



Southeast Coastal Wildlife

Arrive in Christchurch, and spend the afternoon exploring all that this bustling city has on offer, including punting on the Avon River. On day two, explore the charming Victorian culture and unique architecture of the quaint town of Oamaru before your evening experience at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony, where you'll see the smallest penguins in the world. Next, you'll make your way to the city of Dunedin, also known for its architecture and wildlife, where you will join an ATV Wildlife Tour and hopefully encounter Spotted Shags, New Zealand Fur Seals, more little blue penguins, and possibly even the rare yellow-eyed Hoiho penguin. A second day in Dunedin sees you off on another wildlife adventure, this time from the sea on a wildlife cruise out of the Otago Harbour, to Taiaroa Head, spotting majestic Albatross and the stunning scenery of the area. The following day, arrive in adventure capital Queenstown, via the historic Taieri Gorge train. On your last day, explore Queenstown with a gondola ride and a gourmet BBQ dinner on the TSS Earnslaw.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 7days / 6nights
 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: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
Included activity: Private Transfer Christchurch International Airport to Christchurch	Included activity: Punting on the Christchurch Avon River
Accommodation	
Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course	Included activity: Christchurch to Oamaru by Intercity Coach
Included activity: Oamaru Penguins Premium Evening Viewing	Included activity: Oamaru to Dunedin by Intercity Coach
Included activity: Castle to Cruise Tour and Penguin Experience with Monarch	Included activity: Dunedin to Queenstown including Taieri Gorge Train with Cheeky Kiwi Travel
	Included activity: TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner
Included activity: Gondola Ride with Skyline Queenstown	: 1 special dinner
Included activity: Private Transfer Queenstown Accommodation to Airport (LSQ)	

Day 1



Welcome to Christchurch City

New Zealand's garden city is steadily being transformed into a vibrant urban destination. Encompassing a large green belt, it is known for its wide tree lined avenues and lush gardens. A great way to explore the city or easy way to see the sights or ride the historic trams across town to the renowned botanic gardens and the unique cardboard Transitional Cathedral, that's right it is built of cardboard!

Private Transfer Christchurch International Airport to Christchurch Accommodation

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

Art in Christchurch

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.

Punting on the Christchurch Avon River

Relax and enjoy the tranquil Christchurch Botanic Gardens as you are expertly guided along the Avon River on a classic punting tour. You will be set aboard a handcrafted flat-bottomed boat, poled along by your punter in Edwardian attire from the platform at the rear of the boat. You will enjoy the spectacular flora that the Garden City is famous for from a unique perspective amidst fresh air.

Your accommodation: Terra Vive Luxury Suites and Apartments

Terra Vive Luxury Suites and Apartments offer luxury accommodation in the heart of Christchurch City. Situated within the beautiful tree-lined street of Bealey Avenue, Terra Vive is ideally located in close proximity to the shops, restaurants and cafes.



Day 2



Christchurch to Oamaru by Intercity Coach

Crossing the vast Canterbury Plains as you head South, State Highway 1 crosses many braided rivers that start their life as glacial melt water high in the Southern Alps. New Zealand's longest bridge at Rakaia crosses such an example. Pass through the town of Timaru before arriving into Oamaru, most famous for its buildings constructed with the unique locally quarried white stone.

Explore Oamaru

Oamaru, a town of distinctive charm on New Zealand's South Island, is renowned for its remarkable collection of whitestone buildings. Crafted from the locally quarried 'Oamaru Stone,' these ornate structures, many of which were originally grain and wool stores, lend a unique character to the town. The preserved Harbour/Tyne Historic Precinct is a highlight, where these magnificent buildings continue to stand, some still serving their original purpose while others now house an intriguing array of curious shops, gift stores, restaurants, and a motoring museum. Beyond its architectural grandeur, Oamaru boasts a vibrant shopping scene with numerous galleries and iconic stores. Immerse yourself in the whimsical world of Steampunk, a defining element of the town's creative spirit. As dusk falls, head to the harbor front to witness the charming spectacle of a little blue penguin colony returning to their burrows, and keep an eye out along the coastline for sightings of the rare yellow-eyed penguins.

Oamaru Penguins Premium Evening Viewing

Oamaru's Blue Penguins nest close to town under the cliffs along the Historic Harbour foreshore. The Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony is just beyond the Victorian Heritage Precinct and you are within walking distance of the town centre, close to shops, restaurants and accommodation. When penguins are on shore and have chosen to nest in the Blue Wing it is possible to see them within a couple of feet of you. At the appropriate times of the year you may see them incubating eggs or guarding the tiny chicks. You can watch the chicks as they wait for their daily meal to return with their parents.

You will be seated 2-3 metres from where the blue penguins arrive and cross into the colony. And be treated to an informative commentary by a trained guide. This Viewing is 1 and a half hours and includes the opportunity to enter the breeding colony on a boardwalk and walk among the blue penguin nesting burrows.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Steampunk HQ

Steampunk HQ NZ's premier Steampunk experience is a museum and workshop situated in the historic Victorian precinct of Oamaru. It is crazy, quirky and unique; unlike any other visitor attraction in this universe!

Outside of the imposing free-standing Oamaru stone building, "steampunk" engine SP001 greets visitors by belching flames, smoke and eyrie sounds; whilst inside, a museum of two large darkened rooms and a basement presents a theme of a dark post-apocalyptic vision of a future "as it might have been". You can find out more about Steampunk HQ including opening hours and pricing here.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Whitestone Cheese Factory Guided Tour with Wine Pairing - suggested activity

Tours give guests a behind the scenes look at Whitestone's cheese making process, all the way from make to taste. You will get to experience a cheese tasting with wine pairing, informative talk and guided tour of our factory through the viewing galleries, plus walk away with a goody bag sample.

Your accommodation: The Old Confectionery Boutique Apartments

Enjoy being centrally located in the heart of Oamaru with all attractions within walking distance, including the best restaurants and bars. The building was built in 1879 and has undergone a number of transformations during its lifetime. It provides comfortable and boutique accommodation, located 300 metres from the waterfront and historic precinct of Oamaru.



Day 3



Oamaru to Dunedin by InterCity Coach

The drive from Oamaru to Dunedin takes you along the Otago Coastline and some of the earliest inhabited places in New Zealand. Arriving into Dunedin you can appreciate the city's Edwardian and Scottish heritage through its fine buildings particularly around the Octagon and city centre. A not to be missed building is the railway station, recently listed as one of the worlds top 100 building to see.

Dunedin

Dunedin, known in Māori as Ōtepoti, is referred to as the "Edinburgh of the Southern Hemisphere". The city has a rightly deserved reputation as one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. Of particular note is Dunedin Railway Station, built 1904 - 1906, and St Paul's Cathedral in the Octagon. The Otago Museum is renowned for its Māori and Pacific Island collections and natural history displays. A visit to the Speights, New Zealand's oldest brewery, is also considered a must while in Dunedin. The Botanic Gardens is a great spot and at the right time of year, you can witness the Rhododendron Dell in bloom. The Otago Peninsula is the only home in the world to the Northern Royal Albatross. The Peninsula can be visited for the day from Dunedin and the stunning harbor landscape and wildlife are worth exploring. High among the rolling hills of the Peninsula is Larnach Castle, the grand home of an early politician. Construction of the castle began in 1871 and was completed 12 years later. From here, views out to sea and back towards the city emphasize the singular beauty of Dunedin and its jewel-like harbor.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Tour and Dinner with Speights Brewery

Speights Brewery was founded in 1876 and still occupies its original Dunedin site, with several of its buildings dating back to the late -1800's. Speights has proudly kept its rich heritage and it is one of the last remaining 'gravity breweries' still operating in the world.

Take a 60 minute tour of this historic site which also includes a tasting session of six Speights beers. After the tour, sit down to a 2 course dinner at the Alehouse and enjoy the hearty fare of the south.

Your accommodation: 858 George Street Motel

858 on George Street is an architecturally designed, multi-award winning motel complex, located on the main street of Dunedin City. Centrally located, this motel accommodation is within easy walking distance to the University of Otago, Otago Museum, Botanic Gardens, Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin Hospital, Cafés, Restaurants and the city's main retail centre.



Day 4



Castle to Cruise Tour and Penguin Experience with Monarch

Today you'll explore the wildlife and history of the Otago Peninsula. You'll be welcomed to the MV Monarch for a wildlife cruise around Taiaroa Head, home to the world's only mainland nesting site for royal albatross. Scattered along the rocks you'll also see fur seals basking in the sun and possibly sea lions on the beach. In the water, you may also see penguins, dolphins, and other marine birds. Back on land, you'll take a guided tour of New Zealand's only castle, Larnach Castle built in 1871. Learn of the scandals and history of the castle and explore the beautiful garden of international significance. Your final stop of the day is to The Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance (formally Penguin Place), a natural nesting site for the rarest penguin in the world, the Yellow Eyed Penguin.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Dunedin's museums - suggested activity

Otago Museum

Discover rare objects, special exhibitions and a live butterfly rainforest experience at the Otago Museum. Through the galleries, you'll discover the unique culture, heritage and wildlife of the Otago region. Highlights include the Tangata Whenua gallery which tells the story of the Southern Maori life and mythology. The Discovery World Tropical Forest is fun for young and old, you'll enter a rainforest filled with hundreds of beautiful butterflies. The special exhibitions are always fascinating and when you're ready for a break there's a great cafe to relax at. The museum is open 10am to 5pm daily, except Christmas Day.

Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

Encounter history at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. Learn about the people whose character, culture, technology, art, fashion, and transport shaped New Zealand's First Great City, Dunedin. In the galleries you can trace the fascinating journeys from the earliest settlers, Kai Tahu and their ancestors, to the most recent arrivals. The themed galleries weave the stories of past and present with future thinking, featuring interactive displays with stunning visuals and powerful narratives. Admission is free and the museum is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 10am to 4pm April to September, 10am to 5pm October to March and Thursdays until 8pm.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Dunedin Botanic Gardens - Suggestion

The Dunedin Botanic Garden is New Zealand's first botanic garden and is also a Garden of International Significance. It is home to more than 6,800 plant species and is spread across both rolling hills and flatlands. Wild native bellbirds, wood pigeons and tui can be heard on most days. The garden occupies 30.4 hectares in North Dunedin. Its varying range of floriculture and horticultural includes roses, herbaceous and perennial borders, a rock garden, New Zealand native plants and four hectares of Rhododendron Dell. It also houses a New Zealand Native plant collection including cultivation of rare and endangered native plant species.

Your accommodation: 858 George Street Motel

858 on George Street is an architecturally designed, multi-award winning motel complex, located on the main street of Dunedin City. Centrally located, this motel accommodation is within easy walking distance to the University of Otago, Otago Museum, Botanic Gardens, Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin Hospital, Cafés, Restaurants and the city's main retail centre.



Day 5



Dunedin to Queenstown including Taieri Gorge Train with Cheeky Kiwi Travel

Start your adventure at the magnificent Dunedin Railway Station, a famous example of Edwardian architecture in New Zealand. You'll then board the renowned Taieri Gorge Railway for an unforgettable trip. As the train travels through dramatic viaducts and remote gorges, prepare to see some of the South Island's most stunning natural landscapes. Your guide will welcome you at Pukerangi, where a comfortable vehicle awaits to take you further west.

Queenstown

Queenstown known in Māori as Tāhuna, is home to many adrenaline-inducing activities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, this alpine town has very distinct seasons, and most adrenaline-filled activities can be accessed year-round. Queenstown is home to jet boating, bungy jumping, rafting, skydiving, paragliding, and even indoor thrills. If you want that rush - head out on the Shotover Jet, dive off the Nevis Bungy, freefall on the Canyon Swing, or Zip line the Gondola. While arguably the brightest gem in New Zealand's crown, Queenstown offers far more than an action-packed getaway. If you're looking for a slightly slower pace, there are plenty of recreational activities, including hiking and biking trails to explore, guided tours, boat cruises, scenic flights, or spa and wellness options to help you get away. Head to the lakefront, eat at one of the al fresco eateries, and soak up the local vibes; catch a ride on the iconic 100-year-old steamship the TSS Earnslaw; or take the Skyline Gondola and enjoy bird's-eye views of the Remarkables mountain ranges and Lake Wakatipu. Pack a picnic and go for a hike, only 20 minutes from Central Queenstown, Coronet Peak opens for summer sightseeing. You can ride the Peak Gondola to the top for panoramic views and hike the trails, or go for a bike ride on many excellent biking trails. In winter, Queenstown becomes a world-class winter resort, with four ski areas and a range of activities, bars, restaurants, and ways to relax and unwind.

Your accommodation: Blue Peaks Lodge

Blue Peaks Lodge offers well equipped self contained rooms with a fantastic location overlooking Queenstown and is just an easy five minutes walk to the Queenstown lakefront.



Day 6



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.

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: Blue Peaks Lodge

Blue Peaks Lodge offers well equipped self contained rooms with a fantastic location overlooking Queenstown and is just an easy five minutes walk to the Queenstown lakefront.

Meals included: Speciality Dinner



Day 7



Private Transfer Queenstown Accommodation to Airport (LSQ)

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Queenstown airport to meet your flight.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 7
Accomodation: Motels
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Terra Vive Luxury Suites and Apartments
Day 2	The Old Confectionery Boutique Apartments
Day 3	858 George Street Motel
Day 4	858 George Street Motel
Day 5	Blue Peaks Lodge
Day 6	Blue Peaks Lodge