

8 DAY SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

With your Tour Host Helen Dobbs

DAY 1: MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

Christchurch – Greymouth – Punakaiki (D)

All aboard! Departing Christchurch to Greymouth via the award winning Tranz Alpine Express (Holland Clarke & Beatson Travel to book) for a scenic rail journey through the heart of the mighty Southern Alps to Greymouth on the West Coast. Cross the fertile Canterbury Plains then wind through the gorge of the Waimakariri River and climb into Arthur's Pass National Park, a base for alpine sports, trekking and hunting. From the valleys of the snow-capped mountains, descend into the lush rainforests of Westland, to conclude the journey at the town of Greymouth. (please have your lunch at own cost on the train today).

On arrival in Greymouth you are met by your coach and driver we take a short to of Greymouth one of the largest urban areas on the West Coast, then depart northbound onto one of the smallest settlements on the West Coast - Punakaiki located on the edge of the Paparoa National Park. Punakaiki is renowned for its wild, rugged coastline and the famous 'Pancake Rocks' and blowholes. These stratified limestone stacks are an extraordinary monument of nature. There are various scenic walks and hiking opportunities in this beautiful isolated area.

Dinner this evening at your accommodation.

Accommodation: Punakaiki Resort Hotel – ROH Rooms



DAY 2: TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

Punakaiki – Franz Josef (BD)

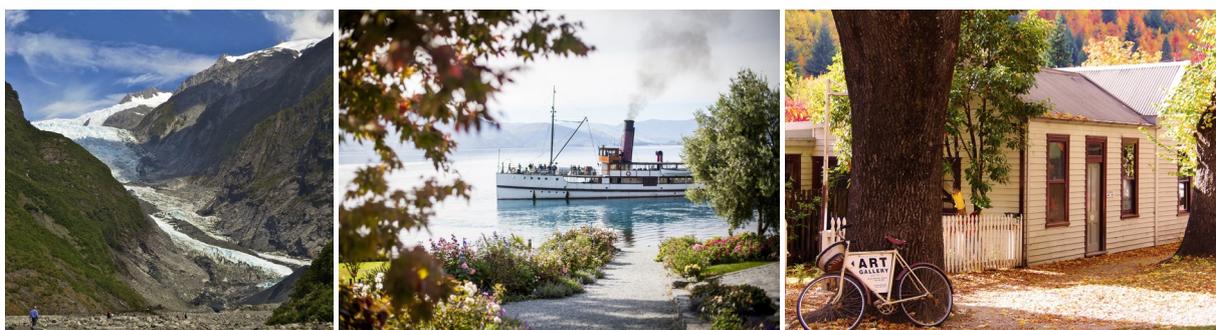
Breakfast at your accommodation – more time out this morning to further explore the 'Pancake Rocks' and blowholes, before travelling southbound retracing our steps to Greymouth then arriving at Hokitika.

Here we make a visit to the to the Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories, before enjoying time out for lunch (own cost) and time to stroll through this quaint town – once a rip roaring gold mining settlement is now home to a wide variety of artists, sculptors, jade carvers, craft artists, jewellers

and painters – many of whom are inspired by local landscapes and the raw materials available in the area (jade, gold and other minerals, driftwood, timber, clay, shell, bone and fibres). Departing Hokitika, we travel out to the Hokitika Gorge for views of the amazing blue-green waters of the Hokitika River as it makes its way through the rock sided gorge. Further south we tour the Westland National Park, the home of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. On arrival, time is available for optional scenic flights, before continuing onto our accommodation for the night.

Dinner this evening at your accommodation.

Accommodation: Scenic Franz Josef Hotel – ROH Rooms



DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

Franz Josef – Queenstown (BD)

Breakfast at your accommodation, followed by a drive to the Glacier or to take the opportunity for an optional helicopter scenic flight over the glaciers. We then depart Franz Josef continuing our southbound journey down the coast. As we drive 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. Haast is our lunch-stop today (own cost) before travelling 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.

Tonight Dinner is at your accommodation.

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel – Queenstown – 2 nights – Superior Rooms

DAY 4: THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Queenstown (B + High Tea)

Breakfast at your accommodation, then we depart on a sightseeing tour of Queenstown which includes a visit to historic Arrowtown a pretty village which now rests under shady trees but was once a rip roaring gold rush town. Time out to enjoy Arrowtown returning to Queenstown enjoying views of Lake Hayes and a stop along the way at Kawarau Bridge to see the dare-devils bungee jumping from the original AJ Hackett site – anyone keen?

Back in Queenstown we take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station for a walk around the Colonel's Homestead followed by a grand "High Tea" back on board the TSS Earnslaw served with a glass of bubbles as we cruise back into Queenstown. On your

return to Queenstown you have an afternoon at leisure to enjoy the local shops or take the opportunity to enjoy some of the many activities available in Queenstown. Tonight dinner is optional at your cost for you to explore the many local restaurants, cafes and bars to choose from within easy walking distance of your accommodation.

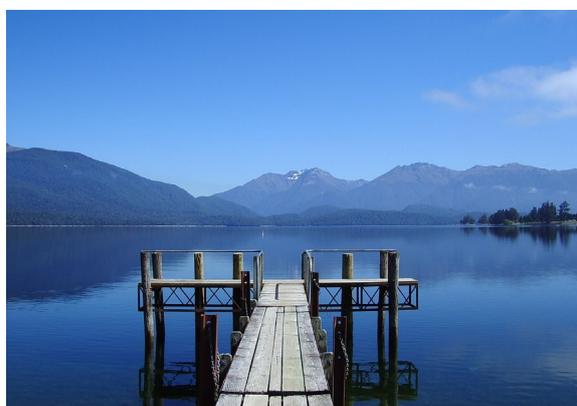
DAY 5: FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

Queenstown – Milford Sound – Te Anau (BLD)

Breakfast at your accommodation before departing Queenstown skirting the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake. Travelling via Te Anau we reach the beautiful Eglinton Valley climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach Milford Sound where we enjoy a cruise of the Sound. A picnic lunch is included on board your boat today. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls. From Milford Sound we return to Te Anau reaching our overnight accommodation.

Dinner is at your accommodation.

Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel – Lake Te Anau – ROH Rooms



DAY 6: SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

Te Anau – Gore – Beaumont – Dunedin (BD)

Breakfast at your accommodation then a drive for a look around Te Anau before departing, travelling through some of New Zealand's most populated sheep country through to Lumsden and onto Gore before deviating through Beaumont – framed by the Blue Mountains, and the Mighty Clutha River located in inland Otago. The small town is famous for its historic bridge which is the longest and oldest single span structure in the Southern Hemisphere. This afternoon we arrive in Dunedin – “the Edinburgh of the South”.

Dinner this evening at your hotel.

Accommodation: Distinction Hotel – Dunedin – ROH Rooms

DAY 7: SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Dunedin – Oamaru – Mount Cook (BD)

Breakfast at your accommodation, then 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 continue to then take in the sights of this old Scottish City before travelling onto Moeraki to see the fascinating giant marble like boulders on the beach.

Next we arrive at Oamaru where we have time to look at the ‘White Stone City’ where the old buildings have been constructed with local limestone. Time out for lunch (own cost) before travelling

inland through Benmore and Otematata, through Sailors Cutting into Mackenzie Country, skirting the shore of Lake Pukaki to Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. This evening we stay at the Hermitage Hotel – an iconic hotel in an iconic location! A fitting location for a farewell dinner is enjoyed at the Alpine Dining Room.

Accommodation: Hermitage Hotel – Mount Cook – Premium Rooms



DAY 8: MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mount Cook – Christchurch (B)

Breakfast at your accommodation, then time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers (weather permitting – a highly recommended option). Travelling to Tekapo we witness the magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo. Here we visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog, before travelling the vast Mackenzie Basin, over Burke's Pass through Fairlie, Geraldine, Ashburton and across the Canterbury Plains and then homeward bound to Christchurch.



PACKAGE PRICE:

\$2,990.00 per person (based on Twin Share)

Single Supplement: \$650.00

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation as listed all with private facilities – prices are based on twin share – single rooms are available with Single Supplement Surcharge (no forced singles).
- All Tour Admissions as per itinerary
- Breakfasts (B), Lunches (L), and Dinners (D) where indicated on the itinerary – unless otherwise Breakfasts and Dinners will be provided at your touring accommodation.
- 33 Seater Private Coach Charter in modern air conditioned coach with English speaking driver/guide

EXCLUSIONS:

- Any services not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Any optional, suggested or recommended excursions.
- Any other meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Morning and afternoon teas are not included unless specified.
- Travel insurance is not included, but is highly recommended for all travelling passengers. Please ask Helen for a quote for this.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Rates are based on the specified number of paying passengers. If numbers fall below 10 paying passengers, this quotation will need to be re-costed. Group Size will be maximum 24 passengers.
- Full payment will be required at time of booking