

New Zealand South Island

With Trade Travel

11 Days / 10 Nights - Fully Escorted NZ

Tour Departs: Friday 11 October - Monday 21 October, 2024.



TRADE TRAVEL
Effortless Journeys, Endless Memories



Day 1. Fri 11 Oct: Australia - Christchurch

Dinner

Flight Details: Homeport - Christchurch (Times to be advised)

Welcome to New Zealand! We are met on arrival at the **Christchurch** International Airport before being transferred to our hotel for check-in. Tonight we enjoy our welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Christchurch: Rydges Latimer Hotel

Day 2. Sat 12 Oct: Christchurch

Breakfast & Dinner

After a good nights rest, we enjoy breakfast this morning before our **sightseeing tour of Christchurch**. Highlights include the River Avon, the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, Bridge of Remembrance, the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial and the Spanish Mission-inspired New Regent Street. Learn about the effects of the 2011 Christchurch Earthquakes and how the city is rebuilding. Following our sightseeing tour, enjoy a 30-minute **Punting in the Avon** service by knowledgeable and professional boatmen, in straw boaters and traditional dress, giving an informative and entertaining guide to the Avon River and the Botanic Gardens. Included today is an all-day pass on the restored heritage **Christchurch Tram** so we can enjoy a journey in style through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre. Knowledgeable drivers will inform us about the city, its landmarks and local sights. Our day-long ticket allows us to get on and off the tram as often as we please! Some stops include Cathedral Junction, the Avon River, Gothic-style Arts Centre, the Canterbury Museum and New Regent Street are just some of the sights to be seen from the comfort of the tram, or accessed from the 18 stops en route. This evening we enjoy **delicious Spanish cuisine** in one of the charming dining rooms of the **Curators Cottage** within the beautiful **Christchurch Botanical Gardens**.

Overnight Christchurch: Rydges Latimer Hotel

Day 3. Sun 13 Oct: Christchurch - Franz Josef

Breakfast & Dinner

From Christchurch traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous **Tranz-Alpine rail journey to Arthurs Pass**. From our carriage we will see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Our train then climbs into the Southern Alps. Once we have crossed into the Southern Alps we are met at the village of Arthurs Pass and board our coach to travel to Hokitika. From the valleys of the snow-capped mountains, descend into the lush rainforests of Westland and travel south along the West Coast to Hokitika. Time permitting, **visit one of the greenstone factories** where a local jade-like stone highly prized by pre-European Maori is crafted into exquisite jewellery. Continue south through forests and farmland, with views of the Alps to the east and the Tasman Sea to the west, to the **village of Franz Josef**. The huge rivers of snow and ice of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers flow from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps almost to sea level which is unusual in a temperate climate. After an amazing day it's time to check in to our accommodation before dinner.

*A highly recommended optional trip is a **scenic helicopter flight (optional extra at own cost)** where the panoramic views of these famous glaciers are complemented by sights of the Southern Alps, Aoraki Mount Cook, the Tasman Sea and much more.*

Overnight Franz Josef: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Day 4. Mon 14 Oct: Franz Josef - Queenstown

Breakfast & Dinner

After breakfast we travel south through the dense South Westland forests crossing fast running streams and pretty bush fringed lakes. At Haast the road turns inland crossing the Southern Alps via the Haast Pass and skirts glacial Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea where on a clear day there are splendid views across the lake to Mt Aspiring. We then continue through the Central Otago sheep, cattle and fruit growing area and site of a major gold rush a century ago.

Day 4. Continued

Continue through the rock hewn Kawarau Gorge to the resort town of **Queenstown**. Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown offers diverse, world-class experiences, a warm welcome and a cosmopolitan vibe. Throughout its history, Queenstown has drawn many adventurers, from the early Māori and gold miners to outdoors people who seek thrills in our backcountry and tourism pioneers who have turned their passions into enterprise. Queenstown has fuelled imaginations and inspired many to explore. This evening board the vintage steamship **TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station**. Sit back, relax and enjoy a **gourmet barbecue dinner** which the chef prepares in front of us at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner and a **short farm tour** then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as we cruise back to Queenstown.

Overnight Queenstown: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront

Day 5. Tue 15 Oct: Queenstown

Breakfast & Dinner

Today is at leisure. Queenstown has a plethora of optional sightseeing activities available from jet-boating on the thrilling Shotover Jet; a jet-boat excursion along the scenic and remote Dart River; winery tours to the premier Central Otago wineries; 4WD tours into unforgettable Skippers Canyon; scenic flights; fly-fishing or if we dare – bungee jumping or tandem sky-diving! **Extra cost for optional sightseeing excursions.**

Dinner tonight is at Queenstown's most spectacular location. **Ride the aerial gondola** high above Queenstown to Bob's Peak where the **Stratosfare Restaurant** serves up a mouth-watering **Taste of New Zealand buffet** - feast on South Island salmon, seafood, salads, roast meats and delicious desserts - and feast our eyes on the most spectacular scenery in the country.

Overnight Queenstown: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront

Day 6. Wed 16 Oct: Queenstown - Milford Sound - Te Anau

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Leaving Queenstown we skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake, and travel via Te Anau to reach the beautiful Eglinton Valley. Then climb to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach **Milford Sound** where we enjoy a **cruise of the Sound**, dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls. A picnic lunch is included today. Returning to Te Anau we check-in and freshen up for dinner.

Overnight Te Anau: Distinction Luxmore Hotel

Day 7. Thurs 17 Oct: Te Anau - Purakaunui Falls - Dunedin

Breakfast & Dinner

This morning we depart Te Anau and travel across towards the east coast via Gore and the eastern side of **the Catlins**. A highlight of the day will be time at **Purakaunui Falls**. A true icon of the Catlins, this is one of New Zealand's most photographed waterfalls, gracing many calendars, postcards and book covers. Continuing north the road turns inland through the small town of Balclutha on the banks of the Clutha River then travels through rolling sheep country to Dunedin. Upon arrival we check-in and freshen up before dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Overnight Dunedin: Distinction Hotel

Day 8. Fri 18 Oct: Dunedin

Breakfast & Dinner

We commence the day with a **sightseeing tour of Dunedin** which is set on hills at the head of a lovely harbour and is renowned for its educational facilities including Otago University, New Zealand's first university. Travel through the CBD along George and Princes Streets and through the Octagon which features the historic Town Hall and St Paul's Anglican Cathedral and a statue of the Scottish poet Robbie Burns. Visits include Baldwin Street (once again officially the steepest in the world) and also **Olveston House and garden** – an impressive turn-of-the-century house that is still home to all the lavish furnishings and art collections that have been collected from all corners of the world. Discover the history of one of Dunedin's most prominent families, and stroll through the elegant gardens with views of Otago Harbour. The remainder of the day is at leisure before gathering back at the hotel for dinner.

Overnight Dunedin: Distinction Hotel



Day 9. Sat 19 Oct: Dunedin - Twizel

Breakfast & Dinner

Departing Dunedin the road climbs sharply over the hills that surround the city. Continuing north there are some lovely views of the coast and the Pacific Ocean until the coastal town of Oamaru is reached. Just north of Oamaru the road turns inland and follows the Waitaki River passing the major hydro dams of Aviemore and Benmore, a major source of power for New Zealand. After passing through the junction town of Omarama the road continues north through the tussock covered MacKenzie Country to Lake Pukaki, a classic glacial formed lake. Travel along the shores of the lake into the Southern Alps and Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. At the heart of New Zealand's most spectacular alpine region is Aoraki/Mount Cook, at 3754-metres the highest peak in Australasia. **The Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park** comprises 70,013-hectares of ice, snow, rock, sub-alpine scrub, tussock and riverbeds. Experience the wonder of the National Park, which features 15 peaks and 5 major glaciers. The Tasman Glacier flows 27kms past the flanks of Aoraki/Mount Cook to terminate amongst vast fields of rock debris at the beautiful Blue Lakes, where the Tasman River takes the glacier water to the blue waters of Lake Pukaki. Time here for a short walk or **helicopter flight high into the spectacular Southern Alps (optional at extra cost)**. Late afternoon we leave Aoraki/Mount Cook Village and retrace our journey along the shores of Lake Pukaki with its shimmering turquoise waters before arriving in the small town of **Twizel** for our overnight stay and dinner.

Overnight Twizel: Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel

Day 10. Sun 20 Oct: Twizel - Christchurch

Breakfast & Dinner

After breakfast we depart Twizel and travel to Tekapo to witness the **magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo** and to see the quaint **Church of the Good Shepherd** before crossing the landscape of the MacKenzie Country, named after a 19th century sheep stealer. Depart Tekapo and travel the **vast Mackenzie Basin**, over Burke's Pass through Fairlie, Geraldine, and Ashburton and across the Canterbury Plains into Christchurch. This evening we dine aboard the **Christchurch Tramway Restaurant**. Sit back and enjoy a **delicious farewell dinner** in the luxury of our colonial style tramcar while taking in some of Christchurch's most interesting sights.

Overnight Christchurch: Rydges Latimer Hotel

Day 11. Mon 21 Oct: Christchurch - Australia

Breakfast

Flight Details: Christchurch - Homeport (Times to be advised)

We enjoy breakfast this morning before being transferred to the **Christchurch International Airport** for check in and **flight back home after our wonderful 11 day tour of the New Zealand South Island with Trade Travel.**



Tour Highlights & Inclusions

Tour Highlights: Christchurch Sightseeing Tour - River Avon, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, Bridge of Remembrance, Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial, Spanish Mission-inspired New Regent Street; Punting in the Avon; Christchurch Tram All-Day Pass; Dinner Curators Cottage Tranz-Alpine Rail Journey Arthurs Pass; Franz Josef; Optional Fox Glacier Scenic Helicopter Flight (own cost); The Adventure Township of Queenstown; TSS Earnslaw Cruise; Walter Peak Station Tour & BBQ Dinner; Aerial Gondola Ride - Stratosfare Restaurant; Milford Sound Cruise; Te Anau; The Catlins - Purakaunui Falls; Highlights of Dunedin "Edinburgh of the South"; Olveston Home; Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park; Twizel; Lake Tekapo; Church of the Good Shepherd; Christchurch Tramway Restaurant Farewell Dinner plus more.

Tour Price Includes:

- Tour Host
- Return economy International flights Homeport - Christchurch - Homeport (Brisbane/Sydney/Melbourne)
- Quality coach travel
- 10 Nights quality accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (21 Meals)
- All touring, entry fees, cruises & attractions as per itinerary

Tour Price Excludes:

- Travel insurance
- Optional touring
- Any other expense which is not mentioned in inclusions

Tour Cost: \$5745.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$1568.00)

+ Airport Taxes, Levies & Fuel Surcharges approx \$240.00

A minimum number of 20 passengers is required for this tour to proceed.

We wish to advise that all pricing for International Travel is subject to tax, surcharges, fuel increases and currency fluctuations. It may be necessary to make adjustments to the pricing during the course of the tour booking, at ticketing and at the final payment deadline to ensure these currency changes are allowed for in the pricing.

Please note that itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Deposit: A deposit of **\$500.00** per person is due on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed & signed booking form! ***Don't miss out, spaces are limited!***

Final Payment: Due no later than **Friday 7 June, 2024.**

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

Trade Travel 1800 034 439

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