

Picture Perfect South Island Tour



7 Days - South Island

Absolute
NEW ZEALAND

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive Christchurch

Drive to Nelson

Accommodation: Bronte Lodge

Day 2

Abel Tasman National Park

Accommodation: Bronte Lodge

Day 3

Scenic Coastal Drive to Franz Joseph Glacier

Accommodation: Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 4

Heli-Hike on Fox Glacier

Drive to Wanaka

Accommodation: Minaret Lodge

Day 5

Wanaka's Wild Hills and Wine Tour

Accommodation: Minaret Lodge

Day 6

Drive to Lake Manapouri

Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise

Day 7

Homeward Bound or Venture On

Featuring

Bronte Lodge - Neslon

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.

Pour yourself a wine - its Bronte Country Estate's own vintage - sink back and enjoy...



Te Waonui Forest Retreat - Franz Joseph Glacier

At one with nature, Te Waonui Forest Retreat is the ultimate coming together of luxury escape and environmental awareness.

Great care has been taken to ensure this exceptional forest retreat steps lightly upon the earth, from the organic cotton bedspreads to its recycled local building materials.

Discerning travellers will appreciate the hotel's attention to detail, which starts with attentive personal service upon arrival, and continues throughout all the hotel facilities and every aspect of your stay. You will enjoy exceptional quality and service, including: luxuriously appointed guest rooms and savouring quality local cuisine, including an indulgent five-course degustation dinner 'The Canopy' restaurant.



Featuring

Minaret Lodge - Wanaka

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

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, this luxury 5 star Wanaka bed and breakfast lodge is a haven of tranquillity.

The environmentally friendly Wanaka boutique accommodation lodge reflects the style of the Central Otago region with a feel of casual elegance. The separate guest chalets provide boutique accommodation in a private tranquil setting.



Picture Perfect South Island Itinerary

Day 1

Nelson

DRIVE TO NESLON

ACCOMMODATION

Bronte Lodge
Strafford Villa

MEALS

Full Breakfast

Situated in the north-west corner of the South Island, the Nelson region is surrounded by sheltering mountain ranges, giving it a Mediterranean type climate and is known for its year-round sunshine, golden beaches, national parks, boutique wineries and a large creative community of working artists.

From Nelson it's easy to access any of three National Parks. Abel Tasman National Park is a coastal wonderland of sea, sky, rocky headlands and bright golden beaches.

The Nelson Lakes National Park is set amidst the mountains and glaciated valleys south of Nelson city and features beech forests and the beautiful jewel lakes Kahurangi, New Zealand's second-largest national park, comprises 450,000ha of mostly upland wilderness, with magnificent three to four-day hiking trails.



Day 2

The Untouched Beauty of Abel Tasman National Park

EXPLORE ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

ACCOMMODATION

Bronte Lodge
Strafford Villa

MEALS

Full Breakfast

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Kayaking Abel Tasman NI Park, Seals, Bush and Beach Walk, Sailing, Cruise and Walk Abel Tasman NI Park, Helicopter Scenic Flight

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 are world famous for their outstanding beauty. You can 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.

If that all sounds just a little energetic just kick back on one of the many unspoilt beaches you will discover along the way. Plus you have the added bonus of face-to-face encounters with marine wildlife and birds. Tonga Island is located in the Marine Reserve or the Abel Tasman National Park and is home to the ever-entertaining seal colony. And who knows you may be lucky enough to spot visiting dolphins and Orcas playing in the Abel Tasman National Park waters.



Day 3

Spectacular Scenic Coastal Drive to Franz Joseph Glacier

DRIVE THE WEST COAST TO FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER

ACCOMMODATION

Te Waonui Forest Retreat
Deluxe Room

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Lunch and
Dinner

Today is a day of contrasts as you drive from the tranquility of Abel Tasman to the South Islands West Coast. Wild and rugged, yet immensely beautiful, the South Island's West Coast region evokes a string of superlatives. Wave-pounded coastlines, lush temperate rainforests, the island's highest mountains and most accessible glaciers all feature. The region's first settlers came in search of gold and the coast has its share of ghost towns, but there are also thriving communities like Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika, now dependent on coal mining and increasingly, tourism. It is highly likely that glorious image of New Zealand you see in a book, calendar, magazine or poster is from the South Island's West Coast.

Take a break at Punakaiki. This little town is the gateway to the dramatic limestone country of the Paparoa National Park. The Pancake Rocks that Punakaiki is famous for are limestone formations that began forming 30 million years ago, when lime-rich fragments of dead marine creatures were deposited on the seabed, then overlaid by weaker layers of soft mud and clay. The seabed was raised above sealevel by earthquakes to form the coastal cliffs and coastline. The sea, wind and rain have since etched out the soft layers to form the unusual rock formations we see today. Another prominent feature are the blowholes that, at high tide or in heavy weather, regularly throw up columns of dazzling spray high out of the blowholes - Best seen after wonderful westerly storms when the sun is reasserting itself in the face of fantastic cloud formations on the horizon.



Day 4

Enjoy a Breathtaking Heli Hike on the Fox Glacier

GUIDED HELI-HIKE ON FOX GLACIER THEN DRIVE TO WANAKA

ACCOMMODATION

Minaret Lodge
King Chalet

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Canapés
featuring Central Otago
Wines

The Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers are unique relics of the last ice age. Mighty rivers of solid white, tumbling down ice-hewn rock valleys, they are classically beautiful in the glacial sense. Nowhere else in the world have glaciers advanced so close to the sea at this latitude.

When you arrive at Fox Glacier Village you immediately feel relaxed in its intimate, village atmosphere. It has a stunning outlook across surrounding farms and offers breathtaking views of New Zealand's highest peaks Aoraki (Mt Cook) and Mt Tasman.

The fly-in, fly-out heli-hike combines the excitement of walking on the Glacier with the thrill of helicopter flights. By flying in you are able to access and explore a part of the glacier where its forces work hardest and often create spectacular ice caves and arches. Each departure is a true voyage of exploration. There are so many changing features that the guides always find something new.

In the afternoon continue your drive south along the West Coast to Lake Wanaka. The scenery is impressive all the way, and this drive is world class, some of the vistas to watch out for are: Lake Matheson, Views of Mount Cook, Bruce Bay, Ship Cove, Haast River/Pass, Thunder Creek Falls, Blue Pools, Lakes Hawea & Wanaka.



Day 5

Lake Wanaka - A Hidden Paradise in the Southern Alps

WILD HILLS AND WINE TOUR

ACCOMMODATION

Minaret Lodge
King Chalet

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Canapés
featuring Central Otago
Wines

Wanaka is located on the southern shores of Lake Wanaka, embraced by the spectacular Southern Alps. The crystal-clear waters of the lake, New Zealand's fourth largest lake, reflect the snow-capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park. The township is a magnet for visitors who want to find the perfect combination of outdoor adventure and indoor luxury.

Today, experience Wanaka's Wild Hills and Wine Tour. The stark beauty and solitude of the surrounding high country can only be accessed by 4WD, giving you a breathtaking viewpoint high above the lake with far-reaching views to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park. Walking along a deserted ridgeline with only the sound of wind rustling through the

ancient tussock grasses will provide you with some of the most impressive photo opportunities of your holiday.

Finish the day of in style, with a wine tasting at New Zealand's most scenic vineyard, Rippon Vineyard, tasting some of the quality wine this region is renowned for.



Day 6

A Unique Experience - Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise

DOUBTFUL SOUND OVERNIGHT CRUISE

ACCOMMODATION

Fiordland Navigator Vessel
Cabin with Ensuite
Bathroom

MEALS

Full Breakfast, 3-Course
Dinner

Drive to Lake Manapouri, the gateway to the Doubtful Sound. The lake is often described as the "loveliest" of all lakes with its array of 33 small islands, back drop of the majestic Cathedral Mountain range, and native bush clad edges with a variety of sandy beaches and coves.

Moody Dramatic and Stunning - Doubtful Sound is simply breathtaking. The sound offers what is probably one of the most spectacular fiord scenery in the southern hemisphere. Located in a World Heritage Area, you can feel the power of nature here - the remoteness, the wildness and the peace. Today Doubtful Sound remains an unspoilt wilderness of many moods; one minute clear blue and sun-drenched, the next mysterious and mist-cloaked.

Your Doubtful Sound adventure begins with an overnight cruise across the crystal clear waters of Lake Manapouri and then it is over Wilmot Pass, stopping along the way to experience some of Fiordland's densest rain forest. There is plenty of time on your overnight cruise to soak up the stunning surrounds and to discover the hidden arms of Doubtful Sound – Hall, Crooked and First. Bottlenose dolphins often ride our bow waves, fur seals bask on the rocks and, at times, rare penguins make an appearance. The cruise ship anchors at a chosen mooring for the night giving you the opportunity to kayak around the shoreline, go exploring in the tender craft with the nature guide or simply relax on deck. A sumptuous three-course buffet is served in the evening showcasing some of the region's finest produce.



Day 7

Homeward Bound or Continue your Journey!

DRIVE TO QUEENSTOWN
AIRPORT FOR YOUR
FLIGHT CONNECTION

MEALS
Full Breakfast

Your cruise ship arrives at 12 am in Manapouri. Your Picture Perfect Tour South Island finishes here!

If you are departing from New Zealand it's a 2 hours 25 minutes drive to Queenstown International Airport.

Those that wish to continue their journey can either combine it with the Picture Perfect North Island Tour or request a customized tour from us - there are plenty of possibilities we can put together for you!

- Absolute New Zealand Arrangements End -

