

Media Release from Glacier Explorers January 13 2015

Spectacular ‘calving’ on Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park

An impressive ‘calving’ event on the front face of New Zealand’s Tasman Glacier has created a buzz in Mt Cook with large new icebergs now floating and slowly drifting around the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake.

The calving – believed to have happened around 5.30pm on Tuesday January the 13th 2015 saw areas of the 650m-wide front face and the underwater ice shelf of the Tasman Glacier in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park break away into the lake.

The ice broke into a number of very large icebergs, including two large icebergs which Glacier General Manager Bede Ward described as ‘Huge’. “The last major calving we had was almost 2 years ago, so this calving event was well overdue” he said.

“Although not as large, this calving is just as impressive and with longer periods between major calvings it could be an indication that the glacier retreat is starting to slow.

Mr Ward said the icebergs created by this recent calving would make for “fantastic viewing” for visitors on board Glacier Explorers Mac Boats, which takes passengers out on the lake to view the Tasman Glacier, New Zealand’s largest glacier.

“It’s an extraordinary opportunity to view nature in action, simply spectacular,” he said. “Guests who have been out with us today couldn’t believe their luck, and the icebergs will be around for visitors to enjoy for some time.”

Glacier Explorers offers the only tour of its kind in New Zealand at Aoraki Mount Cook National Park and is just one of three of its kind in the world. The tour is hugely popular with New Zealand and overseas visitors, taking 26,000 visitors this season.

“Getting out there on one of our boats on this magnificent lake is so unique and is becoming more and more popular with visitors to New Zealand,” said Mr Ward. “It’s on most people’s ‘to do’ list while they’re here.”

Glacier Explorers trips depart seven times a day, leaving every hour and a half. Bookings are essential and can be made at www.glacierexplorers.com

For further information please contact:

Bede Ward – Glacier Explorers General Manager Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Village Ltd

Tel: +64 3 435 1641 / +64 27 390 6933

E: Bede@Glacierexplorers.co.nz

Or

Megan Calder

Sales & Marketing

Tel: +64 3 450 1932 / +64 27 201 6673

Email: Megan.Calder@hermitage.co.nz

About Glacier Explorers

Using customized MAC boats, Glacier Explorers offers customized trips to New Zealand’s Tasman Glacier terminal lake for a fascinating glacial encounter.

Following a short bus ride and alpine walk, guests cruise the rapidly-growing terminal lake taking in spectacular mountain views and scenery. Icebergs of every shape and size periodically tear away from the glacier allowing you to touch and taste the 300-500 year old glacial crystals which float on the surface of the lake.

Surrounded by the stunning Aoraki Mt Cook National Park, one of the natural wonders of the world, Glacier Explorers offers the only tour of its kind in New Zealand at Aoraki Mount Cook National Park and is one of the only accessible glacial lakes containing icebergs in the world. Due to the natural aspect of the experience no two trips are ever the same as the lake, glacier and surroundings are ever-changing.



Glacier Explorers passengers admire new icebergs and ‘blue ice’ on the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake



Glacier Explorer tour boat cruising past the new blue iceberg



Glacier Explorers boat overshadowed by the Tasman Glacier Face and new blue iceberg