

Signature | Inspirational Alps Tour

Christchurch to Queenstown – 7 Days

Day 1

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Kia ora and welcome to Christchurch, New Zealand's ever-evolving garden city and the starting point of your unforgettable journey south.

After arriving and checking in to your centrally located hotel, enjoy some free time to relax or take a stroll through the nearby Botanic Gardens or along the lively Riverside Promenade. This evening, meet your guide and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Welcome dinner

Day 2

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the gateway to South Island exploration, beautifully blends cutting-edge innovation with 19th-century Anglican Gothic Revival architecture. While the city is often remembered for the 2011 earthquake, today it stands as a vibrant, multicultural hub with a strong sense of renewal and creativity.

Your day begins with the convenience of the Hop-On Hop-Off Tram, a charming way to navigate the central city and discover its highlights at your own pace. Enjoy a custom walking tour with your Great Journeys New Zealand guide, who will bring the city's stories, landmarks, and hidden gems to life. Explore must-see attractions like the Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, the Gondola, and the tranquil Botanical Gardens. Along the way, uncover a variety of boutique cafés tucked into laneways and side streets.

This evening, unwind and reflect on your discoveries over a beautifully curated dinner at Earl, one of Christchurch's most

acclaimed dining spots, known for its relaxed elegance and refined seasonal cuisine.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3

Christchurch to West Coast

The TranzAlpine Scenic Train

The moment has arrived to experience the world-famous TranzAlpine, indulging in the Scenic Plus service as you journey through the breathtaking Southern Alps and emerge onto the untamed West Coast.

On this unforgettable escape, marvel at dramatic alpine vistas, glide along the ice-fed Waimakariri River, and cross the Great Divide. As the landscape transforms before your eyes, you'll also traverse the historic Otira Tunnel—an engineering triumph over a century old. Along the way, enjoy regionally inspired food and rich commentary that enhances your Scenic Plus experience.

Arriving in Greymouth, you'll be met by a private coach and taken even further off the beaten track. Enjoy a custom Greenstone experience—a special insight into the cultural significance and artistry of pounamu (New Zealand jade). Then stretch your legs on a guided walk through the stunning Hokitika Gorge, where vivid turquoise waters wind through lush native bush.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

TranzAlpine Scenic Plus

Custom Greenstone Experience & guided walk around Hokitika Gorge

Day 4

West Coast to Franz Josef

Explore the West Coast

This morning, your West Coast journey continues with a VIP experience at the West Coast Wildlife Centre—a special, guided walkthrough designed exclusively for Great Journeys New Zealand guests. Go behind the scenes to learn about the conservation efforts for the rare Rowi kiwi and discover the secrets of this fascinating native species in a truly immersive encounter.

After your wildlife experience, enjoy free time in Franz Josef to explore at your own pace. Take a short scenic walk to the glacier viewpoint, browse the charming local shops, or choose from optional adventures such as a thrilling helicopter flight over the glacier or a serene wilderness tour through the rainforest.

This evening, rejoin your group for a culinary highlight: a four-course dinner at Te Waonui Forest Retreat, where locally sourced ingredients and refined flavours are served in a tranquil rainforest setting.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 nights in Franz Josef)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Coach journey to Franz Josef

VIP West Coast Wildlife centre, guided walkthrough of Kiwi (exclusive to Great Journeys New Zealand)

4 course dinner at Te Waonu

Day 5

Franz Josef to Queenstown

Explore the Southern Lakes

Today you will explore the Haast Pass. With changing landscapes around every bend, this journey of about five hours to Queenstown, will be one of the most scenic drives you may ever take. While aboard an exciting river boat and private coach, marvel at the beaches, crystal blue lakes and rivers, mountain peaks, lush vineyards, charming plains and majestic glaciers as your Tour Director guides you between local hidden gems. Stop in unique locations that only locals know about.

After an exciting plunge into the history of this gold rush village, you will arrive in the world-famous resort town of Queenstown! Enjoy a winery dinner this evening.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Scenic coach journey through Haast Pass with stops along the way
Haast River Safari

Day 6

Queenstown to Milford Sound

Explore Milford Sound

Charge your camera and prepare for one of the most awe-inspiring adventures of your journey. Today, you'll travel to the majestic Milford Sound / Piopiotahi, often called the 8th Wonder of the World, aboard our exclusive Cruise Milford Coach service.

Relax in comfort as we wind through native rainforests, alpine meadows, and mirror-like reflective pools—complete with custom stops tailored to your group's interests. On arrival, step aboard your boutique cruise and journey deep into the heart of the fjord. Feel the mist from Bowen and Stirling Falls, marvel at the vertical face of Mitre Peak, and take in the dramatic beauty carved by ancient glaciers.

For those looking to elevate the experience, there's an optional scenic flight available for your return—soaring above the Southern Alps for a breathtaking aerial perspective of Fiordland.

After this unforgettable day, return to Queenstown for a relaxing evening at your own pace.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Milford Sound Day Excursion

Day 7

Queenstown

Explore Queenstown

This morning, say farewell to your fellow travellers over a final breakfast as you reminisce about the journey you've shared.

Queenstown truly has something for everyone, so why not extend your stay and continue exploring? Whether it's taking in inspiring views from the gondola, heading out to Walter Peak for an adventure, or sipping wine in Gibbston Valley, there's no shortage of ways to make the most of your time here.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfers to the airport