Mt Cook Lakeside Retreat

Experiences and Group Dining Guide 2026 to 2027

Rates valid 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027

Commissionable gross rates | New Zealand dollars | Prices per person

For travel advisors, tour operators and industry partners incorporating the Retreat into their clients' itineraries. Dining and astronomy can be booked for clients staying with us, at other properties in the region, or travelling through the Mackenzie. Our Reservations team can help coordinate timings, transfers and tailored group proposals.

Dining and Stargazing Rates

Experience	Gross rate	Duration
Dark Sky Stargazing	$225	90 minutes
Dusk to Dark Stargazing	$225	90 minutes
Chef's Tasting Experience dinner	$185	2.5 to 3 hours
Billion Star Dining	$350	4.5 hours

Dark Sky Stargazing

Begin in the underground wine cellar before moving to Pukaki Observatory for a guided exploration of the Southern Hemisphere night sky. Resident astro guides use the professional telescope to introduce planets, stars and deep-sky objects visible on the night.

Availability and ages Year-round, weather dependent. For adults and children aged 12 and over.

Dusk to Dark Stargazing

A family-friendly experience that follows the changing light from sunset into darkness, before exploring the night sky at Pukaki Observatory & Wine Cellar.

Availability and ages End of March to end of September, weather dependent. No age restrictions.

Chef's Tasting Experience

A multi-course dinner at The Moraine, overlooking the Ben Ohau Range. The menu follows the season, drawing on our estate gardens and regional producers. Please advise dietary preferences and allergies when booking.

Billion Star Dining

The full multi-course Chef's Tasting Dinner at The Moraine, followed by guided stargazing at Pukaki Observatory & Wine Cellar. For adults and children aged 12 and over; stargazing is weather dependent.

When skies are cloudy If weather prevents outdoor viewing on Dark Sky Stargazing or Dusk to Dark, a 60-minute Virtual Stars session is available at half the stargazing rate: $112.50 per person.

Group Dining and Private Events

The Moraine welcomes groups for lunches and private dining by prior arrangement. A dining stop can be incorporated into a journey through the Mackenzie region, or arranged for clients staying nearby. Contact Reservations for a tailored proposal. All tour group activities are commissionable.

Lunch Rates

Lunch option	Gross rate	Inclusions
Two-course lunch	$95	Main and dessert
Three-course lunch	$125	Entrée, main and dessert; one drink
Ultimate Lunch or six-course Chef's Tasting Lunch	$225	One glass of New Zealand sparkling wine on arrival

Sample Two Course Lunch

To begin House focaccia with New Zealand butter.

Main Aoraki high alpine salmon, saffron potato, estate seasonal vegetables and miso cream.

Dessert Estate raspberry soufflé with crème anglaise.

Sample Three Course Lunch

To begin House focaccia with New Zealand butter.

Entrée Estate carrot and butternut hummus, roasted baby carrots, chickpea popcorn, pistachio dukkah, garden herbs and green oil.

Main Aoraki high alpine salmon, confit potato, seasonal vegetables and garnishes.

Dessert Estate raspberry soufflé with crème anglaise.

Menus are illustrative and may change without notice according to seasonal availability in the garden. Please advise dietary preferences and allergies when requesting a proposal.

Ultimate Lunch

An extended lunch or six-course Chef's Tasting Lunch for clients seeking a longer culinary experience, including helicopter fly-in and fly-out visits. A glass of New Zealand sparkling wine is served on arrival. Contact Reservations for a tailored proposal.

Garden Visits

Lunch groups may enjoy a complimentary tour of the estate's produce garden after dining, subject to availability, prior arrangement and sufficient time in the itinerary.

Private Events and Helicopter Access

The Retreat is available for exclusive private events and meetings. On-site helipads provide direct access for helicopter arrivals and departures, including lunch visits. Contact Reservations to discuss your clients' requirements and coordinate arrangements with the operator. Private event pricing is available on request.

Bookings and Travel Arrangements

Making a Reservation

Bookings are essential and subject to availability. For booking enquiries and tailored proposals, please contact our Reservations team. Include preferred dates, the experience or lunch option, guest numbers, children's ages where relevant, dietary preferences and allergies, and transfer requirements.

Live accommodation availability can be viewed through the booking channel on our website. Online experience bookings close at 12 noon daily; please contact the team for later availability.

Agent Booking Portal

Travel agents can arrange access to a booking portal to book our experiences directly using their assigned commission. Please contact Reservations to arrange your portal access and confirm your commission arrangements.

Experience Booking Conditions

A 48-hour cancellation policy applies to experiences. Separate group lunch conditions are set out below. Experience pricing is reviewed annually; the rates in this guide apply from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027. Please contact Reservations for commission arrangements and current terms of trade.

Group Lunch Booking Conditions

Minimum group size 10 guests, excluding the driver and guide. The driver and tour leader receive a 50% discount.

Deposit and balance A 50% deposit is required 30 days before the lunch date to secure the booking. The balance is due seven days before the lunch date.

Cancellation and final details The group lunch cancellation period is seven days. Confirm final guest numbers and dietary requirements no later than seven days before the lunch. After this deadline, guest numbers are final and will be charged accordingly.

Driver or guide contact Provide the driver's or guide's contact number at the time of booking.

Transfers

A complimentary shuttle to and from the Twizel bus stop is available for Chef's Tasting Experience and Billion Star Dining visitors with advance notice. Space is limited; please arrange this with Reservations.

Local transfers, including to Twizel and Aoraki / Mount Cook National Park, are available on enquiry and subject to availability. Pricing is on request. A 48-hour cancellation notice applies to local transfers.

Accommodation and Trade Support

For clients staying at the Retreat, our team can help select a villa and coordinate their stay. Please contact Reservations for the accommodation rates card and current terms of trade, or to enquire about famils, site visits and virtual agent training.

Reservations and Resources

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mtcookretreat.nz | Image Gallery | Retreat Videos

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