



~ New Zealand South Experience ~



NEW ZEALAND SOUTH EXPERIENCE

13 Days

Fully Hosted

29 November – 11 December 2023

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Christchurch Sightseeing including Curators House
- Coastal Pacific Train Experience
- Wine Tasting
- Furneauz Lodge Cruise
- Abel Tasman Cruise
- West Coast Treetop Walk
- Walter Peak BBQ Lunch
- Franz Josef
- Queenstown
- Scenic Aerial Gondola
- **Milford Sound Scenic Flight & Cruise**

INCLUDES:

- Return Economy “The Works” Class Airfares with Air New Zealand from Brisbane/Sydney or Melbourne
- **Private Single Room** in quality accommodations
- Meals as per the itinerary 12 Breakfasts/ 5 Lunches/ 8 Dinners
- Sightseeing Tours and Airport Transfers as per itinerary
- **Tour Host** – travels with group from/to Brisbane
- Local Driver/Guide

EXCLUDES:

- Domestic Flights
- Any meals, tours, excursions or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Travel Insurance

Priced from \$9,696* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at 20 January 2023. Tour requires minimum number of passengers to depart. Air taxes to the value of \$200 included. Airfares cannot be removed from tour package. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996



Day 1 – Wednesday 29 November 2023
Arrive Christchurch

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Kia Ora! Welcome to New Zealand.

On arrival at Christchurch Airport we will be met by our coach driver/guide and transferred to our hotel. We will check in and have some time to relax.

This evening get together at **Fiddlesticks Restaurant** for a welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Distinction Hotel, Christchurch or similar (2 Nights)

Day 2 – Thursday 30 November 2023
Christchurch City Sights

B-L

This morning after breakfast we will depart on a **sightseeing tour of the city**.

Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Southern Alps, Canterbury is a land of plains and peaks, small coastal, alpine and rural towns and a city rebuilding itself. Christchurch has emerged revitalized following the earthquake that devastated much of the city in February 2011. The destruction of several landmark historic buildings has led to the development of new city plans, a bold public art programme and innovative use of space.

Highlights of our tour include the Transitional Cathedral, the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery; Bridge of Remembrance; the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial the River Avon, and the beautiful Spanish Mission New Regent Street.

Enjoy lunch at Curators House, followed by a stroll through the Botanic Gardens. Curators House is a picturesque 101-year-old Christchurch heritage building in the Botanic Gardens.

Returning the hotel the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

Day 3 – Friday 1 December 2023
Christchurch - Kaikoura

B-D

Following breakfast we check out, board the coach and travel north over the Canterbury plains, the largest area of flat land in New Zealand before climbing the Hundalee ranges and following the Pacific Ocean coastline to the township of Kaikoura.

The sea here is particularly rich in nutrients, which attract a wide variety of sea life. Sperm whales, the largest of all toothed whales, can be seen off this coast for 95% of the year.

Upon arrival we will check in, freshen up and then meet for this evening's dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Sudima, Kaikoura or similar (1 night)



Day 4 – Saturday 2 December 2023
Kaikoura - Blenheim

B-L-D

This morning after breakfast and check out we will take the **Coastal Pacific Train** from Kaikoura to Blenheim.

With the Pacific Ocean lapping at its wheels and the Kaikoura ranges rising majestically above, the **Coastal Pacific** is undoubtedly one of the world's most picturesque train journeys. Located at the top of the South Island, Marlborough is New Zealand's largest wine producing region and internationally renowned for its distinctive, herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc.

On arrival in Blenheim we meet our coach and transfer to a local winery for a **wine tasting and lunch**.

Later we arrive at **Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum** to visit the Knights of the Sky and Dangerous Skies exhibitions. The development of aviation and the stories of the men that flew are brought to life in two distinctive exhibitions.

The first features the extensive collection of World War One aircraft and rare memorabilia belonging to Sir Peter Jackson and showcasing the talents of WingNut Films and Weta Workshop in Knights of the Sky.

The second exhibition, the story of aviation continues with Dangerous Skies in World War II. The aircraft, some exclusive to Omaka, are given the trademark theatrical treatment the museum has become famous for.

We end the day by checking into our accommodation before meeting this evening to enjoy **dinner at Raupo Restaurant**.

Accommodation: Riverside Hotel Marlborough, Blenheim or similar (2 nights)

Day 5 – Sunday 3 December 2023
Blenheim

B-L

Enjoy breakfast this morning and then travel the short distance to Picton where we will take a **water taxi cruise to Furneaux Lodge** travelling through Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.

Our included lunch today will be at the **Furneaux Restaurant**.

Choose your delicious lunch from the set menu, and then relax on the sweeping lawn overlooking Endeavour Inlet, or inside the cosy restaurant in Furneaux's historic homestead. There will be time to explore the grounds, do a short walk or simply drink in the views until it's time to meet the water taxi at the jetty for the scenic cruise back to Picton.

We arrive back at our accommodation and the evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.



Day 6 – Monday 4 December 2023
Blenheim - Nelson

B-D

This morning after breakfast we check out and board the coach as we travel across the top of the South Island through the Rai Valley, forestry plantations and farmland to the Nelson region.

At the top of the north-west corner of the South Island, is the sunniest region of New Zealand. **Nelson** is a truly beautiful region that should not be missed by the visitor who loves nature, adventure, art, crafts, wineries, and good food. Situated close to several national parks, including the Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi, the region offers great hiking trails, beaches and rivers for kayaking and swimming. We arrive and check into our hotel and then have the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner this evening will be in the hotel.

Accommodation: The Hotel Nelson, Nelson or similar (2 nights)

Day 7 – Tuesday 5 December 2023
Abel Tasman National Park

B-L

Following breakfast this morning our coach takes us to Kaiteriteri. Here board a water taxi and **cruise to Medlands Beach** in the heart of the national park (1 hr) and walk the waterfall trail around Bark Bay. Both Medlands Beach and Bark Bay offer you the choices to relax in the sun, find a shady picnic spot, stroll along the sand or swim in the calm, azure waters. Walking options from Medlands Beach:

Bark Bay Falls: A 1 hr return trip (4km, 2.5 miles) exploring the forested track around Bark Bay Inlet to see Bark Bay Falls and Suspension Bridge (5 metres high).

Falls River: A 1 hr 30 min walk (5km, 3 miles) to the impressively high Swing Bridge over Falls River (15-20m depending on the tide), then return to Medlands Beach.

We have packed lunch with us today so we can eat and enjoy the great outdoors. In the afternoon we reboard the water taxi for the cruise back to Kaiteriteri and then take the coach back to Nelson. This evening will be at leisure. You may wish to dine in or venture out to a local restaurant. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

Day 8 – Wednesday 6 December 2023
Nelson - Hokitika

B-D

Departing Nelson after check out we travel south through Brightwater and Murchison. Continuing south following the Buller River to Inangahua Junction and through the spectacular Buller Gorge, soak up the lovely coastal views as the road follows the coast to Punakaiki - renowned for its wild rugged coastline, the famous pancake rocks, blow holes and scenic walks. From Punakaiki we continue south along the rugged coast through Greymouth to Hokitika.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we check in and freshen up before meeting for dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: Beachfront Hotel, Hokitika or similar (1 night)



Day 9 – Thursday 7 December 2023
Hokitika – Franz Josef

B-D

Today we have breakfast and check out before starting our day strolling amongst the rainforest canopy and enjoying panoramic views from the impressive **Treetop Walk**.

Back on the coach we travel south through the township of Ross which lies across alluvial goldfields and has an interesting mining history.

The West Coast of the South Island is a World Heritage area of magnificent snow-capped Southern Alps, high alpine snowfields, the glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef, blue walls of ice, towering rainforests, mirrored lakes, and wild windblown beaches. Geographically isolated from the rest of New Zealand by the Southern Alps, West Coast locals have developed a distinctive culture of their own - they are renowned for their pioneering values of self-reliance, friendliness, loyalty, and down-to-earth characteristics.

On arrival at Franz Josef we will check in to our hotel and have some time at leisure. This evening we'll enjoy dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier or similar (1 night)

Day 10 – Friday 8 December 2023
Franz Josef - Queenstown

B-D

We check out after breakfast and then travel south through the dense South Westland forests crossing fast running streams and bush fringed lakes.

At Haast the road turns inland crossing the Southern Alps via the Haast Pass and skirts glacial Lake Wanaka then Lake Hawea. On a clear day there are splendid views across the lake to Mt Aspiring.

Continuing our journey we travel through the Central Otago sheep, cattle and fruit growing area, and scene of a major gold rush last century.

When we arrive in the resort town of Queenstown we check into our accommodation and freshen up before meeting for dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Suites, Queenstown or similar (3 nights)



Day 11 – Saturday 9 December 2023
Queenstown

B-L

Enjoy breakfast and a morning is at leisure.

Around midday, we **cruise aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw across to Walter Peak High Country Farm**. Once at the lakeside Colonel's Homestead Restaurant savour the delicious aromas as our chef has the best of local produce sizzling away on the grill.

Overlooking Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown's alpine scenery, the Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak High Country Farm is the perfect place to spend a few hours. Its colonial architecture and sweeping grounds evoke the elegance of a bygone era.

An entertaining farm demonstration is also included, or you can explore the beautiful lakeside gardens.

Arriving back into Queenstown this afternoon, the remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

Day 12 – Sunday 10 December 2023
Milford Sound

B,D

Today is sure to be a highlight as we take a **scenic flight** between Queenstown and Milford Sound - the ultimate way to experience the drama and vastness of New Zealand's dramatic alpine scenery.

Early this afternoon we transfer to Queenstown Airport then board a light aircraft for the **35-minute scenic flight to Milford Sound**.

On reaching Milford Sound we will join a leisurely **Scenic Cruise of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea**. Enjoy the stunning scenery of cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest, steep cliff faces and marine life that inhabits these waters. The on-board nature guide will give a commentary on the interesting features of the area. Following the cruise, we return to the Milford Airport for the scenic flight back to Queenstown Airport.

For our final night in the stunning South Island of New Zealand we ride the **scenic aerial gondola** up to **Skyline's Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar**, Queenstown's most spectacular location high above the city on Bob's Peak, to enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner at. The menu is inspired by iconic New Zealand cuisine and infused with international influences and offers something for everyone – from fresh seafood and delectable desserts to an array of vegetarian dishes. Whilst you dine, the panoramic views of Coronet Peak and The Remarkables mountain range and across the lake to Cecil and Walter Peak will captivate you day or night.

Day 13 – Monday 11 December 2023
Depart Queenstown

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Sadly our time in New Zealand's south has come to an end. A final breakfast together and then with our bags packed, we say our goodbyes and transfer to the airport for our flights home.