



9 Day AAT Kings Southern Spotlight 25/26

The 9-day Southern Spotlight tour explores the wonderful scenery of the South Island. The city of Christchurch, Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook, Dunedin, Milford Sound, Queenstown, Franz Josef Glacier and you take the world-famous TranzAlpine train from Arthurs Pass to Christchurch. With lots of opportunities to enjoy the many great optional tours and activities, this is the ideal tour for those wishing to see the best of the South Island at a relaxing pace.

Starts in: Christchurch
Finishes in: Christchurch
Length: 9days / 8nights
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
Includes: Comprehensive tour pack (detailed itinerary, driving, instructions, map/guidebooks, brochures)
Includes: 24/7 support while touring in New Zealand
Included: Christchurch City Tour
Included: Christchurch Tram
Included: Franz Josef Glacier
Included: Milford Sound Cruise
Included: TranzAlpine Rail Journey
Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown
Included: Visit a Local Orchard
8 breakfasts, 4 dinners, 1 special dinner

Day 1

Since its 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. Discover how when you step back in time aboard the Christchurch Tram tour, linking some of the city's most legendary attractions. Expect quite the commentary – your conductors are a hoot.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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Day 2

Christchurch is not only rebuilding itself after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. After your Christchurch tour, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. If you wish (and you should wish) take it in on an optional scenic flight for added perspective of the Southern Alps and on to Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere.

Staying in:

- Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)
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Day 3

If you've ever wanted to see New Zealand's oldest public gardens, today you're in luck. Oamaru, with its stately tree-lined streets and limestone buildings, stands proud before you journey further south toward the Edinburgh of the South: Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in the city's atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. Thirsty? Visit Speights Brewery, a New Zealand institution.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (1 night)
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Day 4

There are some days when you're travelling, that all you want to do is sleep in. Go for it. Or channel your inner royalty on a visit to Dunedin's grand Larnach Castle – the only one of its kind in the country. Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this.

Staying in:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)
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Day 5

From the moment you step outside today, nature rules. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to your Milford Sound/Piopiotahi tour. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins – they're a common sight here.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 6

Take today at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet, perhaps. There's a reason why Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of the country. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter

Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 7

Try and keep count of today's lakes. Leaving Lake Wakatipu behind, Arrowtown appears on the horizon. We know you'll want to linger in the movie-set-like streets, lined with trees and character-filled boutiques. But Lake Dunstan awaits, as do its orchards. Pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. Then there's Lake Hawea followed by Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem. You don't get many chances in life to land and walk on a glacier. This afternoon is one. How cool is that?

Day 8

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. In Māori tradition, it's bad luck to buy this sacred stone for yourself; flutter your eyelids at your loved one. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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Day 9

New Zealand's South Island never fails to wow. We hope you find the words to describe this epic New Zealand tour to your family back home.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Guided Coach Tour
Starts:	Christchurch
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	9
Accommodation:	Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:	

Included activities

Includes	5 dinners
Includes	All breakfasts
Includes	Airport transfers
Includes	TranzAlpine Train from Arthur's Pass to Christchurch
Includes	TSS Earnslaw cruise and dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown
Includes	Greenstone Jade craft experience
Includes	Dunedin City Sights tour

Accommodation summary