

8 DAY SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS DELUXE ROAD TRIP

DESTINATIONS

—
CHRISTCHURCH
LAKE TEKAPO
FOX GLACIER



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Christchurch
Meals included	
Hotel	4 ★ Rendezvous Hotel Christchurch, or similar

Welcome to Christchurch! If you fly into Christchurch, please make your way to Hertz airport depot to collect your car. Once you collect your car, make your way to your starting point hotel.

If you arrive to Christchurch by land, please make your own way to your starting point hotel before making your way to Hertz downtown depot to collect your vehicle. It's important you collect your vehicle today as tomorrow (Saturday) Hertz downtown depot is closed and you will need to make your way to the airport to collect your car instead.

After you check-in at your hotel, you can head out and explore Christchurch. Step back in time to a grand era of transport and relax as the Christchurch Tram takes you around the 'must-see' central attractions. The tram drivers provide a live commentary throughout the loop, identifying points of interest, historic architecture and the changes the city is under-going since the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes.

DAY 2

Destination	Christchurch 🚗 Lake Tekapo
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Peppers Bluewater Resort, or similar

After breakfast, drive to Lake Tekapo. Lake Tekapo is in the Mackenzie Basin. The town faces north across the spectacular turquoise coloured lake and towards the snow-capped Southern Alps. Lake Tekapo gets its intense milky-turquoise colour from the fine rock-flour (ground by glaciers) which is suspended in the water.

Approximate driving distance: 227km, 3hrs

DAY 3

Destination	Lake Tekapo 🚗 Wanaka 🚗 Queenstown
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Peppers Beacon Queenstown, or similar

Enjoy breakfast and hit the road; today your final destination is the stunning town of Queenstown. We strongly recommend you to pay Wanaka a visit along the way. The quaint town of Wanaka is picture perfect, complete with snow capped mountains views, wilderness of glaciers, beech forests and alpine lakes. It should take you between two to three hours to reach Wanaka, making it a perfect lunch stop.

Once ready, continue driving to Queenstown. Weather permitting, make sure you drive along the Crown Range - the highest main road in New Zealand. Be aware, between May and September this road is often covered in snow and ice when we recommend against driving on this road. In such conditions, please take the slightly longer route through Cromwell.

Approximate driving distance: 260 km to 280 km, 4hrs to 6hrs

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 4

Destination	Queenstown 🚢 [Ship]Milford Sound Cruise 🚢 Queenstown
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Peppers Beacon Queenstown, or similar

Today let someone else do the driving - you simply sit back, relax and enjoy stunning vistas. You will be collected from your hotel and travel by coach on an unforgettable journey from Queenstown into Milford Sound - located within the World Heritage Fiordland National Park. Highlights include Te Anau, Eglinton Valley, Mirror Lakes, Christie Falls, Upper Hollyford Valley, Homer Tunnel, Cleddau Valley and Milford Sound. Your tour includes a cruise on Milford Sound Red Boat where you will see the wonders of Mitre Peak, glacier scarred rock walls that rise 1,200m vertically from the sea, and waterfalls that tumble from hanging valleys and crash into the sound far below. In the afternoon return to Queenstown by coach

DAY 5

Destination	Queenstown
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Peppers Beacon Queenstown, or similar

Today is at your leisure to do as little or as much as you want. With literally hundreds of activities to choose from, Queenstown will sure have something to offer you. From helicopter rides, to hiking, fishing, winery visits, cycling...cycling through wineries and so on you will find it hard to settle for just one of them.

WINE & FOOD SAMPLER

This half day wine and food experience delivers an unforgettable taste of Central Otago's wine region, showcasing its superb local produce. Your winery lunch consists of several tasting dishes each perfectly matched by the Chief Winemaker and Head Chef, using estate wines and fresh local produce. Enjoy wine tasting and presentations at 3 wineries, generally visiting one larger well-known winery and two boutique style wineries. An underground wine cave tour & tastings gives you inside information about our great wines and the Central Otago wine industry.

HALF DAY BIKE THE WINERIES TOUR

This half day **self-guided** tour begins with an afternoon pick up from our shop at 9 Duke Street in central Queenstown and a scenic transfer to the Kawarau Suspension Bridge, the home of bungy and the beginning of the Gibbston Wine Region.

After bike fitting, helpful winery and trail information from your knowledgeable driver, you're free to set off riding the Gibbston River Trail at your leisure using our informative trail map with exclusive offers to visit as many of the amazing wineries, a cheesery and brewery linked throughout this section of easy riding trail.

We will pick you up from the Gibbston Tavern (or another pre-arranged point in the valley) for your relaxing vehicle transfer back to Queenstown. Total biking distance is 5-12 kms depending on how many wineries you wish to visit.

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FAMOUS ROUTEBURN TRACK

This full day walk in the ancient beech forest of the Mount Aspiring National Park starts with a scenic drive to the northern end of Lake Wakatipu and into the Routeburn Valley. The high snow capped mountains provide a magnificent backdrop for the walk up this beautiful river valley. A journey along the edge of the lake from Queenstown to the head of Lake Wakatipu is the ideal preparation for the splendour of the world-famous Routeburn Track. Your walk begins among towering ancient beech forest, climbing gradually through blankets of forest moss and fern and skirting the thundering Routeburn through the gorge it has carved over the millennia. The woodland eventually parts to reveal the rich grassland of Routeburn Flats, overlooked on all sides by cloud-scraping mountains, some so high they have permafrost and small glaciers. The flats is a pristine site for us to enjoy a well earned lunch, as is the next stop, Routeburn Falls, a short stride through more alpine forest. You and your guide will decide which point suits you best.

Walking time: 3 to 5 hours (optional)

Walking distance: 16kms (easy)

Track: Well formed easy walking track (8km each way)

DAY 6

Destination	Queenstown 🚗 Fox Glacier
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Distinction Fox Glacier Te Weheka Hotel, or similar

After breakfast, continue driving north to the hospitable town of Fox Glacier. Once more, you will have the opportunity to drive through the Crown Range via Wanaka. As mentioned before, whilst an stunning road to drive through, please avoid during winter months or in bad weather.

This afternoon, you may want to consider one of the below helicopter rides over the glaciers. These activities require a minimum of 3 travellers to run and are weather dependent. Your flight time may vary from 4pm this afternoon to 9am tomorrow morning.

Approximate driving distance: 330km, 4.5hrs

TWIN GLACIER HELICOPTER RIDE (FROM FRANZ JOSEF)

Fly over two of New Zealand's most famous glaciers and land at the head of either the Franz Josef or Fox Glacier. View the incredible natural phenomenon of the glacier as it winds slowly down the carved valleys from its origin in the mountains high above you.

Duration: 30 minutes

FOX GLACIER & MOUNT COOK HELICOPTER RIDE (FROM FOX GLACIER)

Fly over the legendary Fox Glacier and snowfields and discover the crevasses and ice forms being exposed below you. Land in the snow above the icefalls of the glacier and experience the magnitude of the scenery surrounding you. Then let the impressive presence of Aoraki/Mount Cook amaze you as you explore its majestic west face, before descending into the valleys below.

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DAY 7

Destination	Fox Glacier 🚗 Greymouth 🚗 Christchurch
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Rendezvous Hotel Christchurch, or similar

Continuing driving the West Coast until arriving in Greymouth. On arrival in Greymouth, drop your car at the Hertz office by 1pm before boarding the TransAlpine train to Christchurch.

Considered one of the world's greatest train journeys, this journey you'll see epic vistas, travel the edges of the ice-fed Waimakariri River, traverse the Southern Alps, and see miles of native beech forest.

The train has panoramic windows, open-air view carriage, a fully licenced cafe plus commentary allowing you to connect the scenery all around you.

On arrival in Christchurch, disembark your scenic train and make your way to your hotel. We recommend a short taxi service which can be found easily when exiting the station.

Approximate driving distance: 200km, 2.5hrs

DAY 8

Destination	Christchurch
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today your New Zealand South Island Deluxe Road Trip comes to an end. Farewell Christchurch as you make your own way to the airport for your onward flight or to continue the next part of your journey.

If you may wish to extend your stay in Christchurch, we can assist you to book additional accommodation.

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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Incredible sightseeing, drive to Lake Tekapo declared UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, cruise the waters of spectacular Milford Sound, visit New Zealand's famous glaciers and national parks and travel on the Tranzalpine, one of New Zealand's most picturesque train rides
- Enjoy the flexibility of independent travel
- 7 days Hertz Group D (Toyota Corolla or similar) car rental including unlimited kilometres & Hertz Maximum Coverage (NIL damage excess including glass & tyres and waives liability for theft or loss to vehicle)
- 7 nights accommodation in quality 4 star hotels
- 7 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Join a guided cruise Milford Sound, departing from Christchurch
- Travel on board the TranzAlpine from Greymouth to Christchurch

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Christchurch and see how it has been rebuilt from the devastation of earthquakes
- Continue the drive to Queenstown, driving the mesmerising Crown Range (weather permitting)
- Cruise the spectacular waters of Milford Sound
- Travel on board the TranzAlpine. Considered one of the world's greatest train journeys

TRAIN INFORMATION

TranzAlpine, between Greymouth and Christchurch

Scenic Class carriage experience combines comfort and panoramic views, making our trains the perfect way to explore New Zealand.

At the heart of our Scenic Class experience are spacious reclined seats, panoramic windows, glass shelves and skylights. These details bathe our carriages in light and bring New Zealand's famous landscapes to your seat.

Our Scenic Class carriages deliver extremely wide viewing angles by spacing the seating out. This spaciousness also creates generous amounts of legroom and comfort.

CAR HIRE INFORMATION

Driver License Requirements

All Renters and any additional drivers must present a full, valid national

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Drivers License that meets the following requirements:

1. The Drivers License for all drivers must be presented at the time of rental
2. Drivers License must be in English
3. If not in English, it must be accompanied by an International Drivers License or Permit by a certified English translation
4. Chinese Driver's Licenses are acceptable, but they must have a China Notarial Certificate (CNC):
 - a. Is valid for driving the vehicle;
 - b. Is not a learner's permit;
 - c. The driver has held for at least twelve consecutive months; and
 - d. Satisfies any other conditions on the Rental Agreement or in any additional terms

Digital Drivers License

A Digital Drivers License is not accepted. Drivers require a hard copy license until further notice.

Deposit

All rentals are subject to a deposit to cover additional costs. A min of NZ\$200 applies if using a credit card in the name of the renter. Cash deposits are NO longer accepted.

Rates Include

Maximum Cover (MAX) with NIL Damage Excess, Unlimited Kilometres, Airport/Ferry Concession Fee Recovery (ACFR), Loss Damage Waiver (LDW), Admin Fee Recovery (AFR), 24Hr Breakdown Roadside Assistance, Goods & Service Tax (GST)

Rates Exclude

Fuel, Optional Extras (baby seats, snow chains etc)

Damage Excess for Cars

NIL

Young Renters Fee

A Young Renter Fee of \$20.00 including GST per day, per renter will apply to all renters aged between 18-20 years.

This will be capped at 10 days in every 30-day rental.

Standard Rental conditions will apply and only a full driver's licence will be accepted.

This fee will apply to all main renters and additional drivers.

Hertz Standard Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#)

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Fine Print

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

Inspiring Vacations has been globally recognised and awarded for its handling of COVID-19 during the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of our guests is our highest concern during this time of uncertainty, and we are continuously monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation.

We have adopted the advice of the WHO to ensure all customers can travel with the knowledge of how to travel safely and with confidence.

Australian owned and operated with 100% Australian Customer Service support

We are proudly 100% Australian owned and operated, with our head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. When you make your booking, you will receive dedicated and ongoing support from our team of travel professionals throughout your booking, up until you are due to depart.

Flexible Date Change Option

Book now, change later with our Flexible Date Change option. You may select this \$99pp option at time of purchase, giving travellers the flexibility to change your date without penalty (subject to availability, less third party costs incurred, plus any applicable surcharges for the new date selected).

Date change must be requested prior to 65 days before your original selected departure date*. Once inside 65 days of departure, date changes are not permitted.

*some packages may have a varied period in which you can request a date change due to limitations with the third-party provider.

Please refer to our 'Book with Confidence' section for terms and conditions.

The Flexible Date Change option does not cover cost incurred for components not fulfilled by Inspiring Vacations or in the event extra services have been booked with Inspiring Vacations outside of the standard package, including but not limited to airfares, pre/post accommodation or insurance.

Cooling off period

If you change your mind within 7 days of making your booking online, you can request a refund of your initial deposit payment as part of our

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cooling off period.

Once your purchase date falls outside of the 7 day period, our standard terms and conditions will apply. Please ensure that any request to cancel your booking is received via email to support@inspiringvacations.com, including the reason for cancellation.

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with a \$99 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$680 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password
- Then select the red 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the red 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is on request and will be confirmed by Inspiring Vacations once all components of your package have been secured with our partners, please see below for further information

Booking On Request

- Your Inspiring Vacations package is made up of multiple components and travel partners. Once your booking is made and passenger details form submitted, we will begin to confirm all of your arrangements. Please note, this process can take several business days to complete.
- Once all elements have been confirmed we will send you an email confirmation, if we are unable to confirm we will provide

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you with alternative dates or offer a full refund of your deposit or re-credit your account if a travel credit was used.

- Please DO NOT book any additional services, such as flights, until we have confirmed your Inspiring Vacations package in writing. Inspiring Vacations will not be liable for any fees or charges incurred to change or cancel components not booked by Inspiring Vacations should your selected package be unavailable.

OPTIONAL TOURS

To enhance your journey, we are offering guests a choice of the following optional activities (prices are per person):

- Queenstown (Day 5): Wine & Food Sampler - \$180
- Queenstown (Day 5): Half Day Bike Winery Tour - \$77
- Queenstown (Day 5): Famous Routeburn Track - \$174
- Fox Glacier (Day 6): Twin Glacier Helicopter Ride - \$324
- Fox Glacier (Day 6): Fox Glacier & Mt Cook Helicopter Ride - \$324

Optional tours can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add Optional Tours, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance. If you choose not to select them at this time, you can choose to add them later by logging in to your Account online or speaking with your Dedicated Support Agent for assistance.

Please note that you must select your Optional Tours no later than 65 days before departure, after which you will be required to purchase them on tour. Please keep in mind that anything purchased on-tour is subject to availability. We appreciate your understanding.

CAR HIRE OPTIONS

Upgrade to a Hertz Group J vehicle

You may want to upgrade your car hire to a Hertz Group J, Intermediate 4WD, 5 Doors, Toyota Rav 4 or similar for an extra \$105 in total.

Bring Your Own Vehicle (No Car Rental Included)

You can opt to drive your own vehicle. A total of \$300 per person (two people booking) or \$600 (one person booking) will be reduced from the total price.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a "3".

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is \$1168 per person in addition to the twin-share price.

Triple Share

Available on request

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with nib to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply by clicking [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

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Children

Children must be 5 years old or above and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Group Size

This package is made up of multiple components which will be provided by different operators throughout your trip. As such, group size will differ between operators and can be as intimate as 2 people or as lively as up to 60 people, depending on the activity and advertised inclusions. There may be unique cases where your selected travel date exceeds the expected group size for special events or types of activities, particularly during popular times of travel. For packages that include a train or cruise, you will be travelling with other passengers up to the capacity of this component.

When travelling with a group, no matter the size, we ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience.

Bedding requests

We do our best to meet your bedding preference, however, bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only and cannot be guaranteed. All efforts will be made to meet your preference, however, any changes are beyond our control and limited by the hotel facilities and availability.

Tour Styles - This package is an Independent style.

To meet the needs of various types of travellers, we choose to operate various types of tours and depending on your selected package will mean different services are provided throughout your trip. The following descriptions of each tour style we hope will ensure that each traveller has appropriate expectations before they start their travels:

- Independent - On these packages you will travel from city to city on your own, exploring at your own pace. We have arranged transportation in most cases and day tours for you to see the destination. Enjoy the time and flexibility to linger longer or pick up the pace and see as much as possible.
- Partially Escorted - A portion of these packages runs as a group tour where you will be escorted by an expert tour leader. Another portion is independent, whether conducted by rail, cruise or land, and you will travel between destinations on your own, with free time to explore at your own pace.
- Fully Escorted - This tour is fully escorted by an expert English-speaking guide who will accompany you throughout the tour.

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Who is operating this package

We have partnered with a wide range of third party operators who assist in fulfilling your booking and delivering an enjoyable on-tour experience. Each package will consist of multiple operators meaning both guides and fellow travellers may change day to day. But don't worry, regardless of the operator, you'll be in good hands to experience the most out of each destination.

EXCLUSIONS

- International Flights
- Hotel transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- No meals, unless stated in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)