

# SOUTH ISLAND

Soaring snowcapped mountains, spectacular coastline, tumbling glaciers and tranquil fiordland are but a few of the attractions of the South Island.

Experience the thrills of a lifetime – swimming with dolphins or whale watching in Kaikoura, climbing a glacier on the West Coast, kayaking with seals in the Abel Tasman or cruising the fiords in Milford or Doubtful Sounds – the list is almost endless.

## TOP EXPERIENCES

Kayak or walk the Abel Tasman National Park and discover secluded beaches and beautiful rainforest.

Swim with Dolphins and go whale watching in Kaikoura.

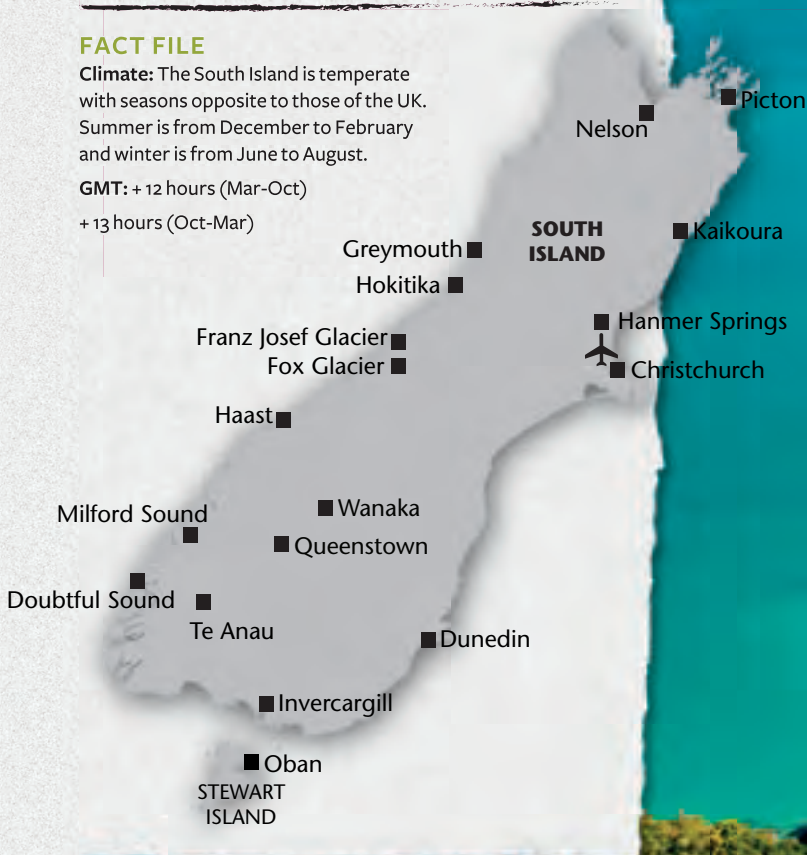
Experience one of the worlds most scenic railways on the TranzAlpine from Christchurch to Greymouth.

## FACT FILE

**Climate:** The South Island is temperate with seasons opposite to those of the UK. Summer is from December to February and winter is from June to August.

**GMT:** + 12 hours (Mar-Oct)

+ 13 hours (Oct-Mar)



Abel Tasman National Park





# MARLBOROUGH & ABEL TASMAN

With year-round sunshine, explore the waterways of Marlborough Sounds, walk the Queen Charlotte track or kayak on the sounds. Journey inland to discover wineries, and arts and crafts scene. With scenery ranging from fantastic beaches to forests and valleys, Abel Tasman National Park can be explored either by walking or by water taxi, and is an absolute must on any South Island itinerary.

## Marlborough Wine Tours

Experience the magic of Marlborough.

Visit a world famous winery, taste the wines, olive oils and the foods that make this region a gourmet province. Travel through the iconic vineyards while your guide gives you an insight into how these great wines are crafted.

FROM £36 PER ADULT

Day Tour



Day Tour

## Abel Tasman Sailing Adventure

With pristine crystal waters below, relax aboard a spacious sailing catamaran, visiting secluded coves, golden beaches, islands and lush native forest.

Choose to chill out and relax, or get involved and learn how to sail – you decide! Stop for lunch at Anchorage beach, with the opportunity to swim or take a short walk to explore the caves. Visit the Fur Seal Colony, Split Apple Rock, and much more before your return to Kaiteriteri.

FROM £90 PER ADULT

## Abel Tasman Kayak, seals and walking

After a scenic boat trip to Torrent Bay, paddle to “Split Apple Rock”, followed by lunch on a golden sandy beach.

After a cruise to Onetahuti, passing the seal colony on Tonga Island, you will disembark and enjoy a two hour coastline walk before returning to Kaiteriteri.

FROM £117 PER ADULT

3 DAY PACKAGE FROM £324 PER ADULT

Day Tour

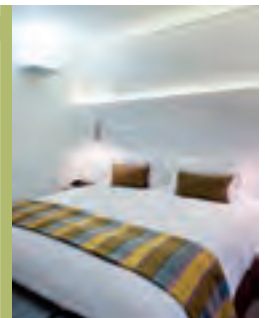


## Scenic Hotel Marlborough

★★★★☆

Conveniently located just a few minutes walk from the centre of Blenheim. Having just undergone a complete renovation, it now boasts contemporary rooms.

FROM £41 PER ADULT

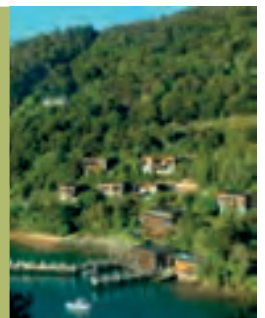


## Bay Of Many Coves

★★★★★

At this small luxury property, dine at the restaurant, swim in the freshwater pool, be pampered with a massage or enjoy a short bush walk, with spacious hillside apartments in an unspoilt natural environment.

FROM £151 PER ADULT



## Grand Mercure Monaco Apartments

★★★★★

Located across from Waimea Inlet, this resort offers hotel rooms and fully self-contained cottages, overlooking gardens and the village green.

FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates

FROM £36 PER ADULT

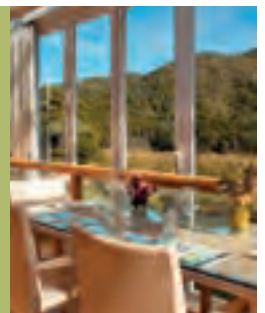


## Peppers Awaroa Lodge

★★★★★

Close to one of the best coastal walks in New Zealand. With 26 villa rooms all boasting private outdoor decks. Explore the National Park with sea kayaking, estuary walks and sailing all close by.

FROM £74 PER ADULT



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# KAIKOURA

Kaikoura is renowned for its world class whale watching opportunities with year round sightings of sperm whales. Other marine life includes dolphins, seals and the mighty albatross. Kaikoura also offers fine coastal walks, Maori heritage and spectacular views with the mountainous Kaikoura Ranges providing a scenic backdrop.



Day Tour

## Whale Watch Kaikoura

One of New Zealand's leading eco-tourism destinations, Kaikoura is renowned for its variety of marine mammals. Spot sperm & humpback whales, dolphins and seals (weather permitting) which are all attracted by the rich feeding grounds.

FROM KAIKOURA FROM £76 PER ADULT  
FROM CHRISTCHURCH FROM £167 PER ADULT



### The White Morph

★★★★☆

Waterfront accommodation, with spacious studio rooms and apartments and either sea or mountain views.

FROM £35 PER ADULT



### Waves on the Esplanade

★★★★★  
All apartments have private balconies - perfect for a relaxing drink, and for the adventurous, bicycles and kayaks are available for exploring the great outdoors.

FROM £64 PER ADULT



### Hapuku Lodge

★★★★★

Nestled between the Kaikoura seaward mountain range and the Pacific Ocean, the contemporary Hapuku Lodge is just a 10 minute drive north of Kaikoura. Hapuku Lodge features five luxury tree houses.

FROM £166 PER ADULT



### Wings Over Whales

A 30 minute flight allows a birds eye view of the sperm whales and other marine life, along with spectacular coastline and mountains.

Experienced pilots will also provide an informative commentary, and you'll spot Maori fortifications (Pa sites) as you fly over the township.

FROM £95 PER ADULT

Day Tour







Day Tour

**Dolphin Swim Akaroa**

On arrival in Akaroa join Black Cat 2 for a cruise on the harbour, sighting dolphins, penguins and seals en route.

On spotting the dolphins, you will join them in their natural habitat and swim with the rare and endangered Hector Dolphins in the open sea.

FROM £123 PER ADULT

**Chateau on the Park**

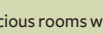


Set amongst 5 acres of tranquil surroundings with gorgeous gardens, the hotel offers a welcome retreat and is a 20 minute stroll through Hagley Park to the city centre.

FROM £48 PER ADULT



**Novotel Cathedral Square**



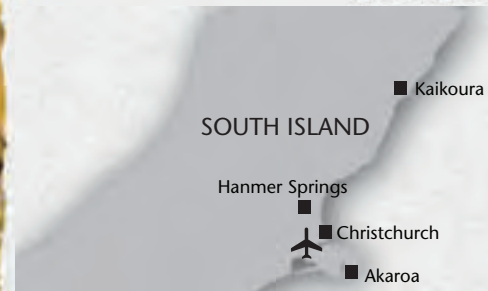
Featuring spacious rooms with contemporary designs, we recommend an upgrade to an executive room which boast mountain views.

FROM £51 PER ADULT



**CHRISTCHURCH**

Christchurch's roots are very English which can be seen at the beautiful Hagley Park or the Botanical Gardens gardens. Further afield lies Akaroa where you can swim with the dolphins or head inland and laze in the thermal springs of Hanmer Springs.



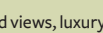
**The George**



This is a boutique hotel renowned for its luxurious style, warm personalised service and attention to detail. Also noted for its award winning cuisine offered in both restaurants.

FROM £106 PER ADULT

**Rendezvous Hotel**



With unrivalled views, luxury finished and first class service, the Rendezvous is situated in a prime location in the centre of the city.

FROM £61 PER ADULT



**TranzAlpine In A Day**

Embark on one of the top ten train journeys in the world.

Travel by road through the pastoral scenes of the Canterbury Plains before boarding the TranzAlpine to travel through the Southern Alps to Arthur's Pass. Continue your tour by road in to the snow-capped mountains before returning to Christchurch.

FROM £209 PER ADULT

Day Tour



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## WEST COAST

Head on over to the West Coast and you will find some of the most beautiful, rugged coastline in the world, featuring the bizarre rock formations to the north at Punakaiki and the glacier region of Fox Glacier and Franz Josef in the south.

- Greymouth ■
- Hokitika ■ SOUTH ISLAND
- Franz Josef Glacier ■
- Fox Glacier ■ Christchurch ■
- Mount Cook



### Day Tour

#### Half Day Fox Glacier Walk

This popular eco-adventure will lead you on a walk beside the riverbed to a track, which zig-zags slowly uphill through ferns and rainforest. Get kitted out with crampons as your route will take you onto the ice. Your experienced guide will lead you past crevasses and ice ridges and into the middle of the glacier for incredible views of this glacier wonderland.

FROM £65 PER ADULT

#### Punga Grove, Franz Josef ★★★★★

Offering a selection of warm studios and one and two bedroom motel units. Also available are Executive Studios featuring a luxurious spa bath & underfloor heating.

FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates

FROM £32 PER ADULT



#### Glenfern Villas

★★★★★

Just a few kilometres north of the township of Franz Josef, Glenfern has spacious, chalet style villas for a home from home stay.

FROM £40 PER ADULT



#### Distinction Te Weheka, Fox Glacier ★★★★★

This is a friendly and welcoming hotel with a relaxed atmosphere. The hotel is surrounded by a mountainous backdrop with magnificent views.

FROM £65 PER ADULT



#### Grand Traverse Scenic Flight

Experience the flight of a lifetime over the spectacular Mount Cook and Westland National Parks.

See the magnificent Franz Josef Glacier and Fox Glacier. Fly over glacial lakes and golden tussock lands - the large fleet ensures that every passenger has a window seat. Choose a departure from either Mount Cook or Franz Josef.

FROM £178 PER ADULT

### Day Tour







Day Tour

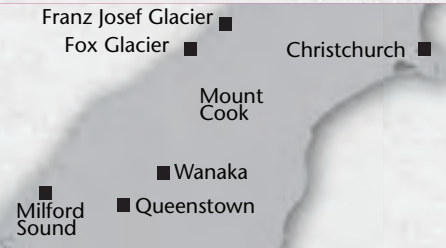
**Siberia Experience**

The half day Siberia Experience leaves from Makarora, at the head of Lake Wanaka, and guides you through some of New Zealand's untouched scenery from the air, land and water. Take to the skies on a twenty-five minute scenic flight to see the unspoiled glaciers, mountain lakes, valleys and vast rainforests. Next spend three hours bush walking through the wilderness of the Siberia Valley. End the adventure with a 30 minute thrilling jet boat ride on the Wilkin River.  
 FROM £162 PER ADULT



**WANAKA & MOUNT COOK**

Wanaka sits on the lakefront with the Southern Alps as a backdrop, one of the most scenic towns in New Zealand. Take time to stroll along the lakeside, fly high above the surrounding mountains by helicopter or enjoy an exhilarating jet boat ride on the Clutha River. Aoraki Mount Cook is Maori for 'cloud piercer', and one of the great alpine parks.



Day Tour

**Rob Roy Glacier Walk**

Begin this full day walk in the Matukituki Valley west of Lake Wanaka in the Mount Aspiring National Park.

Walk up through beech forest to view the magnificent backdrop and the beautiful river valley, surrounded by snow capped mountains. View the Rob Roy glacier, along with a wide variety of ancient forest, bird life, waterfalls and river gorges.

FROM £183 PER ADULT

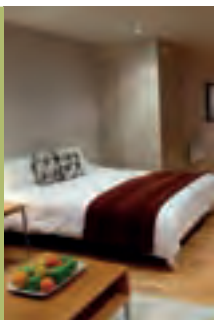
**Grand Mercure Oakridge, Wanaka**

★★★★☆

This resort features 174 hotel rooms and apartments, a superb restaurant and swimming pool with pool bar.

FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates

FROM £41 PER ADULT



**Edgewater Resort**

★★★★☆

On the shores of Lake Wanaka, choose from hotel and studio rooms, plus large apartments, all with fantastic views of the lake and Southern Alps.

FROM £57 PER ADULT



**Minaret Station**

★★★★★

With a spectacular backdrop of mountain scenery, and accessible only by helicopter, stay in luxury furnished tented suites with private hot-tubs on your deck.

FROM £521 PER ADULT



**The Hermitage Hotel, Mount Cook** ★★★★★

Accommodation is varied, from self-contained, mountain view units to premium rooms.

FROM £43 PER ADULT

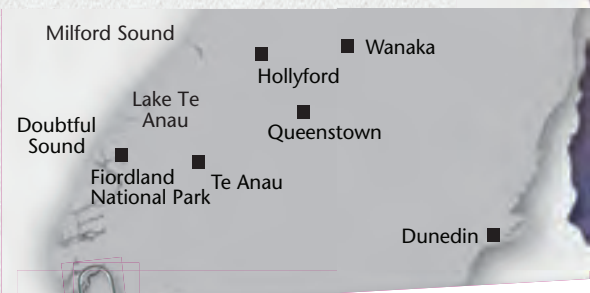


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# QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown is renowned for its magnificent scenery as well as being the adventure capital of New Zealand. It is a lively town situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and your holiday options are endless. From safaris into the Remarkables Mountain Range, to jet boating on the river, helicopter landings in Mount Aspiring National Park, or a tranquil lake cruise, Queenstown will take your breath away!



Day Tour

## Milford Sound Nature Cruise

Board a luxury glass-roofed coach and enjoy a relaxing drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau and on to Milford Sound. Enjoy spectacular views in this stunning area, including waterfalls, rainforests, towering mountains and wildlife in abundance. Following the cruise, return by coach or for the ultimate experience enjoy a panoramic sightseeing flight back to Queenstown.

FROM £96 PER ADULT  
FLIGHT DAY TOUR FROM £277 PER ADULT



Queenstown



### Doubtful Sound Day Cruise

Enjoy a relaxing drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and the rolling countryside to Pearl Harbour, Manapouri.

Cruise across picturesque Lake Manapouri to West Arm, and then travel by coach over the Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound, where you'll join the brand new catamaran 'Patea Explorer' for a three hour cruise. View awe-inspiring waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife such as Bottlenose dolphins, fur seals and at times, rare penguins.

FROM £138 PER ADULT

Day Tour



Day Tour

### Shotover Combo - High Five

Speed through the narrow canyons of Shotover on an adrenaline fuelled Jet Boat ride.

Following this, fly high over Queenstown, as you take a helicopter to the summit of the Skyline Gondola, before riding the Luge down the mountain. Complete the day with a ride on the Gondola Cableway back into Queenstown – an action packed day!

FROM £165 PER ADULT

### Safari of the Scenes

This scenic 4WD tour gives a spectacular look at the diversity of the local scenery, including several of the sites where filming took place for the Lord of the Rings.

These are real places, no film sets, they are areas of outstanding natural beauty. Here it is possible to experience the magical atmosphere captured in Peter Jackson's Trilogy, The Lord of the Rings.

FROM £83 PER ADULT

Day Tour



### Novotel Queenstown Lakeside ★★★★★

This is the perfect place to retire after an adventurous day in the countryside, or to enjoy the mountain vista.

FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates

FROM £36 PER ADULT

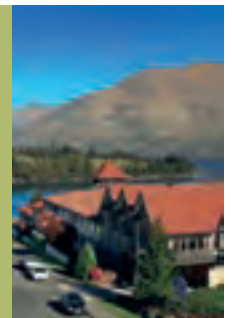


### Copthorne Lakefront ★★★★★

Standard rooms offer stunning mountain or beautiful garden views from the balcony. At the end of the day relax in the bar, which offers superb lake views.

FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates

FROM £41 PER ADULT



### The Glebe ★★★★★

The spacious apartments boast elegant decor and modern facilities. The Glebe Apartments are an ideal choice for travellers during their time in stunning Queenstown.

FROM £62 PER ADULT

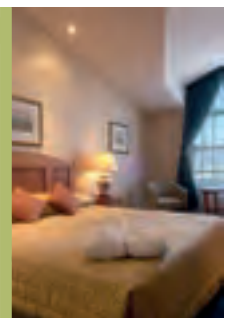


### Millennium Queenstown ★★★★★

All rooms are superbly furnished and comfortable. The hotel is minutes away from Queenstown's shopping, bars, and vineyards.

FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates

FROM £41 PER ADULT



### Azur ★★★★★

A distinctively contemporary lodge with a hilltop location. With just nine villas, each designed to let you soak in the incredible views, an intimate and personalised feel resounds.

FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates

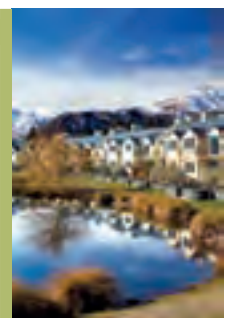
FROM £295 PER ADULT



### Millbrook Resort, Arrowtown ★★★★★

A 20 minute drive from Queenstown, this is located on the outskirts of historic Arrowtown. Upgrade to a villa suite with private balcony or courtyard.

FROM £80 PER ADULT

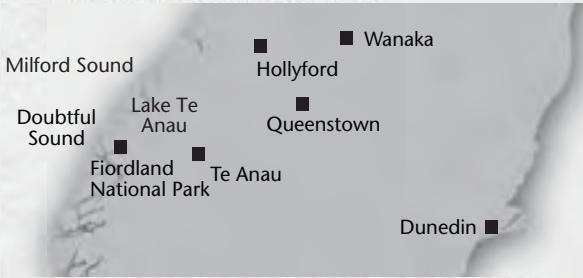






## FIORDLAND & TE ANAU

The Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Site and home to Milford and Doubtful Sound. Put simply, it is breathtaking! In the majestic fiords you will cruise by waterfalls, ancient rainforests, towering mountains and shimmering lakes. Te Anau is the gateway to Fiordland, two hours from Queenstown, with the township sitting on the edge of Lake Te Anau.



### Kingsgate Te Anau

★★★★☆

Set amongst manicured gardens, an ideal base from which to explore the scenic wonders of the Fiordland region.

FROM £29 PER ADULT



### Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

★★★★☆

Recently renovated and just a short stroll from the town centre, upgrade to a villa set in the expansive gardens for a spacious lounge area.

FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates

FROM £41 PER ADULT



### Fiordland Lodge

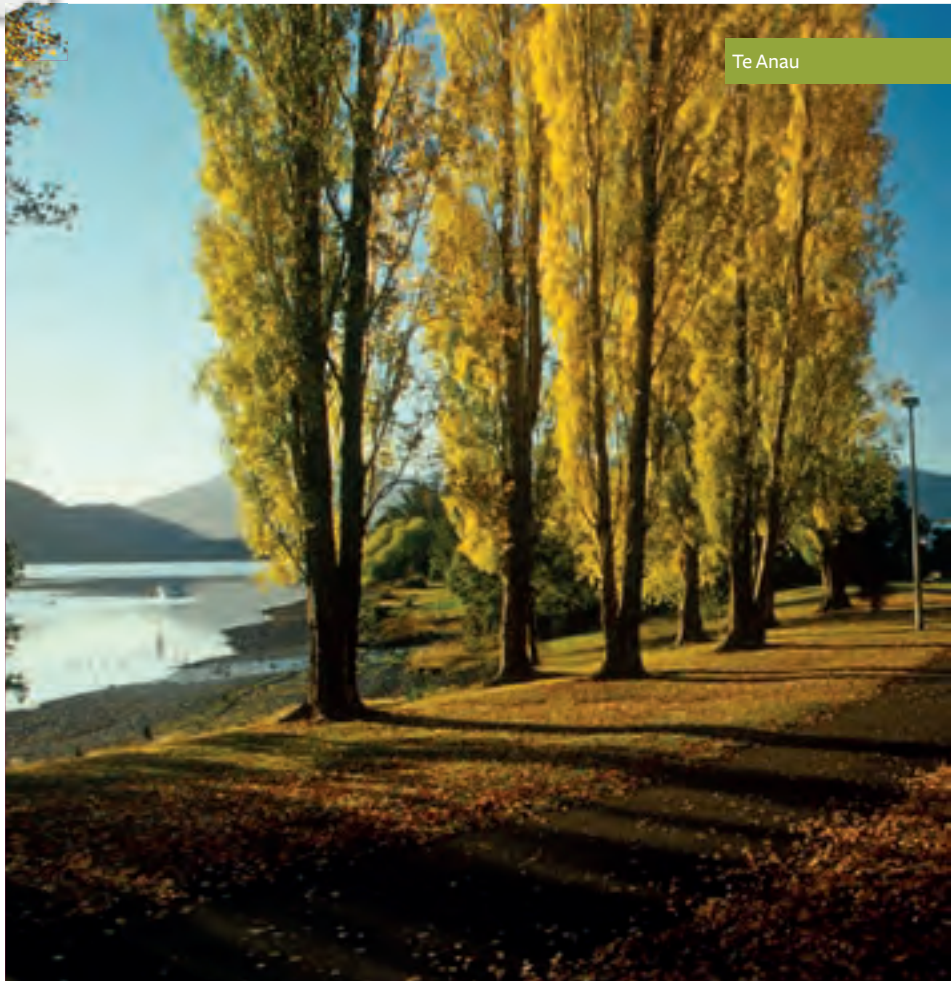
★★★★★

Tucked away on the road to Milford Sound, this peaceful retreat can accommodate just 29 guests. All lodge rooms have picture windows framing the lake and include a gourmet evening meal.

FROM £187 PER ADULT



Te Anau





## Milford Sound

## Milford Sound Overnight Cruise



2 Day Overnight Cruise

From Milford Wharf: from £142 per adult

From Te Anau: from £169 per adult

From Queenstown: from £191 per adult

An overnight stay in the long southern twilight on board the Milford Mariner provides a very special experience in magnificent surroundings.

**DAY 1:** Board the coach in either Queenstown or Te Anau and travel through the rolling countryside before arriving at Milford where you will embark on the Milford Mariner. At a leisurely pace, the vessel explores points of interest, so there is plenty of time to view waterfalls, mountains and wildlife with an experienced nature guide. Once you reach the open sea, the vessel will hoist the sails (subject to weather conditions), and later you will return to the fiord and anchor at Harrison Cove. Take this opportunity to enjoy kayaking and explore the shoreline on the tender craft before a delicious buffet evening meal.

**DAY 2:** After a hearty cooked breakfast, continue cruising this stunning water arena before returning to Milford Wharf. After disembarking, return to Queenstown or Te Anau by coach, or alternatively why not upgrade to a return flight over spectacular Fiordland.

**Please Note:** Cruise does not operate between 18 May and 19 Sept. Price includes breakfast, dinner and guided touring.

## Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise



2 Day Overnight Cruise

From Manapouri: from £210 per adult

From Te Anau: from £213 per adult

From Queenstown: from £226 per adult

Cruise on board the Fiordland Navigator combining overnight comfort with a great opportunity to explore this beautiful fiord once the day-trippers have gone home.

**DAY 1:** Travel by coach to your departure wharf at Manapouri for a short launch transfer to West Arm and coach over Wilmot Pass. Board the Fiordland Navigator, with spacious decks which allow great viewing of the wilderness scenery and wildlife. Spot fur seals, dolphins, and in season, rare penguins. Once the crew drop anchor in one of Doubtful's hidden arms, take to the waters in a kayak or small tender and explore the coastline. After a buffet-style dinner retire to your en-suite cabin.

**DAY 2:** Wake up to a full breakfast before continuing to Deep Cove for the trip back to Manapouri and your onward journey.

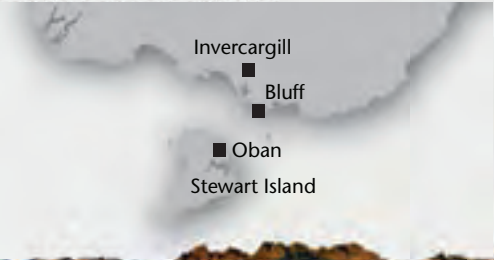
**Please Note:** Cruise does not operate between 18 May and 19 Sept. Price includes breakfast, dinner and guided touring.

## Doubtful Sound



# SOUTHLAND

Invercargill is New Zealand's most southerly town and a great base to explore the spectacular Catlins Coast and Stewart Island. This wild island offers unique accommodation and amazing walks to discover the Kiwi and other endemic birdlife. Day trips are available; however we recommend an overnight stay to experience this remote rugged land.



Invercargill  
Bluff  
Oban  
Stewart Island



**Day Tour**

**Ulva Island day tour**

Ulva is a real nature sanctuary and a must for anyone interested in New Zealand birds and flora. View endangered birds on this predator-free reserve that are rare or have died out on the mainland. Enjoy lunch in Sydney Cove, before heading back across to Stewart Island on the 10 minute launch.

FROM £125 PER ADULT

**Stewart Island**

**Stewart Island Lodge**

★★★★☆

Stewart Island Lodge is a retreat nestled in a bush setting in Halfmoon Bay, with unsurpassed views of the bay and surrounding hills.

FROM £51 PER ADULT

**Discover Stewart Island - 3 Day Suggested Itinerary**

Including return catamaran transfers from Bluff, and a day tour to Ulva Island, a real nature sanctuary and a must for anyone interested in New Zealand birds and flora. Please ask your Travel Designer for options including a flight upgrade.

3 DAY PACKAGE  
FROM £125 PER ADULT

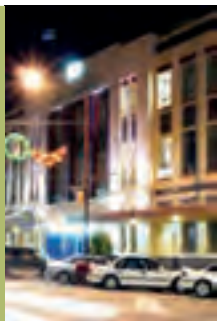


**Quest Apartments**

★★★★☆

Redeveloped from the old Post Office in the centre of Invercargill, all apartments feature fully equipped kitchens, and are close to all amenities.

FROM £47 PER ADULT





## DUNEDIN

Dunedin is the main town of the Otago region, renowned for having the only albatross breeding colony. This area is superb for wildlife spotting including ocean birdlife, seals and the world's rarest yellow-eyed penguin. The region is also famous for its historic limestone buildings, and Dunedin itself is full of preserved Edwardian and Victorian heritage.



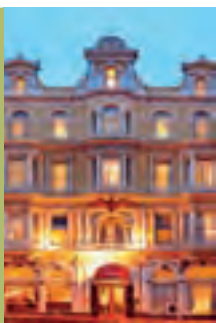
### Mercure Dunedin

★★★★☆

Fully restored to its Victorian elegance, this boutique hotel features spacious and well-appointed rooms, plus a popular restaurant and bar.

**FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates**

FROM £38 PER ADULT



### Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

★★★★☆

Enjoying a premium location in the heart of the city centre, close to the Octagon, theatres and shops.

**FREE NIGHTS - Selected dates**

FROM £31 PER ADULT



### St Clair Beach Resort

★★★★☆

On one of the finest surf beaches in the southern suburb of St Clair, rooms at this luxury hotel boast views of the surrounding hills or the beach.

**FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates**

FROM £55 PER ADULT



### The Lodge at Larnach Castle

★★★★☆

Only 20 minutes from Dunedin City lies New Zealand's only castle. The boutique lodge is located in a renovated colonial building all with splendid views.

**FREE BREAKFAST - Selected dates**

FROM £74 PER ADULT



### Speights Brewery, Dunedin

Visit this award-winning, informative and interactive tour through a working brewery; no tour would be complete without sampling the product!

Join an appreciation session of six of Speights' beers and stock up on your favourites in the brewery shop.

FROM £15 PER ADULT

Day Tour



### Peninsula Cruise and Penguins with Monarch Wildlife Cruises

Cruise the length of the beautiful Otago Harbour; enjoy the wildlife cruise of spectacular Taiaroa Head and a scenic Otago Peninsula bus tour. Also included is a guided tour of the award-winning Yellow Eyed Penguin Reserve.

FROM £68 PER ADULT



Day Tour



## South Island Wanderer

12 Day Self Drive from £727 per adult



AVIS

**DAY 1: CHRISTCHURCH – BLENHEIM**

Depart from Christchurch and head north to Kaikoura, one of the few places in the world where whales can be seen all-year-round. Continue to Blenheim, gateway to the Marlborough wine region and home to 65 wineries.

**DAY 2: BLENHEIM – NELSON**

Leaving Blenheim, drive northbound via the Queen Charlotte Drive on the edge of the Marlborough Sounds region where there are numerous walks and boating activities.

**DAY 3: NELSON**

Take a harbour cruise or perhaps venture to nearby Abel Tasman National Park with spectacular ocean views and a popular coastal track walk.

**DAY 4: NELSON – HOKITIKA**

From Nelson journey through scenic reserves to Westport, a historic coal-mining settlement. Visit the seal colony or explore Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes before continuing to Hokitika.

**DAY 5: HOKITIKA – GLACIER REGION**

Visit the aquarium, Kiwi House or the local museum before continuing your journey to Franz Josef, an area of mountain peaks and glaciers.

**DAY 6: GLACIER REGION – QUEENSTOWN**

Leaving the west coast, travel through the scenic wilderness of Haast Pass to Lake Wanaka, and the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Aspiring National Park towards Queenstown.

**DAY 7: QUEENSTOWN**

Spend the day at leisure in Queenstown, nestled in a picturesque valley. See page 130 for ideas!

**DAY 8: QUEENSTOWN – TE ANAU**

Travel through mountains and alongside lakes to Te Anau, with the afternoon free to explore the lakeside area.

**DAY 9: TE ANAU**

Take a day trip to the stunning Milford or Doubtful Sound, not to be missed!

**DAY 10: TE ANAU – DUNEDIN**

Depart Te Anau and drive via the Catlins to Dunedin, with an abundance of wildlife and some of the world's rarest marine animals in this region.

**DAY 11: DUNEDIN**

Spend the day in and around Dunedin. Perhaps visit the wildlife area on Otago Peninsula to see the royal albatross and yellow-eyed penguin colonies.

**DAY 12: DUNEDIN - CHRISTCHURCH**

Return your Avis car in Christchurch, or continue your onward journey.

**Please Note:** Itinerary valid from 1st April 2014 and may alter prior to this. Prices are per person and include eleven nights twin share accommodation, an information pack and are based on a Group B car hire. Accommodation, board basis and prices are subject to change with availability. Minimum nights and surcharges apply on some properties on certain dates. Driving times and distances are approximate. (CH7)

Please see [austravel.com](http://austravel.com) for full details of accommodation options



Whites Bay, Marlborough

## Canterbury Wildlife

7 Day Self Drive from £603 per adult



AVIS

**DAY 1: CHRISTCHURCH**

On arrival in Christchurch spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

**DAY 2: CHRISTCHURCH - KAIKOURA**

Leave Christchurch and follow the scenic, winding road north towards the seaside town of Kaikoura. Nestled on the rugged east coast, a two night stay here is arranged.

**DAY 3: KAIKOURA WHALEWATCH CRUISE**

The Kaikoura coastline attracts a wide variety of marine wildlife, including the majestic Giant Sperm Whales which can be seen all year round, along with Fur Seals, soaring Albatross and endangered Hector's dolphins.

**DAY 4: KAIKOURA – HANMER SPRINGS**

Leave the coast behind and head into the mountains and the popular alpine resort of Hanmer Springs to unwind in the famed thermal hot pools.

**DAY 5: HANMER SPRINGS - AKAROA**

From Hanmer Springs return to the rolling green Canterbury Plains, bypassing Christchurch to continue via the Banks Peninsula to the quaint, French inspired settlement of Akaroa, nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano.

**DAY 6: AKAROA DOLPHIN SWIM AND CRUISE**

Today enjoy an incredible experience as you join the harbour cruise, with the added bonus of the opportunity to swim with the friendly Hector's dolphins which populate the waters here.

**DAY 7: RETURN TO CHRISTCHURCH**

Today return to Christchurch for your onward flight, or alternatively speak to your Travel Designer about extending your South Island adventure!

**Please Note:** Itinerary valid from 1st April 2014 and may alter prior to this. Prices are per person and include six nights twin share accommodation, an information pack, Whale Watch Cruise, Dolphin Swim and are based on a Group B car hire. Accommodation, board basis and prices are subject to change with availability. Minimum nights and surcharges apply on some properties on certain dates. Driving times and distances are approximate. (CH9)

Please see [austravel.com](http://austravel.com) for full details of accommodation options.





Abel Tasman National Park



Queenstown



## Ultimate South Island



13 Day Escorted Tour  
from £2,461 per adult

Travel with Kirra Tours to see all the highlights of the South Island, including the Franz Josef Glacier, adrenalin-fuelled Queenstown and the majestic Fiordland at Milford Sound.

### DAY 1: ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH

Kirra Tours will greet you at the airport with transport waiting to take you to your hotel. If you arrive early today we recommend that you take some time to explore Christchurch.

### DAY 2: CHRISTCHURCH – WEST COAST

Transfer to Christchurch train station to join the famous TransAlpine train, heading across the flat open farmland of the Canterbury plains, tracking up through the Southern Alps towards Arthurs Pass and on to Greymouth. (B, D)

### DAY 3: WEST COAST - FRANZ JOSEF

First stop today is a Pounamu (Jade) gallery, considered a treasure in Maori culture and often given as gifts to seal important agreements. Continuing south, be mesmerised as you come closer to the Southern Alps as they dominate the horizon, highlighting your journey to Franz Josef. (B, D)

### DAY 4: FRANZ JOSEF - WANAKA

Head inland towards the Mount Aspiring National Park to Wanaka, a beautiful town set on the shores of Lake Wanaka. On arrival you will take a launch cruise that will transport you across the lake to Stevenson's Island nature reserve. (B, D)

### DAY 5: WANAKA - QUEENSTOWN

Depart Wanaka arrive late morning into the ever-popular resort of Queenstown. Dinner tonight is at the spectacular Skyline Restaurant with breathtaking views over Queenstown and the Remarkables Mountain range. (B, D)

### DAY 6-7: QUEENSTOWN

The next two days are at leisure to either sit back and relax, or take part in a host of optional activities. A great way to see Queenstown is from Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw Steamship, otherwise known as the 'Lady of the Lake'. (B)

### DAY 8: QUEENSTOWN - MILFORD SOUND

Travelling along the shores of Lake Wakatipu head towards Fiordland. Board the Milford Mariner overnight cruise – an undoubted highlight. After cruising the full length of the Sound, your vessel will then locate a sheltered cove and anchor up for the night. (B, D)

### DAY 9: MILFORD SOUND - DUNEDIN

Return to shore to follow the rugged and remote mountains changing to lush green countryside as you approach Dunedin, the 'Edinburgh of the South'. Tonight prior to dinner you will be treated to a traditional Scottish Haggis Ceremony. (B, D)

### DAY 10: DUNEDIN

Today is at your leisure, choose to explore the Scottish Capital of Dunedin with many of the optional activities available to you or sit back and relax. (B, D)

### DAY 11: DUNEDIN - MT COOK

Departing north stop to view the unusual Moeraki Boulders then explore the small town of Oamaru. Follow the Waitaki Valley passing the hydro lakes until you reach Mt Cook National Park, amidst New Zealand's highest mountains. (B, D)

### DAY 12: MT COOK - CHRISTCHURCH

This morning you will have an exclusive up close visit to the Tasman Glacier, the largest in the region. Board a specially designed vessel to take you out on the lake to see the amazing floating icebergs. Continue onto Burkes Pass to the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch for a brief city tour. (B, D)

### DAY 13: CHRISTCHURCH

Depart Christchurch for your onward journey. (B)

**Please Note:** Prices are per person and include twelve nights twin share accommodation, selected meals, and touring as mentioned. Accommodation, board bases and prices are subject to change with availability. (XL)

Please see [austravel.com](http://austravel.com) for full details of accommodation options.

