

10 Day Best of the South Christchurch - Christchurch

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights
Departs: Saturdays
Start: Christchurch
Finish: Christchurch
First Departure: 09/05/20
Last Departure: 10/10/20

Itinerary

DAY 1: Christchurch to Franz Josef

Haere mai (welcome)! Your adventure begins with one of the world's greatest train journeys, a ride on the TranzAlpine train. Check-in at the Christchurch Railway Station, then sit back to watch the South Island's most stunning scenery roll by just outside your window. You'll travel across the vast Canterbury Plains, cross winding ice-fed rivers and traverse the majestic Southern Alps via Arthur's Pass. Your train journey ends on the West Coast in the historic gold mining town of Greymouth, where you will meet your Guide and coach. From there, we carry on to our overnight stop in the quaint little town of Franz Josef, home to the famous Franz Josef Glacier.

Accommodation included: Lodge in the middle of the rainforest

Activities included: TranzAlpine scenic train journey from Christchurch to Greymouth

DAY 2: Franz Josef

Enjoy a full free day to explore the glacier. Live your glacier walking dream with a guided tour through a world of ice on the glacier or hike from town to view it from below, then unwind in the relaxing spa pools afterwards.

Accommodation included: Lodge in the middle of the rainforest

Optional activities: Guided Glacier Heli-hike, Glacier Valley Walk

Free Activities: Any of the good bush walks in the area

DAY 3: Franz Josef to Wanaka

Depart early to take a walk along the shores of the amazing mirror-like Lake Matheson, and then travel through the mountainous Haast Pass and Makarora with plenty of photo stops along the way. We pass by the beautiful Lake Hawea on our way to arrive in Wanaka by late afternoon.

Accommodation included: Central hostel

Free activities: Lake Matheson walk, Ship Creek walk, Blue Pools walk, Thunder Creek Falls walk, explore Wanaka

DAY 4: Wanaka to Queenstown

This morning, head out to cycle some of New Zealand's most beautiful bike paths along the lake before we depart Wanaka and cruise down to the famous original A.J. Hackett bungy site, where you can take the plunge - if you dare! Then, it's on to the 'Adventure Capital of the World!' Queenstown offers an optional big (make that huge) night out with a variety of excellent restaurants, pubs and live music.

Accommodation included: Central hostel

Included activities: Scenic bike ride around the lake (suitable for all levels)

DAY 5: Queenstown - Day 1

With so much to see and do in and around Queenstown, you need three full days to take it all in! To get you started, a couple highlight activities are included in your package. Today, you'll take an exhilarating jet boat ride amongst breathtaking scenery in the morning and then have the afternoon free for more Queenstown fun.

Accommodation included: Central hostel

Activities included: Jet boat ride

DAY 6: Queenstown - Day 2

Depart early on a day long trip to the jaw dropping Doubtful Sound in stunning Fiordland National Park, where you'll take a three hour wilderness cruise and learn more about this incredible natural wonder. You will return to Queenstown in the evening. Lunch is not included (you can purchase sandwiches and snacks on the day), so make sure you bring lunch, snacks and water.

Accommodation included: Central hostel

Activities included: Doubtful Sound day trip

DAY 7: Queenstown - Day 3

Make the most of your final free day doing any of the other incredible activities on offer or further exploring Queenstown. If you haven't already, we recommend riding the gondola or walking to the top of the hill for spectacular views of the town, lake and surrounding mountains.

Accommodation included: Central hostel

Optional activities: Any adventure activity that we mad Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jetboating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...), trip to Milford Sound

DAY 8: Queenstown – Day 4

Make the most of your final free day doing any of the other incredible activities on offer or further exploring Queenstown. If you haven't already, we recommend riding the gondola or walking to the top of the hill for spectacular views of the town, lake and surrounding mountains.

Accommodation included: Central hostel close to the action

Optional activities: Any adventure activity that we mad Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jetboating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...), trip to Milford Sound.

DAY 9: Queenstown to Aoraki/Mt Cook

Depart Queenstown early to drive over the Lindis Pass through the beautiful Mackenzie Country and past the vivid blue waters of Lake Pukaki. Then, we head north to our

amazing stop at the base of New Zealand's highest mountain Aoraki/Mt Cook, arriving in the early afternoon.

Accommodation included: Stunning alpine lodge

Optional activities: Visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, scenic flights, 4WD Tasman Valley tour

Free activities: Take photos of awe-inspiring scenery, do one of the many great short walks to the Hooker Glacial Lake (weather dependent)

DAY 10: Mt Cook (via Tekapo) to Christchurch

Leaving Mt Cook, we make our way through a landscape made famous in the Lord of the Rings films. We'll stop to admire the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd – a famous photo stop. Relax in the Tekapo hot pools, go snow tubing or ice skating or hike up to the Mt John observatory where you'll witness stunning views of the lake from above. After lunch, we will continue to our overnight stop in Rangitata Peel Forest. Tonight, we'll stay in one of Canterbury's original sheep stations.

Accommodation included: Lodge on a Canterbury sheep station

Optional activities: Tekapo Hot Springs, Ice skating (April-Sept), Snow tubing (June-Sept)

Free activities: Visit Lake Tekapo, Mt John walk, Rangitata forest walks

Notes:

- Standard accommodation is **dorm share** in hostels, cabins and lodges
- Upgrades to twin/double and private rooms are available subject to availability
- Luggage is limited one backpack, bag or case per person with a maximum weight of 15kg plus a day pack
- Trips are not suited to children aged 6 years or under. 7 – 17 year old's may travel if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks

This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.