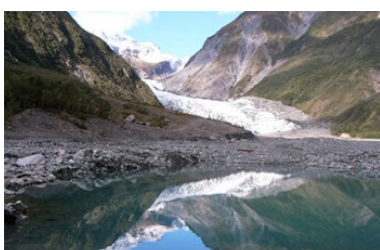


Great Journeys - Classic Alpine Highlights Tour (Southbound)

Experience a memorable train and coach journey through New Zealand, starting in Christchurch. This tour guides you on a scenic adventure to explore diverse landscapes. Travel through the Southern Alps aboard the TranzAlpine scenic train to then marvel at the West Coast's natural beauty, including its ancient forests. Soak in the city life in Christchurch and Queenstown to bookend your travels.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included: TranzAlpine Train
- Included: Punakaiki Pancake Rocks
- Included: Short nature walk to glacier viewing point
- Included: West Coast Tree Top Walk
- Included: Scenic journey through the Southern Lakes
- Included: Visits to Haast Visitors Centre, Mrs Jones' Fruit Stall and Arrowtown
- 6 breakfasts, 2 dinners

Day 1



Welcome to Christchurch

Welcome to Christchurch – New Zealand’s Garden City. The largest city in the South Island, Christchurch is known for its historical earthquake in 2011 and how it rebuilt itself into a charming, multicultural city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican ‘gothic revival’ architectural influence.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your tour director, head out and explore all that Christchurch has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to wander through the enticing stalls at Riverside Market or explore the botanical gardens before heading to the art gallery, museums and other city attractions.

After an exciting day on the town, your journey will officially begin as you join your fellow travellers and tour director at this evening’s welcome reception.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2



The TranzAlpine Scenic Train

The moment has come to experience the world-famous TranzAlpine scenic train journey through the Southern Alps, emerging in the West Coast! On this fantastic escape, you will see epic vistas, soar on the edges of the ice fed Waimakariri River, traverse through the Great Divide, and experience ever-changing landscapes. The natural scenery isn’t the only marvel, though. The TranzAlpine passes through the Otira Tunnel, a true engineering marvel of 100 years! Once you arrive at the West Coast, a private coach will take you even further off the beaten track to Punakaiki, where you will explore curious limestone rock formations and blowholes.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3



Explore the West Coast

This morning you’ll start your West Coast adventure by visiting one of the South Island’s most popular activities - the West Coast Tree Top Walk. This elevated adventure will get you acquainted with the locals - the ancient Rimu and Kamahi trees. After your sky-high experience, continue south into Glacier Country. Franz Josef Glacier is quite special in that it survives in the warm coastal rainforest temperatures. With a short walk to a viewpoint, you'll get a fantastic view of the vast valley, as well as a sneak peak of Franz Josef Glacier itself. If you would prefer to get up close, we recommend booking an optional helicopter flight. This will ensure you are getting the best possible view of this natural wonder. After your glacial experience and checking into the hotel, you’ll have some free time to enjoy Franz Josef town. Indulge in a helicopter flight, nature walk or tap into some natural tranquility at the local hot pools.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4



Explore the Southern Lakes

Today you will be exploring the mountainous Haast Pass. With changing landscapes around every bend, this journey to Queenstown will be one of the most scenic drives you may ever take. Marvel at the beaches, crystal blue lakes and rivers, mountain peaks, lush vineyards, charming plains and stunning glaciers as your Tour Director guides you between local hidden gems. Emerging on the other side of the pass, explore a local fruit hotspot before exploring the cobblestone streets of the historic goldmining settlement of Arrowtown. After an exciting plunge into the history of this gold rush village, you will arrive in the world-famous resort town of Queenstown!

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5



Explore Queenstown

Enjoy a free day to explore everything Queenstown has to offer. Today we highly recommend that you join an excursion to the 8th Wonder of the World: Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. It truly is a remarkable experience! Milford Sound/Piopiotahi is a scenic escape approximately three hours from Queenstown. The natural landscape will engulf you as you waltz through plunging valleys and under towering peaks. This could possibly be one of the most scenic drives you'll experience in your lifetime! Take this encounter to the next level by soaring like the Piopio (ancient bird) by plane or helicopter. Whether you've decided to hop aboard the steamship lake cruise on the iconic TSS Earnslaw or marvel at the power of ancient roaring rivers - tonight you have the night to indulge in Queenstown's exciting nightlife. Sip cocktails and indulge in the sparkling views of Lake Wakatipu.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6



Another day to explore Queenstown

Queenstown truly has something for everyone. Personalise your day to be as active or relaxed as you'd like. Whether it's exploring Walter Peak on a horse trekking adventure, joining the historic steamship across Lake Wakatipu or sipping wine in Gibbston Valley, there is no shortage of activities to delight your senses. This evening is your 'final hurrah'; as you enjoy a farewell dinner. This is the perfect time to reminisce and share photos and phone numbers with your new friends.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7



Depart Queenstown

Enjoy a final breakfast with your fellow travellers this morning. After that, you're free to continue exploring Queenstown or begin your onward journey. If you're not quite ready to leave Queenstown, the day is yours to explore at your own pace. Whether it's an adrenaline-filled adventure, lakeside stroll, or indulging in the region's world-class food and wine, Queenstown is the perfect place to wrap up your travels on your own terms.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Guided Coach & Train Tours
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 7
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 2	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 3	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 4	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 5	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 6	3-3.5 Star Hotel