

# Southern Adventure

## 11 Days Christchurch to Christchurch

### At a glance ...

Enjoy a South Island holiday packed with exciting sightseeing excursions and activities, including the world-famous Kaikoura Whale-watch, a wildlife cruise on Akaroa Harbour, a spectacular nature cruise on Milford Sound and a glacier expedition on Lake Tasman where you will get up close & touch floating icebergs. This tour will take you on a journey of discovery & there's also plenty of time for personal exploration as well.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1 Arrive Christchurch

On arrival you will be met by our representative & transferred by limousine to your city hotel. Christchurch is the nation's second largest city and because of its extensive gardens and the Avon River meandering through it, is regarded as the most English of New Zealand cities.

*Stay Heritage Christchurch Hotel (3 nights)*

#### Day 2 Kaikoura Whale Watch adventure (B)

Spend your day getting close to nature. Travel by train through the rolling hill country of North Canterbury to Kaikoura, located on a narrow strip of coastline where mountains meet the sea. This area is renowned for the variety of marine mammals that can be seen, not least of all giant Sperm Whales & the acrobatic Dusky Dolphin. You'll often see other whale species, seals & the Royal Albatross.

#### Day 3 Akaroa day tour (B,L)

This morning, travel the Banks Peninsula to the quaint village of Akaroa, a beautiful, unspoilt French whaling depot home to the early French settlers of the 1840's. The French heritage is still reflected in the street names & the architecture of its buildings. Visit the cheese factory at Barrys Bay & sample some fine New Zealand cheese. After lunch, enjoy a wildlife cruise exploring the delights of the harbour and sighting dolphins, penguins & seals.

#### Day 4 Spectacular TransAlpine Train, Franz Josef & Fox Glaciers (B)

The TransAlpine is described as "The Great New Zealand Rail Adventure" and is rated one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. After crossing the huge and fertile patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, the TransAlpine winds its way over massive viaducts, through spectacular river gorges and the stunning Waimakariri River valley. It tracks its way up and across the spectacular Southern Alps via the alpine village of Arthur's Pass situated 737 metres



above sea level. Travel along the dramatic West Coast, steeped in history dating back to the gold rush era of the 1800's, to the towns of Franz Josef & Fox Glacier.

*Stay Te Weheka Inn*

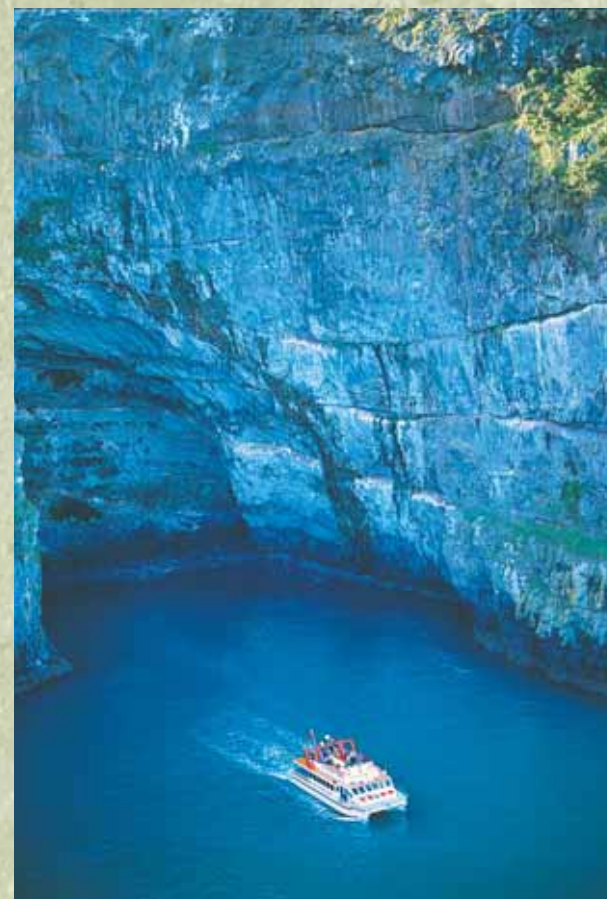
#### Day 5 Haast, Lake Wanaka & Queenstown (B)

There is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region before our departure this morning (subject to weather conditions). Today, view incredible scenery as you travel past the untouched native forests and pristine lakes of the World Heritage Westland National Park and Haast Pass. Travel over the magnificent Southern Alps to the Southern Lakes District. There is time to wander around the popular lakeside townships of Hawea and Wanaka before travelling to the beautiful alpine resort of Queenstown, New Zealand's premier holiday destination.

*Stay Heritage Queenstown Hotel (4 nights)*

#### Days 6 & 7 Explore Queenstown & surrounds (B)

Enjoy two full days to experience this magnificent resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains, Queenstown boasts adventure activities in all forms, from extreme to relaxed exploration. Here you can take a thrilling jet boat ride, pan for gold, raft the white water rapids, take a wine trail, fish for trout, play golf or 4WD sheer canyons. There are numerous activities from which to choose and your Tour Host will be pleased to offer advice and help you in your selection.





**Day 8 Milford Sound Nature Cruise & Fly (B)**

Today, journey by coach along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and through rolling countryside to Te Anau. Continue along the Milford Road through the Eglinton Valley & then travel through the famous, hand-strewn Homer Tunnel to the Sound itself. Here you board a purpose-built vessel, designed along the lines of a traditional trading scow, for an extended 2½ hour nature cruise. Explore the full length of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea. This magnificent glacier-carved fjord is home to the famous, mile-high Mitre Peak and you will view spectacular waterfalls, rainforests, mountains and wildlife whilst enjoying an extensive commentary from the on-board nature guide. After disembarking from the cruise, board your light aircraft for a spectacular scenic flight back to Queenstown (weather permitting). You'll marvel at the awesome alpine scenery, flying over waterfalls, mountains & rainforests on this never-to-be-forgotten experience.

**Day 9 Arrowtown, Mt Cook National Park (B,D)**

Set beneath the rugged Crown Range is Arrowtown, a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Enjoy some time to stroll through this historic village located beside the Arrow River, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's. Later, we travel through the towns of Omarama & Twizel before driving up the western side of Lake Pukaki to the Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage listed site. Mt Cook is Australasia's highest mountain at 3764 metres. The park covers over 70,000 hectares of breathtaking alpine scenery. It is also home to the Tasman Glacier, the longest in the Southern hemisphere (optional Ski-plane & helicopter flights are available subject to weather conditions).  
*Stay Mt Cook Hermitage Hotel - Aoraki Wing*

**Day 10 Tasman Glacier, Lake Tekapo, Christchurch (B)**

Experience the Tasman Glacier, New Zealand's largest, in the most unique way possible. An experienced guide will whisk you away in a stable MAC Boat to explore the melting ice-face of the Tasman Glacier where you will also get to touch & taste 400-year old icebergs that have been carved into

the murky waters of the lake. Later we visit beautiful Lake Tekapo and view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, built of local stone and oak in 1935. Leaving the High Country, cross the vast Canterbury Plains to the 'Garden City' of Christchurch.  
*Stay Heritage Christchurch Hotel*

**Day 11 Depart Christchurch (B)**

Sadly, your holiday is at an end and you will be transferred to Christchurch airport today for your onward flight. Here, we bid you 'Haere Ra', a fond farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Departure Dates	
2009:	Jan 04, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25; Feb 01, 08, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25; Mar 01, 04, 08, 15, 22, 25, 29; Apr 05, 12, 19, 26; May 17; Jun 21; Jul 26; Aug 30; Sep 20; Oct 04, 18, 25; Nov 01, 08, 15, 22, 29; Dec 06, 13, 20, 27
2010:	Jan 03, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb 07, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28; Mar 03, 07, 14, 21, 24, 28; Apr 04, 11, 18, 25

Prices		
	Twin	Single
01 Apr-30 Sep 09	\$5,125	\$6,475
01 Oct 09-30 Apr 10	\$5,820	\$7,370
<i>Please refer to 2008-09 brochure for prices for travel prior to 01 Apr 09.</i>		

**Highlights & Inclusions**

- Group size won't exceed 16 guests
- 10 nights superior hotel accommodation
- 3 night stay Christchurch
- 4 nights in majestic Queenstown
- Accompanied by professional, experienced Tour Host days 4-11
- Full cooked breakfasts daily, 1 lunch & 1 dinner
- Kaikoura Whale Watch excursion
- Visit beautiful Akaroa & enjoy a harbour wildlife cruise
- World famous TranzAlpine Train through the magnificent Southern Alps
- Twin Glaciers of Franz Josef & Fox
- Historic Arrowtown and beautiful Southern Lakes District
- Milford Sound nature cruise
- Spectacular scenic flight Milford to Queenstown
- World-Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- See & touch glaciers & icebergs up-close on your Tasman Glacier Explorer expedition
- Lake Tekapo & the Church of the Good Shepherd
- Complimentary airport transfers by limousine

# Relax in stylish surroundings

Accommodation is usually high up on the list of importance on any holiday. At the end of a day's travel or activity, you'll want to freshen up and relax in a hotel that makes you feel at home. That's why the properties featured in all our touring programmes have been very carefully chosen for their superior level of comfort, exceptional amenities, friendly staff and service and for their superb location.

You can be assured that whatever trip you choose, you'll enjoy the amenities and facilities of the finest quality hotels.

## Fabulous cuisine

We appreciate that individual appetites vary. Every day begins with a full cooked breakfast at your hotel and some tours may feature evening and specialty meals. When not included, we encourage you to seek out and enjoy the great variety of brasseries, bistros, cafés and restaurants that offer indoor and al-fresco dining. After all, discovering new and exciting places to eat is a fun part of any travel experience!

## Solo travellers

Many of the people who join us on our journeys through New Zealand are travelling by themselves, so if you're a solo traveller, rest assured that you'll be with other like-minded people. On any given departure, you'll usually find a mix of couples and friends travelling together but plenty of others will be on their own too. One of the great benefits of our trips is that they allow you to be independent but provide security and company whenever you choose.

## Extend your stay

We hope that you will take the opportunity to stay a few extra nights in the gateway cities, either at the beginning or end of your touring holiday. We particularly recommend this for travellers who may be arriving off long-haul flights. An extra day or two will certainly help you in getting over any jet lag and will ensure you are relaxed and refreshed before setting off on your journey around New Zealand.

Bed & Breakfast (price per person)	Share twin	Single
<b>Auckland</b>		
Duxton Hotel	\$137	\$238
Rendezvous Hotel	\$137	\$238
Heritage Hotel	\$155	\$275
<b>Christchurch</b>		
Heritage Hotel	\$159	\$282
Millennium Hotel	\$176	\$317
<b>Wellington</b>		
Duxton Hotel	\$165	\$295

*Please note:* Normal hotel check-in time is 2.00pm on the day of arrival. Whilst hotels will do all possible to accommodate an earlier check-in, this cannot be guaranteed.

## Stay somewhere special

If you feel like indulging in a little luxury for a night or two, you can experience some of New Zealand's award-winning lodges and premier boutique accommodation. See page 9 for more information.



# Genuine small group journeys

New Zealand is one of the few holiday destinations in the world ideally suited to small group touring and we are pleased to offer you an exciting choice of escorted luxury journeys & adventures through this spectacular country of ours.

As New Zealand's leading and most innovative small group specialist, we promise to show you the real New Zealand. Our many years experience & knowledge in organising small group tours has taught us the importance of getting the balance right between a fully inclusive itinerary and the need to get away and self explore. You'll find that our meticulously planned itineraries offer plenty of leisure time to do exactly that, ensuring you end up with the holiday you want.

So if touring in a large group isn't for you and the idea of driving yourself doesn't appeal, a small group journey might just be the answer!

## Never more than 16

Some tour operators proclaim their group sizes to be small at 20 or more. But we believe that once a group reaches this size, vehicles have to be larger, organisation has to be more structured and the trip can end up being just another bus tour. Our average group size is just 14 but we will never exceed 16 guests on any departure. This means better service, the chance to use smaller hotels, more freedom, more fun and more flexibility. And being smaller makes it easier for us to take those little detours off the beaten track to visit places the large tour groups are unable to.

## Enjoy more leisure time

Often we hear travellers say that they wish they had longer to explore and enjoy the places they visit. That's why our itineraries are about keeping travelling time to a minimum and include multi-night stopovers where possible. Our holidays are not about long days and rushing from one place to another.

With such an incredible choice of things to do and places to see, we set out to give you plenty of time to sightsee, relax and savour the lifestyle and culture that is New Zealand.

## Travel in comfort and style

You'll be very pleasantly surprised at the luxurious appointments of our purpose-built, air-conditioned midi-coaches. Whilst individual vehicles may vary, they all feature reclining armchair-style seating, large panoramic windows for excellent viewing, individual reading lights and air-conditioning controls, video and/or DVD players. Our touring vehicles are expertly maintained to the highest standards and boast the very latest safety features. But the biggest benefit of all is that they can take you to many places the larger touring coaches can't.



## Professional tour hosts

Our touring staff are extremely passionate about their country and love nothing more than showing it off to travellers from all corners of the globe. Supported by a team of dedicated experts in the office, your friendly Tour Host will ensure that every aspect of your holiday runs smoothly and give you a fresh insight into the lives of everyday New Zealanders and their country. You'll find that they are only too happy to go that extra mile to make sure you have the holiday you want.

## Kidz on tour

Introducing the ultimate family adventure! Complete with on-board Tour Nanny, this 16 day touring holiday provides a stimulating, fun and educational experience for the whole family, the memories of which will stay with you all for a lifetime. See page 27 for more details.

## An enviable track record

No doubt you'll want to know that the company you are travelling with is professional and reliable, yet small enough to offer really personable service. As New Zealand's leading small group specialist, our reputation has been earned by providing friendly, knowledgeable advice, developing exciting new itineraries, exceeding guest expectations and a commitment to responsible travel practices. Tourism is one of the world's largest industries, creating many benefits and contributing to national & local economic development. However, if not carefully managed, it can also produce a detrimental impact on the environment, but travelling in small groups & in a responsible manner goes a long way to reducing any such negative impact.

## Reducing our carbon footprint

It is widely recognised that transport is one of the main contributors to New Zealand's total carbon emissions. However, independent research has revealed that international visitors travelling in groups leave a significantly smaller footprint than had they driven themselves in a modern 2.0 litre rental car. Our Company has made a commitment to minimise its carbon-dioxide emissions and will offset any unavoidable emissions by purchasing carbon credits for every tour passenger through Landcare Research, New Zealand's foremost environmental research organisation. For more information, visit their website [www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)

