



Curious Goat International paragliding tours:

New Zealand February/March 2019

G'day pilots.

There's been a lot of interest in next N.Z. tours scheduled for February 2019 and it looks as though all the spaces on each tour will fill up pretty quickly.

South Island Tour #1	Start: Feb 3 rd 10am	Finish: Feb 11 th 11am
South Island Tour #2	Start: Feb 11 th 1pm	Finish: Feb 19 th 11am

North Island Tour	Start: Feb 22 nd 8am	Finish: March 2 nd noon
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All 2018 South Island tours start and finish in Queenstown. We can collect you from the airport or from your accommodation.

All 2018 North Island tours start and finish in Auckland. We can collect you from the airport or from your accommodation.



THE TOURS

The South Island tours are based around the Wanaka/Queenstown area in New Zealand's picturesque southern alps. The area boasts exceptional flying sites which are good for both (sufficiently skilled) entry level pilots, as well as experienced pilots looking for spectacular and challenging XC km's.

Our North Island tour is based around the popular tourist area of Rotorua area with excellent flying within a short drive from the town.

The North Island offers an excellent range of flying opportunities for all skill levels, ranging from XC's over mountains and flatlands to picturesque coastal ridge soaring. "Thermal" flying in the truest sense of the word as you climb out over bubbling hot springs, or soar the lush rainforests, flying the North Island is never short on amazing experiences.

New Zealand is an amazing flying destination, but because NZ is a relatively small island in the middle of a huge ocean, its weather can be somewhat unpredictable. As a pilot, I'm sure you know the difficulty in predicting the weather, so in order to get the most out of our tour, flying wise, my plan is not to have a strict itinerary but to do it like a good landing approach, ie, have a plan but be ready to change that plan at any moment if the conditions require.

There are quite a few flying sites only a couple of hours driving time from our tour bases and it's my intention to take you to whatever site offers the best flying for the day (and is within reasonable reach).



Flying sites in the Queenstown and Wanaka area include.

Treble Cone: Thermaling XC and Speedflying

Coronet Peak: Thermal and Speedflying

Crown Terrace. Ridge soaring, thermalling and “restitution” afternoon flying.

Queenstown Skyline Gondola: Ridge soaring or awesome sleddies (but strictly regulated and not readily accessible)

Mount Iron: Ridge soaring in the heart of Wanaka. Short walk up

Mt Roy: Speed flying, Ridge soaring and thermal flying right next to Wanaka. 1.5 hour walk up.

Lake Hawea foreshore: Fun small ridge soaring or Speedwing practice.

Lake Ohau. High glide with height to practice basic SIV manouvers.

Flying sites in the Rotorua area include.

The Paeroas. XC thermic mountain and flat land flying with excellent XC potential as well as Ridge soaring.

The Kaimais XC thermic mountain and flatland flying with excellent XC potential.

Hickies Bluff. Thermal XC mountain flying.

Mount Maunganui: Stunning Coastal soaring

And a multitude of other interesting sites that will have you smiling all day.

One of the highlights of our South Island tours is the “Black Peak Heli Fly”

Black Peak is a 2,100m tall mountain at the end of the Treble Cone Range, not far from Mt Aspiring, and accessible via a short but stunning Helicopter trip from Treble Cone landing area. Arriving early in the morning, you can launch early for a spectacular sleddie, or wait for late morning thermic conditions and try for an XC back to Wanaka.

Please note that this flight is TOTALLY “weather and helicopter availability” dependent.

Note: Due to recent changes to airspace in the Wanaka area, all pilots wishing to fly from Black

Peak are required to carry and use a VHF radio. Supplying a radio will be the responsibility of each pilot. Please contact us for more info on this.







As usual, the weather will be the main factor and so participants on the tour should be prepared for the possibility of some non-flying days. But given the amount of other activities available in New Zealand, I have no doubt that the tour will exceed your expectations for fun and excitement.

What's included on the tour.

- *Pick up and drop off from Auckland or Queenstown airport at the start and finish of the tour (or your hotel in Auckland or Queenstown).
- *All transport between flying sites and all transport up "drive up" sites in a comfortable 12 seat, air-conditioned Toyota minibus (or similar) or 4x4 where site access requires it.
- *Full guiding and advice from one of Australia's most experienced paragliding instructors and tour operators.
- *Launch and landing clinics for those pilots needing assistance in this facet of flying.
- *Flying skills (XC/ Thermalling) coaching clinics during the tour.
- *Tandem flights for participants on request, or as needed for thermalling, XC or basic Acro instruction.
- *Morning briefing and evening debriefing.
- *Speedwings available for use by those suitably qualified.
- *Speedwing ground training for those interested (weather dependent)



The tour cost does *not* include accommodation

In the South Island, we base our tour in the beautiful town of Wanaka where we rent a house. All tour participants are welcome to stay there or arrange their own accommodation. The cost of the Wanaka (house) accommodation will be approximately \$45 per night (depending on the number of people staying) in shared rooms which includes linen and cleaning fee. Staying at the house is very social and a great place to chill and swap “post flight” stories.

For our North Island tour we will intend to stay at the Rotorua Thermal Holiday Park which is centrally located to all flying sites and other tourist amenities. Cost of a shared 4 bunk bungalow is around \$30 per night. Alternative accommodation arrangements can be made for those wanting to stay elsewhere.

Other items *not included* in the tour.

- * Airfares
- * Pre or post tour accommodation.
- * Gondola ticket if needed.
- * Black Peak Helicopter ride.
- * Meals.
- * Travel insurance.
- * NZHGPA full membership (for those need to join in order to obtain their NZHGPA PG2 rating)

COST per tour :\$1790 AUD Non flying partners are welcome . Cost for non flying partners is \$1490.



Each tour is limited to a maximum number of 10 participants however our preferred number will be 8 and we will be working towards that number.

Please take note of the Pilot Rating/skill Requirements for flying in New Zealand.

The NZHGPA has a ruling that any Australian visiting pilot must be a minimum of HGFA PG-3 rating. Having a HGFA PG-3 rating is the simplest way of get flying in NZ. (This mostly revolves around a minimum of 15hrs total airtime) However, my aim is to help lower airtime (but suitably experienced – but not necessarily HGFA PG-3 rated) pilots fly in NZ. Lower airtime pilots learn so much from flying new, sometimes challenging and definitely rewarding sites in the supportive and “skill enhancing” environment that our tours supply. Your skill level will be greatly enhanced and you’ll return with a whole new outlook on what Paragliding is all about.

*So if you are still HGFA PG-2 (Novice/Supervised) **but** feel that you have the necessary skills to comfortably fly from shallow/undulating/steep mountain launches in light/thermic/fresh wind, as well as the ability to land in land in possibly tight fields in light thermic conditions, the we can help you.*

For those who can’t gain their HGFA PG-3 rating before departing for NZ, then the other option is as follows:

Join the NZHGPA as a full member and then complete the requirements for the issue of the NZHGPA PG2 rating. (minimum airtime required is 90min)

The PG2 requirements are fairly simple and can be viewed [here](#)

<http://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=bnpoZ3BhLm9yZy5uenxuemhncGF8Z3g6NzViZTU1YWYxZWY5NTZmNw>

You will also need to complete two theory exams to finalise the process.

As a registered NZHGPA instructor, I am available to help sign up any suitably skilled pilot to NZHGPA PG2.

So, if this sounds like a tour that you would love to be a part of, please reply ASAP and I will forward further information.

Thanks again for your interest.

Phil Hystek
CFI Paragliding Queensland.

FAQ's

What type of advice/ instruction will be offered during the tour ?

There will be a morning briefing and strategy planning each day where we will discuss the site to be used for the day. If multiple sites are used on any one day, then there will be a thorough site briefing for each site.

We'll be offering ridge soaring and thermalling advice on an "as required" basis. Our aim is to allow all pilots to achieve their best on each day and to extend their ability as much as possible during the tour.

There will be a daily social de-brief at the conclusion of each flying day where we will discuss any issue you want to raise about the days flying.

What type of flying will we be doing?

We will be flying a number of different sites during the tour which may include high mountain glides, small hill ridge soaring, mountain ridge soaring and thermal flying.

Will I have to fly at every site visited?

No, even though we will be choosing sites which offer easy launch and landings, you shouldn't feel compelled to fly if you are not comfortable with the site or conditions if they are outside your skill level. I will have my tandem glider available for those pilots who want "one on one" site specific instruction.

What if I want different accommodation than that suggested?

If you decide to stay in accommodation other than that used by the majority of the tour group, we will happily dropped of in the evening and collected each morning by the tour bus. It is more enjoyable for the group to stay in the same accommodation but again, it's up to you.

The house has 2 double bedrooms reserved for couples or single ladies.

How much will the accommodation cost?

\$45 per night.

When do the tours start and finish?

Sth Is Tour #1 starts at 10am on Sunday February 3rd 2018. At Queenstown Airport but will be able to collect pilots from a central meeting point or possibly collect from your accommodation in Queenstown if easier.

Tour #1 finishes 11am (or thereabouts) Monday Feb 11th 2018 . We can drop pilots off at the accommodation of your choice or at the airport.

Tour #2 starts at 3pm on Monday Feb 11th 2018. We plan to meet at the Queenstown Airport but will be able to collect pilots from a central meeting point or possibly collect from your accommodation in Queenstown if easier.

Tour #2 finishes noon (or thereabouts) Tuesday Feb 19th 2018 . We can drop pilots off at the accommodation of your choice or at the airport.

North Island Tour starts at 10am on Friday January 22nd 2018. We plan to meet at the Auckland Airport but will be able to collect pilots from a central meeting point or possibly collect from your accommodation in Auckland if easier.

North Island Tour finishes noon (or thereabouts) Saturday March 2nd 2018 . We can drop pilots off at the accommodation of your choice or at the airport.

What is the contingency for bad weather?

Given the number of flying sites in the area we will be visiting, we should be able to find somewhere flyable for all but exceptional circumstances. However, if severe weather conditions prohibit flying in all sites within easy reach, then there are numerous adventure activities available and we will be using the tour bus to access as many of these as possible.

In the event of strong winds, we will have a number of Gin Bobcat Speedwings available for ground handling practice and small flights for those interested.

Will my Australian mobile phone work in N.Z?

Yes, but my suggestion is to get your phone unlocked and purchase a N.Z. based pre-paid SIM card.

Do I need insurance for flying in N.Z.

Yes. Travel insurance, including repatriation cover is mandatory for all participants on our tours.

For insurance coverage, we recommend contacting Sascha Russel:

Travelscene AMEX Bright 102 Gavan St, Bright 3741

Ph 61) 03 57551121 Fax 61)03 57552230

email: sascha@tsbright.com.au

WHAT GEAR TO TAKE:

FOR PILOT RETRIEVAL: To make it easy for you to be retrieved after your flights, I recommend you fly with a SPOT personal satellite GPS tracker. <http://international.findmespot.com/> We will try to ensure that the retrieval bus is equipped with a GPS tracker and finding you via your SPOT reference will be much easier. The SPOT will also allow tracking while you are airborne. Please contact me for more information regarding SPOT tracking

RADIO: All pilots will need to carry a UHF radio along with a speaker mic or some other type of in air communication ability. A finger operated activation device is highly recommended along with a “wind noise” shielded microphone.

Please note the earlier reference to the need for VHF for those pilots wanting to fly from “Black Peak”

RESERVE PARACHUTE: Bring your freshly repacked reserve parachute.

FLYING SUIT: or other warm flying gear. Even though we are flying in the middle of summer, New Zealand will most likely offer cool flying conditions, so don’t be caught out in the cold. Good quality gloves including thermal glove liners are highly recommended.

CAMERA OR VIDEO GEAR. This will be a trip to remember, and it’ll be much easier to remember if you’ve got photos and video. Most pilots fly with a “GoPro” or similar. *PLEASE make sure that your camera is affixed in a location, that will not case “line snagging “ during inflation or launching.*

NON FLYING CLOTHING etc. N.Z. can be warm in summer but it’s renown for throwing weather related “curved balls”. Bring a range of both cold and warm weather cloths and don’t forget your swimmers as there are some stunning mountain lakes and streams that offer a refreshing cool down on those hot days.





If you have any more questions regarding the tour, please email me at info@pgqld.com.au

Make sure to check out the following videos.

2015 [2015 NZ video](#)

2012 [2012 NZ tour video](#)

And some comments from our previous pilots.

Well, what an experience.... I simply and honestly did not think that my flying skill set could increase so dramatically

I can safely say that all of us had an appreciation for the ever so subtle encouragement coming over channel 20 from Phil... and to commend a NZ paragliding tour with PGQLD to you all Queensland Paragliding certainly have this Wanaka tour finely tuned.

It is worth every cent.

"I saw the Curioius Goat New Zealand tour as supplying a range of flying & high glides, grades of easiness, revealing numerous scenic wonders, offering varying sites within comfortable traveling times, being economically attractive and providing great company." Bruce Hands

Hi Phil ,

I doubt ill be able to make it to Europe this year.. However i am a defiante for New Zealand next year if you can put my name down please .. and hopefully Europe next year too ...

New Zealand for me was a trip / flight that was something i so badly needed and it far exceeded all my Expectations .. Ive never wanted to thermal as i was scared of it .. however after discovering it and your brilliant teaching i felt safe to explore and im so glad that i did !!! ..

Look forward to hearing from you

*Brgds
Michael*

Hi Everyone,

Just wanted to say to everyone thank you all for such a great holiday. Kate and I couldn't have hoped for a better trip. The flying was great but the company really made the trip!

The highlights for me were climbing out past Phil and Kate (at least for 10 seconds!) at Treble Cone and the quick flight at Coronet Peak ahead of the shower where I got to put a few rapid decent techniques to practice.

I think Phil deserves a special thank you for being game enough to accept me on the trip and for doing such a great job organising it. Neil for being such great guide. I really enjoyed the local knowledge and stories and his local flying and weather knowledge put us in the best places at the best times. Chef Alastair and everyone else who helped make some really enjoyable meals.

I thought that Phil's video was tops. It really brought me back there when I watched it. There is some really great footage in there and it has been really well cut. If anybody else puts any video together I would love to see it and if I have the patience to put something together I will send you a link too.

Barry.

Dear all,

I most certainly agree with Barry. It was an amazing trip, so much better than I ever expected and I too have many thanks.

Firstly to my God for putting on the great weather!!!

Then, of course to Phil and his knowledge and a willingness to take on and encourage a bunch of spazzies!! (Or should I speak for myself??? lol) But spazzies no more!! Even as a teacher I don't think I could take on the stress and responsibility required to do what Phil does.

To Neil. A wonderful host with a wealth of kiwi knowledge and also a fair whack of patience to be involved with an

eclectic bunch of Aussies (and Al!)

Highlights were similar to Barry, that first thermal where I got to cloudbase (almost??) at TC with my voice-activated vario was fantastic!!! Waterfalls, hawks, views. Followed by the wing overs and spiral dive at Coronet also. Thirdly, was the river rapids, so refreshing so needed!!

The video is great Phil. Go for it! Top job!

Love you all!!!!

Moe

Hi Guys ,

How are you ?? I just finished writing an email with the drop box but figured that i probably should address you both personally ..

I can't thank you enough for your patience and help that you both showed me other the tour .. It was my first tour and first inland flying experience.. It will be a trip that i will never forget and memories ill think about every day! ..

You both put on a very Professional Tour with great laughs and constant Entertainment ..

I only got around to filling out my logbook today and im happy to say and ironic how it worked out but my Wanaka Crossing turned out to be my 500th flight !!! ... I knew it was coming up but forgot to keep track of it over the tour (Having to much fun) .. So that was a nice number to cap of a flight ill never forget !! ..

Thank again to you both !! . I hope to keep in contact and catch up with you both soon

Brgds

Michael

***SO... JOIN US ON THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME, AND ONE THAT
WILL CHANGE YOUR FLYING FOREVER.***