

# Southern Wanderer Escorted Tour

9 days

Fresh air, magnificent scenery and outdoor activities are just some of the attractions that await you in 'the land of the long white cloud'. Sample the delicious fresh stone fruit of Cromwell. Feel the soft fleece of sheep at Walter Peak High Country Farm. And hear from an artisan the meaning behind each piece of intricately carved greenstone.

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL   
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



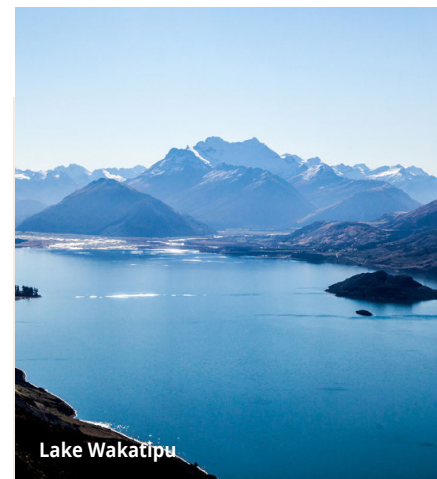
Walter Peak High Country Farm

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Tranzalpine train



Lake Wakatipu

## Highlights

- Journey over the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine Train
- Visit a green stone factory & watch the jade artists at work
- Discover fascinating Franz Josef Glacier
- Travel through the magnificent rainforest of Haast Pass
- Taste Central Otago's famous stone fruit at an orchard
- Visit the old gold mining village of Arrowtown
- Indulge in a unique dinner experience in Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak
- Sail on Lake Wakatipu aboard steamship TSS Earnslaw
- Let loose in the adventure capital Queenstown
- Cruise on mystical Milford Sound
- Travel past ancient glaciers, spectacular mountains and magical rainforest en route to Milford Sound
- Stay on the shores of Lake Te Anau
- Visit Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Journey through spectacular Mt. Cook National Park
- Experienced Travel Director and Driver Guide

## Dining

- Full buffet breakfasts (8) **B**
- Highlight dinner (1) **HD**
- Dinners (5) **D**

### Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch

On arrival at Christchurch Airport you'll be transferred to your hotel. You have time at leisure before a welcome reception and dinner with your Travel Director. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. D**

### Day 2: Christchurch – Franz Josef

First up this morning you'll board the TranzAlpine, one of the top six train journeys in the world. This spectacular trip takes you across the Canterbury Plains and through the Southern Alps to Arthur's Pass. Later, visit Hokitika, home of the native greenstone (jade), for a factory visit and jewellery demonstration. Next stop is Franz Josef Glacier (optional scenic Franz Josef Glacier flight is available). **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing), Franz Josef. B D**

### Day 3: Franz Josef – Queenstown

Travel through the Haast Pass, view Thunder Creek Falls and take a rainforest walk. Then it's a trio of lakes – Wanaka, Hawea, Dunstan. Next up try sumptuous stone fruit at Cromwell, the stone fruit capital. Later, you'll visit historic gold mining Arrowtown on the Arrow River, previously one of the world's richest rivers. Arrive in Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure-capital. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Queenstown, 2 nights. B**

### Day 4: Queenstown 'Free Time'

Explore exciting Queenstown your way. From wine tours to jet boat rides and white water rafting, Queenstown will surprise and exhilarate. This evening cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard New Zealand's oldest steamship, the TSS Earnslaw, to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue highlight dinner at the Colonel's Homestead. An after-dinner farm show provides a glimpse into farm life. **B HD**

### Day 5: Queenstown – Te Anau

Travel along the Devil's Staircase and the shores of Lake Wakatipu

to Te Anau. You'll be awestruck by the great sights from Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound, one of the world's most amazing places, where you'll cruise on the waters of this natural wonder. En route you'll drive through the hand-made Homer Tunnel to the abundant photo opportunities afforded by the Mirror Lake, Pop's Lookout, Cleddau Valley, the Chasm, Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls. Then return to Te Anau. Tonight you have the option to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. B D**

### Day 6: Te Anau – Dunedin

Cross sheep-filled farming land to Dunedin for a city tour. With free time this afternoon, consider a wildlife cruise to see the Penguins and Royal Albatross, a visit to the Cadbury Chocolate Factory or ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City. B D**

### Day 7: Dunedin – Oamaru

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Dunedin with the opportunity to visit Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only castle (own expense). Travel through Oamaru, with its white limestone buildings, then follow the Waitaki River, passing hydro electric dams at Waitaki and Aviemore, to Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Oamaru. B D**

### Day 8: Oamaru – Christchurch

Travel past Mt. Cook National Park, home to New Zealand's highest mountain. This afternoon stop at Lake Tekapo and view the Church of the Good Shepherd and then continue over the colourful Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. B**

### Day 9: Farewell from Christchurch

Your holiday concludes this morning after breakfast. You'll be transferred to Christchurch Airport for your onward flight. **B**



Lake Te Anau