



AAT Kings: Southern Spotlight 25/26

The 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: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included: Christchurch Tram
 Included: Dunedin Orientation Tour
 Included: Milford Sound Cruise
 Included: Tekapo Dark Sky Experience
 Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm
 : 8 breakfasts, 5 dinners

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included: Christchurch City Tour

Included: Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo
 Included: Franz Josef Glacier
 Included: Queenstown Orientation Tour
 Included: TranzAlpine Train
 Included: Visit a local fruit orchard



Day 1

Since its 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. It's time tonight to meet your Travel Director and travelling companions for a tour briefing and drinks.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)

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 Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold clad central library. You will view these on your city tour. From here, 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. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate local specialists, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe.

Staying in:

- Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)

Day 3

Oamaru, with its Victorian heritage 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 among them. Thirsty? Visit Speight's Brewery, a New Zealand institution.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (1 night)

Day 4

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)

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 Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Your cruise on this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)

Day 6

Take today at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Skippers 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 Kiwi Park (both own expense). 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)

Day 7

Try and keep count of today's lakes. Leaving Lake Wakatipu behind. But Lake Dunstan awaits, as do its orchards. Pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. Then there's Lake Hawea. Over the Haast Pass to the town of Franz Josef/Waiau, where, this afternoon you may choose to fly over Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere (own expense).

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (1 night)

Day 8

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. 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)

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:

Accommodation summary