

Southern Wonders

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

If you came to Queenstown expecting to lose weight – think again. This southern city has some of NZ's best restaurants and bars. Dig in.

📍 Iconic Sites

The TransAlpine train ride has been described as one of the most scenic cross-country jaunts in the world. But don't take our word for it.

📷 Time For You

We love leading you to NZ's top attractions. But we also enjoy giving you the freedom to discover at your leisure. Some adventures are those unplanned.

🌿 Sustainable Travel

Your journey deep into Fiordland National Park is helping sustain this wild and wonderful part of New Zealand for future generations.

🏔 Natural Wonders

The Dunedin coast dials up the natural drama, its wind-carved cliffs and beaches attracting wild seabirds, sea lions and penguins.



1 Welcome to Christchurch

You don't have to arrive in Christchurch early, but we recommend you do – this South Island city has some of New Zealand's most innovative architecture, not to mention forward-thinking restaurants and bars. Spot them aboard the Christchurch Tram, linking some of the city's most legendary attractions. Your conductors are quite the entertainers.

Hotel: Ibis.

2 Christchurch – Franz Josef/Waiau

Your South Island sojourn starts on a literal high as you jump aboard the TransAlpine train, crossing the Canterbury Plains towards the Southern Alps and Arthur's Pass. This is one of the world's most scenic rail experiences, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. At the other end of the line is Hokitika, the home of pounamu (also known as native greenstone or jade). In Māori tradition, it's bad luck to buy this sacred stone for yourself; flutter your eyelids at your loved one. Just when you thought your day couldn't get any better, Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere twinkles on the horizon. You don't get many chances in life to land and walk on a glacier. This afternoon is one. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D**

3 Franz Josef/Waiau – Queenstown

Over the Haast Pass, alpine drama awaits. The Southern Lakes deserve their name: there are almost more waterways here than you can count. First up there's lovely Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Followed by oh-so-blue Lake Hawea and Lake Dunstan, where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. As tempting as it is to linger in Arrowtown's movie-set-like streets, lined with trees and character-filled boutiques, Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables await in Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

4 Queenstown Free Time

The adventure capital of New Zealand doesn't disappoint when it comes to activities that are fast and furious. Take your pick of zipping about on the high-octane Shotover Jet or exploring the natural drama of Skippers

Canyon. Prefer life at a more leisurely pace? Opt to step onto a Lord of the Rings movie set or sip your way through surrounding vineyards. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. **B HD**

5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Nature rules today as you motor from the Mirror Lakes through the Cleddau Valley. But this is just a teaser of what's to come: World Heritage listed Milford Sound/Piopiota. Cruising this dreamy expanse will give you goosebumps, its string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins and sea lions – they're a common sight here. The onward road through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and gin-clear rivers, carving up the countryside en route to Te Anau. And just when you thought things couldn't get any more magical, glowworm-filled caves make an appearance. We highly recommend a visit. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

6 Te Anau – Dunedin

The South Island's biggest lake is a blissful place for an invigorating morning walk. If it doesn't set your pulse racing, then your outlook of rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep surely will. This bucolic countryside surrounds the city of Dunedin. While away the afternoon in atmospheric art-lined alleys or sipping a lager or two in Speight's Brewery (a national institution). Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

7 Dunedin – Omarama

Did you know that 'Dunedin' takes its name from the Scottish word for Edinburgh? The city nods to its European heritage at Larnach Castle – the only one of its kind in the country – as well as through the grounds of Otago University and along the city's main George Street. Explore at your leisure, before venturing on to New Zealand's oldest public gardens and grand limestone buildings at Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**



Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere

7 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Oct 24, 31	Jan 02, 09, 16, 23, 30	Jan 01, 08, 15, 22, 29
Nov 21, 28	Feb 06, 13, 20, 27	Feb 05, 12, 19, 26
Dec 19, 26	Mar 06, 13, 20, 27	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25
	Apr 03, 10	
	May 01	
	Sep 04	
	Oct 02, 16, 23, 30	
	Nov 06, 20, 27	
	Dec 04, 11, 18, 25	

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your local travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 Apr 2024 at aatkings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

8 Full buffet breakfasts B 3 Dinners D
 1 Highlight Dinner HD 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
 Day 9 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

8 Omarama – Christchurch

If there's a lake with a more vivid turquoise colour than Tekapo, we're yet to see it. It's made even more dramatic by snow-capped mountains, the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd and atmospheric towns that surround. Take it in from the air on an optional flight for added perspective of the Southern Alps and on to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Back on the ground, you're becoming reacquainted with Christchurch, your in-the-know Travel Director pointing out the city's miraculous transformation over the last decade. Local spirit is strong here.

Hotel: Ibis. B FD

9 Christchurch

If you feel like you've only seen the tip of the South Island's iceberg, you'd be correct. This beguiling part of the country could keep travel enthusiasts entertained for eons. Thankfully, we have more itineraries – ask your Travel Director and start planning your next tour. **B**



- START
- END
- ① Number of night stays
- Sightseeing stop

