

South Island Grand Adventure

The South Island adventure begins in Ōtautahi Christchurch, heading south through the stunning Mackenzie Country. Witness the vivid turquoise of Lake Tekapo before reaching the awe-inspiring Aoraki/Mount Cook, New Zealand's tallest peak. Next, travel to Queenstown, the adventure capital, for a breathtaking coach journey to Piopiotahi Milford Sound, where a cruise on the fiord's waters awaits before a spectacular scenic flight back to Queenstown. The journey continues to Ōtepoti Dunedin aboard the historic Taieri Gorge Railway, offering unique insights into Otago's rugged beauty. Finally, return to Christchurch, concluding a remarkable exploration of the South Island's diverse wonders.

Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 6days / 5nights
 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: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App
 Included activity: Christchurch to Queenstown via Aoraki-Mount Cook National Park & Tekapo with Cheeky Kiwi - Lunch Included
 Included activity: Queenstown to Dunedin including Taieri Gorge Train with Cheeky Kiwi Travel
 Included activity: Dunedin to Christchurch by InterCity Coach
 Included activity: Private Transfer from Accommodation to Airport with Christchurch Touring Company

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: Private Transfer Christchurch International Airport to Christchurch Accommodation
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: Premium Milford Sound Small Group Tour, Cruise, Return Flight & Picnic Lunch from Queenstown with Cheeky Kiwi
 Included activity: Dunedin Accommodation to Coach Stop Transfer with Iconic
 Included activity: Private transfer Lichfield Street Bus Station to your accommodation with Christchurch Touring
 : 5 breakfasts



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 - Discover Christchurch Afternoon Tour with Leisure Tours

A half-day sightseeing tour of Christchurch highlighting both the damage to the city inflicted by several large earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 and the rebuild which is currently in progress, together with the surviving beauty of the city and the historical landmarks. Experience the grand architecture, beautiful gardens, and scenic viewpoints on a half-day city tour of Christchurch.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Cotswold

The Scenic Hotel Cotswold is just a few minutes walk to boutique shopping at Merivale and Hagley Park. The distinctive architecture of the Scenic Hotel Cotswold reflects Christchurch's image as the most English of cities outside of England.



Day 2



Christchurch to Queenstown via Aoraki-Mount Cook National Park & Tekapo with Cheeky Kiwi - Lunch Included

What better way to get from Christchurch to Queenstown than a small group, fully-guided day trip that combines all of the key southern highlights such as the famous Lake Tekapo, Aoraki-Mount Cook National Park and Tasman Glacier. The famously passionate tour guides, notorious for bringing your journey to life by sharing their stories and rich background knowledge and run in modern, comfortable minibuses packed with extras ensuring your comfort and safety.

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, bungee 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: Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview

Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview is located on Frankton Road, the main arterial route into Queenstown - With the centre of town only a short 10-minute stroll away.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Premium Milford Sound Small Group Tour, Cruise, Return Flight & Picnic Lunch from Queenstown with Cheeky Kiwi

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Milford Sound on this fully guided, small-group day tour from Queenstown. Travel through some of New Zealand's most spectacular landscapes, with scenic stops at Lake Wakatipu, Devil's Staircase, Mirror Lake, Lake Gunn, and the dramatic Homer Tunnel. Keep an eye out for the playful Kea, the world's largest alpine parrot. Upon arrival, embark on an intimate cruise with Cruise Milford, the top-rated operator on Tripadvisor. Glide past towering cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and New Zealand fur seals basking on the rocks, all while enjoying a more personal and informative experience aboard a smaller, less crowded vessel. Cap off your adventure with a breathtaking scenic flight back to Queenstown, offering unmatched aerial views of Fiordland's rugged peaks, deep valleys, and glacial rivers an unforgettable finale to a day of pure natural wonder.

Your accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview

Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview is located on Frankton Road, the main arterial route into Queenstown - With the centre of town only a short 10-minute stroll away.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Queenstown to Dunedin including Taieri Gorge Train with Cheeky Kiwi Travel

You will be collected from your Queenstown hotel, a town renowned for its stunning alpine scenery and adventure. You'll journey through Central Otago, a region rich in gold rush history and natural beauty, passing gorges, lakes, and historic towns. The tour then takes you to Pukerangi, where you'll board the iconic Taieri Gorge Railway. This spectacular train ride will carry you all the way into Dunedin.

Dunedin

Dunedin, known in Māori as Ōtepoti, is referred to as the "Edinburgh of the Southern Hemisphere". The city has a rightly deserved reputation as one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. Of particular note is Dunedin Railway Station, built 1904 - 1906, and St Paul's Cathedral in the Octagon. The Otago Museum is renowned for its Māori and Pacific Island collections and natural history displays. A visit to the Speights, New Zealand's oldest brewery, is also considered a must while in Dunedin. The Botanic Gardens is a great spot and at the right time of year, you can witness the Rhododendron Dell in bloom. The Otago Peninsula is the only home in the world to the Northern Royal Albatross. The Peninsula can be visited for the day from Dunedin and the stunning harbor landscape and wildlife are worth exploring. High among the rolling hills of the Peninsula is Larnach Castle, the grand home of an early politician. Construction of the castle began in 1871 and was completed 12 years later. From here, views out to sea and back towards the city emphasize the singular beauty of Dunedin and its jewel-like harbor.

Your accommodation: Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin

Located right in the heart of the city, Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin has the CBD right at its doorstep. The Otago Museum is just a stroll away, while the beach is a mere 10-minute drive. This hotel boasts sunny north-facing guest rooms, brimming with amenities. All rooms feature balconies, an excellent vantage point to view the city.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5



Dunedin Accommodation to Coach Stop Transfer with Iconic

You will be collected from your accommodation and transferred to the coach stop in time for your departure.

Dunedin to Christchurch by InterCity Coach

The drive follows the Otago Coastline as you head north from Dunedin. Pass through the unique town of Oamaru, famous for its buildings constructed with the unique locally quarried white stone. The port town of Timaru is next and then the vast Canterbury Plains. Crossing New Zealand's longest bridge at Rakaia you can view some great examples of the South Island's famous braided rivers.

Private transfer Lichfield Street Bus Station to your accommodation with Christchurch Touring

A private transfer will collect you from the coach stop and transfer you to your accommodation.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Cotswold

The Scenic Hotel Cotswold is just a few minutes walk to boutique shopping at Merivale and Hagley Park. The distinctive architecture of the Scenic Hotel Cotswold reflects Christchurch's image as the most English of cities outside of England.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



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: 6
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1 Scenic Hotel Cotswold
Day 2 Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview
Day 3 Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview
Day 4 Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin
Day 5 Scenic Hotel Cotswold