



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 

*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

*Discover the real New Zealand with the locals*



*Food & Wine*

*Kiwi Style*

**ISLAND  
SANCTUARY**

*Wanaka's best-kept secret*

*Journey into the heart of*

**FIORDLAND**

**5 FULLY GUIDED TRIPS**

*from gentle to challenging*

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL.COM 

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# SHORT SOUTH

## THE ESSENTIAL SOUTH ISLAND

Short on time? No worries.

For those who absolutely can't get away for more than a week, we've cherry-picked some of the best adventures, hikes, paddles and bike rides on the South Island and cleverly squeezed them into an unforgettable trip that will have you feeling refreshed in just 8 days. Will you see everything?

Of course not. But it'll be a great start until you can come back!

[firstlighttravel.com](http://firstlighttravel.com)



# THE ESSENTIAL SOUTH ISLAND

Short on time? No worries.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Milford Sound       | Christchurch        | Hiking              |
| Queenstown          | Wanaka              | Swim with Dolphins  |
| Mount Aspiring      | Te Anau             | Scenic Flight       |
| Routeburn Track     | Alps to Ocean Track | Biking              |
| Southern Alps       | Akaroa              | Kayaking            |
| Mount Cook Glaciers |                     | Wilderness Jet Boat |

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**8**  
days

**SOUTH ISLAND BASED**



**ACTIVITY LEVEL**



**FOOD**

Home-Style  
Kiwi Cooking

**ACCOMMODATION**

Comfortable  
Kiwi-Style Lodging



**START** Queenstown

**FINISH** Christchurch

Turn the page  
for the full  
itinerary.



SHORT  
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# THE ESSENTIAL SOUTH ISLAND

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## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1 – Welcome and Overnight Milford Sound Cruise

Your long-awaited New Zealand adventure starts with a bang! After meeting your guides and fellow travellers in Queenstown, we'll get straight into it by heading for Milford Sound on arguably the most spectacular road in the country or anywhere – the scenery is mind-blowing. This afternoon we'll have a chance to meet the local wildlife of Fiordland National Park while out kayaking (if conditions allow) and spend our first night on a boat in Milford Sound. There couldn't be a more rapid introduction to just how we like to spend our time in New Zealand.

### Day 2 – Hike the Routeburn Track

Wake up in Milford Sound this morning to birdsong and the quiet, reassuring lapping of the water against the hull of the boat. Enjoy the crisp, fresh air and leave behind all the worries of the rest of the world – this is what rejuvenating holidays are all about. After we cruise back to the dock and disembark, we'll carry on to hike part of the famed Routeburn Track up to one of our favourite spots, Key Summit, for beautiful views. Overnight in Te Anau.

### Day 3 – Bike near Queenstown & Explore Wanaka

Today we leave the rainforest of Fiordland and head for the arid high country lakes of Central Otago. Explore



### Kayak Milford Sound

Sea kayak in iconic Milford Sound to sneak up on the local wildlife and give your legs a rest.



### Hike the Routeburn Track

Fill your lungs with fresh air hiking part of the famed Routeburn Track.



SHORT  
SOUTH



### Fly into Mt Aspiring National Park for a true backcountry wilderness experience

Today's adventure starts with a scenic flight into the Siberia Valley.

some of the best bits on two wheels outside of Queenstown, from a historic gold-mining town to the vineyards of Gibbston Valley, before we continue to the mountain resort town of Wanaka. Tonight we'll stay in Makarora, at the doorstep of Mt Aspiring National Park.

### Day 4 – Scenic flight into Mount Aspiring National Park, Hike & Wilderness Jet Boat

Get ready for a real Kiwi backcountry experience in style - this is the stuff legendary holiday stories are made of! First fly deep into Mt Aspiring National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and get dropped off for a picnic with views that will blow you away and a taste of what it feels like to be in the wilderness. Then hike back down to the river where a jetboat will be waiting to whisk you back to civilisation and a comfortable bed in Wanaka.

### Day 5 – Hike or Bike Wanaka & Aoraki/ Mount Cook

If you're feeling active, we'll do an early morning hike up Rocky Mountain to get the heart pumping. If you prefer a more relaxed start, you can do a self-guided walk on a track leaving from our accommodation, or we can organise a bike for a self-guided ride on the easygoing Hawea to Wanaka track around the lake. This afternoon, watch the scenery completely change before



### Backcountry jet boat

On the banks of the Wilkin River – what a spot to wait for your scenic ride out!



### Wanaka, a Kiwi favourite

Take in the tranquil lakeside town of Wanaka with the peaks of the Southern Alps as a backdrop.



### Tasman Glacier

Never set foot on a glacier? Option to add a glacier heli-hike or glacier boat tour.



### The Alps to Ocean cycle trail

Cycle around Lake Pukaki and take in views of Aoraki/Mt Cook at the head of the lake.



### Comfortable accommodation

Mt Cook Lodge in the Aoraki/Mt Cook UNESCO World Heritage site.

your eyes as we move from beech forests to the high tussocks, huge skies and glacial lakes of the Mackenzie Country. We'll stay at the foot of New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki/Mount Cook, for the next couple of nights.

#### Day 6 – Your Choice in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is home to not only its namesake – our highest and most sacred peak known as “the Cloud Piercer” to Māori looming at 3,724 metres (over 12,000 feet) – but 19 peaks in total over 3,000 metres. This rugged land of rock and ice is a hiker's paradise, and you have several experiences to choose from today, including a chance to get up close to some icebergs on a glacier boat trip or even walk on the ice on a glacier heli-hike (both these options are at additional cost) or hiking and exploring. There is plenty to do and see.

#### Day 7 – Bike Alps to Ocean Track & Explore Akaroa

We'll start the day today with a bike-ride through the picturesque Mackenzie Country alongside the surreal turquoise waters of Lake Pukaki. The Alps to Ocean track is over 300km in total, and we'll discover some of the most scenic parts. Then it's on to Akaroa, a historic French settlement on a quiet harbour, for our last night together.

#### Day 8 – Akaroa Dolphin Swim & Finish in Christchurch

We've saved one last 'only in NZ' adventure for this morning – a chance to get up close to very rare Hector's dolphins, the smallest and rarest



### Swim with Dolphins

Incredible encounters with Dolphins at Kaikoura.

marine dolphins in the world. Whether you choose to swim with them or watch from the boat, this promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Then we'll say our farewells in Christchurch in the afternoon and send you home absolutely buzzing. ■

## SHORT SOUTH

Give us a call if you need help converting into your own currency.

### INCLUDES

7 nights' accommodation, services of two professional local guides, ground transportation, snacks and 22 meals, and all activities as described. Go to our website for tour dates, availability and to book.

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

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SHORT SOUTH

