



8 day South Island Encounter

An introduction to the South Island including Mt Cook National Park, Christchurch, Milford Sound and the West Coast Glaciers. Highlights are the renowned Tranz Alpine Scenic Train journey and the Milford Sound Nature Cruise.

Starts in: Queenstown

Finishes in: Queenstown

Length: 8days / 7nights

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: Queenstown to Franz Josef with Glacier Shuttles

Included activity: Franz Josef to Greymouth Train Station with Hokitika Scenic Tours

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

Included activity: Christchurch to Aoraki-Mt Cook via Lake Tekapo Small Group Tour with Cheeky Kiwi - Lunch Included

Included activity: Aoraki-Mount Cook to Queenstown Small Group Tour with Cheeky Kiwi

: 2 lunches

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Included activity: Private Transfer Queenstown Airport to your Accommodation

Included activity: Milford Sound Cruise and Coach Tour from Queenstown with RealNZ - Lunch Included

Included activity: Glacier Valley Shuttle

Included activity: TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Greymouth to Christchurch

Included activity: Real New Zealand Tours - Christchurch City, Sheep Farm & Wine Tour - Lunch Included

Included activity: Glacier Explorers

Included activity: Private Transfer Queenstown Accommodation to Airport (LSQ)

Day 1



Private Transfer Queenstown Airport to your Accommodation

On arrival you will be met by a private driver and delivered to your Queenstown accommodation.

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 Buffet Dinner with Skyline Queenstown

With breathtaking views across Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, the Skyline Complex is a must-do. Catch the fully enclosed gondola to the summit for a remarkable panorama of the city's surroundings. Wander the outdoor viewing decks then enjoy a gourmet buffet meal in the Stratosphere Restaurant.

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 2



Milford Sound Cruise and Coach Tour from Queenstown with RealNZ - Lunch Included

Departing from Queenstown sit back and relax aboard a luxury glass-roofed coach to enjoy a relaxing trip along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and through the rolling countryside to Te Anau. The coach driver provides an informative commentary and plenty of photo opportunities. After a morning tea break in Te Anau, the coach continues along the spectacular Milford Road. On reaching Piopiotahi-Milford Sound, board your vessel for a leisurely cruise in the fiord. The cruise provides excellent viewing opportunities and plenty of time is available to enjoy waterfalls, rainforests, mountains and wildlife. Rain or shine, every day in Piopiotahi-Milford Sound will leave you in awe. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information, [see here](#).

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: Lunch



Day 3



Queenstown to Franz Josef with Glacier Shuttles

Leaving Queenstown, travel past picturesque scenery of massive mountain peaks and crystal-clear blue lakes. Journey across the Haast Pass to the other side of the Southern Alps, the landscape changes dramatically. Enter the wild and wonderful West Coast, a remote and unspoiled region. Wind your way past native rainforest, rocky coastlines and powerful waterfalls. Your journey concludes in the village of Franz Josef, your next base for exploration.

Glacier Valley Shuttle

You'll be transferred up the Franz Josef Valley to the road end, where you'll have the opportunity to walk to a viewing platform with views of the glacier. Alternatively, you can enjoy one of the other scenic short walks in the area.

Your accommodation: Punga Grove Motel & Suites

Punga Grove is right in the heart of Franz Josef Glacier village stylish accommodation in a beautiful rainforest setting.



Day 4



Franz Josef to Greymouth Train Station with Hokitika Scenic Tours

Head north from Franz Josef through to the historic gold mining region of Hokitika. Known for its Pounamu (New Zealand Greenstone) this seaside town has a rich history dating back to the 1860's. Continue on to Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast and the starting point for the next leg of your journey - the TranzAlpine Scenic Train.

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.

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 5



Real New Zealand Tours - Christchurch City, Sheep Farm & Wine Tour - Lunch Included

Explore Christchurch, New Zealand's second-largest city known for its English Gothic architecture and heritage, situated on New Zealand's South Island East coast. Enjoy the tranquil Avon River, Hagley Park, and the beautiful Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Discover our new roof-topped stadium (due for completion in 2026), the transitional cardboard Cathedral, and delightful New Regent Street. Heading north to visit Glenafric Farm, a 770ha spectacular coastal sheep and beef property. With Corriedale and South Suffolk sheep and Hereford cattle, this authentic working farm supports two families and three generations. Witness sheep shearing, try for yourself, and admire very clever well-trained farm dogs. Experience a unique farm tour with a vintage tractor and trailer ride. Enjoy a delicious lunch before travelling to the award-winning Waipara wine region for a wine tasting and then returning to Christchurch City Centre.

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.

Meals included: Lunch



Day 6



Christchurch to Aoraki-Mt Cook via Lake Tekapo Small Group Tour with Cheeky Kiwi - Lunch Included

Departing from Christchurch, you will make your way through the vast Canterbury Plains. Enjoy a delicious stop at Fairlie Bakehouse before marvelling at the vibrant blue waters of Lake Tekapo and the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd. Travel past the stunning Lake Pukaki, framed by Aoraki-Mt Cook and the Southern Alps, and immerse yourself in the breathtaking landscapes of Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park. Capture unforgettable photos and explore New Zealand's highest peak without breaking a sweat!

Glacier Explorers

Experience 500-year-old icebergs up close on the Aoraki-Mt Cook terminal lake. The Glacier Explorers tour is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and one of only three in the world! Very few glaciers terminate into lakes and even fewer of them are accessible. See towering ice cliffs and floating icebergs from the safety of a specially designed boat. These boats provide a safe way to view unseen and inaccessible areas of New Zealand's largest glacier The Tasman.

Your accommodation: Mt Cook Motel

Mt Cook Motel, nestled in the heart of Mt. Cook Village, offers spacious self-contained units that provide comfort and convenience. Each unit is surrounded by breathtaking alpine mountain views, making it the perfect retreat for nature lovers and adventurers alike.



Day 7



SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre Museum and Theatre Explorer Pass with Hermitage

A tribute to New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary, a humanitarian, ambassador, and one of the world's greatest explorers. The centre showcases the Aoraki Mount Cook region, the history of climbing, and early transport used throughout the region. This comprehensive museum details the life of Sir Edmund Hillary, the Hermitage, and provides access to the 126-seat custom-designed theatre. Check out the daily film schedule which includes 3D Movies, documentaries, and 360-degree digital dome features.

Aoraki-Mount Cook to Queenstown Small Group Tour with Cheeky Kiwi

This scenic tour winds its way from Aoraki-Mt Cook to some of the best sights the Southern Alps area has to offer; stunningly blue Lake Pukaki, High Country Salmon, the panoramic Lindis Pass, the grand Kawarau Gorge before finally coming to an end in breathtaking Tāhuna-Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world.

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 8



Private Transfer Queenstown Accommodation to Airport (LSQ)

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

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Kawarau Bridge Bungy Jump with AJ Hackett

Queenstown is where bungy jumping was pioneered by AJ Hackett and the first commercial jump started in 1988 at the Kawarau Bridge (on the main road into Queenstown from the east). If a bungy jump is on your 'to do' list then Queenstown is the place and the Kawarau Bridge is a 43 metre jump from an historic bridge with an optional 'dip' in the Kawarau River. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information see [here](#).

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Queenstown
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 8
Accomodation: Motels
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Blue Peaks Lodge
Day 2	Blue Peaks Lodge
Day 3	Punga Grove Motel & Suites
Day 4	Bella Vista Christchurch
Day 5	Bella Vista Christchurch
Day 6	Mt Cook Motel
Day 7	Blue Peaks Lodge