



New Zealand

14 Day South Island Discovery

Christchurch to Christchurch

2021–2022

From glaciers to wineries, there's a lot to experience in New Zealand's magnificent South Island. The larger of the two islands of New Zealand is home to only a quarter of the country's population, making it the perfect region for a quiet getaway, in the pristine lap of nature. Aptly named Te Waipounamu, for being a major source of the sacred Maori greenstone, pounamu, South Island is filled with some of nature's finest specimens, with a healthy dose of adventure and recreation. Soak up New Zealand's immaculate scenery and coastline and learn about its poignant Maori culture over an unforgettable fortnight.



Lake Wanaka

14 Day South Island Discovery

On your 14-day itinerary, you will witness the country's unique wildlife, including the elusive national bird (and animal) – the kiwi, sperm whales and fur seals; taste its famous Marlborough wines and Gold Medal Ale, and get up close to its ancient glaciers. Delight in South Island's many natural wonders such as the quirky Split Apple Rock, Punakaiki Pancake Rocks that look like neatly stacked pancakes, the massive, perfectly spherical and smooth Moeraki Boulders, and the incredible natural blow holes. A cruise through the mirror-like waters of Milford Sound is certain to be the highlight of your journey, while Tolkien fans would love our Discover More excursion to the shoot locations of The Hobbit and The Lord the Rings series.

Day 1: Christchurch (D)

Kia Ora and welcome to Christchurch, New Zealand for your South Island Discovery tour. Christchurch is one of the world's most unique destinations, combining urban regeneration with heritage and culture. Meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers tonight at a welcome dinner. **Overnight Stay:** Novotel Hotel Christchurch.



Franz Josef Glacier

Day 2: Christchurch – Blenheim (FB,D)

Travel through the Canterbury plains towards the coastal highway today where the rugged mountains meet the ocean. Visit the town of Kaikoura famous for its diverse marine life especially whale sightings during the season. Arrive in Marlborough, New Zealand's largest wine growing region and home to the country's finest Sauvignon Blanc. **Two Night Stay:** Scenic Hotel Marlborough or similar.

Day 3: Blenheim (FB,L)

View Sir Peter Jackson's collection of World War 1 and 2 planes during your visit to the Omaka Aviation Centre today. Witness the fascinating recreation of war scenes and rare memorabilia on display, including items belonging to the famous Red Barron himself. Later, discover wine facts about the famous wine region, known for its mild climate and year round sunshine during a visit to one of the many wineries, followed by wine tasting and lunch. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 4: Blenheim – Nelson (FB,D)

Continue your discovery of the top of the South Island and its sun-drenched national parks. The city of Nelson is the oldest in the South Island and known for its local arts and craft stores and art galleries. It is also the gateway to New Zealand's smallest national park – the Abel Tasman, known for its white sand beaches and turquoise water. Enjoy an afternoon cruise from Kaiteriteri Beach where you will get a chance to see the famous Split Apple Rock, witness native fur seals in their natural habitat, and marvel at the golden sands. **Overnight Stay:** Rutherford Hotel Nelson.

Day 5: Nelson – Hokitika via Punakaiki (FB)

Travel to the wild west coast of New Zealand. Enjoy the dramatic scenery on the Great Coast Road voted one of the top 10 coastal drives in the world. See the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and blowholes, where columns of water shoot skyward from rocks that resemble giant stacks of pancakes. Upon arriving in Hokitika, learn all about the famous New Zealand green stone, pounamu, and perhaps buy some to gift your loved ones back home. **Overnight Stay:** Beachfront Hotel.

Day 6: Hokitika – Franz Josef (FB,D)

Start your day with a visit to the National Kiwi Centre to view the country's national bird and other native species before seeing the Franz Josef Glacier with its ever-changing face for yourself. **Discover More:** Take a helicopter flight over Franz Josef or Fox Glacier and experience this natural alpine landscape (must be pre-booked, own expense). **Overnight Stay:** Franz Josef Hotel.

Day 7: Franz – Queenstown (FB,D)

See the snow-capped mountains of the Southern Alps as you travel along the west coast before travelling via the Haast Pass. Stop in Wanaka and enjoy the picture-perfect views of the lake and the surrounding Mt. Aspiring National park. Taste the famous stone fruit at Cromwell before arriving in Queenstown, the picturesque town located against a stunning backdrop of Southern Alps and Lake Wakatipu. **Three Night Stay:** Copthorne Lakefront Hotel.

Day 8: Queenstown (FB,L)

Cruise on Lake Wakatipu on a vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Station where you will enjoy a sheep show and lunch. TSS Earnslaw is an integral part of Queenstown pioneering history and a Queenstown icon. Known as The Lady of the Lake, the vessel provided an essential link between the isolated farming communities along the lake and the outside world. At 48 metres long this was the biggest boat on the lake and carried passengers, sheep, cattle, mail and supplies. Later, immerse yourself into New Zealand's farm life as you watch farm dogs round up sheep from the paddocks at Walter Peak.

Day 9: Queenstown (FB)

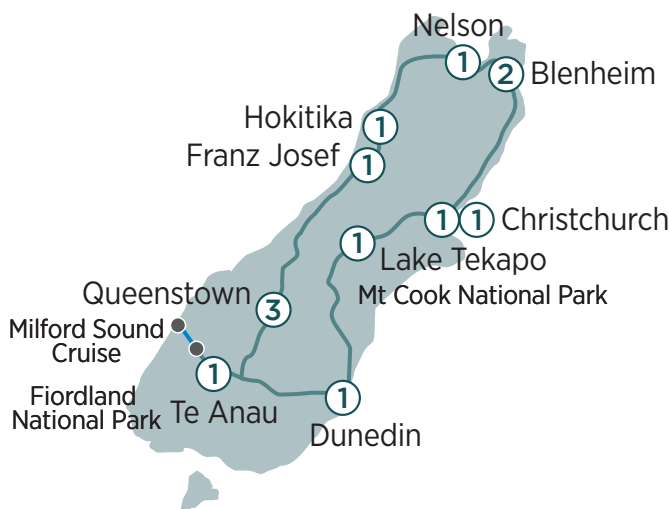
Today, enjoy a day at leisure as you choose from your **Discover More:** Queenstown's famous Shotover Jet, a boutique wine tour, Dart River Wilderness Safari or a visit to the 'Middle Earth' shoot locations of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings (must be pre-booked, own expense).

Day 10: Queenstown – Te Anau via Milford Sound (FB,L,D)

The road to Te Anau travels in the shadows of the rugged mountain range called The Remarkables. Travel to Fiordland National Park. A world

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heritage listed site, it is one of most dramatic and beautiful parts of New Zealand. Witness the spectacular Milford Sound, carved by glaciers over 100,000 years ago, stand in awe on your cruise as you meander past towering cliffs, peaks and waterfalls. You'll soon realise why Milford Sound was described by Rudyard Kipling as the eighth wonder of the world. Later, return to the picturesque township of Te Anau. **Overnight Stay:** Distinction Luxmore.

Day 11: Te Anau – Dunedin (FB,D)

Leave the beauty of Lake Te Anau behind this morning to make your way to Dunedin, New Zealand's oldest university city, also known as the Edinburgh of New Zealand. Surrounded by dramatic hills, Dunedin is one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the southern hemisphere. Visit Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only Castle, situated on the picturesque Otago Peninsula. Explore its beautiful garden, rated "Garden of International Significance", and gain an insight into the wealthy Victorian lifestyle of the castle's past inhabitants. Enjoy a tour of the historic Speights Brewery, where beer has been brewed since 1876.

Overnight Stay: Scenic Hotel Southern Cross.

Day 12: Dunedin – Lake Tekapo (FB,D)

Visit the Moeraki Boulders, a unique sight featuring huge spherical boulders scattered across a sandy beach, before arriving in Tekapo, located in the Mackenzie Basin. Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd where the altar window frames a perfect view of the Southern Alps beyond the lake. The church was built in 1935 for the pioneer families of the Mackenzie district and is still in use. Tekapo is part of a UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve; hence, the artificial light pollution in the region is minimal. This makes it perfect for stargazing and watching the Milky Way move across the sky. **Overnight Stay:** Peppers Bluewater Resort Lake Tekapo.

Day 13: Lake Tekapo – Christchurch (FB,D)

Travel across the Canterbury plains before arriving back in Christchurch, the largest city in the South Island. **You're Invited:** Celebrate the end of your adventures with an interactive Maori Performance. Ko Tane includes songs and poi dances. The evening concludes with a hangi cooked dinner. **Overnight Stay:** Novotel Hotel Christchurch.

Day 14: Christchurch (FB)

It is time to bid a fond farewell to your new friends and the wonders of New Zealand's breathtaking South Island. **Discover More:** Extend your trip with the TRANZ Alpine train as a day trip from Christchurch (must be pre-booked, own expense).

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- New Zealand specialist Tour Director and Coach Driver
- 13 nights accommodation in twin share rooms with private facilities
- Tour by air conditioned coach equipped with restroom, reclining seats and large panoramic windows
- Complimentary transfers on Day 1 and Day 14
- Visit the cities of Christchurch, Queenstown and Dunedin
- See Franz Josef Glacier
- Cruise the magnificent glacier carved fiords of Milford Sound
- Visit New Zealand's own castle – Larnach Castle in Dunedin
- Experience a Maori performance
- Cruise aboard the nostalgic TSS Earnslaw steamship and visit Walter Peak station
- Visit Abel Tasman National Park
- Try Blenheim's well-known Sauvignon Blanc
- Travel through the green pastures of the Canterbury plains

DINING HIGHLIGHTS

- 24 superb meals including:
 13 Full Breakfasts (FB), 2 Lunches (L) & 9 Dinners (D)

YOU'RE INVITED

- Ko Tane Maori experience



Maori culture

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

14 Day South Island Discovery				14 Day South Island Discovery			
		EZSI				EZSI	
2021	Departures	Twin Share	Single Room	2022	Departures	Twin Share	Single Room
September	12	\$4,995	\$6,640	January	9	\$4,995	\$6,640
October	30*	\$4,995	\$6,640	March	13	\$4,995	\$6,640

* Altered itinerary

Full Deposit (required within 2 days of booking) \$500pp

Other Touring Information

All prices are per person, twin share in AUD. All prices include taxes and charges, all gratuities (tipping) and airport transfers. \$100pp non-refundable deposit due at time of booking and \$400pp balance deposit due within 2 days of booking. Tour maps: Any maps or route depictions are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon. Itinerary, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. For transfer conditions & all other Terms and Conditions please refer to our website.

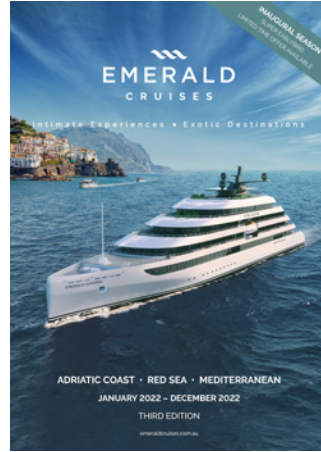
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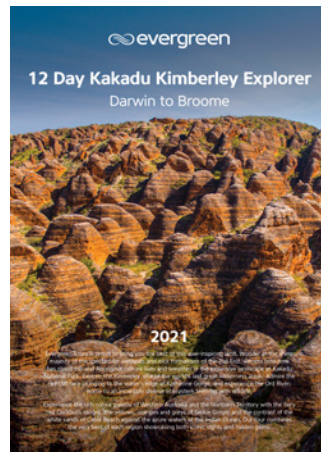
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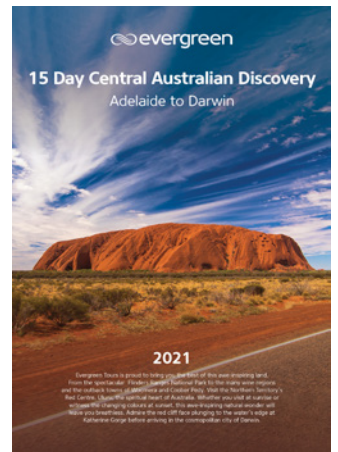
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