

# Decidedly Southern



*The ultimate way to see an untouched New Zealand is a 7 day South Island tour. We cross plains, alpine basins and mountain passes. The landscapes are superb and the spaces wide open.*

7 Days Christchurch ~ Mt Somers ~ Queenstown ~ Milford Sound ~ Wanaka ~ Franz Josef ~ Punakaiki ~ Christchurch

## Included in your tour price:

- ~ All transport by comfortable air conditioned coach (maximum of 16 travellers)
- ~ Services of your experienced driver/guide
- ~ Quality, en suite accommodation
- ~ Join our hosts for lunch and country hospitality in a private farm homestead
- ~ Take a return scenic flight to Milford and enjoy a nature cruise on Milford Sound
- ~ Wine taste at Central Otago's premier vineyards
- ~ View the breath-taking Franz Josef glacier
- ~ Walk in the great outdoors Westland World Heritage Park, Mt Aspiring National Park
- ~ View the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks

## Optional activities include:

- ~ A range of optional activities from kayaking to helicopter flights and glacier landings



## Meals

Breakfasts (B) all are included

One Lunch included (L) in a Canterbury farm homestead

Two Dinners included (D) Day 1 Stronechrubie, Day 6 Punakaiki Resort Hotel



Lake Tekapo

**Day 1: Christchurch ~ Mt Somers (B, L, D)**

Your driver/guide meets you in Christchurch. Enjoy lunch in a farm homestead before heading to the foothills of the Southern Alps and the small village of Mt Somers. There is time to relax in this idyllic setting before we dine in Stronechrubie's acclaimed restaurant tonight.

Stronechrubie

**Day 2: Mt Somers ~ Queenstown (B)**

The landscape changes to turquoise lakes and sweeping vistas of tussock grasses and mountains. At Lake Tekapo the picturesque church and sheepdog statue are favourite photo stops. View Aoraki/Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. The Lindis Pass, leads to rugged Kawarau Gorge and Queenstown. Your boutique hotel is close to town with views to Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Range.

Browns Boutique Hotel

**Day 3: Queenstown ~ Milford Sound ~ Nature Cruise ~ Queenstown (B)**

This morning take a return flight to Milford Sound deep in the heart of Fiordland National Park. At Milford take a nature cruise down the sound, dominated by iconic Mitre Peak, it's a dramatic fiord landscape of waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Return in time to relax and explore Queenstown this afternoon.

Browns Boutique Hotel

**Day 4: Queenstown ~ Arrowtown ~ Cardrona Valley ~ Wanaka (B, D)**

Perhaps take an early morning jet boat ride on the spectacular Dart River in The Lord of the Rings country before driving to Arrowtown, a picturesque goldmining village. The road climbs up the Crown Range then down into the Cardrona Valley. We stop at quaint Cardrona Hotel and stay in Wanaka, a favourite Kiwi resort town on the edge of Lake Wanaka.

Te Wanaka Lodge



Queenstown



Franz Josef



Milford Sound

### Day 5: **Wanaka ~ Haast Pass ~ Franz Josef (B)**

Heading into the mountains and rivers of Haast Pass in Mt Aspiring National Park. Take short walks on tracks through native beech forests to waterfalls and blue pools where trout lurk. We visit the Department of Conservation Centre for insight into this region's colourful history, flora and fauna. Continue north through the primeval rainforest of Westland World Heritage Park, stopping at Ship Creek for a stroll on the beach to the dune lake. At Franz Josef we view the advancing glacier.

Punga Grove

### Day 6: **Franz Josef ~ Punakaiki (B, D)**

This morning you may choose to take an optional flight over the glaciers and Aoraki/ Mt Cook or perhaps visit Okarito's lovely lagoon, home of the rare kotuku, white heron. Jet boating from Whataroa is an ideal way to see this region. Travel up the coast passing mirror lakes, boulder-laden rivers with glimpses of the Southern Alps. At Hokitika browse the craft galleries – Pounamu (jade, greenstone) carving, glass blowing, wood and copper artisans. A coastal road following part of ancient Pounamu Trails used by Maori for centuries leads to your hotel. Visit Punakaiki Pancake Rocks - sculpted sea stacks and towering cliffs. If the tide is right, blowholes will be spreading clouds of spray. Farewell celebratory dinner in your hotel's Waterline restaurant.

Punakaiki Resort

### Day 7: **Punakaiki ~ Arthur's Pass ~ Christchurch (B)**

Drive back down the coast to Greymouth and eastwards into the magnificent alpine scenery of rugged Otira Gorge and Arthur's Pass National Park. Crossing the Canterbury Plains we conclude your tour in Christchurch, an English style city of stone buildings, large parks and stunning gardens.

