

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 

*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# THE ULTIMATE KIWI ADVENTURE



SMALL GROUP GUIDED TOURS. **RATED #1 IN NZ!**



MTB



SNOW



ADVENTURE



PREMIUM



PRIVATE





# 7-DAY SOUTH ISLAND LICK TOUR

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If you only have a short time to explore the largest island of New Zealand, this is the tour for you! Prepare for seven days of spectacular scenery and lots of opportunity for adventure. Turquoise lakes, majestic glaciers, dramatic mountain peaks, golden tussocklands and the picture-perfect towns of Queenstown, Wanaka and Franz Josef are all on our week-long road trip!

This small-group guided tour of the South Island will visit Christchurch, Wanaka, Queenstown, Tekapo (an International Dark Sky Reserve), Franz Josef Glacier, and back across to Christchurch via Arthur's Pass onboard the world-famous TranzAlpine train. You'll have the option to visit Milford Sound, and we'll stop at many other scenic spots along this South Island itinerary.

There's a range of optional add-on activities: from adrenalin-pumping bucket-list items like bungee jumping, jet boating, and sky-diving to more gentle activities like heli-hiking (okay for all abilities), quad biking, kayaking, scenic flights and hiking. None of these are compulsory; just add the ones you want.

Accommodation is included on the last night of your tour, but we can also book a few extra nights for you if you would like to extend your stay.

## South Island Lick Tour Tips:

- ▶ Activities can also be purchased on the road - just let your tour guide know. We can't always guarantee availability when booking on the road, so we suggest pre-booking any activities you especially want to do.
- ▶ As the tour starts early in the morning, you can opt to book accommodation in Christchurch with us the night before the tour - only having to walk downstairs on the day the tour starts makes for a stress-free morning!
- ▶ The tour price includes dorm share accommodation (4-6 share) but if you would prefer your own space you have the option to upgrade to a private room. You can select this upgrade when you start building your tour online.

FLEXIBLE DEPARTURE DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



# TOUR INCLUSIONS

## AWESOME INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Discover NZ's most spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Areas
- ▶ Journey through National Parks
- ▶ Cross the stunning Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine train
- ▶ Explore downtown Christchurch and see its inspiring regeneration since the 2011 quake
- ▶ Visit the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, nestled by the shores of Lake Tekapo
- ▶ Unparalleled stargazing opportunities in Tekapo's Dark Sky Reserve
- ▶ Visit the charming, historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- ▶ Carve your own pounamu (greenstone/jade) pendant in Franz Josef
- ▶ Discover the beauty and history of pounamu in Hokitika, the greenstone capital of the country
- ▶ Plus many surprise stops along the way

## ALL ADVENTURE TOURS INCLUDE

### ORIENTATION TOURS

We give you the low-down on every location.

### COMFORTABLE TRANSPORT

With plenty of room to spread out.

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST EVERY DAY

Heaps of options for everyone (you too, vegans!)

### HIGH-END HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Dorm share, upgrades available.

### CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

To teach you about our unique Māori culture.

### EXPERIENCED LOCAL GUIDE

Friendly, knowledgeable and passionate about NZ

### SMALL GROUPS - MAXIMUM 16

Because you're more than just a number!





# ITINERARY SUMMARY

**DAY 1 - CHRISTCHURCH TO MACKENZIE COUNTRY**

**DAY 2 - MACKENZIE COUNTRY TO QUEENSTOWN**

**DAY 3 - QUEENSTOWN**

**DAY 4 - QUEENSTOWN TO WANAKA**

**DAY 5 - WANAKA TO FRANZ JOSEF**

**DAY 6 - FRANZ JOSEF**

**DAY 7 - FRANZ JOSEF TO CHRISTCHURCH**





## DAY 1 – CHRISTCHURCH TO MACKENZIE COUNTRY

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Christchurch City Tour
- ▶ Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd
- ▶ Experience Tekapo's Dark Sky Reserve

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Grand Traverse Scenic Flight

This morning we'll explore iconic downtown Christchurch and your guide will show you the cool and creative ways the city is being rebuilt after the life-changing 2011 earthquake here. Christchurch folk are an innovative and creative bunch – the Transitional Cathedral, created from cardboard, is totally inspirational.

After lunch we leave the city behind and head for Lake Tekapo. The lake's breathtaking turquoise colour and mountain backdrop is a photographer's dream come true.

The tiny Church of the Good Shepherd stands right at the water's edge, proving that small is definitely beautiful. Grab some confetti and congratulate any passing brides – couples travel from all over the world for wedding shots in front of the chapel!

Tekapo has been declared an International Dark Sky Reserve and the super clear skies make it the best place in New Zealand to see the stars and galaxies on a clear night. Sit back, relax and enjoy.



## DAY 2 – MACKENZIE COUNTRY TO QUEENSTOWN

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Hike up Mt John (optional)
- ▶ Visit Kawarau Gorge

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Grand Traverse Scenic Flight
- ▶ Bungy Jump

This morning if you're feeling energetic, hike up to the summit of Mt John. With awesome views of the Southern Alps, you'll feel on top of the world. Speaking of views, today's scenic drive to Queenstown is a show-stopper.

From the golden tussocklands of Mackenzie country – where epic battles of Return of the King were filmed – to the dramatic peaks of the Southern Alps, it's like you're driving into a postcard.

We'll pause for lots of photo stops en route to give your camera a workout, including a stop at the spectacular Kawarau Gorge. This also happens to be the World Home of Bungy, give it a go or enjoy watching the jumpers scream their way through the gorge!

Whether you're an adrenaline junkie, an avid hiker, wine taster or scenery lover, Queenstown has something for absolutely everyone. With two nights and plenty of daylight hours here, get ready – this town certainly knows how to live life to the max!





## DAY 3 – QUEENSTOWN

### INCLUDED

- Breakfast

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Milford Sound Coach/Cruise
- Milford Sound Flight/Cruise
- Canyon Swing
- Bungy Jumping
- Skydiving
- Paragliding
- Shotover Jet Boat
- Canyoning
- Horse Trek - Lord of the Rings
- Lord of the Rings 4WD Safari
- Heli-Mountain Biking

With a full day in Queenstown, let's work on that bucket list! There are heaps of options to choose from: paragliding over the lake, mountain bike parks and trails to die for, bungy jumping while your friends cheer you on, horse riding through *Lord of the Rings* scenery, and swinging through a canyon are just a few of our favourites.

For scenery lovers, Milford Sound is a must-see. Whether you fly or drive, the scenery en route is as awesome as the destination. Once on the Sound, sailing beneath thundering waterfalls and towering cliff faces, you'll understand why some call it the "8th Wonder of the World"

Tonight you have around 40 bars to choose from – your guide will fill you in on their favourites – to share your adventures with your travel buddies, and party the night away.



## DAY 4 – QUEENSTOWN TO WANAKA

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Visit Arrowtown – a charming and historic gold rush village

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Canyon Swing
- ▶ Bungy Jumping
- ▶ Paragliding
- ▶ Shotover Jet Boat
- ▶ Canyoning
- ▶ Horse Trekking – Lord of the Rings
- ▶ Lord of the Rings 4WD Safari

One last morning in Queenstown to work on that bucket list. What will it be today - a canyoning experience, Lord of the Rings 4x4 safari, or a jet boat ride along the Shotover River? There are so many options. You decide.

After the excitement of Queenstown, the afternoon is a chance to chill. Wanaka is Queenstown's slightly quieter little sister, a mere one hour drive away. On the way we'll stop in at charming Arrowtown, a historic gold rush village with heaps of old world character.

Blessed with towering peaks and a glacial blue lake, you'll soon see why Wanaka's considered to be one of New Zealand's most beautiful mountain towns. There are stunning hikes and bike rides all around for a welcome chance to relax.





## DAY 5 – WANAKA TO FRANZ JOSEF

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Lake Hawea Lookout
- ▶ Haast Pass

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Aerobatic Plane Flight
- ▶ Skydive
- ▶ Wanaka Bike Tour
- ▶ Mou Waho Lake Cruise & Island Nature Walk

This morning is about exploring Wanaka. How, exactly, is up to you! Optional activities include an aerobatic plane flight, skydiving, a bike tour along Wanaka's lakeside, or a lake cruise and nature walk on Mou Waho Island.

If none of those appeal, there are lots of scenic short walks in the area - including a visit to #thatwanakatree. Talk to your guide for the best options.

The journey to Franz is another stunner - many of our guides rate it as their favourite drive in New Zealand.

As we hit the road, we'll stop at one of our favourite lakeside lookout points at Lake Hawea or Lake Wanaka. Your guide will keep an eye on the weather and pick the best option.

From the cascading waterfalls of Haast Pass to classic Kiwi coastal views, you won't want to nap on the bus in case you miss anything. Your guide will have some epic surprise photo stops and short walks along the way.

We roll into Franz Josef around late afternoon/early evening. This UNESCO World Heritage area is famous for its spectacular glacier, just 5 kilometres from town, which is begging to be explored tomorrow.



## DAY 6 – FRANZ JOSEF

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Carve your own pounamu necklace

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Glacier Heli Hike
- ▶ Scenic Helicopter Flight With Snow Landing
- ▶ Kayak in Glacier Country
- ▶ Quad Biking

With Aoraki/Mount Cook (New Zealand's highest mountain) twinkling behind the glaciers, Franz Josef is about as beautiful a setting as you can find in New Zealand.

Te Wahi Pounamu (which means 'the place of greenstone' in Māori) is the name given to this part of the West Coast because of the abundance of pounamu (greenstone/jade) to be found here. Included in your tour today is a special opportunity to carve your very own pounamu pendant at a local gallery.

There are heaps of ways to enjoy Franz Josef Glacier; weather permitting, to get up onto the bluest ice you can take a scenic helicopter flight and hike onto the glaciers. Maybe you'd prefer to kayak on a glacial lake; or just relax in the steamy hot springs down below.

As well as the awesome glacier activities you could also try out quad biking and even a bit of group karaoke tonight in Franz Josef!





## DAY 7 – FRANZ JOSEF TO CHRISTCHURCH

### INCLUDED

- ▶ Breakfast
- ▶ Visit Hokitika Greenstone Factory
- ▶ TranzAlpine Train Journey

Before you know it, it's your last day! After breakfast we head further along the beautiful west coast on another of the most spectacular drives in the country (and, some would say, the world): a rugged, primeval landscape of luxuriant rainforest juxtaposed against breathtaking beach and ocean waves.

We stop at Hokitika and visit a greenstone factory, a great place to stock up on souvenirs for your friends and family back home. Time permitting, we may also visit the National Kiwi Centre where there is guaranteed viewing of rare kiwi birds in their nocturnal house.

On the way back to Christchurch, you'll traverse the South Island on the stunning TranzAlpine Train Crossing. Travelling across the Southern Alps through Arthur's Pass, you'll arrive in Christchurch around 6.30pm before transferring to your accommodation.

Your tour officially ends at 8pm today in Christchurch, so feel free to party on with your new travel buddies for as long as you like – your accommodation tonight is included so you can treat yourself to a lie-in in the morning!



## FAQ's

### WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

This tour starts in Christchurch at 8am on Day 1 and wraps up at 8pm on the evening of Day 7 back in Christchurch, but your final nights accommodation is included.

Most customers stay with us the night before the tour starts, which means a super relaxed start to your experience. You can choose to do this as you build your tour online.

### CAN I BOOK EXTRA ACCOMMODATION?

Yes - we would be happy to book extra accommodation in Christchurch before or after your tour.

### DO YOU VISIT MILFORD SOUND ON THIS TOUR?

We offer an optional trip to the wonderful Milford Sound while in Queenstown. There are a few different options for the excursion, which you can view online.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOUR?

Everyone has their own favourites, but in general we find that these are the most popular:

- ▶ Milford Sound Day Trip - departs Queenstown
- ▶ Skydiving - Wanaka or Abel Tasman
- ▶ Nevis Bungy - Queenstown
- ▶ Heli Hike - Franz Josef

Please be aware that your guide will fit your activities in the best way possible depending on what activities are selected - so they may take place on different days or times than those listed on this itinerary.

### I AM TRAVELLING ALONE - CAN I JOIN THIS TOUR?

Yes! Around 70% of our guests are solo so you can absolutely join this, or any other of our tours. There are no single person supplements.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I BUDGET PER DAY FOR FOOD AND WHAT FOOD IS INCLUDED?

Your guide will supply a continental breakfast each morning of your tour. This will consist of cereal, toast, tea, coffee and juice. And we take any special requests also.

Lunches and dinners are at your own expense. Our guides know the best places in each town and city depending on your budget and what you are after, and they will point these out on the way into each location.

Some nights the tour group may choose to cook a meal together. You will head to a supermarket to get everything and then cook as a group at the hostel.

Whoever joins in splits the cost, and it usually works out to be about NZ\$10 per person. A fun, social and cheap dinner.

Likewise the tour group and guide often head out to a local pub for a beer and a meal. Meals can range from NZ\$15 upwards. In summer it's not uncommon to have a BBQ washed down with a few drinks.





## FAQ's

### DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS/VEGANS?

Yes – we often have vegetarian/vegan guests and all cafes and restaurants in New Zealand offer these options. If you can't see any on the menu just ask, as most places will happily prepare something for you.

### HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I MAKE A BOOKING?

We recommend booking as soon as you know you can travel, and have decided on which tour you would like to go on. Some of our tours can be quite popular so it's best to secure your spot as soon as possible. Your spot can be booked with just a \$99 deposit and full balance is due 45 days prior to departure. You can log into your account at any time up until 45 days prior to pay off part of your tour balance, add activities and customise your tour.

### WHAT AGES IS THIS TOUR FOR?

We have guests that are in their late teens to their 60s but the average age is around 25-45. More important than age is attitude – we have found over the years that if you have a thirst for adventure then age is no barrier.

Please do keep in mind though that a reasonable level of fitness is required – we can talk you through any specifics. The minimum age of joining a tour is 18 years old.

Sometimes the group may head out to a bar where everyone needs to be 18 years old, and New Zealand has strict alcohol policies.

### CAN I UPGRADE MY ACCOMMODATION?

If you would prefer to have your own room while on tour, it is a good idea to upgrade. Most private rooms will have an ensuite bathroom attached; however in some locations you will have a private room with shared bathroom facilities due to the hostel layout. You can read more information about our accommodation upgrades online.

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES**

**EMAIL US**

**OR PHONE US NOW**

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