

2019 ... 2020

Valid from 01 Sep 19 - 31 Aug 20

New Zealand

Escorted Coach Tours



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

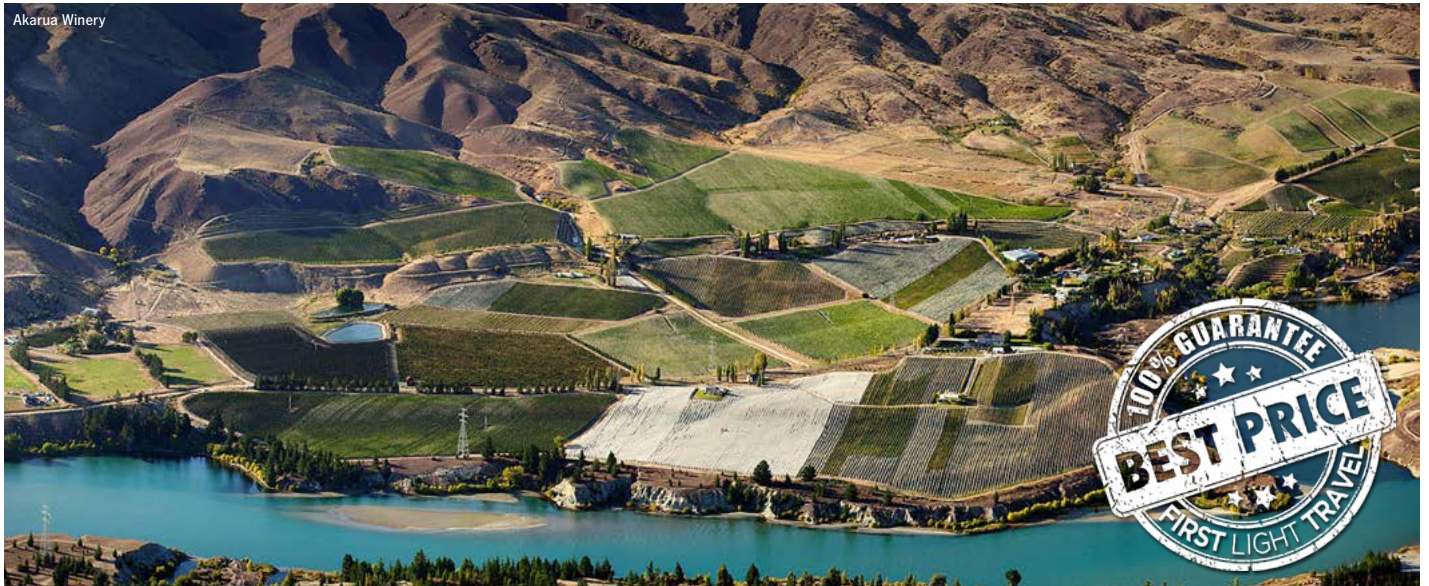
Luxury Small
Group Journeys

All-Inclusive
Coach Tours

13 Day Southern Sensations

Wellington → Christchurch

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Highlights

- + 2 night stopovers in the Marlborough Sounds and Mt Cook National Park
- + 3 night stay in majestic Queenstown
- + Stunning Kenepuru Sound
- + Spectacular Kaikoura
- + World heritage Mt Cook National Park
- + Beautiful Southern Lakes region
- + Fiordland National Park
- + Twin glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef

Featured Experiences

- + Scenic Mussel cruise to Raetihi Lodge
- + Tasman Glacier Explorer boat expedition
- + Spectacular Milford Sound Nature Cruise
- + Dine at a leading Queenstown winery
- + World famous TransAlpine train journey

Iconic Sightseeing

- + Scenic Interislander ferry crossing
- + Free use of Raetihi Lodge kayaks, mountain bikes, dinghies and fishing tackle
- + Lake Tekapo and Church of the Good Shepherd
- + Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- + Visit to Historic Arrowtown

Day 1 Arrive Wellington

On arrival in Wellington, you will be met by our representative and transferred to your downtown city hotel. The rest of today is free to explore the nation's capital. Named the 'coolest little capital in the world' by Lonely Planet, the city has much to offer and a visit to Te Papa, the national museum, is highly recommended. Wellington has a great arts and crafts scene, a superb café culture and fantastic bistros and restaurants offering indoor and al fresco dining.

Stay: *Bolton Hotel*

Day 2 Picton & the Marlborough Sounds (B,D)

This morning, board the Interislander ferry for the cruise across Cook Strait. Travel through the sheltered waters of Queen Charlotte Sound to the picturesque fishing village of Picton. A short drive brings us to Havelock where you board your vessel for a scenic mussel cruise to your remote resort located in the stunning Kenepuru Sound. Relax and unwind as you learn about the local history, take in the fabulous scenery and enjoy freshly steamed mussels paired with a glass of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

Stay: *Raetihi Lodge (2 nights)*

Day 3 Enjoy Kenepuru Sound (B,D)

A free day to relax and marvel at the magic that is the Marlborough Sounds. Lodge staff will share their love of the region with you through the wide range of water and nature based experiences they put at your fingertips.

Complimentary fishing tackle, kayaks and mountains bikes are provided at the lodge and there is a number of bush walks to enjoy. Or you can simply relax with a book and soak in the spectacular scenery.

Day 4 Blenheim, Kaikoura (B)

Return to Havelock by water taxi and reboard our coach for the journey to the small coastal town of Kaikoura nestled on a narrow strip of land with the mountains to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. Here you can enjoy an optional whale-watching adventure, swim with the dolphins or join local Maori for a unique, award winning cultural experience.

Stay: *White Morph Heritage Boutique Collection*

Day 5 Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook (B,D)

Travel south across the Canterbury Plains and stop at beautiful Lake Tekapo to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, built of stone in 1935. Nearby is the well-known bronze statue of a New Zealand Collie Sheepdog, commissioned to recognise the indispensable role of the sheepdog in the lives of local MacKenzie Country farmers. Continue your journey up the western side of Lake Pukaki to the Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage listed site. The park covers over 70,000 hectares of breathtaking alpine scenery.

Stay: *Mt Cook Hermitage Hotel (2 nights)*

Day 6 Tasman Glacier Expedition (B,D)

Today we experience the Tasman Glacier in the most unique way possible. An experienced guide will whisk you away in a stable MAC Boat to explore the melting ice-face of the Tasman Glacier. Get up close to touch and taste 400-year old icebergs that have been carved into the murky waters of the lake. This afternoon, there is time to enjoy one of the many bush walks. Optional ski-plane and helicopter flights are available (subject to weather conditions).



Tasman Glacier Boat Expedition





Day 7 Cromwell, Lake Te Anau (B,D)

Begin the ascent over the Lindis Pass to the township of Cromwell, then continue on to the historic village of Clyde, nestled in a sheltered basin at the foot of an immense and crooked gorge. Stop for lunch at Alexandra, located on the banks of the mighty Clutha River, then travel across the farmlands of Central Otago to the township of Gore before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau, the gateway to the Fiordland National Park.

Stay: *Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas*

Day 8 Milford Sound, Queenstown (B,L)

Today's highlight is a leisurely nature cruise of the breathtaking Milford Sound, cruising the full length of the fiord to the Tasman Sea. An on-board nature guide will give you detailed information of the region's history, flora and fauna and you will view spectacular waterfalls, rainforests and towering mountains, including the awesome Mitre Peak. Wildlife includes dolphins, seals, penguins and albatross when in season. Continue your journey on to Queenstown, regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination.

Stay: *Heritage Queenstown Hotel (3 nights)*

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

Day 9 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, 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.

Day 10 Arrowtown, Akarua Winery (B,L)

Set beneath the rugged Crown Range is Arrowtown, a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Enjoy time to stroll through this historic village located beside the Arrow River, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's. Enjoy a relaxing lunch at the much loved Walnut Cottage, the show piece of Akarua Wines & Kitchen backdropped by the Remarkables mountain range.



Day 11 Wanaka, Franz Josef Glacier (B,D)

There is time to wander around the resort of Lake Wanaka before enjoying incredible scenery as we travel past the untouched native forests and pristine lakes of the World Heritage Westland National Park. Onto Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers where there is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions) or enjoy a soak in the Franz Josef Thermal Pools prior to a sumptuous dinner this evening at our exclusive retreat.

Stay: *Te Waonui Forest Retreat*

Day 12 Spectacular TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch (B,D)

After a leisurely breakfast, we head north along the dramatic West Coast, steeped in history dating back to the gold rush era of the 1800's. At Greymouth, board the award-winning TranzAlpine for a coast to coast rail adventure rated as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. The TranzAlpine tracks its way up and across the mighty Southern Alps via the alpine village of Arthurs Pass, then winds its way through spectacular river gorges and over massive viaducts before arriving at the 'Garden City' of Christchurch. On arrival we transfer to our hotel for a farewell dinner with our newfound friends and relive the highlights and experiences of the last two weeks.

Stay: *Rydges Latimer Hotel*

Day 13 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred to Christchurch airport to connect with your onward flight. Here we bid you 'Haere Ra', a fond farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay.



Inclusions

- + Maximum group size 24 guests
- + 12 nights luxury hotel and boutique accommodation
- + Full breakfast daily (B), 2 lunches (L) & 7 dinners (D)
- + Travel by purpose built, luxury Platinum Touring coach
- + Guided by a professional Driver Guide
- + Hotel portering
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure

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