

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 

*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

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Luxury Small Group Journeys



2019 / 2020

Australia • New Zealand

# The Southern Drift

Discover New Zealand on this Inspiring Journey through the natural treasures of the South Island. From the still waters of Milford Sound and snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps to the rolling hills of Central Otago, delve into the beauty of landscapes that have remained unchanged for millennia.



*Milford's second highest waterfall is the Stirling Falls, a staggering 151m in height – three times the height of Niagara Falls, but the 1,300m mountain behind displaces this incredible height. This is the famous waterfall that Hugh Jackman 'jumped off' in the movie Wolverine.*



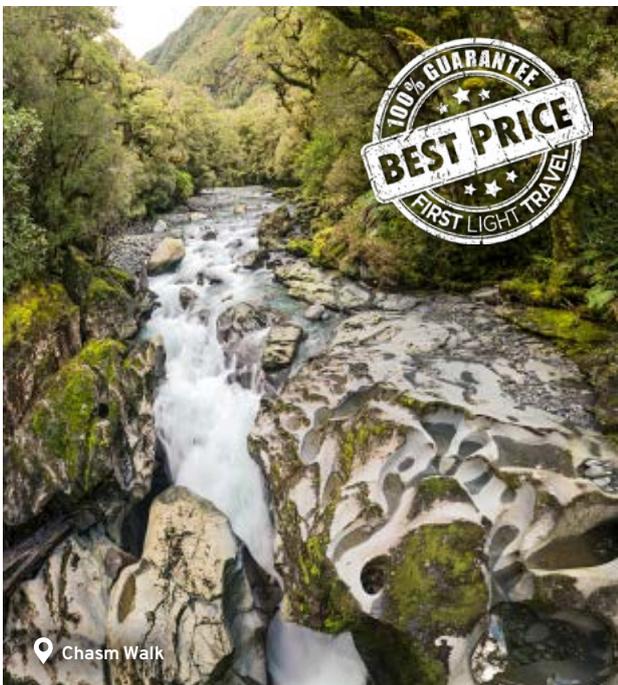
📍 Te Anau



📍 Church of the Good Shepherd



📍 Milford Sound



📍 Chasm Walk

**12 DAYS** Christchurch • Arthur's Pass • Franz Josef Glacier • Queenstown • Milford Sound • Te Anau • Dunedin • Pukaki • Tekapo • Church of the Good Shepherd

## Discover

The magnificent icy landscape of Franz Josef Glacier  
Dunedin's Scottish influence

## Explore

Kayak across the waters of magical Milford Sound  
Listen to the stories and explore the grounds of Larnach Castle  
Vibrant Queenstown, nestled at the foot of the Remarkables

## Immerse

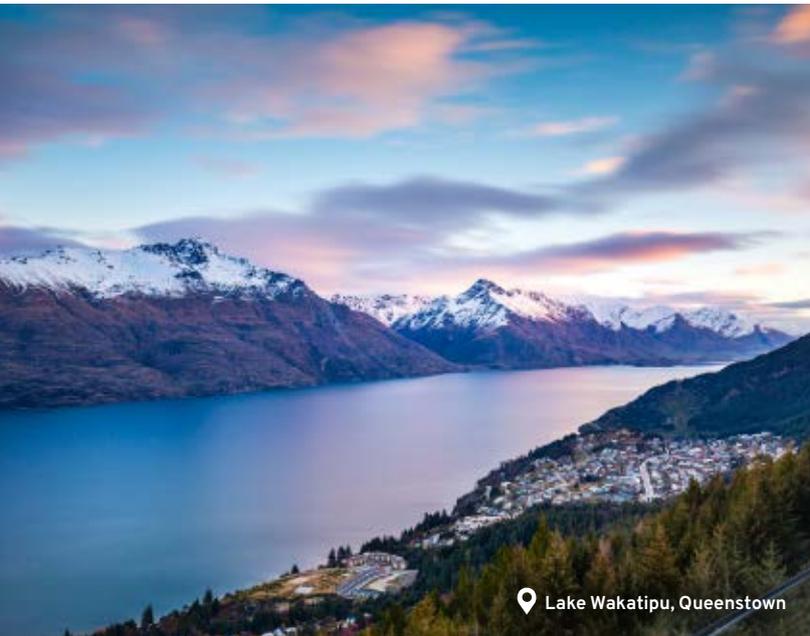
With an adventure on the Haast River   
Uncover Arrowtown's gold mining heritage

## Relax

Stay in a luxury eco-lodge in Fiordland National Park  
Indulge in a spa treatment in Queenstown  
With view of mountains and rivers on the TranzAlpine Train 



📍 Wine tasting in Queenstown



📍 Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown



📍 Larnach Castle, Dunedin

**Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch**

Your New Zealand adventure begins in Christchurch, the 'Garden City'. Spend the afternoon at leisure before joining your Journey Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception.

🏨 Hotel Montreal, Christchurch

**Day 2: Christchurch – Franz Josef Glacier**

✈️ Traverse the verdant Canterbury Plains and snow-capped Southern Alps on board the **TranzAlpine**, renowned as one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. Witness more epic scenery as you board your coach at Arthur's Pass. Later, admire the vivid hues of greenstone (jade) on a visit to Hokitika for demonstration by a local carver. Today's final stop is the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier, where you'll spend the night in an eco-friendly retreat in the pristine wilderness.

🏨 Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef, 2 nights

🍽️ Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

**Day 3: Franz Josef Glacier**

Spend the morning relaxing and then explore the area with a local guide, who'll explain the history behind Franz Josef Glacier. Later, ✈️ why not take to the air on an optional experience scenic flight over this spectacular glacier?

🍽️ Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

**Day 4: Franz Josef Glacier – Queenstown**

✈️ It's time for adventure as you **board a purpose-built fully enclosed jet boat for a journey down the Haast River**. Stop in Makarora at lunchtime and later the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown. The adventure-capital of Queenstown awaits and you'll have the opportunity to explore it during an orientation tour when you arrive.

🏨 Crowne Plaza, Queenstown, 3 nights

🍽️ Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

*“The best thing about Haast River Safari is being able to explore the back country as the original inventor of the jet boat “Bill Hamilton” intended – to explore New Zealand’s back country experiencing and one of the last frontiers! We want to share with our guests the authenticity of the experiences we offer and really show a connection with New Zealand through meeting locals, interacting with guides and participating in Indigenous experiences.”*

– Lisa Glubb, Haast River Safari

**Day 5: Queenstown Journey Select**

✔️ Today, **select your choice of sightseeing**: consider a day indulging in the region's vintages on a wine tour. View the Lord of the Rings film locations and scenery of Queenstown and Glenorchy on a scenic tour or spend time in the spa indulging in a relaxing massage.

🍽️ Full buffet breakfast

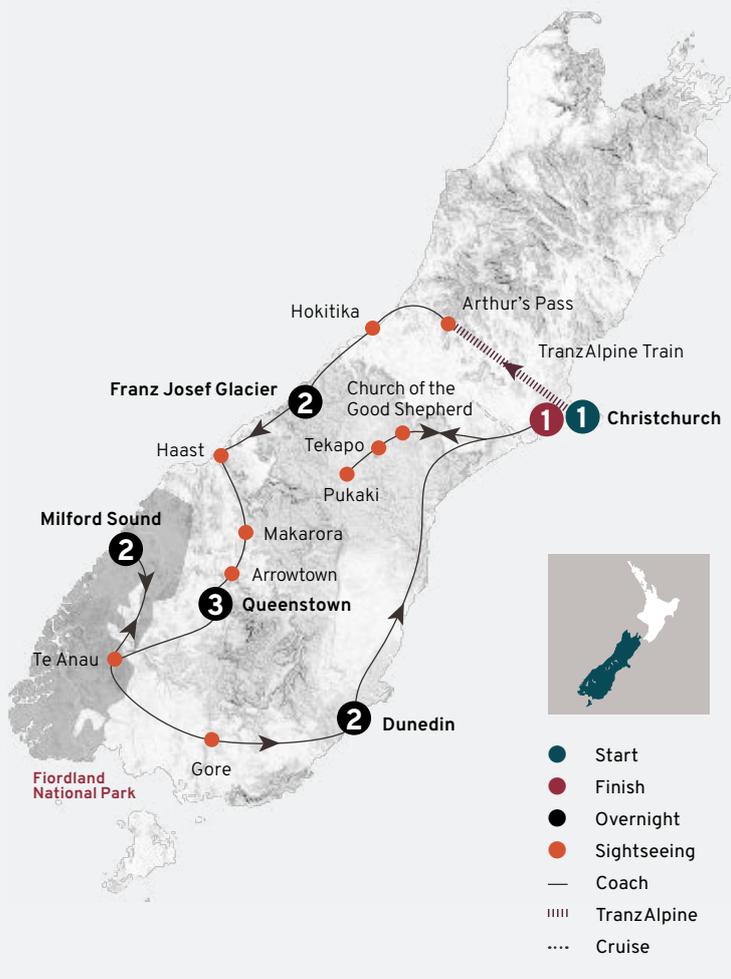
**Day 6: Queenstown Free Time**

✂️ Calling all thrill-seekers! Today's the day to earn your stripes tackling some of Queenstown's most adventurous activities. This evening, **enjoy a memorable dinner at one of Queenstown's fine restaurants**.

🍽️ Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

**Day 7: Queenstown – Milford Sound**

Skirting the shores of Lake Wakatipu southwards, venture to Te Anau and then deep into the Fiordland National Park.



## At a glance:

### TOP 3 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Kayaking on stunning Milford Sound
2. Haast River Jet Boat Ride
3. Local Dining Experience at a premium Queenstown restaurant

### DINING

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11 Full buffet breakfasts | 1 Local Dining Experience |
| 1 Lunch                   | 1 Celebration Dinner      |
| 6 Dinners with wine       |                           |



Driving through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel, you'll emerge into a photographer's paradise where glaciers and peaks give way to the unexpected serenity of Mirror Lake. Stop to explore the wonder of the Chasm Walk before arriving at Milford Sound Lodge, with its exquisite views of the Cleddau Valley.

- 🏠 **Milford Sound Lodge, 2 nights**
- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine**

#### Day 8: Milford Sound Cruise

Wake up to the startling beauty of your surrounds. Learn more about Fiordland National Park during an informative talk by a specialist Nature Guide and **board the Southern Discoveries vessel for a half-day exploration of magnificent Milford Sound**. Cruise out to the Tasman Sea looking for wildlife along the way, and take the opportunity to go sea-kayaking in Harrison Cove.

- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine**

#### Day 9: Milford Sound – Dunedin

Embark on a journey from the rainforests of Fiordland to the rolling hills of Central Otago, travelling through Te Anau, known for its beautiful lake. Stop in the country musical town of Gore at lunchtime, before arriving in Dunedin, New Zealand's southernmost city.

- 🏠 **Distinction Hotel, Dunedin, 2 nights**
- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine**

#### Day 10: Dunedin

This morning, join an exclusive tour of Larnach Castle. Your afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps 🚂 ride the historic Taireri Gorge Railway or take a wildlife cruise.

- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast**

#### Day 11: Dunedin – Christchurch

Discover the shores of Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd before crossing the Canterbury Plains and arriving in Christchurch for an in-depth sightseeing tour. From 01 October 2019, you'll travel up the east coast through Oamaru to Christchurch. This evening, join your Journey Director for a memorable Celebration Dinner.

- 🏠 **Hotel Montreal, Christchurch**
- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast, Celebration Dinner**

#### Day 12: Farewell from Christchurch

It's time to say a fond farewell to your fellow travellers this morning as your Inspiring Journey comes to an end.

- 🍷 **Full buffet breakfast**

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