

15 Day Discover The South Island in Depth (Airfare Included)

15 days

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Highlights

- Dolphin watching cruise in Kaikoura
- Full day kayak and watching tour in Abel Tasman National Park
- Franz Josef Glacier valley walk
- Queenstown highlights tour
- Walter Peak evening cruise with dinner
- Milford Sound guided tour and cruise
- City tour of Dunedin
- Half day peninsula encounter tour

Inclusions

- 14 nights of accommodation
- Airport transfers throughout
- Coastal Pacific train Christchurch to Blenheim
- Coach service Blenheim to Nelson
- Coach service Nelson to Punakaiki
- Coach service Punakaiki to Franz Josef
- Coach service Franz Josef to Queenstown
- Coach and train service from Queenstown to Dunedin
- Coach service Dunedin to Christchurch
- Sightseeing and attractions as listed

Exclusions

- Airfare unless specified as included within the itinerary
- Taxes as applicable
- Travel Insurance and Cancellation Protection (strongly recommended, ask us for a quote!)
- Gratuities for Local Guides, Tour Managers, and/or Bus Drivers
- Meals not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary
- Items (attractions and sightseeing & entrance fees) not listed as included in the itinerary

Dates & Prices

Canada/USA
1-866-814-7378

ACCOMMODATION	START PLACE	END PLACE	PRICE FROM
Accommodation (Airfare included from Vancouver)	Christchurch	Christchurch	\$4,100 USD
Accommodation (Airfare included from Vancouver)	Christchurch	Christchurch	\$4,560 USD

All prices are per person based on double occupancy and subject to local taxes - GST, PST or HST.

* This itinerary is an independent package, it can be adjusted to suit your travel interests, time frame and budget. Please do not hesitate to call one of our travel specialists for a customized package.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Christchurch

Upon arrival you will be transferred to your accommodation.

Overnight: Christchurch

Day 2: Christchurch - Kaikoura (Rail)

Take the Coastal Pacific Train to Kaikoura. Take a whale watching tour, Every Whale Watch tour is a unique experience and the sightings vary. Giant Sperm Whales are the stars of the show and year-round residents. A typical Whale Watch tour may encounter New Zealand Fur Seals, pods of Dusky dolphins and the endangered Wandering Albatross. Depending on the season you may also see migrating Humpback Whales, Pilot Whales, Blue Whales, and Southern Right Whales. Orcas and Hector's dolphins are common sightings.

Overnight: Kaikoura

Day 3: Kaikoura - Blenheim - Nelson (Rail & Coach)

Continue your train trip to the top of the North Island and continue over to Nelson.

Overnight: Nelson

Day 4: Abel Tasman National Park

Welcome aboard the Vista cruising catamaran. Relax with comfortable seating around tables and panoramic views from open or enclosed viewing decks and enjoy the onboard cafe and bar. With your flexible cruise and walk day pass, choose to spend from three to eight hours exploring the spectacular granite coast. Stay on board or disembark at a golden beach fringed by lush forest and azure waters, ideal for swimming. Enjoy quality beach time with walking options up to four hours. Your friendly crew takes care of your comfort and safety with interpretative commentary and maps.

Overnight: Nelson

Day 5: Nelson - Punakaiki

Take a coach to Punakaiki to view the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. You'll stay in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront.

Enjoy dinner while watching the thundering surf at your doorstep!

Overnight: Punakaiki

Day 6: Punakaiki - Franz Josef

Visit the small town of Hokitika, the heritage and cultural centre of the West Coast, for a greenstone (jade) jewellery demonstration by a local carver. Then visit the West Coast's newest attraction, the Treetop Walkway through the canopy of this lush rainforest. Now you're off to the gold-mining town of Ross before arriving at Franz Josef.

Overnight: Franz Josef

Day 7: Franz Josef Sightseeing

Today enjoy an interpretive walk to the glacier to have the perfect opportunity to learn the role of the Franz Josef Glacier in shaping this remarkable landscape. After a short walk through the regenerating rainforest, the trip continues along the glacier valley with your guide calling stops to explain the unique features of the Franz Josef Glacier and its surroundings. With the emphasis more on geographical information and the glacier's history, you're able to venture beyond the public barriers and right up to the dramatic terminal face of this advancing glacier with your experienced and knowledgeable guide.

Overnight: Franz Josef

Day 8: Franz Josef - Queenstown

Your coach today will take you to the adventure capital of New Zealand - Queenstown.

Overnight: Queenstown

Day 9: Queenstown Sightseeing

Today you will be collected from your hotel by Limousine South for your Queenstown Highlights tour. Enjoy Queenstown's diverse attractions with your friendly, knowledgeable local guide. You will be captivated by the amazing views over Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables mountain range. Watch the fearless jumpers hurl themselves off AJ Hackett's original Bungy Bridge while learning about the history and excitement of bungy jumping. Enjoy a wine tasting tour at Gibbston Valley Winery savouring the flavours of fine local wines. You will also see where key scenes from Lord of the Rings were shot and re-live the 1860s gold rush at beautiful Arrowtown, where remnants of that fascinating era merge with modern, speciality shopping, before being dropped back off to your accommodation.

Overnight: Queenstown

Day 10: Milford Sound Tour & Cruise

Today you will 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. Travel 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 on New Zealand's most famous waterway. At the end of the cruise you will return by coach to Queenstown.

Overnight: Queenstown

Day 11: Queenstown at leisure

Enjoy a scenic cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm onboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw. On disembarking at Walter Peak, you are welcomed and escorted through the lakeside gardens to the Colonel's Homestead where you are seated for dinner. The Gourmet BBQ menu, designed by Kiwi Celebrity Chef Josh Emett, incorporates fresh seasonal produce and locally hunted game and seafood so famous in the Central Otago region. All meat and seafood is cooked on the outdoor BBQ and rotisserie, in front of you and served immediately. A locally influenced wine list and other beverages are also available to purchase at the bar. Following dinner, you have the option of a brief farm show or relaxing at the bar before returning onboard the TSS Earnslaw to Queenstown. A tradition is the TSS Earnslaw's sing-along around the piano on the return journey.

Overnight: Queenstown

Included Meal(s): Dinner

Day 12: Queenstown - Dunedin (Rail & Coach)

Travel South to Dunedin

Overnight: Dunedin

Day 13: Dunedin Sightseeing

Start the day with a one hour city tour of Dunedin, before departing for the Otago Peninsula to see the Yellow eyed & Blue Penguins.

Overnight: Dunedin

Day 14: Dunedin - Christchurch

Travel by Coach back to Christchurch.

Overnight: Christchurch

Day 15: Package ends

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Overnight: