

New Zealand Guided Tours

South Island Tour

Operator: Grand Pacific Tours

Days: 10

Start: Christchurch

Finish: Christchurch

Our price: Check www.experiencenz.com

Enquiries: Email travel@experiencenz.com



Overview

This is a classic highlights tour. You will be well looked after by a driver and a tour director and comfortably transported in a luxury coach with 2-door access, restroom, reclining seats, and panoramic windows.

Accommodation is in twin share rooms (with private facilities) and all breakfasts and all but one dinner are included in the price. Airport transfers are also included.

Highlights

- Olveston House
- Haggis ceremony
- Larnach Castle
- Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens
- Free day in Queenstown
- Milford Sound cruise
- Lakes District Museum
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- TranzAlpine rail journey

Tour itinerary

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Day 1: Christchurch

Fly into Christchurch where you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. **D**

Accommodation: Copthorne Durham Street or Heartland Hotel Cotswold

Day 2: Christchurch – Omarama

Travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, view the Sheep Dog Statue and marvel at Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available (time and weather permitting) to enjoy a scenic flight (optional) over the Southern Alps. **B, D**

Accommodation: Heritage Gateway Hotel

Day 3: Omarama – Dunedin

See Lake Benmore before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. On arrival in Dunedin enjoy an informative tour including a visit to Olveston House, a prestigious historic home. A Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special haggis ceremony and gift. **B, D**

Accommodation: Mercure Leisure Lodge

Day 4: Dunedin – Te Anau

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Visit Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens and view the superb collection of flowers, followed by a delightful morning tea. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, your overnight stay. Tonight you may like to visit the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves (optional). **B, D**

Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1st of 2 nights)

Day 5: Te Anau – Milford Sound – Te Anau

This morning enjoy a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon return to Te Anau where some free time is available.

B, L, D

Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 6: Te Anau – Queenstown

Travel to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village, and visit the Lakes District Museum before continuing to Queenstown. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Enjoy the best of New Zealand's high country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano on your return cruise. **B, D**

Accommodation: Mercure Resort (1st of 2 nights)

Day 7: Queenstown

Today is a free day. There are plenty of sightseeing options and your Coach Captain is available to assist. This evening is also free. You may choose to dine out at one of Queenstown's many fine restaurants. **B**

Accommodation: Mercure Resort (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 8: Queenstown – Franz Josef

Travel via the Haast Pass to the West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to Fox Glacier. Experience a scenic

flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers before continuing to Franz Josef. **B, D**

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Day 9: Franz Josef – Christchurch

Travel to Hokitika, famous for its greenstone, then continue to Arthur's Pass where you board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel through lush beech forest, skirt lakes and follow rivers till you climb through the Otira Tunnel to Arthur's Pass in the centre of the Southern Alps. Descend through spectacular gorges, river valleys and over massive viaducts before completing your journey at Christchurch. This evening enjoy a special farewell dinner including musical entertainment with your new found friends. **B, D**

Accommodation: Copthorne Durham Street or Heartland Hotel Cotswold

Day 10: Christchurch

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a great holiday. **B**

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