

New Zealand

Escorted Coach Tours



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Luxury Small
Group Journeys

All-Inclusive
Coach Tours

10 Day Southern Encounter

Christchurch → Christchurch



Highlights

- + 2 night stays in Queenstown, Dunedin & Christchurch
- + West Coast Glaciers
- + Spectacular Southern Lakes District
- + Fiordland National Park
- + Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South
- + World Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park

Featured Experiences

- + World famous TranzAlpine train journey
- + Overnight Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise
- + High Tea at Larnach Castle
- + Taieri Gorge Railway
- + Stargazing tour, Mt Cook

Iconic Sightseeing

- + Entry to Franz Josef thermal pools
- + Guided tour of Larnach Castle
- + Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- + Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo

Day 1 Arrive Christchurch (D)

'Kia Ora'. Welcome to Christchurch. A representative will greet you at the airport and transfer you to your city hotel. The rest of today is at leisure to explore the 'Garden City' before meeting your fellow travellers this evening for a welcome dinner and drinks.

Stay: Rydges Latimer Hotel

Day 4 At leisure in Queenstown (B)

Queenstown is regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination and today is free to experience this magnificent alpine resort. Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure and leisure activities and your Coach Captain can assist with any optional activities you would like to do. Experience the thrills of riding on the world famous Shotover

Day 2 TranzAlpine, Franz Josef (B,D)

A short drive brings us to the tiny train station of Springfield, gateway to the majestic Southern Alps. Board the award-winning TranzAlpine train for the spectacular rail journey to Arthurs Pass, the South Island's highest altitude settlement. Enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as you travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River and traverse the mighty Southern Alps, where spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape will take your breath away at every turn. On to the West Coast glacial village of Franz Josef where you can relax and soak in the thermal pools after an invigorating day and sumptuous dinner.

Stay: Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 3 Wanaka, Queenstown (B)

Before our departure this morning, there is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions). Later, view incredible scenery as you travel past the untouched wilderness and pristine lakes of the Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks. There is time to wander around the popular lakeside township of Wanaka before stopping at the historic gold mining village of Arrowtown, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's and home to a fascinating collection of mining cottages.

Stay: Heritage Queenstown Hotel (2 nights)

Jet Boat, perhaps cruise Lake Wakatipu on the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw, take a 4WD tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon or for the adventurous, try some white water rafting. Alternatively, relax and browse in the many shops and galleries.

Day 5 Overnight Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise (B,L,D)

Skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu and travel through lush farmland to Te Anau. On to Manapouri, where you enjoy a leisurely cruise across this picturesque lake to West Arm. This is followed by a short coach trip on New Zealand's most expensive road, travelling over Wilmot Pass and pausing along the way to experience the dense Fiordland rainforest and view Doubtful Sound glistening far below. At Deep Cove, your crew and the 'Fiordland Navigator' await. Designed along the lines of a traditional scow, the 'Fiordland Navigator' blends old world charm with modern comfort and as you cruise through some of the fiord's most stunning scenery, knowledgeable and friendly nature guides will share with you their passion for the region through their commentary. After dropping anchor in a sheltered cove, you can choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender boat or you can simply relax on board. As the majesty of Doubtful Sound unfolds before you, its beauty and vastness will take your breath away.

Overnight: Fiordland Navigator

Day 6 Manapouri, Dunedin (B,D)

Enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning before exploring other parts of the fiord. We retrace our steps back to Manapouri where you rejoin your coach for the journey to Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South.

Stay: Distinction Dunedin Hotel (2 nights)



Church of the Good Shepherd



Shotover Jet

"The train journey was one of the things that I was looking forward to most and it did not disappoint!"

Day 7 Otago Peninsula, Taieri Gorge (B)

Enjoy spectacular views across the Otago Peninsula as you travel to Larnach Castle. On your guided tour, learn about its tragic and mysterious history before enjoying a High Tea in the Grand Ballroom. This afternoon, board the famous Taieri Gorge Railway. From Dunedin, the train sneaks across the Taieri Plains and climbs into the Taieri Gorge, a narrow and deep gorge carved out over aeons by the ancient Taieri River. The natural wonders seen combined with the challenges of man-made engineering will leave you amazed.

Day 8 Moeraki, Mt Cook (B,D)

Stop to view the mystical Moeraki Boulders before travelling up the Waitaki Valley to Omarama. Your journey

continues into the World Heritage Mt Cook National Park, with its 70,000 ha of breathtaking alpine scenery. After dinner, enjoy a guided tour of the Digital Dome Planetarium before your astronomy guides take you to their outdoor stargazing site where you explore different elements of the spectacular southern sky.

Stay: Mt Cook Hermitage Hotel

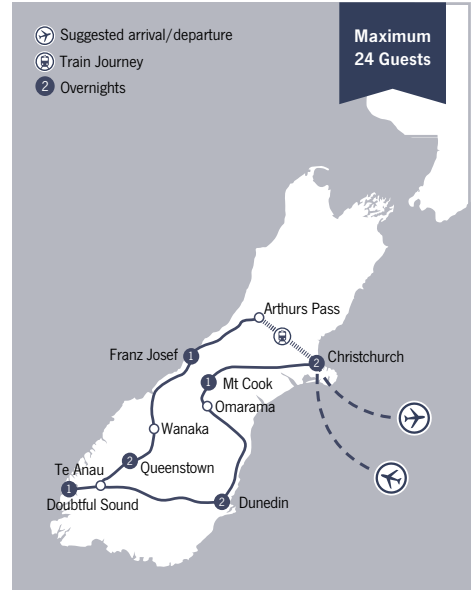
Day 9 Lake Tekapo, Christchurch (B)

At Lake Tekapo, stop to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd. Then cross the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure as you bid farewell to your newfound friends.

Stay: Commodore Airport Hotel

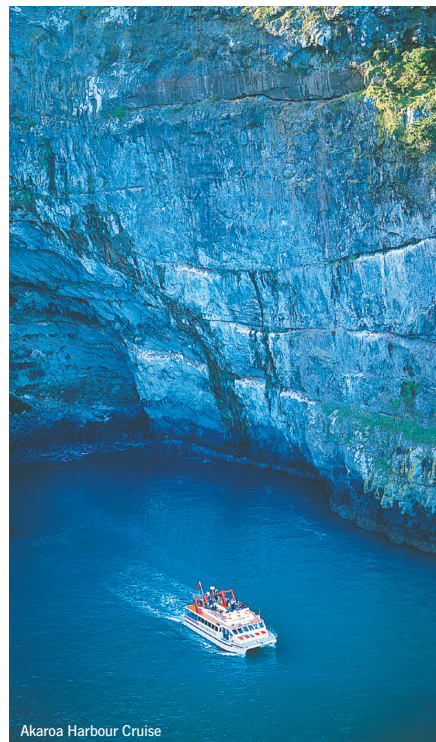
Day 10 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred to Christchurch airport to connect with your onward flight. Here we say 'Haere Ra', and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay.



Stay Longer and Discover Canterbury

Stay a little longer and enjoy some of the spectacular towns and attractions close to Christchurch. There is a host of excellent boutique bed and breakfasts and luxury lodges to choose from offering superb accommodation in unique locations. To the east is the quaint, historic harbourside town of **Akaroa**, home to the early French settlers of the 1840's. Here you can explore the village with its colonial architecture, galleries and craft stores or take part in the many marine activities on offer. An easy 90 minute drive northwest of the city is the picturesque alpine resort village of **Hanmer Springs**, located in the foothills of the Southern Alps. Best known for its natural hot pools and stunning landscapes, Hanmer is great year round destination for adventure, relaxation and indulgence. The small coastal town of **Kaikoura** is located on a narrow strip of land with the Pacific Ocean to the east and the mountains to the west, approximately 2 hours north of Christchurch. The region is rich in history and Maori culture and popular activities include swimming with dolphins and seals, whale watch cruises to see giant sperm whales up close, coastal walks and tucking into a plate of locally caught crayfish (lobster).



Akaroa Harbour Cruise

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