

## AAT Kings: Southern Spotlight 26/27

The South Island of New Zealand dials up the natural drama, whether you're enjoying a Milford Sound/Piopiotahi tour through World Heritage listed wilderness or basking in the beauty of Franz Josef/Waiau on a tour. And in between are cities that take your breath away. Queenstown tour, anyone?

Starts in: Christchurch  
 Finishes in: Christchurch  
 Length: 9days / 8nights  
 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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included: Christchurch City Tour
- Included: Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo
- Included: Milford Sound Cruise
- Included: Tekapo Dark Sky Experience
- Included: TranzAlpine Train
- Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm
- Included: Visit a local fruit orchard
- Included: Visit Arrowtown
- 8 breakfasts, 5 dinners

## Day 1

Welcome to Christchurch, your New Zealand South Island tour starts here. Since its 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. It's time tonight to meet your Travel Director and travelling companions for a tour briefing and drinks.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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## Day 2

Christchurch is not only rebuilding itself after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. Case in point the mind-bending Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold clad central library. You will view these on your city tour. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate local specialists, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe.

Staying in:

- Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 3

Your visit to Clyde will have your camera clicking non-stop. This charming historic town may be small, but it's full of character, with its town centre designated as a historic precinct, featuring buildings from its gold mining past now transformed into cafes and shops. Next, head to Gore, the Country Music capital of New Zealand, before continuing toward Fiordland National Park and stunning Te Anau, nestled on the shores of the South Island's largest lake. Immerse yourself in the serenity - this is as good as it gets.

Staying in:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 4

From the moment you step outside today, nature rules. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Venture out into the pristine fiord on a sightseeing cruise for awe-inspiring scenery with towering cliffs, tumbling waterfalls and abundant wildlife.

Staying in:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)
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## Day 5

Follow state Highway 6, winding along the edge of Lake Wakatipu, the Devil's Staircase from Kingston to Queenstown is a breathtaking stretch of road with a combination of lake and Mountain views. Visit the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown, where you can wander the streets, lined with trees and character-filled boutiques, then continue to Queenstown for your two-night stay in the adventure capital of New Zealand. Tonight, glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner and farm show.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown Lakefront (1 night)
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## Day 6

You've completed your Christchurch to Queenstown road trip, now it's time to take in the sights. Take today at your own pace; you won't be lost for things to do in Queenstown. Like adventure? Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane jet boat ride, perhaps. There's a reason why Queenstown is known as the "Adventure Capital of the World". Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at Kiwi Park (both own expense).

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown Lakefront (1 night)
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## Day 7

Try to keep count of today's lakes. You're leaving Lake Wakatipu behind, but Lake Dunstan awaits, as do its orchards. Pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. Then there's Lake Hawea. Over the Haast Pass to the town of Franz Josef/Waiau, where, this afternoon you may choose to fly over Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere (own expense).

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (1 night)
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## Day 8

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. Just when you thought your South Island trip couldn't get any better, you'll board the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. Join your Travel Director tonight for dinner and drinks to celebrate your week touring New Zealand's South Island.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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## Day 9

New Zealand's South Island never fails to wow. We hope you find the words to describe this epic New Zealand tour to your family back home.

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## Tour details

Departures: Daily  
Tour type: Guided Coach Tour  
Starts: Christchurch  
Finishes: Christchurch  
Tour length: 9  
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star  
Car/transport type:

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## Accommodation summary