

200803 New Zealand (South Island)

Our first trip together !! Anne went early so that she could visit her friends near Wellington. We then met up in Queenstown and both enjoyed exploring the area climbing Queenstown Hill and up to the Gondola with spectacular views of Queenstown and surroundings. We then joined our guides for Ultimate Hikes' 6-day Grand Traverse trek together with a collection of other Kiwis and Aussies. Dave had been on the trek before with his daughter but this was Anne's first trek - we both found it to be a very rewarding experience on many counts. After the trek we drove back to Christchurch via the west coast including Wanaka, Haarst (sand flies) and Fox Glacier plus a very rewarding flight over much of the South Island. Our trip ended with a sumptuous meal at Annie's Bar in Christchurch.



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Anne visits her friends Jenny and Richard near Wellington

A good time was had by all as Jenny enjoyed her 'real' birthday having been born on the last day of February in a leap year!

Jenny and Anne first met on the...

6 images



Dave and Anne explore Queenstown

We spent a couple of days in Queenstown exploring the town and surroundings. We climbed up Queenstown Hill (just to the east of the city) on top of which we saw...

7 images



Grand Traverse Day 1 - Elfin Bay to Steele Creek

Our first day on the Grand Traverse. The bus took us to Glenorchy at the head of Lake Wakatipu. We crossed the lake by boat to the start of the trek near Elfin...

15 images



Grand Traverse Day 2 - Steele Creek to Lake McKellar

After a hearty breakfast, we continue through a sea of red tussock grass on the Greenstone River flats. Ancient pines and cottonwoods cling to the sheer...

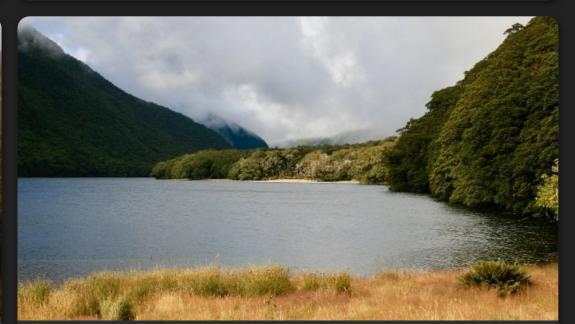
18 images



Grand Traverse Day 3 - Lake McKellar

Day 3 was supposed to be our rest day. The weather was not very nice but we all decided to hike up to the lookout up the steep slope through dense vegetation of...

4 images



Grand Traverse Day 4 - Lake McKellar to Lake Mackenzie

The track follows the sides of Lake McKellar and Lake Howden where we had a welcome hot drink and lunch at the Lake Howden DOC Hut. The weather prevented us...

16 images



Grand Traverse Day 5 - Lake Mackenzie to Routeburn Falls

We started by climbing up from the Lake Mackenzie valley and with improving weather we were able to enjoy spectacular views of the Darren Mountains and the...

39 images



Grand Traverse Day 6 - Routeburn Falls to Road Fnd

The last day was on a well-made track down to the Routeburn River valley flats. After a morning cuppa we continued on a more gentle track. Our lunch spot beside...

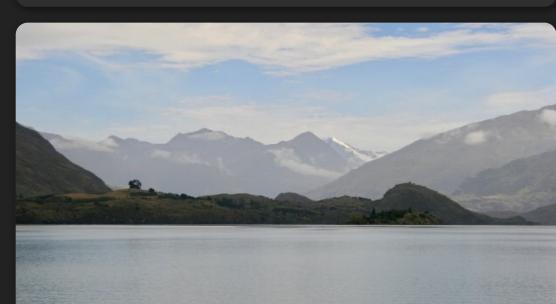
31 images



Doubtful Sound bus and boat tour

We took a bus and boat tour from Queenstown to Doubtful Sound. The bus trip to Lake Manapouri is long and not very interesting. We crossed the Lake on a ferry...

26 images



Queenstown via Wanaka to Haast

We hired a car to take us back to Christchurch. Our first stop was at the old settlement of Arrowtown - very pretty and full of tourists. We then proceeded...

17 images



Haast to Franz Josef

From Haast we drove north along or near to the west coast.

Our first stop was at Knight's Point where the lookout provides good views of the Point, offshore...

20 images



Glaciers Flight from Franz Josef

We were lucky to be be able to organise a small plane flight with Air Safaris on their Grand Traverse from Franz Josef Airport. The route took us over the Fox...

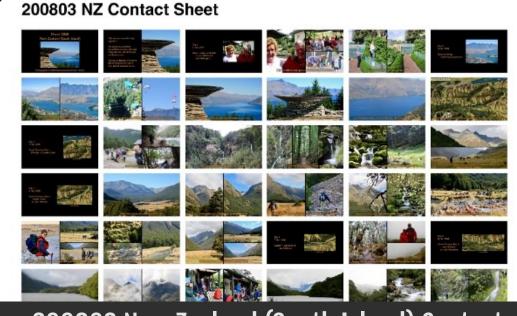
29 images



Franz Josef to Christchurch via Arthur's Pass

Travelling north along the Franz Josef and Harikari Highways we made our way up the west coast to Greymouth. There was a long delay on the Arthur's Pass road...

14 images



200803 New Zealand (South Island) Contact Sheets

Thumbnail images of all slides in Fotomagico presentation.

4 images

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Grand Traverse (Greenstone and Routeburn)

Ultimate Hikes



Anne visits her friends Jenny and Richard near Wellington

A good time was had by all as Jenny enjoyed her 'real' birthday having been born on the last day of February in a leap year! Jenny and Anne first met on the farm where Anne and her parents were working hard trying to succeed at farming mainly with dairy cattle - Jenny was a student on farm experience at the time. Few opportunities for meeting up again meant that they were very happy to finally have some time together after so many years.





Jenny's 68th birthday party



Jenny and Richard at Jenny's 68th birthday party



Jenny and Richard at work in the garden



Part of Jenny and Richard's garden



Jenny's horse with the vet plus Jenny, Richard and dog



Jenny's horse with the vet



Dave and Anne explore Queenstown

We spent a couple of days in Queenstown exploring the town and surroundings. We climbed up Queenstown Hill (just to the east of the city) on top of which we saw the beautiful Basket of Dreams sculpture and enjoyed a surreal experience as well. We also went up to the Gondola by cablecar to enjoy spectacular views of Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu and mountain scenery. We walked back down through the trees to Queenstown and packed for our trek.



Towards the east - Queenstown's airport and The Remarkables



Queenstown with The Remarkables in the background



Gondola cablecar and the Ledge Bungy and Swing



Paragliders heading down towards Queenstown



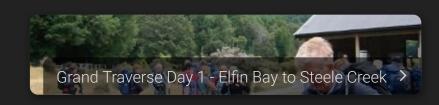
The Basket of Dreams and Lake Wakatipu to the west

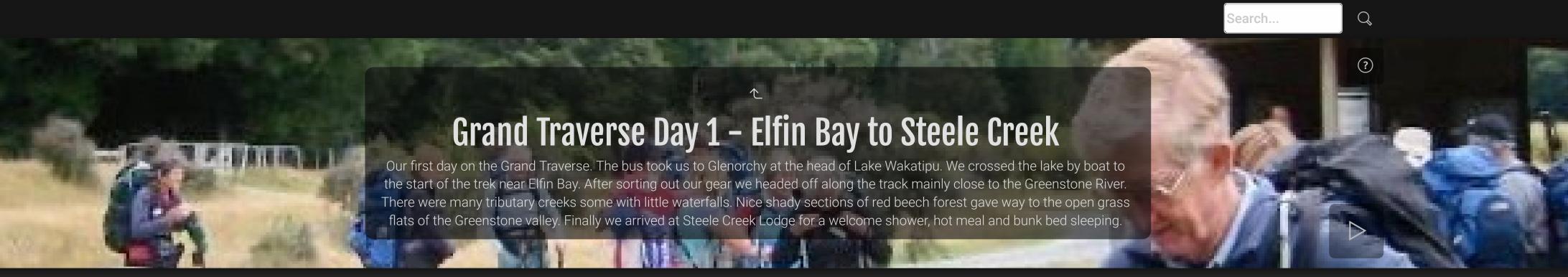


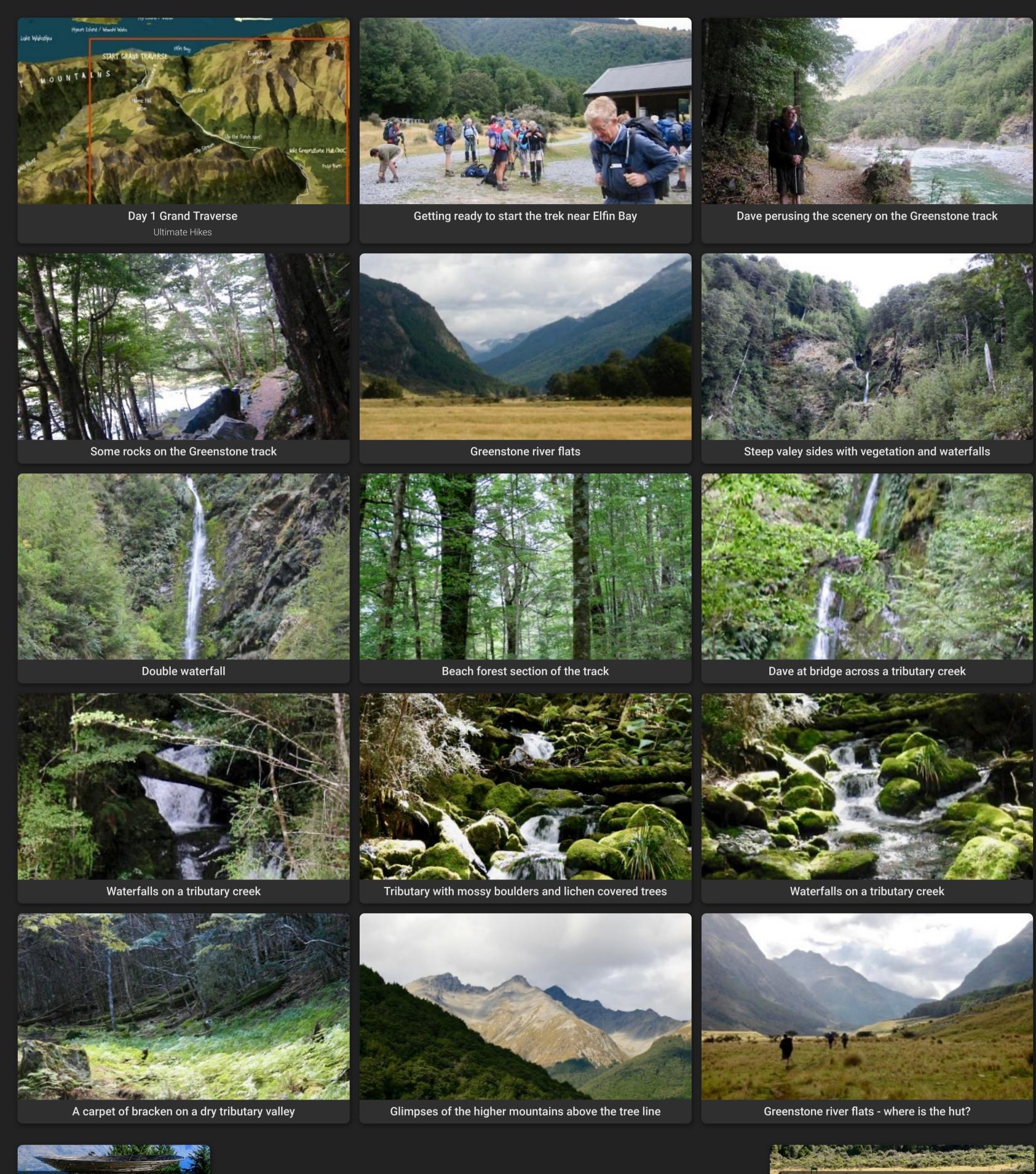
The Basket of Dreams with Lake Wakatipu and mountains behind





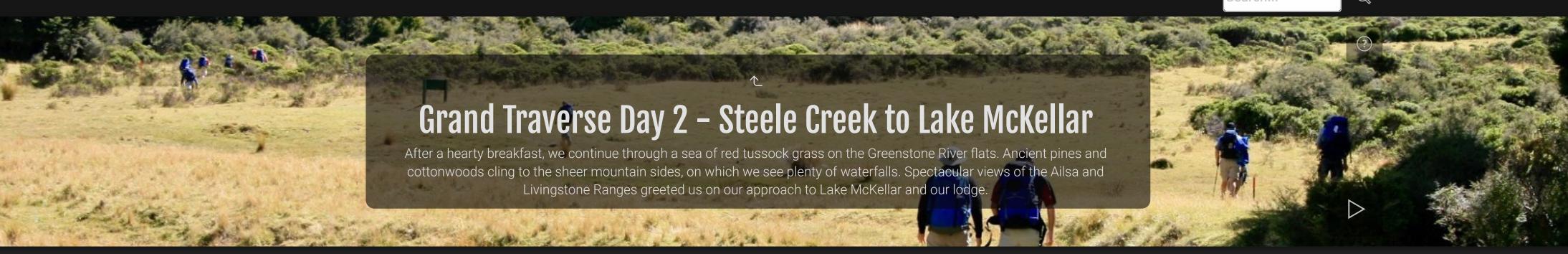






Grand Traverse Day 2 - Steele Creek to Lake McKellar >

Dave and Anne explore Queenstown





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Grand Traverse Day 3 - Lake McKellar

Day 3 was supposed to be our rest day. The weather was not very nice but we all decided to hike up to the lookout up the steep slope through dense vegetation of shrubs, trees and smaller plants. We were hoping that the top would be above the cloud but instead we saw a view of nothing at all!!



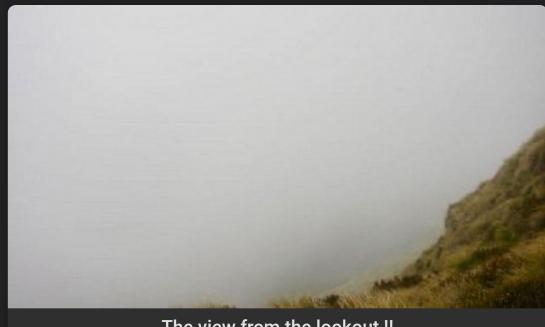




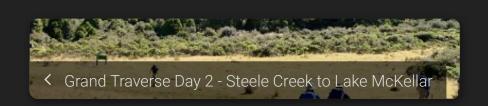


Track to lookout passes through dense trees and shrubs

[Guide photo]



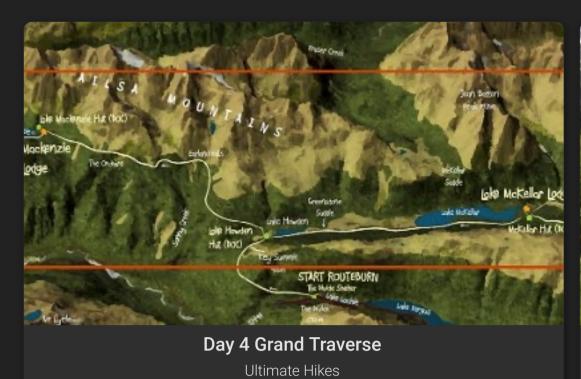




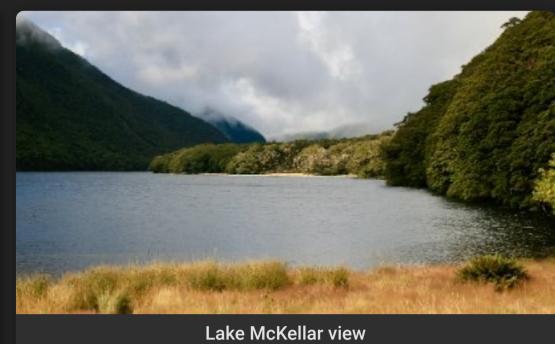


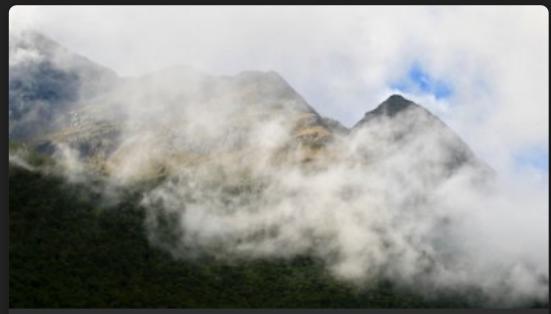
Grand Traverse Day 4 - Lake McKellar to Lake Mackenzie

The track follows the sides of Lake McKellar and Lake Howden where we had a welcome hot drink and lunch at the Lake Howden DOC Hut. The weather prevented us from going up to Key Summit. After lunch we crossed over the valley at the head of Lake Howden and then gradually ascended to the spectacular 174 m high Earland Falls. Crossing through the falls was quite tricky as it was very wet, slippery and noisy. The track gradually descends (mainly) down to our lodge at Lake Mackenzie. A good day in spite of the weather.

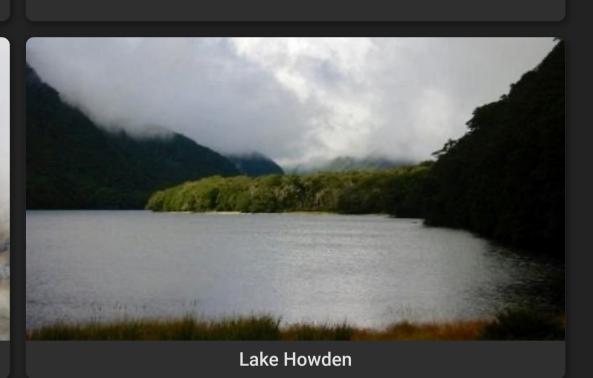














Glimpses of the mopuntains when the cloud cleared



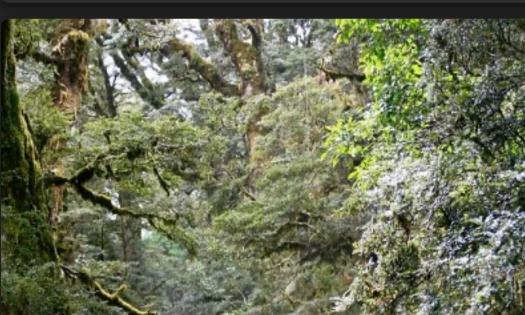




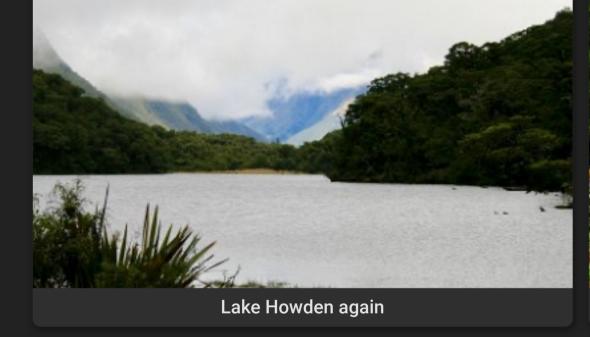




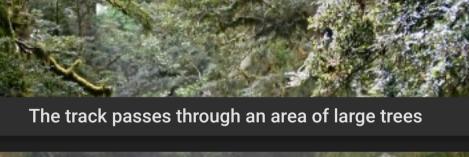




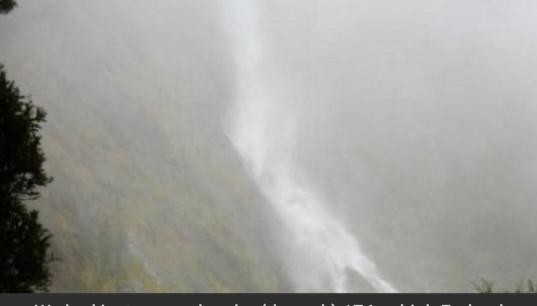
Misty trees













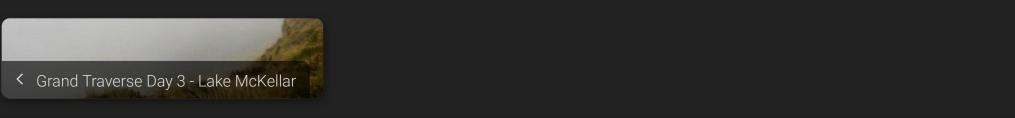
Waterfalls abound

We had just crossed under (through) 174 m high Earland Falls very noisy and wet



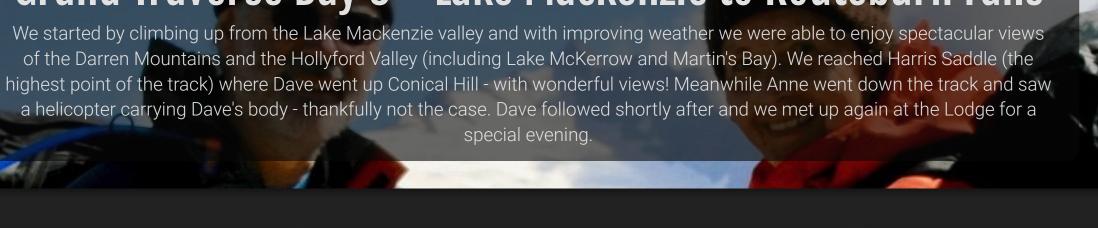


[Guide photo]



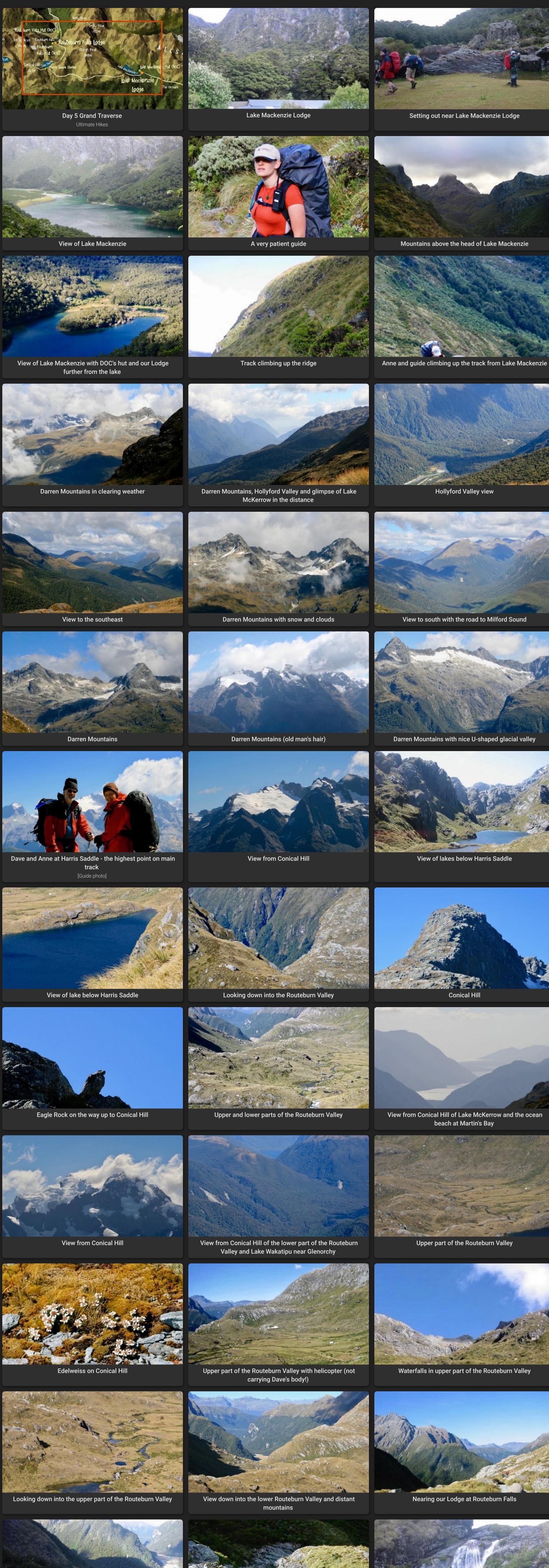






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Search...



At the top of the Routeburn Falls with our Lodge and the

valley below

Upper part of the Routeburn Falls

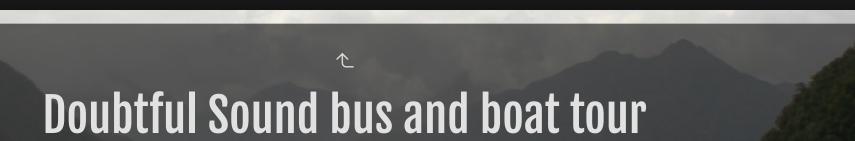
The Routeburn Falls from near the Lodge









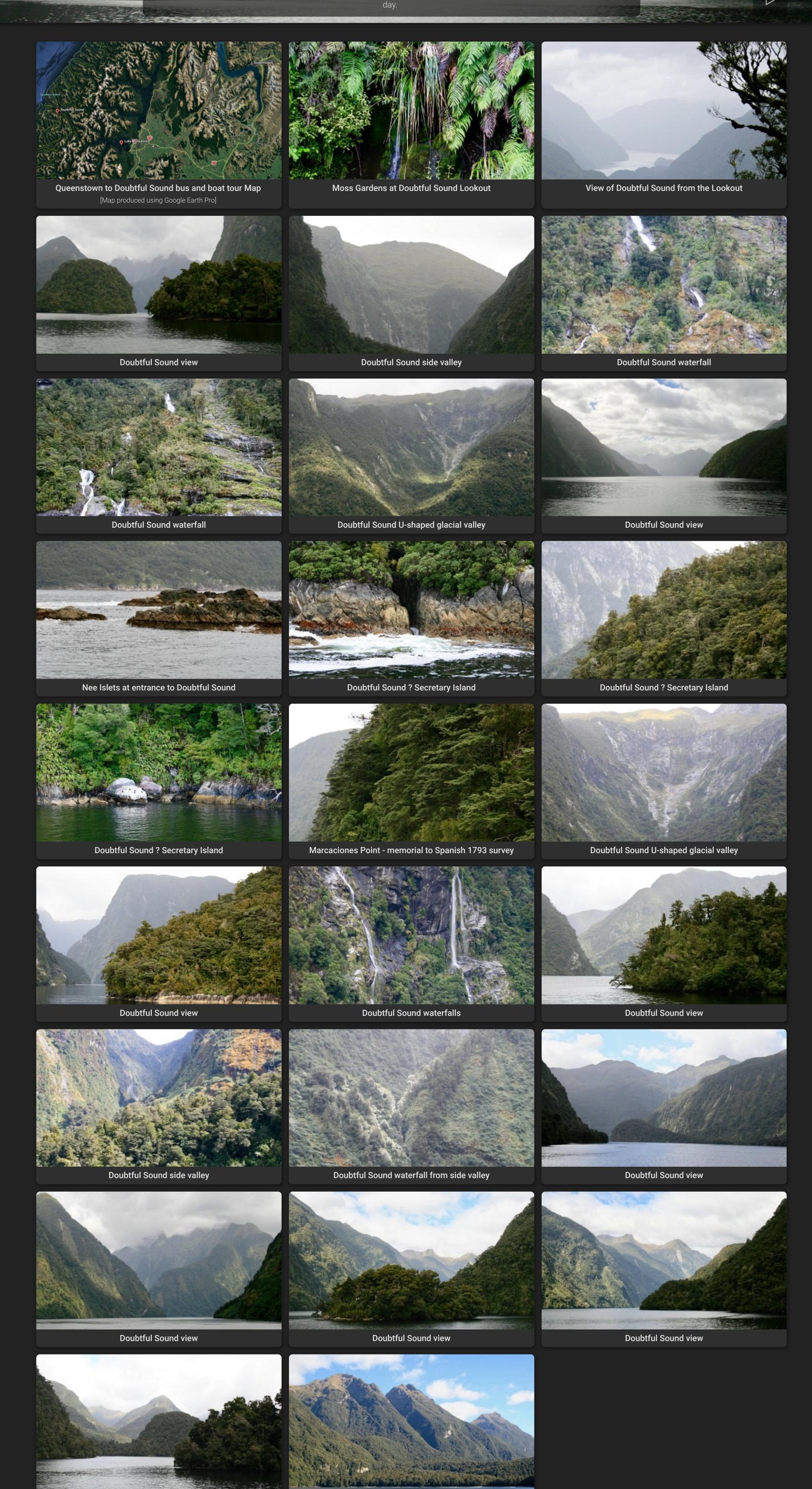


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Search...

We took a bus and boat tour from Queenstown to Doubtful Sound. The bus trip to Lake Manapouri is long and not very interesting. We crossed the Lake on a ferry and joined another bus to take us across the Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound. We boarded our large boat for the exploration of Doubtful Sound. The weather wasn't great and there had not been very much rain for the waterfalls. The cruise around the many arms of the sound seemed to go on for ever as the cruise tries to show off most of the large fjord system. On the way back we were shown over the Lake Manapouri hydro-electric power station in which New Zealanders take great pride. The return bus trip to Queenstown was very quiet as most people were asleep. A good but very long





Doubtful Sound view

Copyright: Dave Johnson and Anne Molver 2008-2025 -- See also our website

Hunter Mountains from Lake Manapouri



Queenstown via Wanaka to Haast

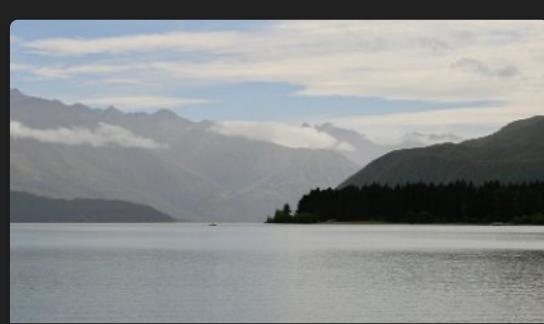
We hired a car to take us back to Christchurch. Our first stop was at the old settlement of Arrowtown - very pretty and full of tourists. We then proceeded northwards over the hills along the Carona Highway to Wanaka - a very pretty place at the southern end of beautiful Lake Wanaka. After lunch we continued north via Lake Hawea and then back over The Neck to Lake Wanaka. North again through Makarora up to the Haast Pass. The Gates of Haast waterfall was flowing well and many other waterfalls and wonderful river scenes were enjoyed. We ended our day in the little coastal town of Haast and enjoyed the beach very briefly as we were eaten alive by mossies and sandflies. We had another encounter with them later that night after dinner.







Lake Wanaka from Wanaka at the southern end



Lake Wanaka from Wanaka at the southern end



Lake Hawea southwards from The Neck



Lake Wanaka southwards from The Neck



Lake Wanaka southwards from The Neck



Fantail Falls on Haast River



Anne taking photos of Fantail Falls on Haast River



Haast River just below Fantail Falls



Top of Gates of Haast Falls



Top of Gates of Haast Falls



Gates of Haast Falls



Gates of Haast Falls



Valley side view near Gates of Haast Falls



Thunder Creek Falls on Haast River



sandflies



Doubtful Sound bus and boat tour











Knight's Point from the lookout



Rocks at Knight's Point



Rocks at Knight's Point



Rocks at Knight's Point



The beach at Bruce Bay



Mt Cook and other peaks from near Fox Glacier town



Mt Cook and other peaks from near Fox Glacier town



Reflections on Lake Matheson near Fox Glacier town



Reflections on Lake Matheson near Fox Glacier town



Dave inspecting the vegetation on the path to Lake Matheson near Fox Glacier town





Foot of Fox Glacier



Foot of Fox Glacier with meltwater exit cave



Foot of Fox Glacier



Foot of Fox Glacier



Foot of Fox Glacier with meltwater exit cave

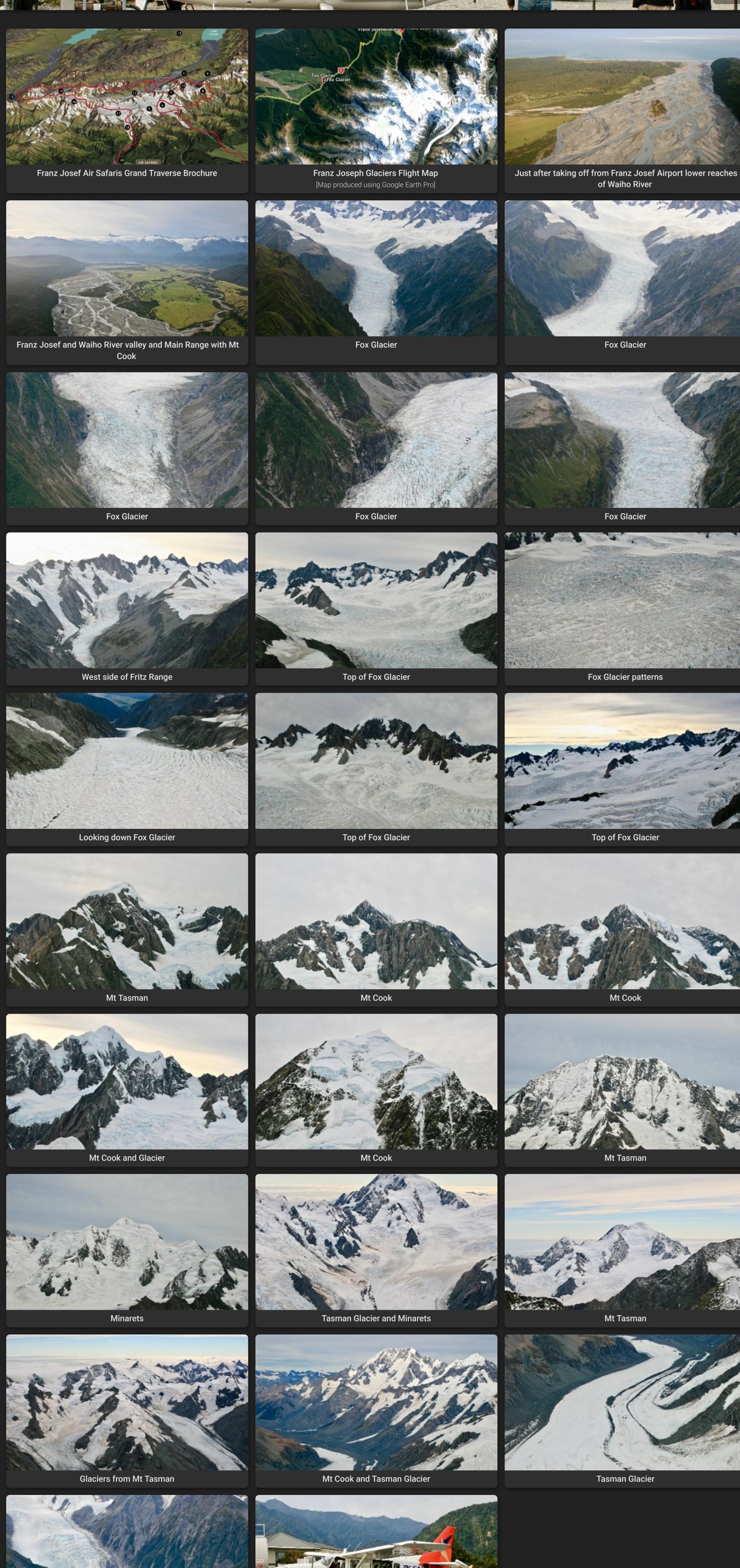


Vertical strata in Fox Glacier valley rocks



Snowy peaks near Fox Glacier head

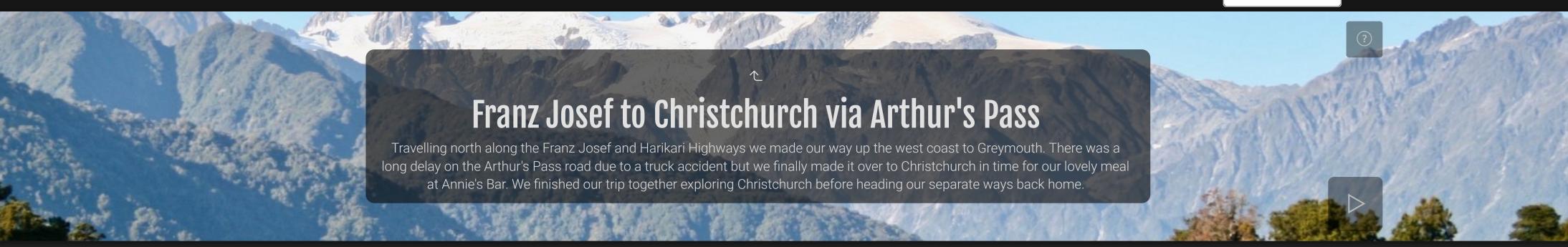


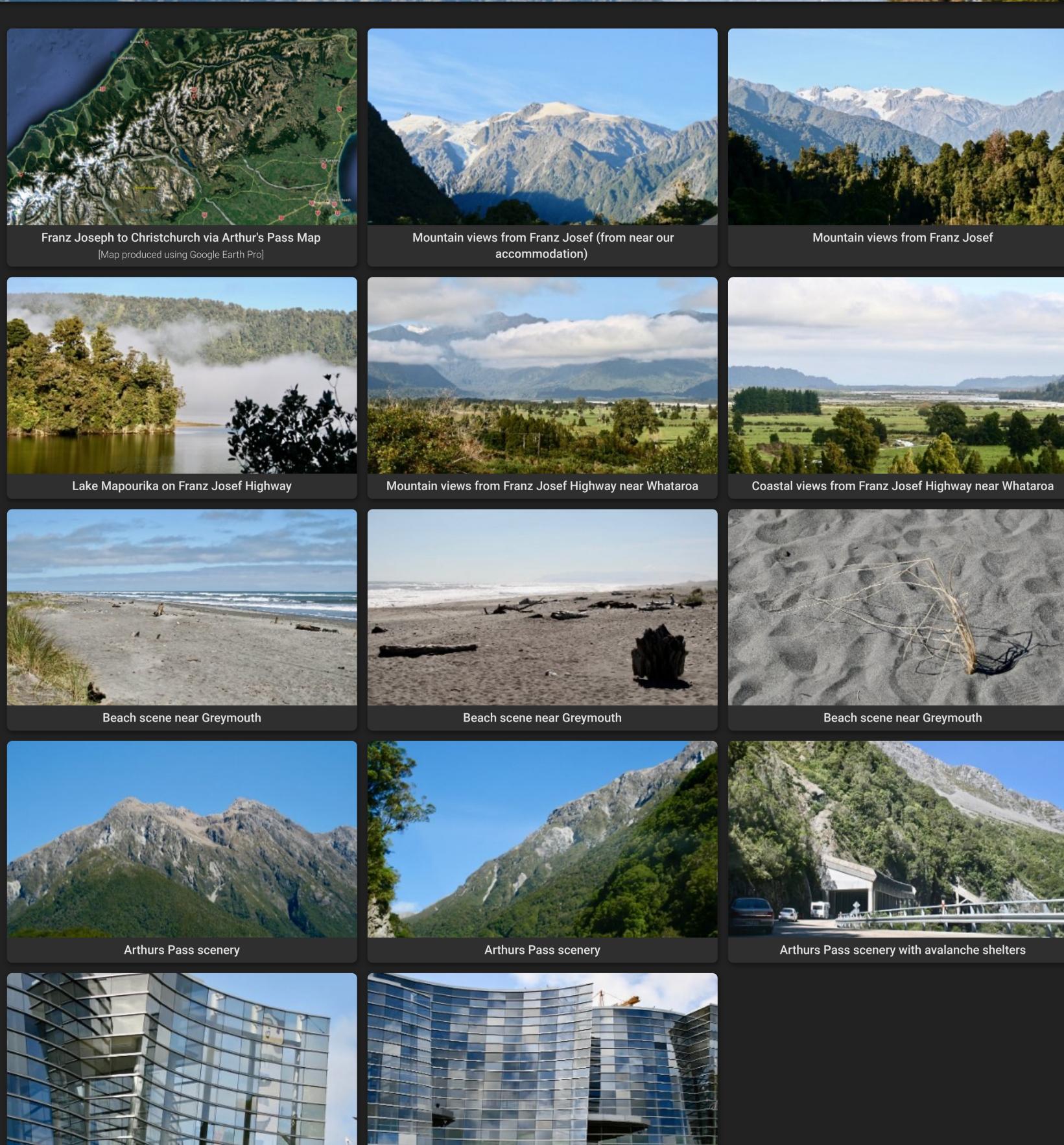




Franz Josef Glacier

Our plane for the Glaciers Flight







Christchurch Art Gallery



Christchurch Art Gallery











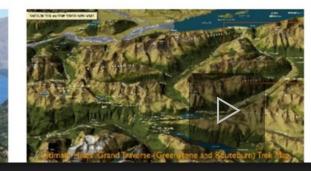


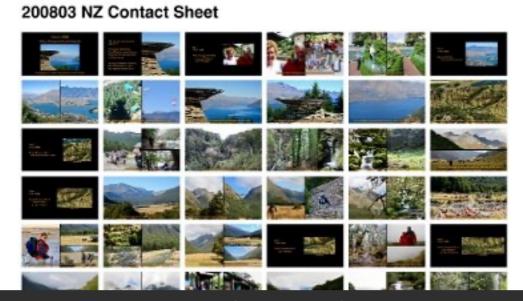


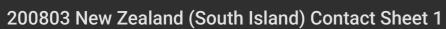




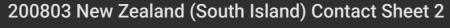














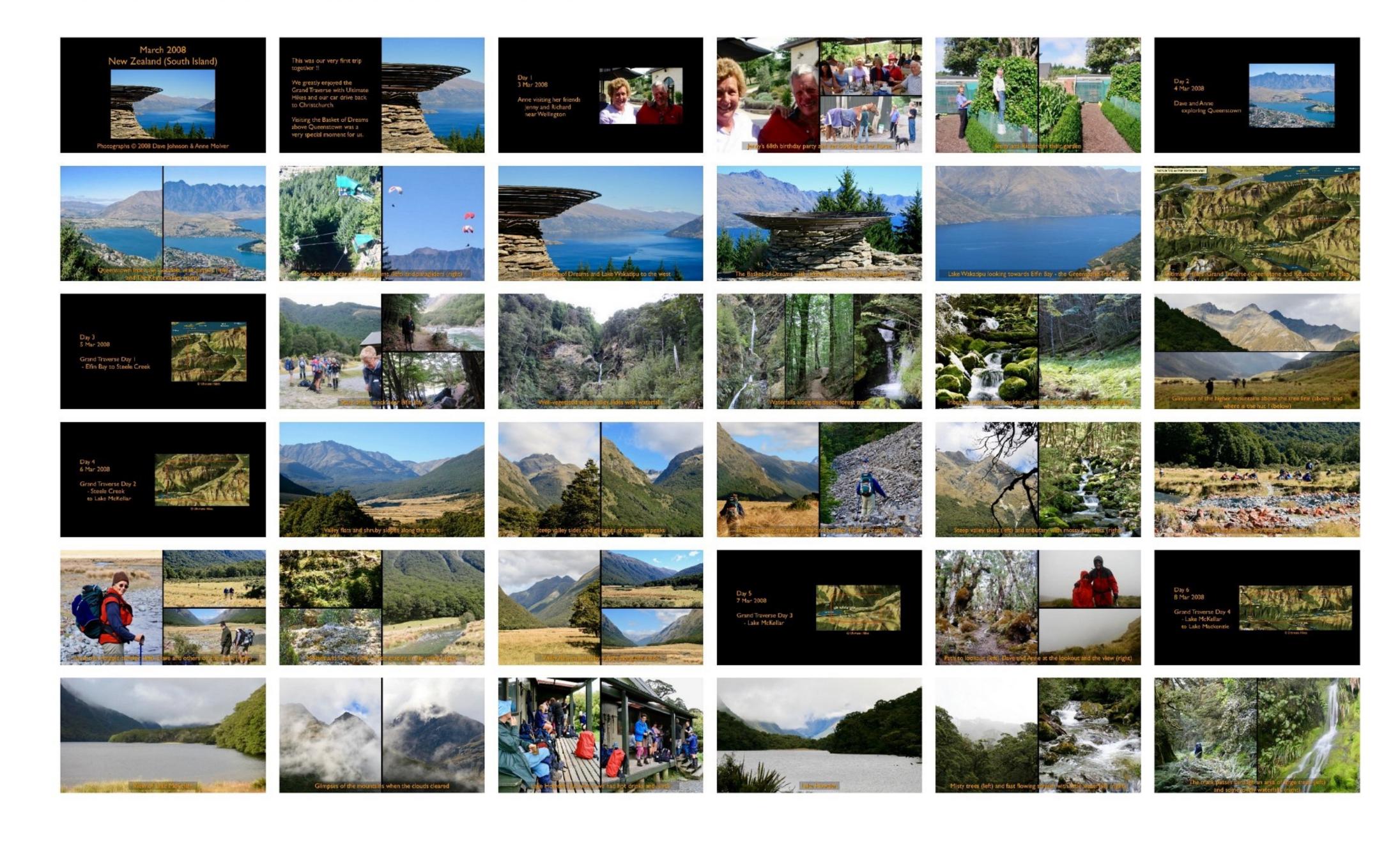
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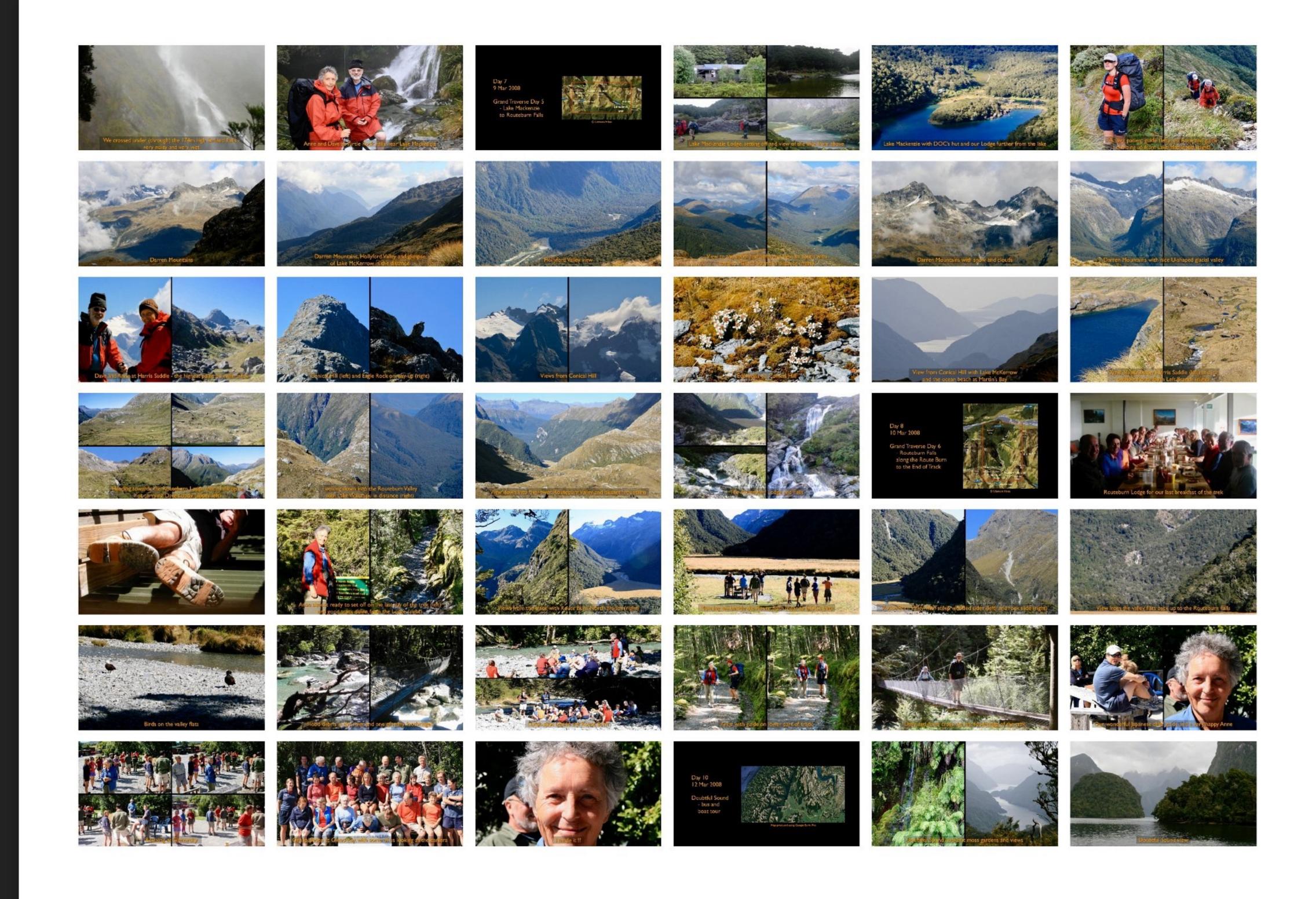


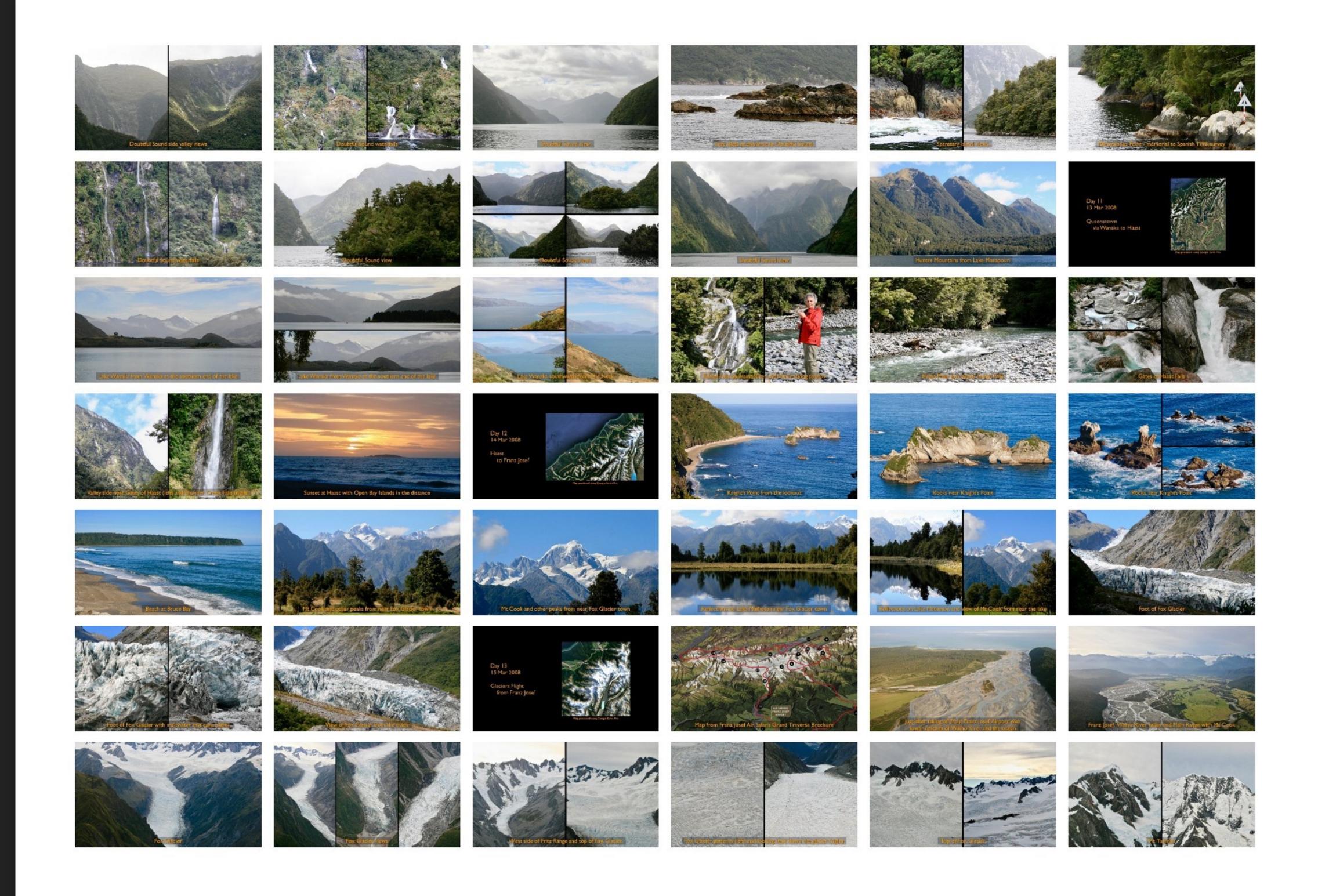
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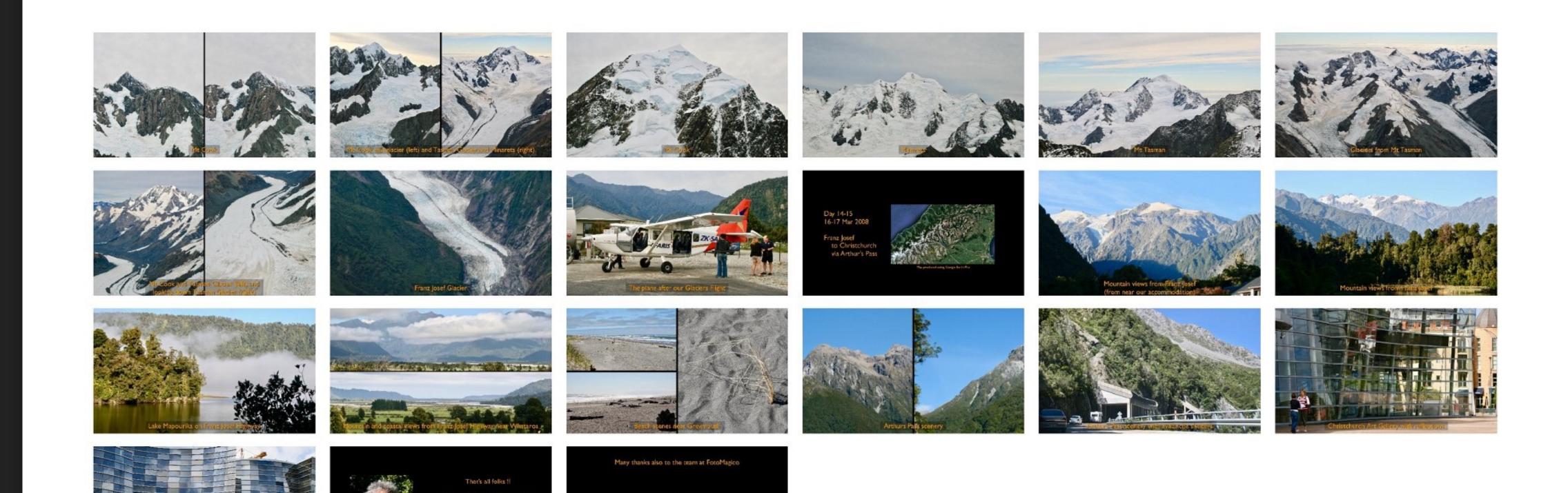


200803 NZ Contact Sheet













Ultimate Hikes