

Top of the South Tour

Begin your adventure in Christchurch. Famous for its heritage, you can explore this city by Tram, Punt, or Gondola! In the morning breathtaking moments are waiting as you travel through the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine train before arriving into Greymouth. If you're up for it, be sure to enjoy some brews at Monteiths on a Brewery tour. Next up is Nelson, known for its endless sunshine hours and beautiful mountain and ocean vistas. Unwind from your journey as the next day is a tour of the Nelson Lakes. Following sunny Nelson is a stop in Picton, home to Queen Charlotte Sound. Admire the beauty from one of Picton Harbor eateries and get ready for your next train journey in the morning. The Coastal Pacific will take you down the Eastern Coastline, keep a eye out as there is plenty of wildlife to be seen! Your adventure comes to an end back where you started in Christchurch, take the opportunity to explore the Botanical Gardens or one of the many Art Galleries.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 7days / 6nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 3 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: Christchurch Triple Pass - Tram, Punting and Gondola
 Included activity: Shared Transfer from Christchurch CBD Accommodation to Christchurch Train Station with Christchurch Touring Company
 Included activity: Greymouth to Nelson by InterCity Coach
 Included activity: Cruise to Golden Bay Day Tour with Wine, Art & Wilderness - Lunch Included
 Included activity: Picton Coach Stop to Picton Accommodation
 Included activity: Coastal Pacific Train: Picton to Christchurch
 Included activity: Private Transfer from Accommodation to Airport with Christchurch Touring Company

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: Private transfer Christchurch Domestic Airport to Accommodation with Christchurch Touring
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth Scenic Plus with Great Journeys NZ
 Included activity: Private Taxi Transfer - Nelson Coach Depot to Accommodation
 Included activity: Nelson to Picton by Intercity Coach
 Included activity: Picton Accommodation to Picton Train Station
 Included activity: Private Transfer Christchurch Train Station to Accommodation
 : 6 breakfasts, 2 lunches



Day 1



Private transfer Christchurch Domestic Airport to Accommodation with Christchurch Touring

On arrival, you will be met by a private driver and transferred to your Christchurch accommodation.

Christchurch

Christchurch known in Māori as Ōtautahi, is the largest metro area in the South Island. Commonly referred to as New Zealand's "Garden City", Christchurch is home to one of the biggest public parks in the country, and beautiful botanic gardens. The city was hit with devastating earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, now the city crosses the line between its English heritage and a new modern architecture. To take in some arts and culture, pay a visit to the Canterbury Museum or the Christchurch Art Gallery. Take a step back in time with a tram around the city or punt along the Avon River. If tasting your way around the city is your means of travel, try out a cultural eating tour. A short drive from the CBD will lead you to the outskirts of the Banks Peninsula beachside suburb of Sumner or through the tunnel to Lyttleton Harbour which hosts fantastic markets on Saturday mornings.

Christchurch Triple Pass - Tram, Punting and Gondola

Experience three of Christchurch's iconic attractions in one day: the Christchurch Tram, Christchurch Gondola, and Punting on the Avon River. The historic tram is a delightful way to explore the evolving inner city, taking in the various sights with the hop-on hop-off pass and learning about the city from the live commentary. You'll also enjoy a bird's eye view of Christchurch and the Canterbury region including the distant peaks of the Southern Alps when you ride the gondola cableway to the top of the Port Hills in Heathcote Valley. Punting on the Avon River takes you through the city's green belt: a relaxing way to explore what is affectionately known as the 'Garden City'.

Your accommodation: Sudima Christchurch City

Sudima Christchurch City is a brand new 5-star boutique hotel, ideally located on Victoria Street. Amidst an array of cafes, restaurants and bars, stay only a martini olive pips' throw from beautiful Hagley Park and Christchurch's CBD. Experience the garden city in comfort and style.



Day 2



Shared Transfer from Christchurch CBD Accommodation to Christchurch Train Station with Christchurch Touring Company

You will be met by a driver at your Christchurch Accommodation and transferred to the railway station.

TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth Scenic Plus with Great Journeys NZ

Great Journeys New Zealand's Scenic Plus carriage provides comfort and vast panoramic views, making our TranzAlpine scenic train journey the perfect way to explore coast-to-coast through the 'Great Divide' and the indomitable spine of mountains that partitions New Zealand's South Island. Scenic Plus offers an all-inclusive experience on the unique TranzAlpine scenic rail journey to invigorate all the senses! Feast your eyes on epic scenery while you savour regionally inspired cuisine paired with sumptuous wine and beer all from the comfort of your luxurious seat – a hosted dining experience like no other. Quite simply, we have done everything we can to ensure you feel at peace as you sink back in your seat and soak up the scenery.

Make own way Greymouth Coach Depot to Greymouth Accommodation

Getting to your Greymouth Accommodation is very straightforward. You can walk the short distance to your accommodation. Or if you would like assistance with your luggage taxis are also readily available, at your own cost.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Māwhera Pounamu Pathway Immersive Experience

Māwhera Pā in Greymouth is the first location along the Pounamu Pathway touring route to open. This self-guided experience is a historical and creative exploration of the Poutini Ngāi Tahu and the Māwhera Pā settlement people, retold by their ancestors. The exhibition will lead you through six different narratives, each tale including a large-scale masterpiece, artistically crafted by Weta Workshop to cultivate an immersive journey of visuals and sound.

Your accommodation: Copthorne Hotel Greymouth

The hotel offers some of the most comfortable and well-equipped rooms in Greymouth. Settle into a slower pace of life and explore the South Island from the Copthorne Hotel Greymouth.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 3



Greymouth to Nelson by Intercity Coach

Heading north enjoy the spectacular scenery of the west coast, where the lush green forests meet the wild Tasman Sea. Driving along the Buller Gorge enjoy some wonderful scenery as you follow this magnificent river. The first major town (by this regions standard) is Inangahua and a small museum tells of the earthquake that hit the region in 1968 leaving 70% of the buildings damaged or inhabitable. Continuing to follow the river you reach the town of Murchison, from there you then enter the Kahurangi National Park region and the Nelson Lakes. Trees, rivers and valleys accompany you now as you head into the suburb of Richmond and then Nelson City.

Explore Nelson City

The vibrant Nelson city centre offers an abundance of cafes, restaurants, bars and shops and along the waterfront, you will find many fine restaurants specialising in seafood to enjoy. Founded in 1841 by the New Zealand Company the region today still boasts many remarkable buildings from these early days, however it is its close proximity to Abel Tasman National Park that is one of Nelson's greatest advantages to visitors with its pristine waters, beautiful native bush and golden beaches making this an adventure seeker's paradise. Nelson is also famous for its art and crafts and you will find many local offerings - including the world-famous Høglund Glassworks.

Taxi Transfer from Nelson Coach Depot to Accommodation

Nelson Classic Cars Museum - Suggested Activity

The car collection represents years of passionate sourcing from around the world and New Zealand. These cars are some of the most sought-after models in Classic Motoring, presented to the highest standard, with some having undergone extensive restoration. As well as being classic examples of automotive technology, these cars tell an important story about the twentieth century. They represent the spectrum of automotive history, design, and craftsmanship. This is one of Australasia's largest private collections.

Your accommodation: Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)

Centrally located within a few minutes walk of Nelson's central shopping precinct, theatres, restaurants and cafés, the information centre, and close to the scenic waterfront. Located right on the river, many of the rooms open onto the river view. Also overlooking the river is The Tides Restaurant and Bar.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Cruise to Golden Bay Day Tour with Wine, Art & Wilderness - Lunch Included

Enjoy a scenic drive across the Waimea Plains, the Moutere Hills, and on to Kaiteriteri. Here, join a cruise along the coastline of Abel Tasman National Park, passing golden sand beaches, Split Apple Rock, Adele Island wildlife sanctuary, and Fur Seal colonies before arriving at the beautiful beach of Totaranui. Exploring Golden Bay, see the best spots including Te Waikoropupu Springs - home to some of the clearest fresh water in the world before enjoying the return drive home with its stunning views across Takaka Hill. This is an all-inclusive tour, including refreshments and a gourmet picnic lunch.

Your accommodation: Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)

Centrally located within a few minutes walk of Nelson's central shopping precinct, theatres, restaurants and cafés, the information centre, and close to the scenic waterfront. Located right on the river, many of the rooms open onto the river view. Also overlooking the river is The Tides Restaurant and Bar.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 5



Nelson to Picton by Intercity Coach

Board your coach in Nelson and cross the hills to the harbour town of Havelock. Continue through the Rai Valley and onto Renwick and the heart of the Marlborough wine region, Blenheim. A short drive over the 'dry hills' and onto the port town of Picton.

Picton

Picton is a picturesque portside town at the top of the South Island. Gateway to the forest, marine and island attractions of the Marlborough Sounds, Picton is built around a sheltered harbour. Home to cafes, restaurants and galleries it also has a floating maritime museum and aquarium. Picton is also the starting point for Queen Charlotte Track, one of New Zealand's leading hiking trails.

Picton Accommodation to Picton Coach Stop

You will be collected from your Picton Coach Stop and transferred to your accommodation.

Your accommodation: Edit Picton

Located in the heart of Picton, only a short walk to the marina, shopping & dining precinct and the ferry terminal. Being in the Marlborough region, it is the gateway to the top of the picturesque South Island and Queen Charlotte Sound.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



Picton Accommodation to Picton Train Station

You will be collected from your Picton accommodation and transferred to Picton Train Station.

Coastal Pacific Train: Picton to Christchurch

The Coastal Pacific train journey travels between the delightful port of Picton and Christchurch, the South Island's largest city. This journey is a scenic feast of New Zealand, with the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side of your train and the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline on the other. Along the way you pass through the village of Kaikoura, where, if you're touring New Zealand, you can break your journey to take in the whale watching or dare to get closer and swim with the dolphins.

Travel through some of New Zealand's finest horticultural and farmland areas, and see amazing wildlife such as dolphins, seals and penguins from the comfort of your train carriage.

One of the world's most scenic train journeys, the Coastal Pacific travels through 22 tunnels and crosses 175 bridges, one of them being New Zealand's only road-rail bridge. As on The TranzAlpine, The Coastal Pacific includes an open air viewing carriage where all your senses are awakened with the clean, fresh, sea air.

Private Transfer Christchurch Train Station to Accommodation

On arrival at the Christchurch train station, you will be met by a private driver and transferred to your accommodation.

Your accommodation: Sudima Christchurch City

Sudima Christchurch City is a brand new 5-star boutique hotel, ideally located on Victoria Street. Amidst an array of cafes, restaurants and bars, stay only a martini olive pips' throw from beautiful Hagley Park and Christchurch's CBD. Experience the garden city in comfort and style.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Private Transfer from Accommodation to Airport with Christchurch Touring Company

Enjoy a seamless, private transfer from your Christchurch city accommodation directly to the Christchurch Airport in time for your departing flight.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens - suggested activity

Located just 15 minutes from the city center, Christchurch's 75-acre Botanic Gardens boast the finest collection of exotic and indigenous plants in New Zealand. This impressive collection creates a tranquil oasis, with spring daffodils, stunning summer roses and herbaceous borders, vibrant autumn foliage, and cozy conservatories to warm up in during winter. There's something to enjoy in every season. The New Zealand Garden also offers a unique glimpse into the country's wilderness, providing a peaceful escape throughout the year.

Art in Christchurch - Suggested Activity

Christchurch is a city brimming with art, from exhibitions and galleries to vibrant street art throughout the city. While you're here, take time to explore the city's rich artistic offerings, starting with the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū. With a diverse range of works on display, from old masters to contemporary art, there's something for everyone. The gallery also hosts regular events, including talks, museum tours, and film screenings. Don't miss The Arts Centre Te Matatiki Toi Ora, a vibrant hub for arts, culture, education, creativity, and entrepreneurship. This collection of heritage buildings houses museums, boutique galleries, eateries, retailers, and offices. Beyond the conventional galleries, the city's streets are an open-air art gallery. Christchurch has gained a strong reputation as the home of street art, with colorful murals from inspiring artists appearing across the inner city. Be sure to look out for the ever-evolving street art, including the Riverside Mural, Rauora Park's spray cans, and the urban aesthetics of the YMCA building.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 7
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Sudima Christchurch City
Day 2 Copthorne Hotel Greymouth
Day 3 Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)
Day 4 Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)
Day 5 Edit Picton
Day 6 Sudima Christchurch City