

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 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

- + International Antarctic Centre
- + Lake Tekapo & Church of the Good Shepherd
- + Christchurch City Tram Tour
- + Guided Tour of Larnach Castle
- + Visit the historic gold mining village of Arrowtown

Day 1 Arrive Christchurch (D)

Welcome to Christchurch. On arrival, a representative will greet you at the airport to transport you to your downtown city hotel. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers.

Stay: *Distinction Christchurch Hotel*

Day 2 Christchurch, Lake Tekapo (B,D)

Today begins with a unique experience combining history and sightseeing. Enjoy a journey in style through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre on-board a beautifully restored heritage tram. We then visit the International Antarctic Centre before crossing the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand's largest area of flat land, lying between the mighty Southern Alps and the Pacific Ocean. Its patchwork of agricultural activity ranges from grazing grass and wheat to herbs and sunflowers. View the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd and the Collie Dog Memorial overlooking Lake Tekapo. There is time this afternoon for some optional alpine flightseeing over the world heritage national parks of Aoraki Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini (subject to weather conditions).

Stay: *Peppers Bluewater Resort*

Day 3 Moeraki Boulders, Dunedin (B,D)

Continue south and stop to view the Benmore Dam, one of the largest in the southern hemisphere. Travel down the Waitaki Valley to the Whitestone township of Oamaru, home to some of the best preserved heritage buildings in New Zealand. The town prospered through gold mining, quarrying and timber milling in the late 19th century and much of the wealth was spent on elegant stone buildings made from local limestone. Stop to view the mystical Moeraki Boulders before arriving at Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South.

Stay: *Scenic Dunedin City Hotel*



Moeraki Boulders

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 onboard 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)*

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

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.

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

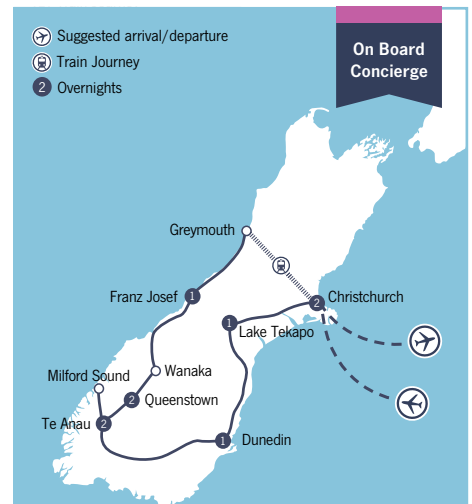
Day 9 Spectacular TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch (B,D)

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 TranzAlpine 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 nine days.

Stay: Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

Day 10 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, it's time to bid farewell to all your new friends today. You will be transferred to the airport to join your onward flight.



Inclusions

- + 9 nights premium hotel accommodation
- + Full breakfast daily (B), 1 lunch (L) & 8 dinners (D)
- + Travel by 5-star luxury 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

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. Ask your consultant for suggested touring options and prices.

