



Southern Beach Explorer

Start your adventure in Christchurch, exploring by Tram, Punt, or Gondola before boarding the Coastal Pacific Train to Kaikoura. Savour fresh seafood and maybe swim with dusky dolphins in their natural habitat. The next morning, take the train to Picton, the gateway to Queen Charlotte Sound. Explore the coastal town or opt for a dolphin cruise. The following day, enjoy a guided walk with Wilderness Guides, learning about the region's history and wildlife. Travel by coach to sunny Nelson, then spend a day discovering Abel Tasman National Park's golden beaches, breathtaking views, and Māori heritage. Continue to the stunning West Coast before ending your journey with a scenic ride on the iconic TranzAlpine Train back to Christchurch. Haere rā!

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 9days / 8nights
 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: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: Private Transfer Accommodation to Christchurch Train Station with Christchurch Touring
 Included activity: Swimming with the Dolphins with Encounter Kaikoura
 Included activity: Full Day Guided Walk in Queen Charlotte Sound with Wilderness Guides - Lunch Included
 Included activity: Private Transfer
 Included activity: Nelson to Greymouth by InterCity Coach
 Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Plus Addon - KiwiRail

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: Christchurch Triple Pass - Tram, Punting and Gondola

Included activity: Private transfer Christchurch Domestic Airport to Accommodation with Christchurch Touring

Included activity: Coastal Pacific Train: Christchurch to Kaikoura

Included activity: Coastal Pacific Train: Kaikoura to Picton

Included activity: Picton to Nelson by Intercity Coach

Included activity: Abel Tasman Water and Walk Tour with Wine, Art & Wilderness - Lunch Included

Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Greymouth to Christchurch

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

plus much more...

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: Bella Vista Christchurch

Bella Vista Motel Christchurch offers a great range of comfortable modern units with excellent facilities. Enjoy the convenience of being located in close proximity to the Christchurch CBD, shops, entertainment and other activities.



Day 2



Private Transfer Accommodation to Christchurch Train Station with Christchurch Touring

A private driver will collect you from your accommodation and transfer you to the Christchurch train station in time for your train journey.

Coastal Pacific Train: Christchurch to Kaikoura

The Coastal Pacific train journey travels between Christchurch, the South Island's largest city and the delightful port of Picton. 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. The Coastal Pacific travels through 22 tunnels and crosses 175 bridges - one of them being New Zealand's only road-rail bridge. The Coastal Pacific includes an open-air viewing carriage where all your senses are awakened with the clean and fresh sea air. This leg of the journey crosses the wonderful North Canterbury countryside to the township of Kaikoura. Kaikoura offers dramatic landscape scenes of mountains meeting the sea. Kaikoura is world famous for its resident whale population and whale-watching tours. The more adventurous traveller might wish to get closer to marine life and swim with the dolphins.

Kaikōura

Kaikōura is a stunning coastal town known for its rich marine life and dramatic scenery. Visit the fur seal colony, take a whale-watching cruise, or swim with playful dusky dolphins. The town is rich with attractions, walking tracks, and activities for every visitor. A walk around the Kaikōura Peninsula is a must, where you can explore tide pools teeming with marine life, observe sea creatures basking on the rocks, and, for bird lovers, spot the impressive native albatross. Just be sure to keep a respectful distance from any sea lions you meet. Highlights like Ohau Point and historic Fyffe House offer insight into the region's wildlife and whaling past. Finish your visit by sampling the fresh local seafood, renowned for having some of the best fish and chips in the country, or by taking a relaxing wander through the tranquil Lavendyl Lavender Farm.

Swimming with the Dolphins with Encounter Kaikoura

Experience a magical swimming encounter with dusky dolphins off the coast of Kaikoura. You'll be taken out in the catamaran and have the chance to swim in the water with these wild mammals in a completely natural environment. The dusky dolphin inhabits the waters around Kaikoura for most of the year - making it one of the only places in the world where dolphins can be encountered every day. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see here.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - 30 Minute Whale Watch Explorer with Wings over Whales Kaikoura

In a typical 30 minute flight you will see the majestic Sperm Whale preparing for his next dive and up to 500 Dusky Dolphins cavorting with each other. On occasion, sightings include Southern Right, Humpback, Fin, Sei, Brydes, Pilot, Southern Bottlenose and the mighty Blue Whales. You may also spot Hector's, Risso's, Southern Right Whale Dolphins, and Orca, although these are all less frequent visitors to the area. Gain an aerial perspective of this fantastic marine environment in a high-winged aircraft with optimal, unobstructed viewing.

Your accommodation: The White Morph, Kaikōura

Set on the Esplanade in Kaikōura, The White Morph enjoys commanding views of the ocean and mountains. Just a 10-minute walk into town, The White Morph has been beautifully placed so that you can take in the spectacular scenery of Kaikoura while enjoying the variety of attractions on offer.



Day 3



Coastal Pacific Train: Kaikoura to Picton

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. 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.

Your accommodation: Harbour View Motel

Spacious, self contained accommodation with views of the harbour and marina. Studio units each with its own private balcony, just minutes from the water's edge and a short stroll to town.



Day 4



Full Day Guided Walk in Queen Charlotte Sound with Wilderness Guides - Lunch Included

If you are passing through Picton or Marlborough, this one day guided walk is an excellent outing into the Marlborough Sounds. For those that want the added value of having everything provided as well as the chance to learn about the history and wildlife of the Marlborough Sounds with one of the passionate and knowledgeable local guides, this is the perfect one day experience of the Queen Charlotte Track. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see here.

Your accommodation: Harbour View Motel

Spacious, self contained accommodation with views of the harbour and marina. Studio units each with its own private balcony, just minutes from the water's edge and a short stroll to town.

Meals included: Lunch



Day 5



Picton to Nelson by Intercity Coach

Board your coach in Picton and first travel south to Blenheim, the centre of the Marlborough wine region. From Blenheim you'll pass the vast grape growing areas as you head west towards Renwick, then through the fertile valleys and onto the picturesque port town of Havelock. Continue through the Rai Valley and over the ranges before dropping to the coast and Tasman Bay. Follow the shore into the city of Nelson.

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.

Private Transfer

Your accommodation: The Sails Motel Nelson

The Sails Nelson is located just 5 minutes walk from the Nelson City Centre and adjacent to all main routes. Each suite is tastefully and luxuriously furnished to the highest standard, providing you with the total package in comfort and style.



Day 6



Abel Tasman Water and Walk Tour with Wine, Art & Wilderness - Lunch Included

During this tour you will be strolling golden sand beaches, walking and exploring natural wonderland of Abel Tasman National Park. You will enjoy stunning views and experience unique interpretation of this National Park. Access is by water taxi to Medlands Beach and walking through an ever changing forest of silver fern, beech trees and Manuka & kanuka. This fully guided journey interprets the less obvious features as well as Maori history and the rich variety of vegetation, birds and aquatic life.

Your accommodation: The Sails Motel Nelson

The Sails Nelson is located just 5 minutes walk from the Nelson City Centre and adjacent to all main routes. Each suite is tastefully and luxuriously furnished to the highest standard, providing you with the total package in comfort and style.

Meals included: Lunch



Day 7



Nelson to Greymouth by Intercity Coach

Head south west through the Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Park region. Trees, rivers and valleys accompany you now as you head towards the town of Murchison. Heading South towards Westport you will drive along the Buller Gorge, enjoy some wonderful scenery as you follow this magnificent river. Continuing on your journey 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 south on the road to Punakaiki you will pass through Paparoa National Park. The west coast is very rugged, mountains meet sea and the coast is covered with beautiful fauna and flora including Nikau Palms, which makes for a scenic trip back along the coast to Greymouth.

Greymouth

Greymouth, the largest town on New Zealand's rugged West Coast, is nestled at the mouth of the Grey River. It's surrounded by dramatic cliffs, wild beaches, and the serene Grey Valley. The town serves as the perfect gateway to explore the untamed wonders of the West Coast, from the iconic Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki to the stunning turquoise waters of Hokitika Gorge. It's also the western terminus of the world-famous TranzAlpine train journey, offering a spectacular passage through the Southern Alps to Christchurch. Discover its rich gold mining and pounamu (jade) trading past, or explore the region's top outdoor activities, including the West Coast Wilderness Trail. Don't miss the Pounamu Pathway, an immersive cultural experience created in collaboration with Wētā Workshop, where you can delve into the captivating stories and history of the local Māori people, Poutini Ngāi Tahu, and the significance of pounamu to the region.

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.



Day 8



TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Greymouth to Christchurch

Considered one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Scenic Train takes you from Greymouth to Christchurch. Travel across the South Island from the west to the east coast through Arthur's Pass National Park. From the comfort of your carriage see lush beech forest, deep river valleys and the spectacular peaks of the Southern Alps. Descend to the windswept Canterbury Plains before arriving in the city of Christchurch.

TranzAlpine Scenic Plus Addon - KiwiRail

Feel like luxurious service, exclusive meals, inclusive drinks and priority check-in and boarding? The Scenic Plus add-on option is for you. Enjoy personal service with panoramic windows, spacious carriages and comfortable seating. The exclusive open-air viewing carriage is available if you feel like capturing the ultimate photo or simply wish to experience the great outdoors whilst travelling through the Southern Alps. Your food is prepared exclusively in a kitchen carriage, with paired drinks and a paddock-to-plate regionally inspired food menu all your senses will be fully engaged on this journey.

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

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

Your accommodation: Bella Vista Christchurch

Bella Vista Motel Christchurch offers a great range of comfortable modern units with excellent facilities. Enjoy the convenience of being located in close proximity to the Christchurch CBD, shops, entertainment and other activities.



Day 9



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.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 9
Accommodation: Motels
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Bella Vista Christchurch
Day 2	The White Morph, Kaikōura
Day 3	Harbour View Motel
Day 4	Harbour View Motel
Day 5	The Sails Motel Nelson
Day 6	The Sails Motel Nelson
Day 7	Copthorne Hotel Greymouth
Day 8	Bella Vista Christchurch