

# 10-Day New Zealand South Island Tour

Dunedin • Queenstown • Milford Sound • Glacier Region • Christchurch



The South Island, though less populated, is the larger of the two major islands of New Zealand. It is full of breathtaking natural sceneries. The variety of its geological repertoire is astonishing; from mighty glaciers to subtropical rain forest, snow-capped mountain to sandy beaches; alpine passes to serene lakes, beautiful fjords to fertile plains, mysterious caves to friendly coastal towns, the opportunity for enjoying the great nature and adventure are endless.



Dunedin is located at the southern end of the Otago Peninsula, it still retains many influences from the Scottish immigrants who found the city in 1848. The city's name was derived from the word Dineiden, the Gaelic name for Edinburgh. The city prospered during the gold rush in the 1860s, the wealth was reflected in its ornate Gothic style buildings. Dunedin also became a city of firsts - establishing the country's first university, medical college, electric tram and cable car system, wool mill and daily newspaper. Much of

the wealth gradually drifted to the North Island, but the cultural legacy makes Dunedin a characterful city. Dunedin's other assets are the world's only mainland colony of royal albatross and a colony of hoiho, the world's rarest yellow-eye penguin.

Queenstown, mirrored in Lake Waikaitipu's placid surface against a backdrop of massive snow-capped mountain range, is New Zealand's ultimate picturesque resort area. It offers a variety of thrilling outdoor adventures such as white water rafting, parapenting, tandem parachuting, river surfing, cross country or glacier skiing and of course, bungee jumping. Queenstown is the birthplace of bungee jumping and the first original commercial jump site is at the Kawarau Bridge. Downtown Queenstown is friendly with superb dining establishments and shopping venues.

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island, is the old capital of anglicized New Zealand. Dotted with 19th century neo-Gothic architectures and parks, with the Avon river floats serenely through the town center, the city has its unique character. It was a planned Anglican settlement orchestrated by a devout English Tory, John Robert Godley, who created the Canterbury Association. The city's Anglican ideals reflected by its many impressive public buildings and home steads. The public-spiritedness bequeathed by Christchurch's founders means that a third of the city is a garden, park or nature reserve. In addition, there are many sophisticated and hip restaurants and cafes, making a visit to the city more enjoyable.

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## Tour Itinerary

### Day 01: U.S.-Dunedin

Depart U.S. for Dunedin.

### Day 02: Dunedin

Arrive Dunedin, transfer to your hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Southern Cross.

### Day 03: Dunedin

Travel along the scenic Otago Peninsula, observe various species of wading birds in their natural habitat. Visit the Royal Albatross Centre, viewing the majestic Royal Albatross from an observatory in their natural environment. Take a guide tour to the Penguin Place to observe the yellow-eye penguins, the most endangered in the world. Take a cruise of the beautiful Otago Harbour, passing by the historic fishing village of Careys Bay and the working port of Port Chalmers (Harbour Cruise in Summer only). Onward to Lamach Castle for a tour of New Zealand's only castle built in 1871.

### Day 04: Dunedin-Queenstown

Depart Dunedin by a scenic train ride on the Taieri Rail Track to Pukerangi; onward by coach to Queenstown via the beautiful Maniototo area, Clyde Dam, Cromwell fruit and wine region, and the beautiful Kawarau Gorge. (B)

Accommodation: Novotel Garden Hotel.

### Day 05: Queenstown

A half day tour will take you to visit the Queenstown Hill where you can have a panoramic view of Queenstown, Lake Waikaitipu and the Remarkable Mountain Range; AJ Hackett Bungy Bridge, birth-place of bungy jumping; Gibbston Valley Wineries and Arrowtown with its well preserved colonial style architecture. (B)

### Day 06: Queenstown-Milford Sound

A scenic journey to Milford, board Milford Mariner for an overnight cruise from the sound to the Tasman Sea. Enjoy the fjord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Dinner will be served on board. You can indulge yourselves in some star-gazing before retiring to your cabin. (B/L/D)

### Day 07: Milford Sound - Queenstown

Depart Milford for Queenstown on a scenic sight-seeing drive via Lumsden and Lake Wakatipu. (B)

### Day 08: Queenstown-Franz Josef

Depart Queenstown this morning and travel along the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea to the Haast Pass. Continue up the West Coast past spectacular mountain ranges and native forests to

the glacier region of Franz Josef. (B/D)

Accommodation: Franz Josef Glacier Hotel.

### Day 09: Franz Josef-Greymouth-Christchurch

Travel north to Greymouth and board the world famous Tranz-Alpine train, ascend through lush beech forests past the alpine village of Arthur's Pass before crossing the spectacular Southern Alps onto Christchurch. (B)

Accommodation: Rendezvous Hotel.

### Day 10: Christchurch-U.S.

Christchurch city tour, visiting the botanical gardens, Museum and Art Centre, the Avon river, Bridge of Remembrance, Then travel to Mona Vale an historic homestead and gardens. Up to the Sign of the Takahe, an historic building providing spectacular views over the city, Canterbury Plains and the Southern Alps, then over the Port Hills to the Port of Lyttleton, through the harbour tunnel to the seaside suburb of Sumner and cave rock before returning to the central city where the tour will conclude.

After the sightseeing visit The International Antarctic Centre, one of Christchurch's leading attractions. The Centre recreates the atmosphere of Antarctica with a Snow and Ice Experience and the Blue Penguin Encounter. (B)

### Day 11: Christchurch - U.S.

Transfer to Christchurch Airport for departure. (B)

### Land Tour Cost person October 2015 - March 2016

Double occupancy	\$2,605
Single occupancy	\$3,712

#### Tour Cost Included:

- 9 nights of hotel accommodation at hotels (or similar class of hotels) specified in the itinerary.
- All tours and transfers specified in the itinerary, including admission to attractions.
- Meals specified in the itinerary.



### Responsibility:

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