

# FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

New Zealand  
**Coach Holidays**  
2022 / 23



3 Ways to Travel. 4 Styles of Touring

Valid for Departures September 2022 - May 2023

**NEW  
TOUR**

A fully escorted festive season getaway to New Zealand's South Island

# 11 Day Signature South Island Christmas

No hidden extras

## PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Christchurch Tram
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Lakes District Museum
- Milford Sound Cruise and Lunch
- Larnach Castle\*
- City sights tour of Dunedin and Christchurch

\*Guided tour.

## COACH FEATURES

- 32 Premium Economy Comfort seats on a full-size coach
- 2 door access; seat back tray table; cup holder
- Restroom; daily onboard Wi-Fi allowance

## EXPERIENCE

- Return airfares from your homeport
- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Professional Coach Captain
- Tour Leader
- 10 nights 4 star accommodation
- 3 two night stays
- Hotel portage
- 1 rail journey
- 2 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Extensive Optional Tours Programme
- Classic Documentation Pack

## MEALS

- 10 cooked breakfasts
- 8 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and specialty dinner: Farewell Dinner including pre-dinner drink, Christchurch
- Christmas Day Lunch: Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown
- 1 picnic lunch: Milford Sound Cruise
- 1 delicious Devonshire Tea: Larnach Castle
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

Day 1: Dinner not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

**TOUR CODE** SGPX11

**STYLE** Signature Mid-Size Group  
**COACH** 32 seat Premium Economy  
**ACCOMMODATION** 4 star

**STARTS** Christchurch  
**FINISHES** Christchurch

**2022 GUARANTEED DEPARTURE**  
Dec 21



## Itinerary and Hotels

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

### DAY 1: Arrive Christchurch (D)

On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink when you meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions for dinner.

**Hotel** Christchurch City Hotel (2 nights)

### DAY 2: Christchurch (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day to explore Christchurch. Enjoy a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at leisure, one of Christchurch's leading attractions.

### DAY 3: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass - Franz Josef (B,D)

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before continuing to Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

### DAY 4: Franz Josef - Queenstown (B,D)

See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty. Continue to picturesque Queenstown, situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year-round resort.

**Hotel** Millennium Hotel Queenstown (2 nights)



On Christmas Day, board the steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise to Walter Peak Station to enjoy a gourmet celebration lunch and the best of NZ's high-country cuisine.

## Optional Activities



### KJET

Board the 'Big Yellow' Kjet boat and tear out of the beautiful Queenstown Bay across to Lake Wakatipu for an unforgettable experience along two of New Zealand's most scenic and action-packed rivers of the Shotover and Kawarau.



### ALPINE EXPLORER

On a scenic helicopter flight over the Ben Ohau Mountain Range, you will understand why Aoraki / Mount Cook was named the cloud piercer by Māori.

### DAY 5: Queenstown - Christmas Day (B,L) 🍷

Merry Christmas! Today board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Enjoy a gourmet Christmas lunch and the best of NZ's high-country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. Reboard the TSS Earnslaw and enjoy a sing along by the piano on your return cruise to Queenstown. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

### DAY 6: Queenstown - Te Anau (B,D)

Enjoy a leisurely start this morning before travelling to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village where you visit the Lakes District Museum. This innovative museum is heavily involved in the protection of the historic buildings scattered around town. Continue to Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

**Hotel** Distinction Luxmore Hotel  
(2 nights. Deluxe Room)

### DAY 7: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Te Anau (B,L,D)

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch onboard. This afternoon return to Te Anau where some free time is available. You might like to cap off your Fiordland experience by watching the breathtaking film, *Ata Whenua - Shadowland*, which screens at the Fiordland Cinema (optional).

### DAY 8: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,D)

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, famous for its stunning Edwardian and Victorian architecture dating back to the gold rush of the 1800s. Today Dunedin is New Zealand's oldest university city. Enjoy a free afternoon at leisure.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

### DAY 9: Dunedin - Mt Cook - Twizel (B,D)

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Devonshire Tea. Travel to Oamaru

famous for its limestone, then follow the Waitaki River and see Lake Benmore as you continue to marvel at Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available to enjoy a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the Southern Alps. Travel to Twizel for your overnight stay.

**Hotel** MacKenzie Country Hotel

### DAY 10: Twizel - Christchurch (B,SD)

Continue to Lake Tekapo and view the brilliant turquoise water. You will also view the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue, iconic landmarks of the Mackenzie region. Arrive in the elegant city of Christchurch for a city tour. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink and reminisce on memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner.

**Hotel** Christchurch City Hotel

### DAY 11: Depart Christchurch (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.