



# 9 DAY TOP OF THE SOUTH

May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Day 1 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 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 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## CHRISTCHURCH SIGHTS (BD)

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island and one of the most beautiful in New Zealand with its large public gardens, parks, river and majestic backdrop of the Port Hills. Your **tour takes you around the city's highlights and historic sites** including the Christchurch Arts Centre, Botanic Gardens, the Avon River and Canterbury Museum. On leaving the inner city, the tour takes in several parks and gardens including Mona Vale Gardens and Hagley Park before heading to the Port Hills for spectacular views over the city and Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps. This afternoon is at your leisure.

**Day 3 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## CHRISTCHURCH – AKAROA (B)

**Today we tour to Akaroa, a tranquil historical French town nestled on Banks Peninsula.** Admire the French architecture and street names as we walk through the historic town. We return to Christchurch via Gebbies Pass and Summit Road to view the many views of the Canterbury Plains and Lyttleton Harbour to the **famous "Sign of the Takahē"** nestled on the Cashmere Hills.

**Day 4 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## CHRISTCHURCH – WESTPORT (BD)

As an optional extra today we have the opportunity of travelling on the Tranz Alpine Train journey from Christchurch to Arthurs Pass. The TranzAlpine scenic train journey travels between Christchurch and Greymouth, from one coast of New Zealand to the other. From your carriage you'll see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Those not taking up this option, will continue on along the Canterbury Plains, climbing Porters Pass into the vast hinterland where spectacular views can be had of the many ski fields in the area. We then meet up with the train travellers at Arthurs Pass. Traversing the Southern Alps via the Arthurs Pass we descent into the Otira Gorge area before descending through lush beech rain forest of the West Coast passing Lake Brunner and out to the Coast. Travelling the coastal highway we visit **Punakaiki and the famous "Pancake Rocks"** –formations of limestone sculpture formed over time by erosion to create blowholes. We then continue to travel through the **Paparua National Park** to Westport.

**Day 5 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## WESTPORT – KARAMEA - WESTPORT (BLD)

Today we **visit Denniston with a local historian, to view the museum** in remembrance of the historic incline. Moving on we view the various coalfields in the area as well as train loading facilities at Ngakawau. Today we have **lunch at the Karamea Hotel.** We also **visit Kohaihai the "Start or Finish" of the Heaphy Track.** Time allows for a **bushwalk across the swingbridge into a sub tropical forest.** We return to our accommodation in Westport.

**Day 6 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## WESTPORT - NELSON (BD)

This morning we wind our way around the lower Buller bush-clad gorge featuring Hawks Crag to Inangahua Junction and the Upper Buller Gorge to Murchison. Onwards to Kawatiri Junction we view the **Interpretation Panels on "The Nelson Rail Network"**. We then cross the Buller River one last time before visiting Lake Rotoiti at St Arnaud in the Nelson Lakes region. We travel through the Golden Downs Forest following and crossing the Motueka River passing **Brightwater, the birth place of Lord Rutherford,** the man on our \$100:00 notes. From here we continue into Nelson, New Zealand's first City for the next two nights.

**Day 7 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## NELSON (B)

Today we **tour the rich apple growing areas of Richmond, Mapua, Tasman and Redwood Valley to Motueka** and then on to Kaiteriteri Beach, a hidden jewel in the top of the South Island, we cross the Takaka Hills to visit the Waikorupupu Springs, and Collingwood. Touring back before following the coastline back to Nelson.

**Day 8 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## NELSON – WELLINGTON (BD)

Today we continue our journey to **Picton and Waikawa Bay and Marinas** to board the Interislander and once again cruise the Queen Charlotte Sound leaving the mainland to Wellington Harbour. Wellington is a visitor friendly, upbeat, compact city which can claim to be the world's southernmost Capital. We then travel on to Wellington for our last night together.

**Day 9 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## WELLINGTON – HOME CITIES (B)

Our last morning together. Travelling north we say goodbye to fellow travellers as we drop off as required en route to Hamilton and Auckland, keeping with us the fond memories of new acquaintances and lasting images of the beautiful South Island.

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 8 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
- Touring in modern air conditioned Coach
- Complimentary Travel Bag and Map
- Roadside Morning Teas – where possible

### TOUR PAYMENTS PER PERSON:

- Share Twin Accommodation \$1995.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$570.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement.