# Southern Spotlight

# **Highlights**

#### 

Queenstown is home to more than 150 bars and restaurants. If you don't know where to look, ask your Travel Director for recommendations.

#### Iconic Sites

The TranzAlpine train ride has been described as one of the most scenic cross-country jaunts in the world. But don't take our word for it...

#### Time For You

Sometimes, the best travel experiences are those you have on a whim. Enjoy downtime to go at your own pace.

#### Sustainable Travel

Your journey deep into Fiordland National Park is helping sustain this wild and wonderful part of New Zealand for future generations.

#### Matural Wonders

Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere is quite possibly the South Island's coolest attraction. Literally. This gem sparkles from its perch in Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

# 5 Te Anau - Queenstown

From the moment you step outside today, nature rules. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins – they're a common sight here. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B** 

#### **6** Queenstown Free Time

Take today at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet, perhaps. There's a reason why Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of the country. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. **B HD** 

#### Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

Try and keep count of today's lakes. Leaving Lake Wakatipu behind, Arrowtown appears on the horizon. We know you'll want to linger in the movie-set-like streets, lined with trees and character-filled boutiques. But Lake Dunstan awaits, as do its orchards. Pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. Then there's Lake Hawea followed by Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem. You don't get many opportunities in life to land and walk on a glacier. This afternoon is one. Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D

#### 8 Franz Josef/Waiau - Christchurch

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. In Māori tradition, it's bad luck to buy this sacred stone for yourself; flutter your eyelids at your loved one. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD** 

#### 1 Christchurch

Since its 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. Discover how when you step back in time aboard the Christchurch Tram, linking some of the city's most legendary attractions. Expect quite the commentary – your conductors are a hoot. **Hotel: Ibis.** 

#### 2 Christchurch - Omarama

Christchurch is not only rebuilding itself after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Tūranga, the gold-clad central library. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. If you wish (and you should wish) take it in on a scenic flight for added perspective of the Southern Alps and on to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D** 

#### 3 Omarama – Dunedin

If you've ever wanted to see New Zealand's oldest public gardens, today you're in luck. Oamaru, with its stately tree-lined streets and limestone buildings, stands proud before you journey further south toward the Edinburgh of the South: Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in the city's atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. Thirsty? Visit Speight's Brewery, a New Zealand institution. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B** 

#### 4 Dunedin – Te Anau

There are some days when you're travelling, that all you want to do is sleep in. Go for it. Or channel your inner royalty on a visit to Dunedin's grand Larnach Castle – the only one of its kind in the country. Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this. Hotel: Luxmore. B D



## 7 Included Experiences

### **Departure Dates**

2022	2023	2023		2024	
Oct 02, 16, 23	Jan	01, 15, 22, 29	Jan	14, 21, 28	
Nov 13, 20	Feb	05, 12, 19, 26	Feb	04, 11, 18, 25	
<b>Dec</b> 04, 11, 18, 25	Mar	05, 12, 19, 26	Mar	03, 10, 17, 24, 31	
	Apr	23, 30			
	Jun	04			
	Jul	02, 30			
	Aug	13			
	Sep	10, 17			
	Oct	01, 08, 15, 22, 29			
	Nov	05, 12, 19			
	Dec	03, 10, 17, 24, 31			

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your local travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 Apr 2024 at aatkings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

# **Dining**

8 Full buffet breakfasts B 3 Dinners D
1 Highlight Dinner HD 1 Farewell Dinner FD

# **Flight Information**

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
Day 9 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

#### 9 Farewell from Christchurch

New Zealand's South Island never fails to wow. We hope you find the words to describe this epic adventure to your family back home. **B** 



