

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

11 Day Southern Discovery

Christchurch → Wellington or Christchurch

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



Highlights

- + Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd
- + World Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- + Fiordland National Park
- + Spectacular Southern Lakes District
- + West Coast Glaciers
- + Punakaiki Pancake Rocks & Blowhole
- + Abel Tasman National Park

Featured Experiences:

- + Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise
- + Skyline Gondola & Dinner, Queenstown
- + Cruise the famous Abel Tasman National Park
- + Coastal Pacific Train (Christchurch return passengers)

Iconic Sightseeing

- + International Antarctic Centre
- + Christchurch City Tram Tour
- + World of Wearable Arts & Classic Cars Museum
- + Scenic Interislander Ferry Crossing
- + Christchurch & Wellington City Tours

Day 1 Arrive Christchurch (D)

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

Stay: *Distinction Christchurch Hotel*



Pancake Rocks, Punakaiki

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 that lies between the mighty Southern Alps and the Pacific Ocean. Its patchwork of agricultural activity ranges from grazing grass and wheat to herbs and sunflowers. On arrival at Tekapo, we stop to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd and the Collie Dog Memorial overlooking the lake. There is time this afternoon for some optional alpine flightseeing by ski-plane or helicopter over Aoraki Mt Cook, a world heritage listed national park covering over 70,000 hectares of breathtaking mountain scenery (subject to weather conditions).

Stay: *Peppers Bluewater Resort*

Day 3 Central Otago, Lake Te Anau (B,D)

Travel through the townships of Twizel and Omarama before beginning the ascent over the Lindis Pass to Cromwell, located deep in the heart of Central Otago in the valley of Upper Clutha. Travel through the lush farmlands of the region before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau, gateway to the Fiordland National Park.

Stay: *Distinction Luxmore Hotel*

Day 4 Spectacular Doubtful Sound Wilderness Experience (B,L,D)

After breakfast, travel to Manapouri and enjoy a leisurely cruise across this picturesque lake to West Arm. This is followed by a trip on New Zealand's most expensive road, travelling over the Wilmot Pass and pausing to experience

the dense Fiordland rainforest and view Doubtful Sound glistening far below. Here you will board the spacious 'Patea Explorer' for a three-hour cruise through this pristine fiord. During the cruise, knowledgeable and friendly nature guides will share with you their passion for the region through their commentary. They will answer questions, point out landmarks and provide you with information about the varied wildlife you may encounter like dolphins, fur seals and the rare Fiordland crested penguin. As the majesty of Doubtful Sound unfolds before you, its vastness will take your breath away. Later this afternoon, travel on to Queenstown, regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination and enjoy dinner at your hotel on arrival.

Stay: *Copthorne Lakefront Hotel & Resort (2 nights)*

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

Day 5 At leisure in Queenstown (B,D)

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, cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the vintage steamship 'TSS Earnslaw', visit key film locations from the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy or simply take a relaxing stroll around the tranquil shores of the lake your options are endless. Tonight, ride the Skyline gondola to the top of Bob's Peak where both the dining and the views are unsurpassed.

Day 6 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 lakes 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*

"Ross's knowledge of the little places to stop was great throughout the trip. I always looked forward to morning tea to see what delightful place he would take us to next."



Day 7 Hokitika, Punakaiki (B,D)

Before our departure this morning, there is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions). At Hokitika, we stop to visit to a Pounamu (also known as Greenstone or Jade) factory. Pounamu is considered a treasure in Maori culture and is seen as a sign of status and power. At Punakaiki, marvel at the bizarre limestone landscapes that are the Pancake Rocks & Blowhole. Tonight's stay is at a friendly eco resort located in the Paparoa National Park and only a stone's throw from the beach.

Stay: *Punakaiki Resort*

Day 8 Murchison, Nelson (B,D)

Skirt the west coastline before heading inland to Murchison. Travel north through the Nelson Lakes region before arriving at Nelson, a city of charm based on a harbour that is the busiest fishing port in New Zealand. This afternoon, visit the World of Wearable Art & Classic Car Museum.

Stay: *Heritage Rutherford Hotel (2 nights)*

Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park (B)

Travel to Kaiteriteri where you board your vessel for a scenic cruise of the famous Abel Tasman National Maritime Park. Cruise through the Astrolabe Roadstead

to Torrent Bay and Bark Bay calling in to picturesque beaches and coves. Pause to view the antics at Tonga Island Seal Colony on your way to Totoranui. An optional coastal walk may be available for those wishing to spend time ashore – see your Guide for details.

Day 10 Picton to Wellington (B,D)

A short drive brings us to the picturesque fishing village of Picton. Board the Interislander Ferry and cruise through the spectacular Queen Charlotte Sound into Cook Strait, the channel that separates the South and North Islands. Enjoy stunning views of New Zealand's capital city as you arrive into Wellington Harbour. Enjoy a brief city tour taking in all the major sights and there is free time for exploring on your own. Situated on the Wellington waterfront, a visit to Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand, is highly recommended.

Stay: *Copthorne Oriental Bay Hotel*

Guests returning to Christchurch will join the Coastal Pacific Train from Picton and overnight at the Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport.

Day 11 Depart Wellington (B)

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred to the airport to connect with your onward flight.



Inclusions

- + Maximum group size 35 guests
- + 10 nights premium hotel accommodation
- + Full breakfasts daily (B), 1 lunch (L) & 9 dinners (D)
- + Welcome dinner and drinks on arrival
- + Travel by 5-star luxury touring coach
- + Guided by a professional Driver Guide
- + All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as shown
- + Hotel portage
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure

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Optional Coastal Pacific Train

On arrival into Picton on day 10, you have the option to take the Coastal Pacific train down the East Coast back to Christchurch. Travel south along the Pacific Ocean coastline admiring the stunning scenery. This option must be pre-booked. Refer to page 10 for more information on this picturesque train journey.



Skyline Gondola