



9 DAY TRAIN & COACH SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

Departures available every Friday

Day 1 Friday

AUCKLAND – WELLINGTON

The Overlander is a journey through the heart of the North Island, travelling between Auckland - New Zealand's largest city and home of the Sky Tower, to Wellington - New Zealand's arts and culture capital. Along the way you pass the Central North Island ski towns of National Park and Ohakune, popular with young and old alike. You also see fantastic views of New Zealand farmland, the volcanic plateau, Mount Ruapehu, the world famous Raurimu Spiral, and stunning river gorges - all from our panoramic windows or open air viewing decks allowing you the best possible views. On arrival into Wellington you are transferred to your accommodation.

Day 2 Saturday

WELLINGTON – CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Today we *cruise the Cook Strait heading through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sounds* into the South Island. On arrival in Picton you *board The TranzCoastal train journey* to travel from the delightful port of Picton through to Christchurch, the South Island's largest city. This journey is a scenic feast of New Zealand, with the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side of your train and the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline on the other. One of the world's most scenic train journeys, the TranzCoastal travels through 22 tunnels and crosses 175 bridges. The TranzCoastal includes an open air viewing carriage where all your senses are awakened with the clean, fresh, sea air.

Day 3 Sunday

CHRISTCHURCH SIGHTS (B)

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 4 Monday

CHRISTCHURCH TO FRANZ JOSEF (B)

This morning you are *transferred from your accommodation to connect with the TranzAlpine*. 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. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps before descending through lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Greymouth. This afternoon you are collected from the Greymouth Train Station and transferred to your accommodation at Franz Josef.

Day 5 Tuesday

FRANZ JOSEF TO QUEENSTOWN (B)

Driving towards 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. 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. From the Westland National Park we travel through the Haast River valleys and over the Haast Pass to Makaroa and onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. Travelling past *Lake Hawea* we reach the *popular Lake Wanaka*, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. This

afternoon we travel via Cromwell following the Kawerau Gorge Road into Queenstown.

Day 6 Wednesday

QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD SOUNDS (BL)

Travel by *luxury coach on an unforgettable journey from Queenstown into Milford Sound*. Located within the World Heritage Fiordland National Park, this region is rich with dense rainforest, lakes and waterfalls cascading from rugged mountain peaks. Journey through the Southern Alps via the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km tunnel drilled through a solid mountain of rock. Upon arrival **at Milford Sound, board your vessel for a spectacular cruise** where you will see the wonders of Mitre Peak, glacier scarred rock walls that rise 1,200m vertically from the sea, and waterfalls that tumble from hanging valleys and crash into the sound far below. Return by coach to Queenstown.

Day 7 Thursday

QUEENSTOWN AT LEISURE (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. Perhaps this evening, you could take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.

Day 8 Friday

QUEENSTOWN - CHRISTCHURCH (BL)

Departing from Queenstown we travel through diverse farmland continuing along the Tasman River before arriving at the location of **New Zealand's tallest mountain Aoraki / Mount Cook**. There is time to experience an optional scenic helicopter or ski plane flight (weather permitting). Next we arrive at Lake Tekapo, where you can view the solitary Church of the Good Shepherd. We continue to Christchurch where on arrival you will be dropped off at your hotel.

Day 9 Saturday

DEPART CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Today you are transferred from your hotel to connect with your outbound flight.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Airport Transfers
- 8 nights quality accommodation, double/twin share rooms with private facilities
- All tour admissions as per the itinerary
- Cooked breakfasts (B), lunches (L) and dinners (D) where indicated on the daily itinerary
- Touring in modern air conditioned coach
- Complimentary Travel Bag and Map

TOUR PAYMENTS PER PERSON:

- Share Twin Accommodation \$2275.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$695.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement.