



Short Christchurch to Queenstown Journey including TranzAlpine Train

Embark on your trip with one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Train from Christchurch to Greymouth. You'll travel along the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, then the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps 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. From Greymouth, hop aboard your coach, traversing down the coast through several small towns before catching a glimpse of the Franz Josef glacier as you arrive in the town centre. After exploring Franz Josef, and a restful nights sleep, begin the next leg of your journey as your coach departs from the isolated beauty of Franz Josef to the exciting resort town of Queenstown. This is New Zealand at its purest and most untamed; see moody mountain ranges, thick native rainforest and wild rocky shores as you travel in comfort. Cross through the Haast Pass, the southernmost pass in the Southern Alps. On the other side, enjoy picture-postcard views of vibrant blue Lake Hawea, Lake Wanaka and Lake Dunstan as you make your way into scenic Queenstown, arriving in the late afternoon.



Starts in: Christchurch

Finishes in: Queenstown

Length: 2days / 1nights

Accommodation: Motels

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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth

Included activity: Greymouth Train Station to Franz Josef with Gray Line / GreatSights

Included activity: Glacier Valley Shuttle

Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Franz Josef to Queenstown Day Tour with Gray Line / GreatSights



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 Train Station to Franz Josef with Gray Line / GreatSights

Your coach to Franz Josef Glacier departs from the Greymouth Railway Station. The journey to the Glaciers is southward through the lush bush covered landscape at the base of the Southern Alps. A refreshment stop in Hokitika allows you to stretch your legs around the town centre. Further south you pass through the township of Ross which was the centre of one of New Zealand's richest alluvial goldfields in the late 1800s. Further along, travelling down the West Coast enjoy the beautiful landscape of vast rainforests, gushing waterfalls and snow-capped mountains before arriving into the small village of Franz Josef. From here you can explore the world famous Franz Josef Glacier.

Glacier Valley Shuttle

You'll be transferred up the Franz Josef Valley to the road end, where you'll have the opportunity to walk to a viewing platform with views of the glacier. Alternatively, you can enjoy one of the other scenic short walks in the area.

Your accommodation: Punga Grove Motel & Suites

Punga Grove is right in the heart of Franz Josef Glacier village stylish accommodation in a beautiful rainforest setting.



Day 2



Franz Josef to Queenstown Day Tour with Gray Line / GreatSights

Travel from the isolated beauty of Franz Josef to the exciting resort town of Queenstown. Leave the small village of Franz Josef, access point to the world famous Franz Josef Glacier, and journey through the remote and rugged landscape of the West Coast. This is New Zealand at its purest and most untamed, see moody mountain ranges, thick native rainforest and wild rocky shores as you travel in comfort. Cross over to the East Coast through the Haast Pass, the southernmost pass in the Southern Alps. On the other side, enjoy picture-postcard views of vibrant blue lakes like Lake Hawea, Lake Wanaka and Lake Dunstan as you make your way into scenic Queenstown, arriving in the late afternoon.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 2
Accomodation: Motels
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Punga Grove Motel & Suites