



12 Day 'Southern Splendour'

Day 1 ARRIVE - CHRISTCHURCH (D)

Welcome to New Zealand! Meet **and greet on arrival at Christchurch** International Airport before being transferred to our hotel.

Day 2 CHRISTCHURCH - MOUNT COOK – OMARAMA (BD)

A day for spectacular sights. We farewell Christchurch and travel through Ashburton, Geraldine and Fairlie, over Burke's Pass into the vast Mackenzie Basin to the magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo. We **visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog**, and then continue to **Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain**. Time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers (a highly recommended option), before continuing onto Omarama overnight.

Day 3 OMARAMA - DUNEDIN (BD)

Today we head through Sailor's Cutting, Otematata and Benmore to Oamaru. Here we have time to look at the **'White Stone City'**. The old buildings have been constructed with local limestone. It was from Oamaru that New Zealand's first frozen meat was shipped in 1882 taking over three months to reach England, and thus began New Zealand's most important export industry. Travelling south we will view the extraordinary spherical **Moeraki Boulders**, shaped rather like giant marbles, then onto **"The Edinburgh of the South – Dunedin"**. Upon arrival into Dunedin, **we board the Taieri Gorge Train Excursion**, which will take us some sixty kilometres from Dunedin viewing impressive scenery and engineering feats. Tonight we dine with a decidedly Scottish air enjoying the **Haggis presentation** and dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 DUNEDIN – TE ANAU (BD)

This morning we visit **Oveston House** - an impressive turn-of-the-century house that is still home to all the lavish furnishings and art collections that have been collected from all corners of the world. We continue to then take in the sights of this old Scottish City. Departing Dunedin we travel through Balclutha and Gore and on to Lumsden through some of the most populated sheep country in New Zealand, before reaching spectacular Lake Te Anau and our accommodation.

Day 5 TE ANAU – DOUBTFUL SOUND – TE ANAU (BLD)

Visiting **Lake Manapouri** the lake of many islands and it's from here that we board our **boat to visit one of New Zealand's hidden secrets – Doubtful Sound**. Crossing Lake Manapouri to the West Arm **we visit the west arm power station** hewn out of the granite mountain to form a huge cavern in the mountain to house seven turbines. The water from Lake Manapouri travels through the mountain to the turbines and in turn finishes through the other side at Deep Cove some ten kilometers further on. **Crossing the Wilmot Pass** over to the West Coast to Doubtful Sound to board another cruise boat out onto the "Sound" in actual fact not a true sound but a fiord formed over millions of years by glacier movement. The fiords are dwarfed by the near vertical walls rising sheer from the sea. So steeply do they rise that the wharf at Deep Cove does not rest on piles but is cantilevered out from the shore. **Cruising the numerous arms and Fiords out towards the Tasman Sea** usually dolphins are known to frolic in the bow waves of the boat and New Zealand fur seals are seen basking on the rocks. Returning back to Te Anau overnight.

Day 6 TE ANAU - QUEENSTOWN (BD)

We travel via Mossburn beneath the towering **Remarkable's Range** to Queenstown, stopping en-route at **historic Arrowtown** - a quaint town away from the hustle and bustle with plenty of shops and historic remains from the Gold Rush days. This afternoon is free to enjoy at your leisure in Queenstown. You may wish to relax at the hotel or perhaps experience some of the many activities and sightseeing tours available. Your Coach Captain will be happy to assist you with any information regarding bookings, whether it be for sport or recreation. **This evening we take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer 'TSS Earnslaw' to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.**



Day 7 **QUEENSTOWN** (B)

Today is at leisure. Visit the Remarkable's or Coronet Peak. Experience the thrill of a jet-boat ride along the Shotover or Kawerau Rivers. Perhaps a scenic 4 wheel drive excursion through Skippers Canyon, or a tour to Glenorchy to visit Lord of the Rings movie sites, or maybe just browse in the many shops and galleries - it's up to you. Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafes and bars.

Day 8 **QUEENSTOWN – HAAST** (BD)

We follow the Kawerau Gorge Road to Cromwell, continuing onto the **popular Lake Wanaka**, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. From here we travel past **Lake Hawea** before following the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka to Makaroa and traversing the rugged Haast Pass into the Westland National Park. Arriving at Haast, you are surrounded by a landscape of rainforest, wetlands, sand dunes and surf-pounded shingle beaches. This wilderness forms part of the **South West New Zealand World Heritage Area**, so designated because South Westland and Fiordland have some of the most dramatic forest and mountain scenery and natural resources in the world.

Day 9 **HAAST – GREYMOUTH** (BD)

Travelling from the southern end of the South Island's West Coast Road, there is a strong sense of entering a primeval land, and a feeling of total isolation. The 'Coast' as locals call it, is one of the world's special places, with mind-blowing topography. Ancient uplifts of the earth's crust created the impressive vertical ramparts of the main divide of the Southern Alps. These cloud-piercing mountains rise within 30km of a breathtaking coast. Five of our national parks are here, and South West New Zealand has been declared a World Heritage Area. We continue further north into the Westland National Park home of **Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers**. On arrival, time is available for optional scenic flights. This afternoon we reach Hokitika where a **visit is made to the Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories** before continuing on to our accommodation in Greymouth.

Day 10 **GREYMOUTH – CHRISTCHURCH** (BD)

Today we wind our way through **the beautiful Southern Alps** and across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. As an option today some may choose to travel from Arthurs Pass to Christchurch aboard the Tranz Alpine Scenic Train Journey.

Day 11 **CHRISTCHURCH – AKAROA – CHRISTCHURCH** (BD)

Today we tour through the outer suburbs of Christchurch to the Banks Peninsular and **seaside town of Akaroa**. Founded in 1840 as the only French colony in the country. The town has traces of its origins in its early architecture, some of its street names and in the name of the hill above the town – L'Aube Hill, called after the gunboat that accompanied the original colonists. **Boarding our harbour cruise boat** we tour along the shores of this vast basin or 'caldera' visiting the rare Hector's Dolphins and New Zealand fur seals as well as the Salmon farms anchored around the shore line. Once ashore time is available for lunch (own expense) and participate in some retail therapy and to view the many craft outlets. Retracing our journey we visit Lyttleton harbour as we tour back to Christchurch where **we visit the Mona Vale gardens** established 1905 featuring plantings of copper beech, maples, cedars, and in season displays of roses, chrysanthemums, dahlias, and iris blooms. The fernery is the last surviving building from the Christchurch exhibition of 1906-07. The home is now used for social functions.

Day 12 **CHRISTCHURCH – HOME PORT** (B)

Our last morning together. This morning you are **transferred to Christchurch International Airport** to connect with our outbound flight.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Meet and Greet on arrival in New Zealand
- **Fully Escorted tour by same staff and coach throughout New Zealand**
- 11 Nights quality hotel/motel accommodation, twin/double rooms, (single rooms available with surcharge) all with private facilities
- Baggage assistance at each hotel
- All Tour Admissions as per itinerary
- Cooked Breakfasts (B), Lunches (L), and Dinners (D) where indicated on the itinerary
- 2 Special Meals including: Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonels Homestead – Queenstown, Haggis Ceremony – Dunedin
- 3 Scenic Boat Cruises including: TSS Earnslaw Cruise on Lake Wakatipu, Doubtful Sounds Cruise, Akaroa Harbour Cruise
- Touring in modern air conditioned coach
- Complimentary Travel Bag, Document Wallet, Name Bar, Luggage Labels and New Zealand Map

