



HIRE OR BUY?

For any of our trips, whether they be climbing, skiing or hiking, there will always be a balance between hiring and buying expensive gear. With many airlines also becoming increasingly strict about overweight luggage - the decision to hire or buy becomes important.

Here are our thoughts and recommendations on a couple of specific issues:

1. Don't rush in & buy lots of shiny new expensive equipment!! If this is your first time doing a particular trip - particularly mountaineering or ski touring, it is often a good idea to hold off making any major investment in expensive equipment until you know that you like the sport and want to do more. For all our climbing trips - much of the expensive technical equipment (crampons, ice-axes, harness, helmet etc) - is already included free of charge. If you really do wish to buy your own equipment see our list of recommended retailers. In Wanaka or Queenstown area the staff in the sport shops have good local knowledge about the area and the conditions.

2. Hire or buy boots? Hire boots will rarely be as comfortable as your own "well worn-in" boots. However for mountaineering trips it makes sense to hire if it's your first trip. But if you have feet smaller than EU36/UK3.5 or larger than EU48/UK13 we only have a limited range of sizes available for hire and you will need to invest in your own boots. If you do decide to buy boots - make sure they are suitable for your intended use - eg. hiking boots are not suitable for mountaineering & viceversa, and make sure you buy them well ahead of time so you can wear them in.

3. Touring Ski / Snowboard Equipment - if you are hiring this equipment & you have not used it before, we highly recommend that you allow enough time in your itinerary to try out this equipment in one of our local ski resorts rather than just use it for the very first time on one of our multi-day ski / snowboard touring trips. Joining us for a 1 day Backcountry Day Tour is a good investment.

4. Clothing - for health reasons we don't hire a huge range of clothing. Make sure you watch our equipment videos carefully and try and get your clothing choices as close to our suggestions as possible. If you have space, bring some options and your guide can help you decide during gear check at start of trip.

5. Trip Optional Equipment - This is a separate section on most of our gear checklists. Variable weather and mountain conditions means that it is impossible to predict whether you need this optional equipment or not. For example, even in mid-summer, unseasonal heavy snowfall may mean that you need an avalanche transceiver. This is expensive equipment to purchase (and rent). So if you have your own transceiver (it's a small item to pack), this would be something we'd recommend you bring. In contrast if a trip was changed to a location where eating utensils are required - these are items that are inexpensive and easy to acquire in Wanaka.

Our Recommended Gear Retailers

While all our guides are happy to give their recommendations, nothing compares to actually talking face to face with expert retailers who can give you the low down on all the latest gear! And even better you can try out gear before you buy. At the end of the day, having the advice of people with knowledge of the latest climbing and outdoor gear is invaluable. The suppliers we recommend here are not only experts in the latest climbing & outdoor equipment, they also attract and retain staff who are as passionate about the outdoors and their sport as the customers they serve. It is on this basis that are pleased to recommend the following suppliers:-

NEW ZEALAND



MT Outdoors: Our little local store punches well above its weight. Steve & his friendly staff know our local area and they know what Aspiring Guides and what our clients require. They have a huge range of climbing, mountaineering, hiking and skiing clothing & equipment for sale. They can also send gear.

www.mtoutdoors.co.nz

Dunmore St, Wanaka

ph: +64 (0)3 443 2888



Small Planet: Huge range of climbing, mountaineering, hiking and skiing clothing & equipment for sale. Located in the center of Queenstown.

15-17 Shotover St, Queenstown 9300

Ph: +64 (0)3 442 5397