

Southern Beauty: Aoraki/Mt Cook, Milford Sound & Franz Josef

*8 nights/9 days : \$5,690 pp share twin
\$6,290 single*

Sun 14 - Mon 22 May, 2023



Aoraki/Mt Cook

**Christchurch – Aoraki/Mt Cook – Queenstown – Milford Sound – Wanaka
– Franz Josef Glacier – Okarito Lagoon – Punakaiki – Denniston –
Christchurch**

Stay in the heart of Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, cruise on Milford Sound and take a spectacular flight back over the Alps to Queenstown. From Wanaka, the Haast Pass leads to lush rainforests, Franz Josef Glacier, Okarito Lagoon and Punakaiki's wild coastline.

Tour Highlights

- ◇ *On Milford Sound take nature and wildlife cruise out to the Tasman Sea.*
- ◇ *Take a **brehtaking scenic flight** over the Southern Alps and Lake Wakatipu.*
- ◇ *At Akaunui Farm enjoy a private lunch with Di and Ian Mackenzie.*
- ◇ *Explore the legendary Aoraki/Mount Cook region.*
- ◇ *Walk in the great outdoors in Aoraki/Mt Cook, Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Westland Poutini, Paparoa and Arthur's Pass National Parks.*
- ◇ *Cruise on the veteran steamer TSS Earnslaw*
- ◇ *Drive over the Crown Range and lunch at historic Cardrona Hotel.*
- ◇ *Enjoy a tippie and a tour of the Cardrona Distillery.*
- ◇ *Stroll in Haast Pass' mountain beech forests to waterfalls and blue pools.*
- ◇ *Cruise on the Okarito Lagoon in search of birdlife.*
- ◇ *Take a walking tour with a local guide around Okarito's tiny settlement.*
- ◇ *See the blow holes at the Punakaiki Pancake rocks and walk in the rainforest.*
- ◇ *Visit remote Denniston where coal was first mined in 1879.*
- ◇ *Drive the Otira Gorge cantilevered highway to Arthur's Pass.*



Scenic flight over Milford Lake & Southern Alps

Day 1: Fly to Christchurch – Akaunui Farm – Aoraki/Mt Cook

From Christchurch, we head to Akaunui Farm to lunch with Di and Ian Mackenzie before driving through Burkes Pass to the tussock lands of the Mackenzie Country and a photostop at Lake Tekapo's church and sheepdog statue before arriving at The Hermitage where Aoraki/Mt Cook (3,724 metres) dominates the view.

The Hermitage Hotel Mt Cook

Day 2: Aoraki/Mt Cook – Lindis Pass – Queenstown

Wake up to the beauty of this alpine valley and take a stroll in the Aoraki National Park. We head down the mountain rimmed Mackenzie Basin to Omarama and over the golden tussock hillsides of the Lindis Pass. The rugged Kawarau Gorge and the Gibbston valley vineyards lead on to Queenstown, our home for three nights.

Scenic Suites Queenstown

Day 3: Queenstown – Milford Sound – Milford Cruise – Scenic Flight

Follow the shores of lakes Wakatipu and Te Anau into the mountains, beech forests and waterfalls of

spectacular Fiordland National Park. **Cruise beautiful Milford Sound**, home to seals and dolphins and iconic Mitre Peak and **take a magnificent scenic flight back over the Southern Alps to Queenstown**.

Day 4: Queenstown – sightseeing – Glenorchy

We catch the Gondola up to the Skyline ridge to enjoy the views of The Remarkables and this pretty resort town. Later we drive beside the lake to Glenorchy, returning to Queenstown to cruise out on the vintage steamer TSS “Earnslaw” and stroll the shops and the waterfront.

Day 5: Queenstown – Arrowtown – Cardrona Hotel – Wanaka

We call into leafy, picturesque Arrowtown where gold mining history comes alive beside the Arrow River. From the Crown Range we take in the last views of the Wakatipu basin. We lunch at historic Cardrona Hotel and sample at the family owned Distillery nearby before arriving at our hotel beside the lake at Wanaka.

Edgewater Hotel

Day 6: Wanaka – Haast Pass – Lake Matheson – Franz Josef

We drive beside lakes Hawea and Wanaka and through the mountain and river scenery of the Haast Pass. There are short walks in the beech forests to waterfalls and coastal scenery at Ship Creek to enjoy. Lush rainforest lines the road as we head north to Fox Glacier, Lake Matheson and on to Franz Josef.

Aspen Court Franz Josef Glacier

Day 7: Franz Josef – Okarito Lagoon – Hokitika – Punakaiki

At Okarito with Swade we take an hour’s cruise on the lagoon looking out for birdlife in wetlands bordered by ancient forests. We lunch in the village and our local guide Paula takes us on a walking tour of this tiny settlement of 30 people. We visit the artists of Hokitika before reaching Paparoa National Park and Punakaiki, our home for two nights.

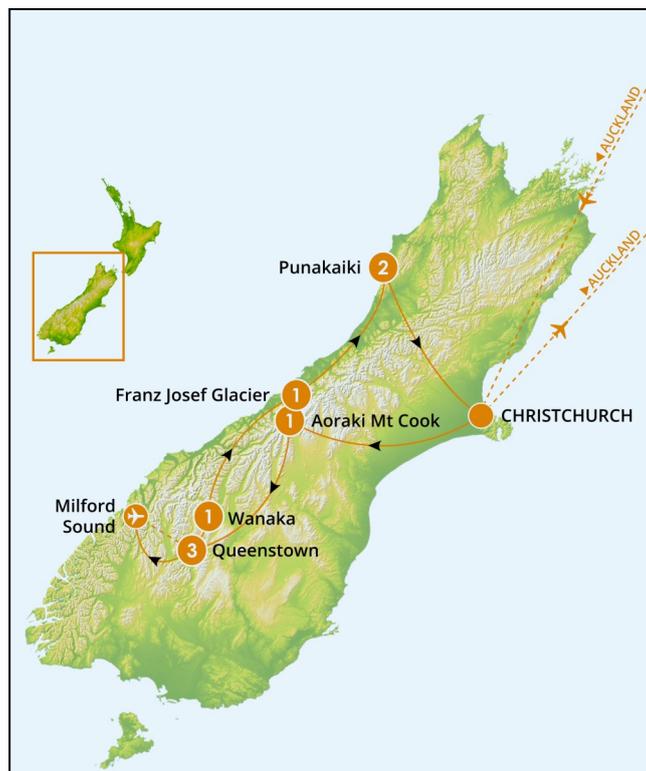
Punakaiki Resort

Day 8: Punakaiki Pancake Rocks – Denniston – Westport – Punakaiki

See the Pancake rocks and blowholes, limestone cliffs and karst rock formations and river valleys of subtropical forest. Further up the coast, Denniston Plateau gives an insight into the lives of early coal miners and their families. We stroll to the seal colony near Cape Foulwind before returning down the coast road to Punakaiki.

Day 9: Punakaiki – Brunner – Arthur’s Pass – Christchurch – Return flight

From Lake Brunner we drive up the Otira Viaduct, a spectacular cantilevered road, and stop to photograph the cheeky Kea parrots and enjoy the alpine and river scenery of Arthur’s Pass National Park before continuing to Christchurch Airport.



General Inclusions

- All transport by comfortable, air conditioned coach (maximum of 18 travellers).
- Services of your knowledgeable Kiwi guide.
- 4-star accommodation.
- All meals.
- All Activities and Entrance Fees.
- Return airfares from Auckland (please ask us about flights from other airports – there could be a price adjustment). **You can also ask for a price excluding airfares.**

Special Activities

- Meet a South Island farming family on a working sheep and beef farm and enjoy their warm hospitality.
- Experience the pristine landscapes of Milford Sound with a 1.45 hour nature and wildlife cruise.
- Soar high above the Southern Alps from Milford Sound to Queenstown on a scenic flight.
- Lake Wakatipu cruise on the TSS Earnslaw.
- Enjoy a tittle and a tour of the Cardrona Distillery.
- Guided nature cruise on Okarito Lagoon in search of birdlife.
- Guided historical walk at Okarito Village.

Included Sightseeing & Exploring

- Take a memorable photograph of the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of the turquoise-hued Lake Tekapo.
- See New Zealand's highest mountain in the Aoraki/Mt Cook region.
- Drive through the diverse beauty of the Lindis Pass and Kawarau Gorge.
- Learn about Arrowtown's place in New Zealand's gold mining history. Visit Hokitika's artisan craft galleries.
- Drive the stunning Crown Range & Cardrona Valley road
- Explore the shores of the Great Southern Lakes of Wakatipu, Wanaka and Hawea.
- Drive the world famous Milford Road & Haast Highway with time to enjoy all the best stops on route.
- Stroll in Haast Pass' mountain beech forests to waterfalls and blue pools
- Explore the Glacier Country highlights of Lake Matheson and Franz Josef Glacier.
- See the blow holes at the Punakaiki Pancake rocks and walk in the rainforest
- Visit remote Denniston where coal was first mined in 1879
- Drive the dramatic Otira Gorge highway to Arthur's Pass and say hello to New Zealand's cheeky mountain parrot, the Kea.
- Short walks in the great outdoors in Aoraki/Mt Cook, Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Tai Poutini Westland, Paparoa and Arthur's Pass National Parks.

HOW TO BOOK

You can book online by [clicking here](#)

or you can phone us on 0800 868 748 or 09-368-1640

PARTNERSHIP

We're excited to let you know that we have partnered with MoaTours, one of New Zealand's leading and most trusted local tour operators since 1971. MoaTours offers a range of small group tours all over New Zealand that we think you'll love — from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island.

As a family run business just like Tours Direct, MoaTours has great connections and unbeatable local knowledge. They also share common values so we know you will be well looked after and have a great experience.

Bookings cancelled more than 70 days before departure: cancellation fee of \$750

Bookings cancelled between 69 days and 45 days: cancellation fee of 50% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled between 44 days and 31 days: cancellation fee of 75% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled within 30 days or less of tour departure: cancellation fee of 100% of tour cost.

No refunds will be made after travel has commenced.

We highly recommend you take out domestic travel insurance.

Tour payment

Direct bank transfer:

Please make your payment to Tours Direct Limited:

Account No. 12 3209 0179201 00

ASB Bank Limited

Credit card:

We accept payment by Visa or Mastercard. Please note, payment of balance of tour price made by Visa or Mastercard will incur additional fees.

Prices

All holiday prices are based on schedules, fares and tariffs current at the time of quotation. We reserve the right to vary the cost of tours if necessary, by reason of component cost increase. Tour costing will be guaranteed at the price prevailing at the date of final payment.

Luggage Limits

Travelling light: Please limit your luggage to one medium-sized suitcase weighing no more than 23kg. This will be stored in the luggage compartment and will not be accessible during the day. Bring a soft bag or small day pack that can be easily stowed on the coach for your rain jacket, sunhat, camera and other items.

Room & Dietary Requests

Special room and dietary requests will be accepted and passed on to the hotels and included meal suppliers but cannot be guaranteed.

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

(Tours Direct in collaboration with MoaTours)

Tour price & confirmation

New Zealand GST (Goods & Services Tax) of 15% is included in tour costs.

The deposit payment of \$750 confirms your booking and acknowledges your agreement to our terms and conditions.

Balance of tour price

The balance of the tour price is due to Tours Direct 70 days before the tour starts. If the full tour price is not received by this date we reserve the right to cancel your tour. Tour reservations can be made within 70 days provided full payment is made at time of booking.

Cancellation policy

If a tour departure is cancelled due to Covid-19 government travel restrictions we will transfer your deposit to a future tour date of your choosing.

If your tour is not affected by Covid-19 restrictions our standard cancellation conditions apply depending on when we receive notification of your cancellation:

Seat Rotation

For the enjoyment of all passengers we operate a daily seat rotation system which all passengers must participate in as a condition of booking.

Travel Insurance

To safeguard your deposit and tour payment in the event of your having to cancel your reservation or curtail your tour we highly recommend you take out **domestic cancellation insurance at the same time as you make your booking**, as any cancellations received will be charged according to our terms and conditions above.

- ◆ Call us on 0800 868 748 if you would like a travel insurance quote.

Health, Fitness and Behaviour

Payment of the deposit by the client(s) acts as a warranty that the client(s) is/are reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in the tour and the client(s) indemnifies us from all actions, claims and demands arising out of any want of health and fitness. We reserve the right to remove a client from a tour if their health, fitness or behaviour interferes with the tour or other client(s) tour experience in any way.

Responsibilities

We advise that the service provided is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, attractions and transportation companies.

Travellers are advised to familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied. Accordingly we will not be responsible and will be excluded from liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, cruise vessels, hotels or attractions used in connection with the tours.

Optional Tours

We do not operate these excursions. As such, no person employed or associated with us has any connection with the operators of these excursions.

Accordingly, we cannot and do not take any responsibility for any injury, action, loss or damage of any type, arising in any manner from these excursions.

Accommodation and activities

Occasionally we may need to make a variation to the listed accommodation. This accommodation will be of the same standard or best available alternative. If an included activity is unavailable, we will provide an alternative activity of a similar standard. We reserve the right to amend/alter an itinerary where necessary.

Refund

Please note that no refund shall be made for any unused portion of any itinerary. Any alteration to the holiday, made by a client(s), shall be wholly at the expense of that client(s).

Holiday Duration

The first and last day of most structured holidays is considered a travelling day and therefore depending on flight times may not necessarily be a whole day.

Force Majeure

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions we regret that we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected by reason of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". In these booking conditions, 'force majeure' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include war or threat of war, riots, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.