

16 DAY BOTTOM OF THE SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

April 25th – May 10th 2010



Day 1 Sunday 25th April 2010
ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH

Welcome to the South Island! Today you are met at the Christchurch Airport and transferred to your Christchurch accommodation. (flight cost is not included in tour price)

Day 2 Monday 26th April 2010
CHRISTCHURCH – HANMER SPRINGS – GREYMOUTH (BD)

Travelling north passing the newly planted grapes of the North Canterbury Plains we **visit Hanmer Springs**. Time for a soak in the warm mineral pools (own expense). Moving on we traverse the **Southern Alps** over the **Lewis Pass** and Rahu Saddle to Reefton. In August 1888, at the height of the gold rush, Reefton turned on electric street lighting before any other town in the Southern Hemisphere. We pass through several small townships before reaching Greymouth to **visit Shanty Town** - New Zealand's West Coast's living heritage featuring wonderful true stories and engaging, interactive activities make Shantytown one of New Zealand's premier cultural and heritage experiences. We then continue on to Hokitika, which is the gateway to the South Westland World Heritage National Park. The Arahura River, 5 miles north of Hokitika, is a traditional source of pounamu (greenstone) for the Maori people and still yields a large portion of the Coast's continuing supply.

Day 3 Tuesday 27th April 2010
GREYMOUTH (B)

Today we continue **travelling through lush bush to view Lake Kaniere** and also the **Stanley Graham monument at Kowhitirangi** – an important part of West Coast history. This afternoon we have time to **visit other West Coast attractions including greenstone, gold and glass blowing factories**.

Day 4 Wednesday 28th April 2010
GREYMOUTH – HAAST (BD)

Today we travel through canopy rainforests past **South Westland's scenic lakes to the Franz Josef Glacier before traversing the Waikukupa Hill and Omoeroa and Cook Saddles to the Cook River Flats and the Fox Glacier**. We have the option at Franz Josef Glacier to experience a Helicopter Flight over the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. Following lunch, which is provided today, we travel on until we reach the rugged coastline at Haast where we spend the night.

Day 5 Thursday 29th April 2010
HAAST – QUEENSTOWN (BD)

There are plenty of stops today for photo opportunities as we travel through the Haast River valleys and Haast Pass. Once in Otago the scenery changes dramatically to large glacial valleys and lakes. After a short break at Wanaka we travel to Cromwell before entering the Kawarau Gorge and visit the bungee platform before arriving in **Arrowtown and its various historic attractions**. **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 6 Friday 30th April 2010
QUEENSTOWN (B)

Today is at leisure and you have the chance to experience some of the many activities and sightseeing tours available. Experience the thrill of a jet-boat ride along the Shotover or Kawarau 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. Your Coach Captain will be happy to assist you with any information regarding bookings.

Day 7 Saturday 1st May 2010
QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD SOUND - TE ANAU (BD)

Leaving Queenstown we skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake. We travel through Te Anau and **Fiordland National Park via the beautiful Eglinton Valley and climb to the Homer Tunnel, descend through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach Milford Sound**. **Enjoy a cruise on the Sound**, which is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls.

Day 8 Sunday 2nd May 2010
TE ANAU (BD)

Today is at leisure and you have the opportunity to experience some of the many activities and sightseeing tours available within Te Anau – perhaps an excursion to the Te Anau Caves or to Doubtful Sounds, for an adrenalin rush experience the Luxmore Jet Boat ride, or just relax within the quaint 'Fiordland' village.

Day 9 Monday 3rd May 2010

TE ANAU – INVERCARGILL (BD)

Travelling the ***Southern Scenic Route to Invercargill***, we travel through Riverton on the shores of the Aparima River. Now a sea side resort and farming town, the former whaling station maintains its links with the sea. Scores of fishing boats and pleasure craft string along the jetties lining the South Bank. Continuing on ***we visit the Queens Gardens and Southland Art Gallery and Museum*** before arriving at our accommodation in Invercargill where we stay for the next two nights.

Day 10 Tuesday 4th May 2010

INVERCARGILL – BLUFF – INVERCARGILL (STEWART ISLAND OPTION) (BD)

This morning we travel to Bluff. As an option we board the catamaran to Stewart Island. On arrival we have an escorted tour of the main island. After the tour we visit the local D.O.C. Office. For those not choosing the Stewart Island option, after our tour to Bluff the rest of the day is at leisure in Invercargill.

Day 11 Wednesday 5th May 2010

INVERCARGILL – DUNEDIN (BD)

Today we travel ***the southern scenic route via the Catlins***. This route has such ***diverse native bush reserve, petrified forests, wildlife, and water falls***. We also travel through some of the South's last bastion of ***Podocarp Forest*** before rejoining the main road to Dunedin. Tonight we dine with a decidedly Scottish air ***enjoying the Haggis presentation*** and dinner at the hotel.

Day 12 Thursday 6th May 2010

DUNEDIN (B)

This morning we tour the Edinburgh of the South – Dunedin City. First we ***visit Olveston House***, a Jacobean style home filled with early New Zealand paintings and antiques. Continuing we pass the Botanical Gardens and visit Baldwin Street the world's steepest street. This afternoon as an option perhaps visit the Dunedin Cadbury factory or join the Taieri Gorge Train excursion to the extremities of Dunedin City, or perhaps take a tour of the Otago Peninsular including a visit to Larnach Castle.

Day 13 Friday 7th May 2010

DUNEDIN – ALEXANDRA (BD)

Departing Dunedin we ***tour through Lawrence*** visiting the historic buildings and gold fields before moving on to ***visit Roxburgh and the Dam***. We ***tour on to Alexandra***, one of New Zealand's hottest places in summer. Locals and tourists flock here to relax amongst the rocky Central Otago mountains. It is the largest town on the Clutha River. We tour through to Clyde, to visit the Clyde Dam and the historic town of Clyde, before arriving at our accommodation.

Day 14 Saturday 8th May 2010

ALEXANDRA – OMARAMA (BD)

We begin touring the ***diverse Maniototo countryside*** with its rocky tors. We ***visit the Blue Lake at St Bathans***, before travelling ***on to Naseby, the home of the International Curling Centre***. Travelling on we ***visit McCraes gold mining area*** then to Palmerston and Oamaru. We then travel inland and follow the Waitaki Valley past giant hydro dams and power schemes journeying through the Mackenzie Country.

Day 15 Sunday 9th May 2010

OMARAMA – MOUNT COOK - CHRISTCHURCH(BD)

Today we ***view the majestic alpine scenery of Aoraki (Mount Cook), National Park with its main focal point towering above us of Mt. Cook***. Time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers, (a highly recommended option). Travelling to Tekapo we witness the ***magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo***. Here we visit the ***Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog***, before travelling the ***vast Mackenzie Basin***, over Burke's Pass through Fairlie on to Cave and then to Timaru. Heading north heading inland to Geraldine, home to many craft food and hobby outlets before once again joining State Highway 1 back into Christchurch, along the vast Canterbury Plains.

Day 16 Monday 10th May 2010

DEPART CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Farewell from the South Island! This morning you are transferred to the Christchurch Airport to connect with your flight to your home port. (flights cost is not included in tour price)

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 15 nights quality accommodation, double/twin bed rooms with private facilities
- Baggage Assistance at each hotel
- All tour admissions as per the itinerary
- Breakfasts (B), Lunches (L) and Dinners (D) where indicated on the daily itinerary
- 2 Special Meals including: Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonels Homestead, and Haggis Ceremony – Dunedin
- 2 Scenic Boat Cruises including: TSS Earnslaw Cruise on Lake Wakatipu and Milford Sounds
- Touring in modern air conditioned Coach
- Complimentary Travel Bag and Map
- Roadside Morning Teas – where possible

TOUR PAYMENTS PER PERSON:

- Share Twin Accommodation \$2995.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$1095.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement.