

Boutique South Island Tour



Absolute
NEW ZEALAND

11 Days - South Islands

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive Christchurch
Accommodation: Huntley Lodge

Day 2

Drive to Kaikoura – Wine tours
Accommodation: Hapuku Lodge

Day 3

Whale Watch Cruise
Drive to Marlborough – Wine tasting
Drive through Blenheim to Havelock
Accommodation: Craglee Lodge

Day 4

Drive to Nelson
Visit WoW (World of Wearable Arts)
Nelson City Sites Tour
Accommodation: Bronte Lodge

Day 5

Drive to Abel Tasman National Park
Accommodation: Bronte Lodge

Day 6

Drive to Franz Josef
Accommodation: Westwood Lodge

Day 7

Visit Fox Glacier
Drive to Haast - River Safari
Accommodation: Minaret Lodge

Day 8

Depart Wanaka – Wine Trail & Tasting
Visit Arrowtown
Accommodation: The Dairy

Day 9

Day at leisure
Accommodation: The Dairy

Day 10

Drive to Doubtful Sound - Cruise
Accommodation: The Dairy

Day 11

Fly Home or Extend your Trip

Featuring

Huntley Lodge - Christchurch

Huntley Lodge is Christchurch's leading luxury boutique hotel. Set amidst park-like gardens in a tranquil, secluded environment, Huntley Lodge offers all the charms of yesteryear, combined with modern luxuries. The perfect place for relaxing whilst travelling on business or pleasure, our, professional, friendly atmosphere is combined with our staff's willingness to go out of their way to make each guest's stay unique.



Hapuku Lodge & Treehouses - Kaikoura

Sleep in the canopy of Hapuku Lodge's native manuka grove. Rising over 9 metres above the ground, the Tree Houses enjoy views of the Pacific coastline, Kaikoura Seaward Mountain ranges, surrounding deer farm and olive orchard. Designed by Tony and Peter Wilson, the Tree Houses are a compliment to the spectacular surrounding environment. A unique accommodation experience of sleeping amongst the branches is matched with the luxury of the custom-crafted and ultra-comfy king bed, large spa bath and efficient Danish log-burning fireplaces. Wide-screen televisions, Bose and Ipod stereo systems, rain-fountain showers and heated floors complete the high-level (excuse the pun!) of guest comfort. With stunning mountain and sea views, the individual TreeHouses are named after the native birds which have quickly adjusted to their new neighbours in the trees. Each Tree House includes a large spa bath, fireplace, rain-fountain shower; unique handcrafted furnishings and the Lodge's great sleeping king beds.



Featuring

Bay of Many Coves – Marlborough Sounds

Deep in the Marlborough Sounds, Bay of Many Coves 5-star luxury resort accommodation offers perfect seclusion in a pristine natural environment. Luxury has a new expression; world-class cuisine; stunning scenery, adventure and romance deliver a sense of relaxation you could only dream of. Join us for a slice of 100% pure New Zealand.



Bronte Lodge – Nelson

Bronte Lodge, also known as Country Estate has been at the heart of a family for five generations. The estate lies on the headland of Nelson’s historic Bronte Peninsula, overlooking Waimea Estuary and cradled between ocean and mountains.

Complete with coastal orchard and vineyard is typical of the abundant fruits of the Nelson region. The stylish villas at Bronte Country Estate are so luxuriously comfortable you will be reluctant to leave. Each elevated apartment-style villa is set amidst its own mature stand of New Zealand native trees, allowing for complete privacy. The architectural design places you ‘in tune’ with the environment – all the better to appreciate the natural setting – either in the double spa or relaxing in the lounge soaking up the unforgettable views.



Featuring

Westwood Lodge – Franz Josef Glacier

Set in a beautiful bush garden, Westwood Lodge offers well-appointed bed and breakfast accommodation with views of the West Coast's rainforests and the mountains of the Southern Alps. The Lodge is architecturally styled to reflect the West Coast forest environment with the warmth of natural timber throughout the rooms. All guest rooms have an ensuite and are superbly comfortable offering large open plan super-king suites (or twin options) with stylish underfloor-heated ensuite bathrooms. Relax in the sumptuous Lodge Lounge and Bar with impressive fire and magnificent views or enjoy the outdoors in any weather from within the Conservatory or withdraw to the Billiard Room, take your cue and check the rub of the green.



Minaret Lodge - Wanaka

Minaret Lodge is a sanctuary, set in a 2 acre park-like setting, providing luxury accommodation in Wanaka, New Zealand.

Named after the spectacular Minaret Mountains (visible from the grounds), the lodge is just a short stroll to the lake, and a 10 minute walk from the Wanaka town centre. With a backdrop of spectacular mountain scenery, set in landscaped grounds with its well-established oak, silver birch and larch trees, this luxury retreat is a haven of tranquility.

The bed and breakfast lodge features a mud brick construction with plastered finish. It incorporates local schist stone reflecting the traditional style of the Central Otago region. The décor reflects a casual elegance with a feel of refinement.

Located behind the lodge are the guest room chalets, constructed using local timbers and non toxic materials, tastefully furnished, in a setting of tranquil ambience. Each room has fine furniture, local art, private ensuite, and a verandah.



Featuring

The Dairy – Queenstown

This Boutique hotel is in the centre of Queenstown and yet private and quiet. Not just a Bed & Breakfast, the property renowned for its excellent service from the minute that you walked through the door. The hotel has historic significance and dates back to the 1920's when it was a corner store. This store is now a hub from where breakfasts are served and still has the original floorboards. A perfect place to explore the village.



Boutique 11 Day South Island Tour

Day 1

Kia Ora - Welcome to New Zealand!

ARRIVE IN CHRISTCHURCH

ACCOMMODATION
Huntley Lodge

MEALS
Dinner

After Immigration and Customs formalities, you will be met and assisted with your private transfer to your exclusive accommodation.

Christchurch. "The Garden City", has many well-tended parks, reserves and squares but the civic love of beauty is often more apparent in the fresh lawns and burgeoning gardens of the suburban streets. Residents and visitors alike love the city's vibrant nightlife, award-winning restaurants and cafes, fashion precincts, heritage architecture and of course its gardens and wide open spaces

for which the city is internationally renowned. This is a city of contrasts, a place where its residents continue to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle amidst a natural environment it is world-renowned for. It really is the 'city that shines'.



Day 2

Drive to Kaikoura

DRIVE TO KAIKOURA
VISIT AWARD WINNING
WINERIES

ACCOMMODATION
Hapuku Lodge

MEALS
Breakfast, Dinner

Travelling north, via the Waipara wine district, we visit award winning wineries such as Waipara Springs, Muddy Water, Sherwood and Canterbury House. The Waipara Valley in north Canterbury is one of the fastest growing wine producing regions in New Zealand, currently boasting over 80 vineyards and wineries. The region is an ideal cool-climate grape growing area, with Pinot Noir, Riesling, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc dominating local plantings. Today's destination town of Kaikoura. The seaside settlement of Kaikoura, situated midway between Christchurch and Picton is overlooked by majestic mountains, which are snow-capped for many months of the year.



Day 3

Kaikoura – Blenheim – Havelock – Marlborough Sounds

WHALE WATCH CRUISE
WINE TASTING

ACCOMMODATION
Bay of Many Covers

MEALS
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

This morning we join the world renowned Whale Watch cruise. Upon completion of the Whale Watch experience you will depart Kaikoura and travel north to the Winery district of Marlborough. On arrival you will be taken to the Alan Scott's vineyard, here you will taste wines before enjoying a sumptuous 2 course set luncheon. Allan Scott Wines & Estates Ltd is a family owned and operated vineyard and winery group. The winery facility was architecturally designed and built in 1990, from rammed earth and rough sawn timber for a sophisticated yet rustic appearance.

After lunch you will continue North travelling through the town of Blenheim to Picton, where you will board your private water taxi for transfer across the Queen Charlotte Sound to your accommodation. The Sounds are a series of drowned valleys formed millions of years ago. There are islands, big bays and tiny inlets, narrow points of land, steep hill sides, and some flat areas. Dinner will be served at your accommodation this evening.



Day 4

Marlborough Sounds and Nelson

DRIVE TO NELSON

WORLD OF WEARABLE
ARTS
NELSON SITES TOUR

ACCOMMODATION
Bronte Lodge

MEALS
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before re-boarding the private water taxi, for the return trip to Havelock. You will then travel onwards to today's destination Nelson; the region, which is the sunniest in New Zealand, has for many years attracted residents who love to use their imaginations.

You will visit the renowned World of Wearable Arts & Classic Cars Museum. Here you will find a collection of eclectic outfits specifically designed for past Wearable Arts Fashion shows, as well as a collection of vintage cars that

will make any enthusiast green with envy! Lunch at the WOW café, then a Nelson city sights tour before being transferred to your accommodation for the night. Dinner this evening will be at renowned local sea-front restaurant.



Day 5

Abel Tasman National Park

EXPLORE THE ABEL TASMAN

ACCOMMODATION
Bronte Lodge

MEALS
Breakfast, Dinner

The Abel Tasman is New Zealand's smallest national park at 225sq km. Small in size but big on beauty. Golden beaches border the translucent turquoise sea, and sandy estuaries fringed by natural forests. The walking tracks here, both in land and coastal tracks are world famous for their outstanding beauty. You can walk the coastal track from top to bottom in 3 - 4 days total. Or enjoy one of the many shorter, day walk options using a cruise boat, sailing catamaran, water taxi or sea kayak to enter into the Abel Tasman.



Day 6

Nelson – Punakaiki and Franz Josef

DRIVE DOWN TO THE WEST COAST

VISIT THE PANCAKE ROCKS
ARRIVE IN FRANZ JOSEF

ACCOMMODATION
Westwood Lodge

MEALS
Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you will begin the journey to the West Coast of the South Island. Travelling along the scenic coastal road to Punakaiki. Here the rocks take on the extraordinary appearance of a pile of pancakes. The 'Pancake Rocks' and their associated blowholes consist of eroded limestone. Reached by a short walk from the main road, the rocks are best visited during an incoming tide and brisk westerly, when the sea surges through the chasms.

Continue your journey south to Greymouth and from there over swiftly flowing rivers and through virgin stands of native forest. En route to Fox Glacier, you pass Hokitika, which is a major centre for the working of Greenstone.

Hokitika is also the centre of a region that is rich in history and nearby is a wealth of native forests, lakes and rivers. You will continue onwards to your day's destination Franz Josef. Upon arrival you will be transferred to your accommodation for the night. Dinner will be at a local restaurant this evening.



Day 7

Fox Glacier to Wanaka

FOX GLACIER

VISIT FOX GLACIER HASST RIVER SAFARI

ACCOMMODATION Minaret Lodge

MEALS Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning you will have an informative and leisurely trip to the dynamic face of Fox Glacier. Although you will not walk on the glacier your guide will take you to the final resting place of the ice that has travelled 13 kilometres from the base of the Southern Alps, all the way to the river valley floor. Your guide may take you closer to the ice than the unguided public (if it is safe to do so at the time). This two hour trip is reasonably easy going; about one and a half hours is spent walking over gentle terrain, over a river valley floor.

Upon completion, depart the glacier area in your luxury coach and travel further south along the rugged West Coast to the tiny community of Haast, located on the coast where the wide Haast River meets the sea. After

lunch you will embark on a Haast River Safari. Their purpose built fully enclosed river boats with front-loading access guarantee great visibility yet you will remain warm and dry. From Haast, you will turn inland and travel over the Haast Pass, linking Westland with the Southern Lakes District of Central Otago is dramatic, providing sudden contrast between the lush vegetation of the west and dry tussocked Otago landscape. Then descend to Wanaka, where you will be taken directly to your accommodation for the night. This evening you will dine at Minaret Lodge.



Day 8

Wanaka to Queenstown

WINE TRAIL

VISIT ARROWTOWN ARRIVE IN QUEENSTOWN

ACCOMMODATION The Dairy

MEALS Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

A leisurely breakfast with your hosts before departing Wanaka and follow the Clutha River, via Mount Pisa and the shores of Lake Dunstan before entering the Kawarau Gorge, where you will embark on a wine trail of cellar door tasting at some of the most well known vineyards in Central Otago. Lunch will follow at The Winehouse & Kitchen, a great venue to enjoy the region's fantastic wine and food. With unobstructed views of the rugged Kawarau Gorge hillsides and the spectacular Bridal Veil Waterfall, the location will ensure a lasting impression.

After lunch you will travel into the Wakatipu Valley, stroll through the picturesque township of Arrowtown, followed by an afternoon tea stop at

Millbrook Resort before continuing onto today's destination; Queenstown and your accommodation for the evening. Queenstown: a region of exceptional and diverse beauty is a leading resort in the South Island, with inveterate world travellers regarding it as one of the premier scenic areas in the world. Backed by steep mountains, Queenstown lies in the curve of Lake Wakatipu at the head of its own small horse-shoe shaped bay. This evening stroll through the village and dine at a well known Queenstown restaurant before returning to your hotel is at your own leisure.



Day 9

Queenstown – Open Day

DAY OF LEISURE

ACCOMMODATION The Dairy

MEALS Breakfast

We've all heard the endless hype about it being the adventure capital of the world, and there are certainly enough crazy activities here to challenge the strongest, but Queenstown offers much more. Queenstown is a brilliant spring, summer, and fall destination. This is when you get the best of its scenic beauty, easy walks, and endless opportunities to relax. Thrill seeking may be touted as the major attraction, but you can just as easily go fishing, golfing, gold panning, wine tasting, or boating. One thing is certain: You won't run out of

things to do.



Day 10

Queenstown – Doubtful or Milford Sound Day Trip

CRUISE LAKE MANAPOURI

CRUISE DOUBTFUL OR MILFORD SOUNDS

ACCOMMODATION The Dairy

MEALS Breakfast

Heading south, drive on Highway 1 to Lake Tekapo; a beautiful turquoise highland lake surrounded by a vast basin of golden tussock and the spectacular Southern Alps.

Spend the afternoon soaking in New Zealand's only high altitude glacial water spa. This facility offers three open air hot pools, private hot tubs, sauna, steam room and plunge pool. There is also the European-styled Day Spa which offers therapeutic massage and mud wraps, an Alpine Springs Café and ice skating, curling, tubing or tobogganing at the Winter Park.

Check into Alpine Bed & Breakfast, it overlooks the Lake and is within easy walking distance to the town before heading to Mount John Observatory for a Stargazing Tour; it is regarded as the best place for astronomy research and stargazing in New Zealand and is the southern most observatory on the earth so you can observe amazing sites such as our own Milky Way Galaxy, the Southern Cross, and Alpha-Centauri. You may also see star clusters like the beautiful Jewel Box, awe inspiring planets and immense clouds of gas and dust.



Day 11

Queenstown

This morning you will be transferred to Queenstown Airport by private transport.

- Absolute New Zealand Arrangements End -

