



TRAIN JOURNEYS OF THE SOUTH

September 17th – 27th 2010

Day 1 Friday 17th September 2010 AUCKLAND – WELLINGTON (THE OVERLANDER)

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 18th September 2010 WELLINGTON – CHRISTCHURCH (TRANZ COASTAL) (BD)

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 19th September 2010 CHRISTCHURCH TO GREYMOUTH (TRANZ ALPINE) (BD)

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. Travelling the coastal highway we visit *Punakaiki and the famous "Pancake Rocks"* -formations of limestone sculpture formed over time by erosion to create blowholes.

Day 4 Monday 20th September 2010 GREYMOUTH

(SHANTYTOWN STEAM TRAIN) (B)
Shantytown is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's leading culture and heritage attractions. Over 30 historic buildings make up the recreated 19th Century pioneer town, inspired by the West Coast gold rushes of the 1860s. Its peaceful setting amongst regenerating native forest gives visitors the opportunity to step back in time, experience a range of activities and view fascinating relics from days gone by. Steam power was at the heart of the West Coast's early development. Shantytown provides this experience to new generations of travellers via a *short trip by Steam Train*. On either the 1877 L-Class, 1896 improved F-Class Kaitangata or 1913 Climax, you will take a short trip through lush native rain forest along a line which follows an original sawmill tram track of the 1800's. On the return trip our Train will stop at the Infants Creek Sawmill where you will disembark and take a short walk to our gold claim. When you have panned your gold (guaranteed a strike) another short bush clad walk will have you back in the heart of the Town.

Day 5 Tuesday 21st September 2010 GREYMOUTH – WANAKA (BD)

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.

**Day 6 Wednesday 22nd September 2010
WANAKA – QUEENSTOWN (B)**

This morning we depart Wanaka and travel to Cromwell before entering the Kawarau Gorge and visit the bungy platform before arriving in **Arrowtown and its various historic sites**. We arrive in Queenstown for the next 2 nights.

**Day 7 Thursday 23rd September 2010
QUEENSTOWN AT LEISURE (B)**

Today is at leisure. Perhaps a day trip or Scenic Flight to Milford Sounds, visit the Remarkable's or Coronet Peak. 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. 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 24th September 2010
QUEENSTOWN – DUNEDIN (BD)**

Departing Queenstown we travel across Central Otago via Cromwell, Clyde & Alexandra through to Dunedin – Edinburgh of the South. On arrival we enjoy a city sightseeing tour taking in the sights of this old Scottish City.

**Day 9 Saturday 25th September 2010
DUNEDIN
(TAIERI GORGE TRAIN) (B)**

This morning we visit **Olveston 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 have some time to spare in the City Centre, before boarding the **Taieri Gorge Train Excursion** for a journey which will take us some sixty kilometres from Dunedin viewing impressive scenery and engineering feats through terrain and spectacular scenery only accessible by rail. On return to Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station your coach will transfer you to your hotel.

**Day 10 Sunday 26th September 2010
DUNEDIN – CHRISTCHURCH (BD)**

Continuing north to Oamaru 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, this being the beginning of New Zealand's most important export industry. Continuing our northward drift, we travel through Timaru and the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

**Day 11 Monday 27th September 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:

- Airport Transfers
- 10 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 \$2595.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$795.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement.