



Enchanting South Island

Touch down in Christchurch and ease into your adventure with a scenic rail journey aboard the world-famous TranzAlpine. Wind through the Southern Alps to Greymouth, where the wild West Coast awaits. Head south to the spectacular Fox Glacier and soak up the raw beauty of this ancient ice formation. A private transfer whisks you through the stunning Haast Pass and lakeside Wānaka before arriving in Queenstown. Spend a day exploring this alpine playground at your own pace, whether it's adrenaline thrills or lakeside leisure. Then, retreat into nature with the unforgettable highlight of your journey: a luxurious stay at Waitai Lodge in remote Fiordland, where untouched wilderness meets refined comfort. Return to Queenstown for one final day to relax, reflect, or squeeze in a last adventure.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 9days / 8nights
 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: Private Transfer Christchurch International Airport to Christchurch Accommodation
 Included activity: Private Transfer Accommodation to Christchurch Train Station with Christchurch Touring
 Included activity: Greymouth to Fox Glacier with Glacier Shuttles
 Included activity: Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape with Hollyford Wilderness Experience - Lunch and Dinner Included
 Included activity: TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner

: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 special dinner

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Christchurch to Greymouth
 Included activity: Fox Glacier to Queenstown with Glacier Shuttles
 Included activity: Time Tripper Cinematic Experience
 Included activity: Private Transfer from Accommodation to Airport with Christchurch Touring Company

Day 1



Private Transfer Christchurch International Airport to Christchurch Accommodation

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

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!

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Kai Safari with Amiki Cultural Food Tours

Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the new city while exploring its emerging foodie scene. Learn about the lives of early Māori and their contemporary lifestyle. Uncover hidden gems and hear stories of how Ōtautahi-Christchurch envisions the future. Enjoy visits to beloved modern New Zealand restaurants, where you can sample seasonal shared plates made from local produce. Indulge in new favourite dishes, savouring a variety of local food and beverages, each with its own unique story that highlights the region's offerings..

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



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.

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.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - 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.

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

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.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Twin Glacier Scenic Helicopter Flight with The Helicopter Line

Experience the breathtaking beauty of not one, but two spectacular glaciers—Fox Glacier and Franz Josef Glacier. Get up close to their stunning neve and intricate ice formations, with a snowfield landing that's sure to be a highlight of your journey. Capture incredible photos, make a snowball, and create unforgettable memories during this 35-minute scenic flight with a snow landing. If weather conditions prevent your flight, your booking can be easily transferred to a similar tour with The Helicopter Line in Queenstown or Mt Cook. It is important to read and understand the risks associated with this activity. A full risk disclosure can be found [here](#).

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Fox Glacier Valley E-bike & Hike with Fox Glacier Guiding

Explore the untamed natural wilderness of the Fox Glacier Valley, tracing the steps of a retreating glacier, with our Fox Glacier Valley E-Bike & Hike. Ride through ancient podocarp rainforest on E-bikes and hike a secret track. Grab stunning photos of the Fox Glacier that is sure to impress family and friends. 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 4



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.

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: 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



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.

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 - Gondola and 3 Luge Rides with Skyline Queenstown

In the heart of Queenstown, located 450 metres above town in the Ben Lomond Scenic Reserve is the Skyline Complex. A gondola ride to the summit makes for awe-inspiring views of the city surround. Arrive at the complex and wander the outside viewing decks for a picture perfect outlook. Then onto the Luge! The 800 metre luge track offers an exhilarating journey through banked corners, tunnels and dippers.

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 6



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 7



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: 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, Lunch



Day 8



Time Tripper Cinematic Experience

Queenstown's only underwater experience takes you on a journey through time and legend beginning many millions of years ago. Your time travel pilot will guide you back 90 million years, through the time of the dinosaurs, take you to when New Zealand was formed, fly you deep into the earth when the Southern Alps were created and through the glacier that carved out Lake Wakatipu. Ending in present-day Queenstown, you then experience adventure activities you can do – all from the comfort of your rumbling seat!

You then experience 10 – 15 minutes of underwater viewing where you can feed the famous diving ducks, slinky eels and rainbow & amp; brown trout that lie beneath.

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, Speciality Dinner



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.

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:	9
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Sudima Christchurch City
Day 2	Te Weheka Resort
Day 3	Te Weheka Resort
Day 4	Millennium Hotel Queenstown
Day 5	Millennium Hotel Queenstown
Day 6	Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape
Day 7	Millennium Hotel Queenstown
Day 8	Millennium Hotel Queenstown