

Māwheranui/The Upper-Grey River Two Day Adventure

This two day journey, with grade 2 and 3 rapids, takes you through the heart of the West Coast. The lush green native beech forest and steep-walled gorges with a backdrop of rugged mountains are spectacular. Come and experience the best of New Zealand's backcountry with us.



The Māwheranui/Upper Grey River

The Grey district is known as Māwhera in Te Reo Māori. Māwhera means widespread. Nui means many or big and iti means little hence the names Māwheranui for what is the larger Grey River and Māwheraiti for the Little Grey River.

Māwheranui/The Grey River begins in the Southern Alps as the Blue Grey River, at Lake Cristobel, which is a day's hike in from the Lewis Pass. The river runs through native beech forests, steep gorges and farmland for 120 kilometres before meeting the Tasman Sea at Greymouth.

The part of the river that is known as the Upper Grey begins where the Blue Grey and Brown Grey rivers meet and ends 25kms south of Reefton. Māwheranui/The Upper Grey River is renowned as trout fishing heaven and this is one of the activities you could include on your journey if you wish.

Much of the scenery on this trip is difficult or impossible to access from anywhere but the river making what you see truly unique.

The West Coast is an extremely special part of New Zealand. Come and experience its beauty with us!



Day One



We begin our adventure at 9.00am in Reefton and drive for around an hour to Māwheranui/The Upper Grey River. When you arrive at the river all you need to do is transfer your camp clothes into dry bags, and get changed into the river gear, both of which are provided. After listening to a comprehensive safety briefing we set off. No previous rafting experience is needed as our guides will teach you everything you need to know before we start.

We get to practice and refine our paddle strokes straight away as the first part of the river has plenty of rocks for us to manoeuvre around. For the first four kms beech trees come right down to the river's edge. This really is a West Coast journey.

Before lunch we push through some entertaining rapids including the log jam. Your guides may stop here to see if any recent floods have caused log jam to live up to its name.

The river then opens into wide valley with grade 2 rapids. Looking back up stream we get a great view of Mt Rameses, which at 1,453m towers over the river.

We make camp on one of the many beautiful spots on the river's edge. We will have a meal cooked over the open fire and share some laughs before heading to bed.

Day Two

After a delicious breakfast we begin the second leg of our adventure. The river this morning is really fun. The hills tighten up and we tackle the rock garden section. The steep slopes surrounding the area are covered in rich and varied shades of green. Moss, beech and fern create a magical scene and we can not decide if it is more beautiful on a clear or misty day.

After floating past the tall waterfall that we have nicknamed 'the Lady of the Grey' we start to meet the biggest waves and rocks of Māwheranui/The Upper Grey. These include the rapids called Double Rock and Annie's Waves. Annie's Waves is a super fun wave chain that take us on a gentle roller coaster all the way to lunch.

There is no better way to finish our journey but to float through the Gentle Annie Gorge. This spectacular steep walled canyon will take your breath away. As the only way to access the gorge is via Māwheranui/The Upper Grey River you will be one of the lucky few who have experienced its beauty. This river is a bit of a show off as shortly after leaving the first gorge we enter a second gorge, equally as stunning. On a hot day these gorges are great places to have a swim, float on your back in the deep pools and just marvel at the landscape around you.

We reach our end point in the mid afternoon and we normally arrive back in Reefton at around 4.00pm.



Camping and Food

Each night we choose a campsite with stunning views of the surrounding area. While we prepare the food, you can take time out to swim, try your luck with a fishing rod, chat to your guides or just sit back and take in the scenery.



All food is supplied for the trip: two lunches, a hearty dinner and breakfast in the morning. If you have any special dietary requirements or any strong food preferences please let us know in advance. Some on-river snacks will be supplied but feel free to bring some of your own favourites. You can also bring some wine/beer for the evening at camp. If you decide to bring beer please bring cans or plastic bottles rather than glass.



The Basics

Pick up times: 09.00am from
Reefton

Duration: 2 Days

Age limit: 10 years and above

Cost: Adult - \$800 per Person /

Child - \$700 (10-18 years)

Please don't hesitate to call us for
more information.

You need to bring

For Camping

Sleeping bag (supplied on request, \$40 hire fee)

Warm clothes for camp

Warm hat

Raincoat

Small torch

Shoes to wear around camp

Towel

Insect repellent

Toiletries

For the River

Swimwear/underwear for under the wetsuit

(two piece for ladies recommended, a one piece is hard to toilet in)

Old running shoes

Sunscreen

Personal medication i.e. asthma inhaler

Don't forget to pack your sense of adventure!

Inland Adventures will supply

Helmets

Life jackets

Wetsuits

Splash jacket

Thermal top

Wetsuit socks

Small dry bags for sunscreen etc

Big dry bags for your clothing etc

Tent

Camping mattress



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