worn with your rock shoes
- Thermal underwear: 2 x tops, 1 x pants
- Mid-weight fleece jersey/ soft shell jacket
- Warm jacket: down or fleece, or soft-shell for bivouacs
- Warm hat
- Climbing trousers: soft-shell are ideal. Light weight trekking pants (worn over thermals) are okay - they must be quick drying
- Waterproof warm gloves x 1 pair - leather gloves are good for rope work
- Light-weight (polypro) gloves x 1 pair
- Sun Protection: baseball cap or legionnaire hat scarf / neck gaiter (buff) and "glacier shirt"
- Hut footwear - running shoes or sandals / holey soles (must be lightweight)

5. Optional Gear - not required -but recommended

- Telescopic hiking pole - bring one
- Shorts

Alpine Guides will provide ropes any additional snow and ice gear, if necessary, for the selected venue