

SOUTH ISLAND ACTIVITIES

TO ENHANCE YOUR TOURING ITINERARY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

South Island Activities

Kaikoura

The coastal town of Kaikoura is renowned for its abundant wildlife including sperm whales, pods of dolphins and wandering albatross. The rocky platforms scattered along the coast are home to a colony of New Zealand fur seals.



Whale Watching Kaikoura

Giant Sperm Whales are the stars of the show and year-round residents. A typical Whale Watch tour may encounter New Zealand Fur Seals, pods of Dusky dolphins and the endangered Wandering Albatross. Depending on the season you may also see other species migrating. Orcas and Hector's dolphins are also common sightings.

Christchurch & Canterbury

Christchurch is the gateway to the South Island. Bordered by the Port hills and the Pacific Ocean, it is currently undergoing urban regeneration with a blend of old and new innovative architecture, while still continuing to honour the heritage and traditional English feel.



Punting On The Avon

Punting is a unique Christchurch experience transporting you back to an elegant English era when the pace of life was more peaceful and dignified. It is the most relaxing way to absorb the sights and charms of Christchurch while drifting downstream in and out of the dappled shadows of the willow trees.



Christchurch Tram

Enjoy a journey in style through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre on board our beautifully restored heritage Trams. Your day-long ticket allows you to get on and off the Tram as often as you please! The journey takes you to the appropriate stops for Punting on the Avon, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Tour and the Gondola Shuttle along with 17 other stops en route.



TranzAlpine

From Christchurch, cross the patchwork farmland of the Canterbury plains, follow the Waimakariri river, climbing into alpine scenery on a series of spectacular viaducts. Then, after stopping at Arthur's Pass, emerge from the long Otira Tunnel and descend through sub tropical rain forest past beautiful Lake Brunner and on to Greymouth.



Hassle-Free Tours

Hassle-free Tours is an award winning tour company that specialises in day tour experiences throughout Canterbury including; scenic journeys into the Canterbury High Country, 4WD and jetboat adventures, a visit to a Lord of the Rings filming location, wildlife encounters with whales and dolphins in Kaikoura and a ride on the TranzAlpine train.

Aoraki/Mount Cook

Aoraki / Mount Cook is New Zealand's highest peak and the location where Sir Edmund Hillary trained before conquering Mt Everest. The region has been named the world's largest International Dark Sky reserve and is famous for viewing the night skies.



Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre

A tribute to Sir Edmund Hillary, humanitarian, ambassador and one of the world's greatest explorers. A museum showcases the history of the region through transport and climbing. Be inspired by Mount Cook Magic 3D, or experience the night sky in the world's only theatre that combines 2D/3D and a world-class digital dome Planetarium.



Earth and Sky Mt John Observatory

Visit Earth & Sky for a safe and unique Stargazing and Observatory experience at Lake Tekapo, the heart of the Aoraki-Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, the largest of the eleven reserves in the world.

With professional astronomy guides and equipment view and learn about the wonders of our universe.



Glacier Explorers

Explore the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake and Icebergs up close.

Visit New Zealand's Tasman Glacier terminal lake for a fascinating glacial encounter. Cruise the rapidly growing terminal lake taking in spectacular mountain views and scenery. Icebergs of every shape and size periodically tear away from the glacier allowing you to touch and taste the 300-500 year old glacial crystals.



The Helicopter Line - Mount Cook Alpine Vista (20 min)

This short scenic option is ideal if you're looking for the opportunity to touch snow and experience the thrill of a helicopter flight. Sweep through the rugged high country landscape of the Ben Ohau Mountain Range to a landing site on the snowfield high in the mountains. Enjoy the fantastic vista from this alpine setting as you look out to the mountains and glaciers, and down the valleys that were carved out by glaciers centuries ago.

West Coast

The spectacular and dramatic West Coast of the south Island is sandwiched between the Southern Alps and the Tasman sea. A highlight of any visit to the West Coast is a visit to the Franz Josef Glacier and Fox Glacier, which are easily accessible from the main road.



Franz Josef Glacier Guides

Unique experiences amongst one of the most spectacular and challenging glacier environments in the world. Franz Josef Glacier is the focal point for the Westland National Park and the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. It is an unusually steep and heavily crevassed glacier and is the world's steepest and fastest flowing commercially guided glacier.



Glacier Hot Pools

Nestled in lush rainforest, the Glacier Hot Pools is a haven of natural tranquillity and the perfect way for visitors to unwind and experience a blissful state of pure relaxation

The pools are conveniently located in the heart of Franz Josef township and can be enjoyed all year round.



The Helicopter Line - Franz Josef Heli Hike

Your tour combines an awesome scenic helicopter flight (approx 10 mins) over the glacier with a unique guided walk (approx 2 hrs) amongst the ice caves, pinnacles and seracs of this pristine, alpine environment. You'll see the extraordinary colours of the ice-flow from above and then up close, on an unforgettable guided walk.

A range of scenic Helicopter flights are available from Franz Josef you will be spoilt for choice.

Wanaka

Wanaka is a resort destination, known for its stunning beauty. Sheltered behind the Southern Alps, there is something for everyone, whatever your age, ability or sense of adventure.



Wanaka Puzzling World

Puzzling World is a unique attraction offering "a world of weirdness". Since 1973 this remarkable business has entertained and amazed visitors of all ages attracted to Wanaka. With the world's first "3-D" Great Maze, incredible Illusion Rooms a Puzzle Centre and much more. Puzzling World is a must-see addition on any itinerary.

Fiordland

Nestled in the World Heritage Fiordland National Park are the stunningly beautiful fiords of Milford Sound described by Ruyard Kipling as the "Eighth wonder of the world" and the magnificent Doubtful Sound. The township of Te Anau sits on the edge of Lake Te Anau surrounded by majestic mountains and a good base from which to explore this region.



Fiordland Jet - Pure Wilderness

Explore Fiordland National Park by way of jet boat. Journey from the Te Anau lakefront to the quiet banks of the Waiou River and reach as far as the deserted shores of Lake Manapouri. Experience a hidden world while listening to rare birdlife, spotting Rainbow and Brown Trout in crystal clear water and breathing in the ancient beech forest.



REAL JOURNEYS Doubtful Sound Cruise

From Pearl Harbour cruise across Lake Manapouri to West Arm then travel by coach over the Wilmot Pass through dense rainforest. Once at Doubtful Sound board your catamaran for a 3 hour wilderness cruise of the Sound out to the Tasman Sea. Overnight Options are also available.



REAL JOURNEYS Te Anau Glowworm caves

Cruise across Lake Te Anau to the western side of the lake. On arrival view the interesting displays at Cavern House before your guide accompanies you underground. Learn how the caves are still being carved out by the power of nature. Glide through silent darkness to the glowworm grotto. The tiny glowworms are a magical sight.



Southern Discoveries - Milford Sound Cruise

Experience Milford Sound with a choice of cruise and kayak options to suit your schedule. Enjoy the unique wildlife, towering waterfalls and majesty of Mitre Peak on a Milford Sound Cruise. Southern Discoveries have a Milford Sound cruise to suit everyone. Choose from a Scenic Cruise, Nature Cruise, Encounter Nature Cruise, Cruise and Kayak or the Discover More Package - the longest cruise experience in Milford Sound which includes the Milford Sound Underwater Observatory.

Dunedin

Dunedin is known as New Zealand's wildlife capital with an abundance of sea life to view on the Otago Peninsula. A city of fine unspoiled Edwardian and Victorian architecture, Dunedin prides itself on being New Zealand's centre for learning, heritage, arts and culture.



Monarch Wildlife Cruises

See what cannot be seen from land! Watch the huge royal albatross soar across the sea and get up-close to NZ furseal colonies located below a historic lighthouse. You'll spot a large variety of other albatross and seabirds. Occasionally we see NZ sealions, dolphins and blue penguins.



Larnach Castle

Explore beautiful Larnach castle and its fabulous gardens.

Hear the interesting and sometimes scandalous stories of the past, take in the dramatic harbour views from the top of the tower, and see the magnificent craftsmanship of the colonial era.

Queenstown

Queenstown is New Zealand's adventure playground. Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shore of Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty of this region creates the perfect backdrop for adventure, discovery and revitalisation.



Skyline Gondola

Just a 5 minute walk from central Queenstown, ride the Skyline Gondola to the top of the Skyline complex. The best views in the region are found here spread out in a spectacular 220 degree panorama, with breathtaking views of Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and across Lake Wakatipu.



TSS Earnslaw

Step aboard - watch the stokers fuelling the fireboxes and hear the hiss of the steam engines working as the TSS Earnslaw takes you on a nostalgic cruise on beautiful Lake Wakatipu. The TSS Earnslaw makes several daily trips to famous Walter Peak High Country Farm. There is an evening option as well which includes a sumptuous buffet dinner.



SOUTHERN DISCOVERIES Spirit Of Queenstown scenic cruise

Cruise around Queenstown's Lake Wakatipu to Mt. Nicholas High Country Station.

The Spirit of Queenstown is luxurious, modern and environmentally friendly. Enjoy stunning views of Mt. Earnslaw, Bob's Cove, Cecil Peak, Mt. Nicholas and the Remarkables. Take some time to join the Skipper in the open wheelhouse.

An informative and entertaining commentary is provided.



Dart River Adventures

Dart River Jet Safaris, takes you on a journey of rare and special beauty into the pristine wilderness of Mt Aspiring National Park, in the Southern Alps. Dart River experience has a magnificent backdrop. Snow capped mountains range over a glacial valley, blanketed by ancient forest, it's breathtaking. A journey that will touch your soul.



Nomad Safaris

Let Nomad Safaris take you on one of their tours to the New Zealand backcountry. Their Safari of the Scenes tour will capture the heart of the most avid Lord of the Rings fans. Nomad Safaris offers adventure trips to the old abandoned gold mining towns of Skippers Canyon and Macetown. Travel the rugged road and experience true off roading as you explore the pioneer trails.



Shotover Jet

Billed as "the world's most exciting ride" Shotover jet provides an adrenalin filled journey through the canyons.

From the moment the accelerator hits the floor, your adrenaline hits the roof as you speed in mere centimetres of water along the famous Shotover River and deep into the spectacular Shotover River Canyons.



The Helicopter Line - Queenstown

Enjoy the stunning beauty of the Wakatipu basin from the mouth of the Shotover river to beyond Coronet Peak. See film locations from Lord of the Rings. Land on The Remarkables (1538 m) above Queenstown. In winter, stand in snow.

A range of scenic Helicopter flights are available from Queenstown you will be spoilt for choice.



Southern Discoveries - Mt Nicholas Farm Experience

Relax in tranquillity on a real working farm with breathtaking views of middle earth. Hop off Spirit of Queenstown for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes visit to a truly authentic, family-run merino sheep farm. Mt Nicholas produces the highest quality wool for world-renowned clothing company Icebreaker. Soak in the surrounding panoramic views in one of New Zealand's most rugged and remote high country farms.



Southern Discoveries - Station to Station Cycle Trail

An independent half day cycling trip. Enjoy a spirit of Queenstown cruise to Mt Nicholas High Country Farm. Disembark and cycle the journey between Mt Nicholas and Walter Peak, located on the western shores of Lake Wakatipu. There is an option to add on a BBQ lunch at Walter Peak before returning to Queenstown on the TSS Earnslaw.



Kjet Queenstown

Kjet offers over 60 minutes of unforgettable thrills, spins and exhilaration across three waterways in one of the world's most stunning locations.

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(PP - 16/04/2019)