

2019 ... 2020

Valid from 01 Sep 19 - 31 Aug 20

# New Zealand

## *Escorted Coach Tours*



**FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL**



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

Luxury Small  
Group Journeys

All-Inclusive  
Coach Tours

# 10 Day Southern Encounter

Christchurch → Christchurch

**FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL**   
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



Platinum Coach at Church of the Good Shepherd

## 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
- + Otago Peninsula Wildlife Cruise
- + Stargazing Tour, Mt Cook

## Iconic Sightseeing

- + Entry to Franz Josef thermal pools
- + Guided tour of Larnach Castle
- + Visit the historic gold mining village of Arrowtown
- + Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- + Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd

## 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 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 Arthur's 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

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

## 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)

## 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 Guide can assist with any optional activities you would like to do. Experience the thrills of riding on the world famous Shotover 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 more adventurous, try white water rafting. Alternatively, browse in the many local 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. Onto 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



Doubtful Sound

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Christchurch → Christchurch



## 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 re-join your coach for the journey to Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South.

Stay: *Distinction Dunedin Hotel (2 nights)*

## Day 7 Discover Otago Peninsula (B)

This morning enjoy spectacular views as you travel along the Otago Peninsula to Wellers Rock where you board a Monarch Wildlife Cruise. On the cruise look out for Fur seals and Sea lions on their breeding rockeries as well as an abundance of other wildlife such as Penguins, Dolphins and Albatross. Afterwards travel to Larnach Castle for a guided tour, learning about its tragic and mysterious history before enjoying a High Tea in the Grand Ballroom. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Dunedin and experience optional activities.

## Day 8 Moeraki Boulders, 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*

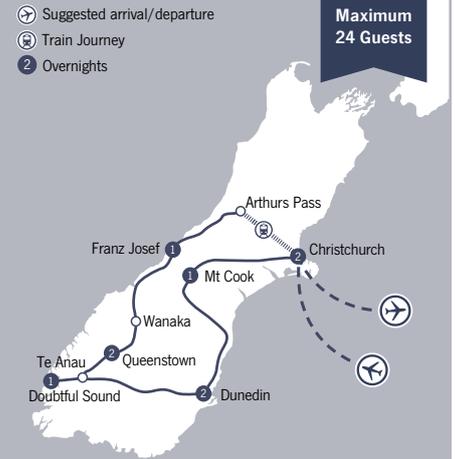
## Day 9 Lake Tekapo to Christchurch (B,D)

Free time this morning to enjoy all that this magnificent alpine resort has to offer. Perhaps an early morning bush walk, an excursion to the Tasman Glacier or some scenic flight-seeing over the region by helicopter or ski plane. Later, at Lake Tekapo, stop to view the Church of the Good Shepherd, then cross the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

Stay: *Rydges Latimer 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.



## Inclusions

- + Maximum group size 24 guests
- + 8 nights luxury hotel and boutique accommodation
- + Overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound
- + Full breakfast daily (B), 1 lunch (L) & 6 dinners (D)
- + Welcome dinner and drinks on arrival
- + Travel by purpose built, luxury Platinum Touring coach
- + Guided by a professional Driver Guide
- + All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as shown
- + Hotel portorage
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure

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## 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).

Be sure to ask your consultant for suggested touring options and prices to get the most of your extended stay.



Fur Seals, Kaikoura



Shotover Jet