

New Zealand

Escorted Coach Tours



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Luxury Small
Group Journeys

.....
All-Inclusive
Coach Tours

10 Day *TranzAlpine Panorama*

Christchurch → Christchurch

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



TranzAlpine Waimakariri River

Highlights

- + World Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- + Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South
- + Fiordland National Park
- + Spectacular Southern Lakes region
- + West Coast Glacier region

Featured Experiences

- + Milford Sound Scenic Cruise
- + TSS Earnslaw Walter Peak Cruise & Dinner
- + World famous TranzAlpine train journey

Iconic Sightseeing

- + Lake Tekapo & Church of the Good Shepherd
- + Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- + Guided Tour of Larnach Castle
- + Historic village of Arrowtown

Day 1 Arrive Christchurch (D)

Welcome to Christchurch. On arrival, a representative will greet you at the airport with transport waiting to take you to your downtown city hotel. Meet up with your fellow travellers at dinner this evening.

Stay: *Rendezvous Hotel*

Day 2 Mt Cook, Omarama (B,D)

This morning, we travel across the Canterbury Plains with the Southern Alps to the west. View the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd and the Collie Dog Memorial overlooking Lake Tekapo. Visit Mt Cook National Park, with time to enjoy the scenic majesty of New Zealand's highest snow-capped peaks and a visit to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre. There is time for some optional flightseeing tours over this remarkable region before travelling around Lake Pukaki to Twizel and Omarama for our overnight stay.

Stay: *Heritage Gateway Hotel*

Day 3 Moeraki Boulders, Dunedin (B,D)

Travel down the Waitaki Valley to the Whitestone township of Oamaru. Stop to view the mystical Moeraki Boulders, then on to Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South. An early arrival allows you time to enjoy the choice of some excellent optional activities. An excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway is highly recommended as are visits to Cadbury World and Speights Brewery, both within easy walking distance of your hotel.

Stay: *Scenic Dunedin City Hotel*

Day 4 Central Otago, Te Anau (B,D)

This morning you will enjoy spectacular views across the Otago Peninsula as you travel to Larnach Castle. On your guided tour, learn about its tragic and mysterious history.

Leaving the city behind, you head inland, crossing rich farmlands to the agricultural towns of Gore and Lumsden before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau, gateway to the Fiordland National Park.

Stay: *Distinction Luxmore Hotel (2 nights)*

Day 5 Spectacular Milford Sound (B,L,D)

Journey into the Hollyford Valley before descending into the Cleddau Canyon. Drive through the Homer Tunnel into spectacular Milford Sound, the world renowned natural wonder dominated by Mitre Peak. Luxuriant rainforest clings to sheer rock walls and waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres to the sea below. Your vessel has purpose built observation decks and viewing lounges and as you cruise the entire length of the fiord, enjoy the on-board commentary that gives you detailed information on the region's history, flora and fauna. View spectacular waterfalls, towering mountains, glaciers and rainforest and those with keen eyes may also see seals basking on the rocks and local pods of dolphins streaking through the Sound.

Optional overnight cruises on Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound are also on offer subject to availability - ask us for details.

Day 6 Te Anau, Queenstown (B,D)

Continue north to Kingston, then skirt around the shores of Lake Wakatipu to the picturesque village of Queenstown, regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before boarding the historic vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw for an evening cruise across the lake to Walter Peak High Country Farm. At the Colonel's Homestead, savour a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner along with an entertaining farm demonstration.

Stay: *Millennium Hotel (2 nights)*

Day 7 At leisure in Queenstown (B)

Enjoy a free day to experience this magnificent alpine resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains, Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure and leisure activities in all forms, from extreme to relaxed exploration. Your guide will be happy to advise you on all the activities and options available. You might like to experience the thrills of a jetboat ride on the famous Shotover or Dart Rivers, visit key film locations from the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy, ride the Skyline gondola to the top of Bob's Peak where both the dining and the views are unsurpassed or simply take a relaxing stroll around the tranquil shores of the lake your options are endless. Tonight is free to experience one of the many amazing cafes and restaurants offering indoor and al-fresco dining.



Christchurch Gardens



"The cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the historic TSS Earnslaw was just fantastic and the food for dinner was amazing."

Day 8 Wanaka, Franz Josef (B,D)

This morning, we visit Arrowtown. Set beneath the rugged Crown Range, this historic village was once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's and features a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Stop at Wanaka, a picture postcard resort on the lake's edge with a spectacular mountain backdrop. View the untouched wilderness and pristine lakes of the Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks before arriving on the rugged and wild West Coast, home to the twin glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef.

Stay: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

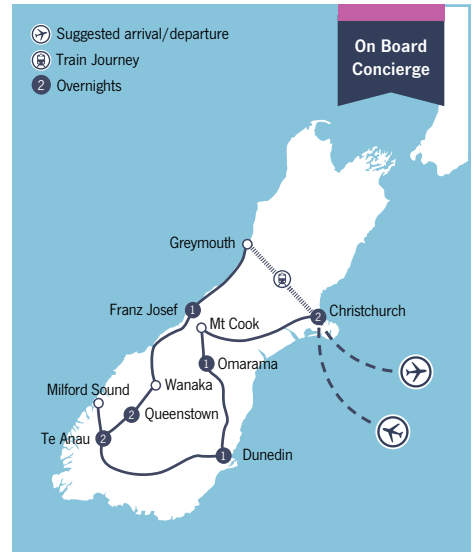
Day 9 Spectacular TransAlpine Train, Christchurch (B,D)

Visit a Pounamu (also known as Greenstone or Jade) factory at Hokitika. Pounamu is considered a treasure in Maori culture and is seen as a sign of status and power. At Greymouth, we board the famous TransAlpine train. Renowned as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world, this coast to coast rail adventure will take you through the Southern Alps, over massive viaducts, river valleys and gorges. On arrival, enjoy a farewell dinner and drinks with your fellow travellers and relive the wonderful sights and experiences shared over the last 9 days.

Stay: Sudima Christchurch Hotel

Day 10 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, it's time to bid farewell to all your new friends today. Arrangements end after breakfast and you will be transferred to the airport to join your flight home.



Stay Longer and Discover Canterbury

If time permits, we recommend extending your stay in the South Island to enjoy some of the spectacular towns and attractions close to Christchurch.

To the east is the quaint, historic harbourside town of **Akaroa**, home to the early French settlers of the 1840's. 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 favourite activities include swimming with dolphins and seals, whale watch cruises to see giant sperm whales up close, coastal walks or tucking into a plate of crayfish (lobster).

A number of day touring options are available to all three destinations or alternatively, stay overnight and enjoy a relaxing stay to get the most from your visit.



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