#
Alpine Luxury Tours - Untouched Backcountry Helicopter Tour from Queenstown

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| **Location:**
Queenstown, New Zealand
**Language:**
English
**Duration:**
5.5 hours
 | **Magpie Product Code:**
QKVCLH
**Company Website:**
facebook.com/alpineluxurytours
**Primary Contact:**
Alpine Luxury Tours
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**Highlights:**

- You'll be picked up at your accommodation this morning and taken to the Queenstown heliport where you'll meet your pilot before boarding the chopper.

The first leg of your journey takes you across Lake Wakatipu to Cecil Peak Station, a 34,000-acre working sheep and beef farm. Here you're invited to tag along with the "cocky" (a Kiwi rancher) for an intimate look at rural New Zealand life on this remote farm accessible only by aircraft or boat.

Then board your chopper again to fly over the Earl Mountain range past the head of Lake Te Anau to land on the edge of Lake Erskine, a surreal turquoise pool (the result of glacial silt) ringed by hanging glaciers. Icebergs floating in the high mountain lake create stunning natural sculptures.

You should have worked up an appetite by now trying to capture the grandeur of the views with your camera so we'll hop back into the helicopter and fly over several rainforest covered valleys to touch down next to Lake Quill for a picnic lunch to remember. This area averages 7m (that's 23ft) of rain a year, which is enough to power one of the tallest permanent waterfalls in the world, the Sutherland Falls. Lake Quill is the small mountain lake that feeds Sutherland Falls, New Zealand's second highest waterfall standing at 580m (1904ft).

After lunch we are on our way up the West Coast, but not before a fly by of New Zealand's most popular attractions - Milford Sound. Rudyard Kipling dubbed it as the Eighth Wonder of the World and it's truly spectacular from a bird's eye view high above the packed cruise boats and buses.

Flying out of the sound (a misnomer as it's actually a fjord) the rainforests framed by the Tasman Sea on our left now feel completely different than they looked just an hour earlier. We'll land at Martins Bay and walk about 20 minutes to a NZ fur seal colony. It's something else to be able to watch these beautiful creatures frolicing and playing in their natural environment. From July to December, we'll also look for rare Fiordland Crested penguins, who travel back from the Antarctic to nest, before we walk back to the waiting chopper.

Then we'll continue our scenic flight over the Earnslaw Burn, known as the valley of the waterfalls and one of the most dramatic locations featured in The Hobbit. Our last stop is on the Jura Glacier to touch the ancient blue ice before returning to Queenstown over the Richardson Mountain range and the Shotover River, rich in stories from the gold rush era.

**Description Summary:**
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**Description:**
Untouched Backcountry Heli Tour where the helicopter is yours for the day with your own private guide to explore some of the most remote corners of the lower South Island, touching down in magical places where it feels like Giant Moas could still wander out of the wilderness.

This exclusive private tour will have you getting up close to wildlife, rainforests, waterfalls, glaciers and New Zealand's most famous attraction without crossing paths with another tourist.

Featuring Mt Nicholas Station: Pioneer Living on a Remote Farm, Lake Erskine: An alpine lake with icebergs surrounded by hanging glaciers, Picnic at Lake Quill above Sutherland Falls, Martins Bay to visit a NZ fur seal colony, Milford Sound, Isobel/Tyndall Glacier via valley of the waterfalls/Earnslaw Burn.

**Inclusions:**

Helicopter & Pilot

Private Guide

Bottled water

Picnic Lunch

Hotel pickup and drop-off

Lunch

Snacks

**Exclusions:**

Gratuities

**Know Before You Book:**

- Duration: 5h 30m

- Mobile tickets accepted

### Locations:

**Pickup:**
none

**Starts Notes:**
Traveler pickup is offered.<br>Queenstown area <br>Airports:<br>Frankton Airport, Queenstown New Zealand<br>Hotel pickup is offered. View the hotel list on our checkout page to see if yours is included among the pickup points.

### Cancellation

**Cancellation Policy:**
standard

**Cancellation Cut-off:**
24
hours

**Cancellation Notes:**
If you cancel at least 4 days in advance of the scheduled departure, there is no cancellation fee.

### Pricing