

Mount Cook Lily

14 DAYS SOUTH ISLAND
FROM £4,895



This escorted tour squeezes more jaw-dropping scenery into two weeks than any other! The South Island has an unparalleled variety of landscapes from the majestic Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers, to the stunning views across Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown, to the Remarkable Mountains, plus the wilderness of Fiordland.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Wellington

Haere mai – welcome! We greet you on arrival and take you to your hotel. Today you are free to explore. Depending on your interests, we suggest a stroll along Oriental Parade, or a city tour (at own cost) to pack more in!
James Cook Grand Chancellor or Wellington Double Tree by Hilton

Day 2 Wellington to Nelson

Enjoy one of the most beautiful ferry journeys in the world. From the South Island port of Picton it's a short drive into Sauvignon country, so we pause at a Marlborough winery for a tasting session, before arriving in Nelson.
Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson (2 nights)

Day 3 Abel Tasman National Park

Enjoy a morning cruise exploration of New Zealand's smallest National Park. View world-famous Split Apple Rock, New Zealand Fur Seals, golden sands, and the turquoise waters of Anchorage, Bark Bay.

Day 4 Nelson to Kaikoura **Your Choice**

Depart Nelson and drive through vineyards surrounding Blenheim in the Marlborough Wine Country. From here travel south down the stunning eastern coastline to Kaikōura – where the mountains meet the sea. Today you have the choice of two excursions:

Whale Watch Cruise: Take a 2-hour Whale Watch cruise experience, aboard a modern catamaran for an exciting, close-up encounter with Giant Sperm Whales in their natural environment.

Wings over Whales: Gain an aerial perspective during a "flightseeing" tour on the world of whales and dolphins in Kaikōura's stunning marine environment, from the comfort of a high fixed-winged aircraft for unobstructed viewing.

Sudima Hotel, Kaikōura

Day 5 Kaikoura to Christchurch

The road south follows the wild coastline, affording constantly changing seascapes and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Then descend into the rolling farmland of North Canterbury, to Christchurch. This afternoon we join punting boatmen, for a relaxing cruise along the River Avon through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Afterwards, enjoy a journey in style onboard a beautifully restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre.
Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

Day 6 Christchurch to Fox Glacier

From Christchurch, traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous TranzAlpine rail journey to the West Coast, with a stop at Arthurs Pass National Park. Pass through historic towns reaching Hokitika and its galleries specialising in pounamu (greenstone) jewellery and art works. Continue south to Franz Josef, then on to the small remote village of Fox.
Te Weheka Fox Glacier

Day 7 Fox Glacier to Wanaka

After a photo-opportunity at mirror-like Lake Matheson, we take the Haast Pass River Road deep into the Southern Alps and Mt Aspiring National Park to the lakeside resort of Wanaka.
Edgewater Resort, Wanaka (2 nights)

Day 8 Wanaka **Your Choice**

Nature lovers may take a **lake cruise to a conservation island with an eco-guide** to discover native birds like the flightless Buff Weka, or you can choose to enjoy a **scenic 4WD adventure to a high-country farm** above the lake.



Day 9 Wanaka to Te Anau

Depart Wanaka, with your first stop to visit historic Arrowtown. Continue your journey to reach Lake Te Anau gateway to Fiordland National Park. On arrival in Te Anau, discover the wild beauty of Fiordland by jet boat and visit a 220-acre working farm and meet a local farmer to gain insight into New Zealand's agricultural heritage, enjoy a sheep-shearing and dog-mustering demonstration.
Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau

Day 10 Te Anau to Milford Sound and Queenstown

The journey there, through rainforest, is as spectacular as the destination: Milford Sound! Top this with a memorable cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea (picnic lunch on board) before ending the day in Queenstown.
Scenic Suites Queenstown (2 nights)

Day 11 Queenstown

Queenstown is New Zealand's most famous adventure resort. Try white-water rafting and high wire thrills or relax on a classic steamship cruise (at own cost). The day and evening are yours to do as much or as little as you please.



Day 12 Queenstown to Mount Cook

Today we approach the Southern Alps via the Approach the Southern Alps via the Kawarau Gorge and Central Otago, driving alongside Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook Village, the nearest vehicle access to awesome Aoraki Mt Cook.
Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel

Day 13 Mount Cook to Christchurch

Head down the Tasman Valley from Mount Cook and on to Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, where the window behind the altar frames an astonishing view of the lake. Then across the high country's tussock plains, through Fairlie and Geraldine to the 'Garden City' of Christchurch
Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

Day 14 Depart Christchurch

Haere ra! Farewell from New Zealand. We take you to the airport for your flight home or set you on the way on the next stage of your holiday.

EXPERIENCES INCLUDED

- Travel on Wellington's famous Cable Car and visit Te Papa Museum
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough's premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Enjoy a whalewatch experience from the sea -OR- from the air.
- Relax as you're guided along Christchurch's Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt
- Enjoy a journey in style onboard a restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre
- Experience one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world across the Southern Alps on the Tranz Alpine train
- See native birds on a conservation island – OR – take a scenic 4WD adventure in Wanaka
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Discover the wild beauty of Fiordland by jet boat
- Gain an insight into Kiwi farming methods on a visit to a Southland farm
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breathtaking Milford Sound



1. Milford Sound
2. Wellington
3. Mount Cook Lily
4. On the beach, Abel Tasman National Park
5. Moreaki Boulders