

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



In ultimate style experience wilderness, wildlife and unique attractions

11 Day Ultimate Top of the South Island

No hidden extras

TOUR CODE UGPTOS11

STYLE Ultimate Small Group
COACH 20 seat Business Class
ACCOMMODATION 4.5 star

STARTS Christchurch
FINISHES Christchurch

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

2022	2023
Oct 2	Mar 19
Nov 1	May 2



PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Akaroa Harbour Nature Cruise
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Wilderness Gallery Hokitika
- Monteith's Brewing Co. Tasting
- Nelson Classic Car Museum
- Abel Tasman Guided Walk and Barbecue Cruise*
- Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre*
- Cloudy Bay Estate Wine Tasting
- Queen Charlotte Sound Cruise to Furneaux Lodge
- Kaikōura Museum
- International Antarctic Centre
- City sights tour of Christchurch and Nelson

*Guided tour.

COACH FEATURES

- 20 Business Class seats on a full-size coach
- 2 door access; dedicated seat side storage with 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
- 10 nights 4.5 star accommodation
- 3 two night stays
- Hotel portage
- 1 rail journey
- 3 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Optional Tours Programme
- Deluxe Documentation Pack

MEALS

- 10 cooked breakfasts
- 7 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 1 specialty dinner: Farewell Dinner including pre-dinner drink, Christchurch
- 5 specialty lunches: Kingfisher Restaurant, Lake Brunner; Monteith's Brewing Co., Greymouth; Abel Tasman BBQ lunch, Abel Tasman National Park; Dodson Street Beer Garden; Blenheim; Furneaux Lodge, Queen Charlotte Sound
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

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



Scenic Highlights and Walks

- Historic French Village of Akaroa
- Lake Brunner
- Brunner Mine Site
- Hokitika Gorge 🦶🦶
- Punakaiki Pancake Rocks 🦶🦶🦶
- Cape Foulwind walkway 🦶🦶
- Buller Gorge
- Seaside town of Kaiteriteri
- Abel Tasman National Park 🦶🦶
- Marlborough Wine Region
- Marlborough Sounds
- Coastal town of Kaikōura

FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED

Tour includes a number of short walks of up to 1 hour that require a moderate level of fitness. The walks are scenic and not excessive but can include slight inclines and uneven surfaces. Ensure you feel comfortable with this level of fitness before booking.

Above Take a step back in time as you marvel at the incredible car collection at the Nelson Classic Car Museum. **Opposite** Sample some of Marlborough's finest wine with lunch at Furneaux Lodge.



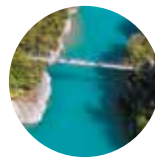
Experience the scenic beauty of Hokitika Gorge from the suspension bridge over Hokitika River.

Tour Highlights



AKAROA HARBOUR NATURE CRUISE

Set off on your Nature Cruise from the historic French Village of Akaroa for the chance to see the rare Hector's dolphins and other marine life.



HOKITIKA GORGE

This vivid, turquoise glacial river, surrounded by lush bush is well worth a visit and is even more impressive in real life!



PUNAKAIKI PANCAKE ROCKS

Gaze in wonder at the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes, where columns of water shoot skyward from rocks that resemble giant stacks of pancakes.



ABEL TASMAN WALK AND BARBECUE CRUISE

Walk along the golden sand beaches and cruise the sheltered coves of the Abel Tasman National Park followed by a delicious barbecue lunch.



CLOUDY BAY ESTATE

Named after a body of water explorer Captain James Cook came across during his voyage in 1770, you will sample some of Marlborough's finest wine amongst the barrels at Cloudy Bay Estate.



QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND CRUISE TO FURNEAUX LODGE

Cruise the spectacular Queen Charlotte Sound to Furneaux Lodge for a delicious lunch. On the return cruise enjoy a cheese platter accompanied by a glass of Marlborough wine.



Enjoy the morning exploring the natural wonders on a cruise to the Able Tasman National Park.

Itinerary and Hotels

(B) Breakfast. (SL) Specialty 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 as you meet your travelling companions.

Hotel Sudima Christchurch City (2 nights)

DAY 2: Christchurch - Akaroa - Christchurch (B)

After an introductory city sights tour, enjoy a scenic drive to the historic French village of Akaroa, with time to wander through the charming galleries and craft stores. This afternoon set off on a Nature Cruise in the hope of spotting the rare Hector's Dolphin and keep an eye out for penguins and other sea birds. Following your cruise, return to Christchurch where the evening is free to dine at one of the city's many restaurants.

DAY 3: Christchurch - Moana - Hokitika (B,SL,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 before descending through the Otira Tunnel to Moana, on the banks of picturesque Lake Brunner. Enjoy lunch at Kingfisher Restaurant, before travelling to the Brunner Mine Site, the location of the 1896 mine explosion. This afternoon in the coastal town of Hokitika, visit a local gallery, for the opportunity to pick up a gift or souvenir.

Hotel Beachfront Hotel Hokitika (Ocean View Room)

DAY 4: Hokitika - Punakaiki (B,SL,D)

Today, take in the natural beauty of the Hokitika Gorge on a short walk descending through the hardwood forest that will lead you to a swing bridge which crosses the Hokitika River. Continue north to Greymouth, home of Monteith's Brewing Co. where you will sample locally brewed beers over lunch. This afternoon travel along the Great Coast Road to the world-famous Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes.

Hotel Punakaiki Resort (Sea View Room)

DAY 5: Punakaiki - Nelson (B,D)

Journey north along the coast to Tauranga Bay and Cape Foulwind, named by Captain Cook in 1770 when he encountered nasty weather. A short walk along the rocky headland will showcase the rugged coastline and sea life often on show amongst the rocks. Travel inland via the Buller Gorge and Murchison to Nelson, one of the sunniest cities in New Zealand. This afternoon enjoy an orientation tour of the city followed by a visit to the Nelson Classic Car Museum where you will marvel at an incredible collection of iconic cars.

Hotel Rutherford Hotel (Premium Room. 2 nights)

DAY 6: Nelson - Abel Tasman National Park - Nelson (B,SL)

Travel to Kaiteriteri, gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park and join a cruise along the parks' picturesque coastline. At Anchorage Bay a barbecue lunch will be served. Re-join your coach and depart for Nelson via the vineyards. This evening is free for you to dine at one of the local restaurants in town.



Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes Walk.

DAY 7: Nelson - Blenheim (B,SL,D)

Today travel via Havelock and the wine-growing region of Marlborough. Visit the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, home to one of the largest private collections of WW1 Aircraft, brought to life in sets created by the internationally acclaimed WingNut Films and Weta Workshop. Head back into town where you will enjoy lunch at a local Blenheim beer garden before a short drive to Cloudy Bay Estate. Established in 1985, Cloudy Bay was one of the original wineries in the region. Enjoy a personalised tasting experience in the Barrell Room followed by time to wander through the superb, manicured grounds and towering gum trees, which will surely be a highlight.

Hotel Chateau Marlborough (2 nights)

DAY 8: Blenheim - Marlborough Sounds - Blenheim (B,SL)

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before travelling to Picton where time is available to explore this picturesque port. Board a luxury vessel at Picton Marina and cruise the spectacular Queen Charlotte Sound to Furneaux Lodge whilst enjoying the informative commentary on this stunning region. At Furneaux Lodge a delicious lunch will be served followed by time to

enjoy the peaceful surroundings. There is access to kayaks and short walks around the property. On the return cruise to Picton a cheese platter featuring local produce is served accompanied by a glass of Marlborough wine, the perfect end to your Marlborough Sounds adventure. Board the coach for the short journey back to Blenheim where the evening is free to dine at one of the local restaurants.

DAY 9: Blenheim - Kaikōura (B,D)

Farewell the Marlborough region and journey to Kaikōura. Visit the Kaikōura Museum, which features an exhibition depicting the impact of the 2016 earthquake. This afternoon you may like to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the coastline to see the many species of whales that migrate through this area.

Hotel Sudima Kaikōura

DAY 10: Kaikōura - Christchurch (B,SD)

Depart Kaikōura and head to Christchurch to visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This evening reminisce on the memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner which includes selected beverages.

Hotel Sudima Christchurch City

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.