



River, Lake & Fiord Explorer

Begin your journey in Christchurch before riding the TranzAlpine through Arthurs Pass and into Fox Glacier. Experience the thrills of the West Coast before travelling south into Queenstown, where you are free to explore on your own. Spot cheeky kea and snow-peaked mountains on your way to Milford Sound, where you will begin your Fiordland Escape. Travel later to Dunedin through Invercargill and the Catlins before ending your adventure in Christchurch.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 8days / 7nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included activity: Greymouth to Fox Glacier with Glacier Shuttles
 Included activity: Flying Fox Glacier Helihike with Fox Glacier Guiding
 Included activity: Gondola Ride with Skyline Queenstown
 Included activity: Te Anau to Dunedin via Invercargill & The Catlins with Cheeky Kiwi Travel
 Included activity: Dunedin Accommodation to Coach Stop Transfer with Iconic

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: Fox Glacier to Queenstown with Glacier Shuttles
 Included activity: Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape with Hollyford Wilderness Experience - Lunch and Dinner Included
 Included activity: Dunedin to Christchurch by InterCity Coach
 : 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner

Day 1



TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth

The early morning departure is rewarded with incredible scenery today onboard the TranzAlpine Scenic Train. Considered one of the world's great train journeys, it travels between the East Coast, Christchurch and the West Coast, Greymouth. From your carriage, you'll see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. The train then climbs into the Southern Alps passing through small settlements and Arthur's Pass National Park before descending through the lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Greymouth, a great base for visits to Punakaiki and the West Coast glaciers.

Greymouth to Fox Glacier with Glacier Shuttles

You will be met at the Greymouth Train Station by a representative from Glacier Shuttles and driven to your accommodation in Fox Glacier.

Your accommodation: Te Weheka Resort

A modern, purpose built boutique Fox Glacier hotel. Te Weheka Resort provides a balance of luxury, privacy and location, while being only a short stroll to Fox Glacier village.



Day 2



Fox Glacier

The mighty Fox Glacier is the largest and longest of the stunning West Coast glaciers. Remarkably, it ends in a temperate rainforest just 250 metres above sea level, only twelve kilometres from the sea. The valley at the glacier's head boasts more peaks than any other in New Zealand. Like all glaciers, the Fox Glacier advances and retreats, with its latest surge evident in the bulging lower ice fall. Alpine Guides offers access to the lower part of the glacier via a hidden track that winds through regenerating native forest, providing stunning views of the glacier's upper reaches. Fox Glacier Township, often described as the more "laid-back" of the twin Glacier Country townships, is celebrated for its relaxed atmosphere, excellent cafés, and a variety of accommodation options. The township also enjoys breathtaking views of New Zealand's tallest peaks, Mount Cook and Mount Tasman. For an unforgettable experience, take a helicopter ride to admire the glacier from above or opt for a heli-hike to get up close to its icy formations. Nearby, Lake Matheson, renowned for its mirror-like reflections, is just a five-minute drive west of Fox Township. A short 25-minute drive further west takes you to historic Gillespie's Beach, famous for its crashing surf and views of distant snow-capped mountains.

Flying Fox Glacier Heli-hike with Fox Glacier Guiding

The Fly-In, Fly-Out Heli-hike offers an unforgettable blend of adventure and breathtaking scenery, combining thrilling helicopter flights with a guided walk on the Fox Glacier. Flying in grants access to a remote part of the glacier, where powerful ice forces create stunning caves and arches. After an exhilarating flight over the lower and upper icefalls and Victoria Falls, you'll land in a pristine area of the glacier. Equipped with crampons, follow your guide to explore ever-changing ice formations and caves, capturing incredible photos along the way. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see [here](#).

Your accommodation: Te Weheka Resort

A modern, purpose built boutique Fox Glacier hotel. Te Weheka Resort provides a balance of luxury, privacy and location, while being only a short stroll to Fox Glacier village.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Fox Glacier to Queenstown with Glacier Shuttles

Set off from the small village of Fox Glacier and travel through the remote and unspoiled scenery of the West Coast. Take the scenic Haast Pass through the Southern Alps, the southernmost pass between the East and West coasts of the South Island. See the clear and pristine waters of Lake Hawea as you travel east, passing Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka as you continue through to New Zealand's 'Adventure Capital', Queenstown.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner

Enjoy a quintessential Kiwi experience, a delicious gourmet BBQ buffet meal, and a farm demonstration in a stunning lakeside setting. Take in the stunning views of Lake Wakatipu and its surroundings as you cruise across the lake to the historic Walter Peak high country farm aboard the TSS Earnslaw Steamship. Enjoy the ambiance of the heart of the stately homestead while your Colonel's Homestead Restaurant chef prepares a gourmet BBQ dinner. Your seasonal menu includes an extensive selection of local New Zealand produce, including succulent meats and a selection of delicious vegetables and salads. Complete your meal with your choice of delicious desserts, or New Zealand cheeses. After dinner, watch the farm dogs in action with a sheep-herding demonstration and say hello to the other farm animals. Finally, cruise home under the southern stars and enjoy the fresh night air as the lights of Queenstown draw ever closer.

Your accommodation: Millennium Hotel Queenstown

Right in the heart of the action, the Millennium Hotel is just minutes from Queenstown's central shopping and entertainment district. Outdoor activities such as bungy jumping, white water rafting and jet boating are just some of the easily accessible activities nearby in New Zealand's adventure capital.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Explore Queenstown

Queenstown, known in Māori as Tāhuna is celebrated as New Zealand's 'adventure capital'. Though Queenstown offers far more than a fast-paced, action-packed holiday. Settled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu beneath a soaring panorama of the Remarkables Mountain Range, this alpine town is surrounded by a plethora of historic, gastronomic, and scenic wonders. Whether you are looking for a scenic short walk or a longer one, you will find the perfect hike or bike trail in Queenstown. Explore Queenstown Gardens, or try out more challenging trails up to Ben Lomond Walkaway or Queenstown Hill Walking Track. Enjoy iconic views and take Queenstown Gondola up 450 metres to Bob's Peak, or ride on the 100-year-old Steamship - the TSS Earnslaw - to Walter Peak Station for dinner and a farm tour. Browse the waterfront cafes and al fresco restaurants, try out the famous Fergburger, or grab a dessert at Patagonia Chocolates.

Queenstown Skyline Gondola Ride

Hop aboard the Skyline Gondola - the steepest cable car lift in the Southern Hemisphere! From which you can take in the awe-inspiring views of this spectacular landscape. Sit back and relax as you enjoy panoramic views of The Remarkables, Walter Peak, Cecil Peak, Coronet Peak and the magnificent Lake Wakatipu.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Shotover Jet Canyon Jet Boat Ride

Shotover Jet is the only company permitted to operate in the Shotover River Canyons. It's a thrilling ride! Skim past rocky outcrops at close range in your Shotover Jet 'Big Red', as you twist and turn through the narrow canyons at breathtaking speeds. And a major highlight - hold tight for the world-famous Shotover Jet full 360-degree spins! It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see [here](#).

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Appellation Boutique Wine Tour

Experience a tasting journey through three of Central Otago's incredibly scenic and varying wine sub-regions; Gibbston, Bannockburn and Cromwell. Visit three boutique vineyards, tasting their unique cool climate wines and discover why the Central Otago region has become world-renowned in its own right. Indulge at a fourth vineyard restaurant for a platter-style lunch, savouring the finest and freshest produce, accompanied with a wine flight.

There will also be an opportunity to retrace history when you stroll through the charming historical settlement of Old Cromwell.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - The Original Onsen Evening Session

Enjoy the most memorable experience in Queenstown and surround yourself with a sky of stars and 14 Japanese lanterns as you soak up the warm waters of the Onsen Hot Pools. Nestled high into a cliff-side overlooking the magnificent Shotover River canyon, the experience is all about unwinding and soaking-up Queenstown's spectacular scenery, enjoying the pure waters and the fresh mountain air as your mind and body surrenders to the deep penetrating warmth and gentle massage of the private pools. Water temperature is set according to the day - generally between 37.8C on a hot day, to 39.8C during a snow-storm and in the summer one of the pools is kept cold for those who relish the thought of a cold plunge!

Your accommodation: Millennium Hotel Queenstown

Right in the heart of the action, the Millennium Hotel is just minutes from Queenstown's central shopping and entertainment district. Outdoor activities such as bungy jumping, white water rafting and jet boating are just some of the easily accessible activities nearby in New Zealand's adventure capital.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5



Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape with Hollyford Wilderness Experience - Day 1 - Lunch and Dinner Included

Your guide will transfer you to Milford Sound. Enjoy a spectacular scenic helicopter flight from Milford Sound to Martins Bay, followed by an impressive lunch set amongst the wilderness in our private location. The afternoon is yours to enjoy. Explore the Martins Bay sand dunes by foot, taking in the rugged beauty of this isolated West Coast beach. Alternatively, choose to relax at Waitai Lodge in front of the fire with a good book and enjoy a soak in the outdoor hot tubs. The group reunites for a delicious three-course dinner accompanied by a fine selection of New Zealand beer and wine. Sit back, relax, and reflect on a great first day.

Your accommodation: Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape

Waitai Lodge stands on the shores of a glistening lake, where mighty fiords descend into pristine waterways and majestic mountains rise above the lush rainforest. Despite the remote location, the Lodge and its home comforts await you.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6



Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape with Hollyford Wilderness Experience - Day 2 - Breakfast & Lunch Included

Awake to the sound of bird song. Enjoy a hearty breakfast before joining your guide on a scenic jetboat ride across Lake McKerrow. Take in the ever-adapting ecosystem as it shifts from a mountainous beech forest to a wetland and a vibrant coastal scenery. Marvel at ancient temperate rainforest with thousand-year-old giants such as native Rimu and Kahikatea. Alternatively, relax in the lodge while you appreciate your remote location. Regroup at the lodge in time for morning tea, before boarding your helicopter flight back to the dramatic Milford Sound. Marvel at Milford Sound's vertical granite walls rising from the sea while aboard the Fiordland Jewel for your luxury cruise. Your guide will then return you to Te Anau or Queenstown while you take in the impressive scenery.

Your accommodation: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

The Te Anau Hotel and Villas offers a range of accommodation from hotel rooms and suites to villas. Ideally located on the lake front this hotel is just a few minutes stroll from the shops, cafes and many activities Te Anau has to offer.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 7



Te Anau to Dunedin via Invercargill & The Catlins with Cheeky Kiwi Travel

Venture off the beaten path on this full-day small-group journey from Te Anau to Dunedin, taking in the raw beauty of the southern coast. Travel in comfort through the remote Catlins region, home to rugged shorelines, lush forests, rare wildlife, and hidden gems. With expert commentary, scenic stops, and time to explore, this is an unforgettable way to experience one of New Zealand's most untouched and wild corners.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City

Just two blocks from the Octagon in the heart of the city, Scenic Hotel Dunedin City is close to shops, parks and the best city attractions and services. The hotel provides excellent 4-star accommodation to Dunedin's visitors.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8



Dunedin Accommodation to Coach Stop Transfer with Iconic

You will be collected from your accommodation and transferred to the coach stop in time for your departure.

Dunedin to Christchurch by InterCity Coach

The drive follows the Otago Coastline as you head north from Dunedin. Pass through the unique town of Oamaru, famous for its buildings constructed with the unique locally quarried white stone. The port town of Timaru is next and then the vast Canterbury Plains. Crossing New Zealand's longest bridge at Rakaia you can view some great examples of the South Island's famous braided rivers.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 8
Accomodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Te Weheka Resort
Day 2	Te Weheka Resort
Day 3	Millennium Hotel Queenstown
Day 4	Millennium Hotel Queenstown
Day 5	Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape
Day 6	Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas
Day 7	Scenic Hotel Dunedin City