

Luxury Boutique South Island

12 days/ 11 nights

Christchurch – Lindis Pass – Wanaka - Queenstown



Highlights:

Christchurch Garden City
Akaroa & Banks Peninsula
Waipara Wine Tour
Mackenzie High Country
Alpine Chalet Wanaka
Queenstown
Milford Sound
Dart River & Wilderness Tour



Driving distances:

Christchurch-Lindis Pass: 350km, 4.5hrs

Lindis Pass-Wanaka: 110km, 2hrs

Wanaka-Queenstown: 70km, 1hr

Day 1

ARRIVAL CHRISTCHURCH

(-/-/D)

You will be welcomed by a Māori Trails representative upon arrival. Private transfer in luxury vehicle to Otahuna Lodge

The rest of day is at your own leisure to enjoy the luxury amenities of Otahuna Lodge

Christchurch & Canterbury



Christchurch, dubbed the “Garden City” is New Zealand’s third largest city and the largest on the South Island. The city is constantly evolving, filled with cutting-edge architecture alongside some of the oldest buildings in New Zealand. Christchurch has almost completed its rebuild after the

devastating 2010 and 2011 earthquakes and is now one of the newest cities in the world filled with street art, innovative projects and a bustling hospitality scene. The city boasts many parks, rivers and a typically English-style layout of central square and parallel streets. Christchurch is surrounded by mountains, the Canterbury Plains, beautiful coastline, and the Port Hills, which provide a dramatic backdrop to the city.

The surrounding Canterbury regions offers picturesque towns, turquoise lakes, powerful glaciers and the sky-piercing alps of the Mackenzie District and Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park.

Overnight:

Otahuna Lodge Christchurch 5*, Suite

Otahuna Lodge Christchurch

Imagine a beguiling Victorian Mansion set in pastoral surroundings against the fluted cone of an ancient Volcano – this is Otahuna Lodge, New Zealand’s largest private historic residence. The property has been rebuilt and restored with lots of love and attention to details and revitalized with luxury accommodation, glorious gardens and sophisticated cuisine. Each of Otahuna’s seven suites is an enclave of refined comfort. Classical ambience is created by ornate fireplaces, carved inglenooks and luxurious fabrics and lavish bathrooms. The included five course chef’s degustation menu is a celebration of the best seasonal New Zealand produce with an emphasis on fresh Otahuna estate-grown offerings.



Day 2

AKAROA & BANKS PENINSULA

(B/L/D)

Today’s tour to Akaroa, the only settlement attempted by the French in New Zealand, passes through the beautiful landscapes of the Banks Peninsula. This region was formed following violent eruptions of volcanos over 6 million years ago and the picturesque town of Akaroa itself sits in an ancient volcano crater. You will travel to Akaroa over the beautiful Banks Peninsula on a high summit route which gives glorious views of farmlands, the Canterbury Plains and the distant Southern Alps as well as remote bays indenting the coastline. From the

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main wharf in Akaroa boats depart for a Nature Cruise on the harbor. See Hector Dolphins, little blue penguins, fur seals and local bird life.

Learn more about the local history from your boat skipper and be awed by the volcanic cliffs that act as sentinels to the harbor entrance. You will have an

opportunity to wander around the charming 175-year-old French harbor side village of Akaroa with its museum of settler's history, art and craft shops and studios before enjoying lunch at an award-winning café. Stops along the way will include, time and weather permitting, Barry's Bay Cheese Factory, Little River Art Gallery and Birdling's Flat.

Overnight:

Otahuna Lodge Christchurch 5*, Suite

Day 3

WAIPARA WINE REGION

(B/L/D)

Today you discover **Christchurch City** and the boutique wine region of the **Waipara**, just outside of Christchurch, with your private guide.

Christchurch reemerges as a fresh and new city after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes. The destruction of several landmark historic buildings such as the Christchurch Cathedral has led to the development of



new city plans like newly designed Avon River waterfront, a bold public art program and innovative use of public space. Experience the beauty of Hagley Park, the Avon River and Botanic Gardens and the recently reopened Regent Street with its distinctive Spanish Mission style architecture. Later in the morning, leave busy Christchurch behind and head north towards the boutique wine region of the Waipara. This region is renowned for producing aromatic whites and Pinot Noir. You will visit a selection of wineries for tastings which will demonstrate why

New Zealand wine, and its makers, are so highly regarded around the world. Canterbury also prides itself in being serious about food and promoting local produce. Lunch at a local winery and tastings are included.

Overnight:

Otahuna Lodge Christchurch 5*, Suite

Day 4

CHRISTCHURCH – LINDIS PASS & AHURIRI VALLEY

(B/-/D)

After breakfast, your private guide will transfer you to Christchurch’s CBD where you pick up your rental car.

Today you experience one of the most scenic day drives one can take in New Zealand. Leave Christchurch on the “Scenic Inland Route” on State Highway 73 & 77 via Waddington to Windwhistle. Here you travel through rich pastures of crop, dairy and sheep farming land – the patchwork quilt of the Canterbury plains. After Windwhistle, cross the Rakaia River and through the scenic Rakaia Gorge. Make sure to stop for a coffee or lunch in quaint Geraldine with its art and craft shops and home to one of New Zealand’s best cheeseries. Continue on State Highway 79 towards Fairlie. After Fairlie, turn right onto State Highway 8 in direction Lake Tekapo, from here the landscape changes as you ascend towards Mackenzie High Country, home to some of the most evocative hill country in the world. The Mackenzie High Country is different from any other region in New Zealand. Unique weather patterns dry out the soil and grasslands, creating its own desert-like landscape. This is a unique and mystical place of outstanding natural beauty, breathtaking backcountry wilderness, surrounded by the majestic Southern Alps.

Lake Tekapo & The Mackenzie High Country



Picturesque by day and night, Lake Tekapo is part of a UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, making it the perfect spot for stargazing. Lake Tekapo gets its signature turquoise color from fine rock-flour, ground by nearby glaciers, which is suspended in the water.

The beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd, built in 1935

for the pioneer families, frames a perfect view of the Southern Alps.

The Mackenzie High Country is different from any other region in New Zealand. Unique weather patterns dry out the soil and grasslands,

creating its own desert-like landscape. This is a unique and mystical place of outstanding natural beauty, breathtaking backcountry wilderness, surrounded by the majestic Southern Alps.

From the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, follow State Highway 8 towards Queenstown. You will soon spot the distinctive milky blue waters of Lake Pukaki, Sir Peter Jackson chose this part of the Southern Alps as the setting for 'Lake Town' in 'The Hobbit: The



Desolation of Smaug' as well as backdrop for major location scenes in all Lord of the Rings- and Hobbit movies. Time permitting, turn off State Highway 8 just after the Visitor Center at Lake Pukaki onto State Highway 80 towards Mt Cook. Stop at "Peter's lookout" for magnificent views of Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain at 3724 meters. Return to State Highway 8 and turn right towards Queenstown. Stop at Omarama for a visit to the famous Omarama Clay Cliffs (private land, donations appreciated). These otherworldly formations are made up of layers of gravel and silt, originally formed by the flow from ancient glacier over a million years ago.

The rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure to enjoy the amenities of The Lindis Lodge

Overnight:

The Lindis Lodge 5*, Lodge Suite



The Lindis is a luxury 5*+ lodge, nestled in the pristine Ahuriri Valley, two hours from Queenstown and four hours from Christchurch, surrounded by 24 square kilometers of private land. This gorgeous modern lodge features a unique architectural design in one of the most stunning

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landscapes in New Zealand. The lodge offers two master suites and three lodge suites, all with sweeping views of the valley, luxurious bathtubs, super king-sized beds and is designed in the same refined aesthetics as the rest of the lodge. The Lindis also offers three luxurious pods for a truly unique experience with the ultimate in privacy escape. The Lindis also operates private and exclusive hiking, biking and buggy tours on its 6'000 acres of pristine high-country farmland.

Day 5

LINDIS PASS & AHURIRI VALLEY

(B/-/D)

Today is at your own leisure to relax or join the activities offered by the team at The Lindis Pass Lodge. Activities include guided walks, guided mountain bike tours, farm tours, fishing, buggy tours and much more!

Overnight:

The Lindis Lodge 5*, Lodge Suite

Day 6

LINDIS PASS & AHURIRI VALLEY – WANAKA

(B/-/D)

From The Lindis Lodge, the road is ascending further into the Lindis Valley towards Lindis Pass, one of four major alpine crossings in New Zealand. Descending on the other side, you arrive in Central Otago, and you will notice a change in scenery and vegetation. Central Otago is known for its vibrant sky colors as well as hot and dry summers and bitter cold winters. After the small historic settlement of Tarras, turn right onto State Highway 8A and travel along Clutha River. Rejoin State Highway 6 just before Wanaka Airport



The rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure to enjoy the amenities of Mahu Whenua Lodge

Overnight:

Mahu Whenua Lodge 5*, Tui Suite

Mahu Whenua Lodge Wanaka

High above Lake Wanaka lies Mahu Whenua Lodge, 20 mins from Wanaka by car or 10 mins by helicopter from Queenstown. Set on 55'000 hectares (or 550 square kilometers!) of private farm land, Mahu Whenua is one of New Zealand's most impressive luxury lodges. Originally built as the Homestead for the owners, the lodge has been completely transformed into a luxury 'home away from home' with a rustic design and modern features, offering total privacy and impressive views of



Day 7

WANAKA

(B/L/D)

Experience the exclusive **Whare Kea Alpine Chalet** on a guided Heli-Hike today.



Whare Kea Chalet is an exclusive-use private luxury chalet located below Dragonfly Peak overlooking Mt Aspiring National Park – access is via helicopter only and therefore you won't experience any crowds! After a highly scenic 15-minute helicopter flight, you arrive at Whare Kea, the spectacular base for the ultimate alpine adventure in an exclusive location high in the mountains. Here you start an easy

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walk with your qualified mountain guide on the slopes of tussock grass dotted with wildflowers and tarns, an almost unreal alpine environment. Enjoy scenic views of the snow-capped peaks and glaciers of Mount Aspiring National Park and listen to your guide's story telling. A luxury yet relaxed picnic lunch will be served at Whare Kea Chalet before you enjoy another 15-minute scenic helicopter flight back into civilization.

Overnight:

Mahu Whenua Lodge 5*, Tui Suite

Day 8

WANAKA – QUEENSTOWN

(B/L/-)

In the morning, short drive from Wanaka to Queenstown via the Crown Range Road, a scenic alternative to State Highway 6 which runs from Wanaka through Kawarau Gorge to Queenstown. Follow the road up to tiny Cardrona, 25km south of Wanaka where gold was discovered in 1862 and today it is one of New Zealand's prime skiing fields. From here the road twists uphill through bald, mica-studded hills to the tussock high-country of Central Otago. At the 1'076 meters pass, a great viewpoint overlooks Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, before it switchbacks down towards State Highway 6 to Queenstown. Make sure you stop in Arrowtown, a beautifully restored historic town and easily the best preserved of New Zealand's Chinese communities, erected when gold was found in 1862.

Gourmet lunch with wine pairing at Amisfield Winery, a rustic-chic winery & single estate vineyard in Lake Hayes, between Arrowtown and Queenstown.

The afternoon is at your leisure to explore Queenstown on your own.

Queenstown & Central Otago

The alpine resort of Queenstown is exciting, sophisticated and fantastically scenic. Queenstown sits on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, one of the clearest and coldest lakes in the world, captivated by the majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains and



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rivers. Queenstown has also been dubbed as the Adventure Capital of the world and with this title comes a plethora of adrenaline-inducing, heart stopping and hair-raising activities. The region around Queenstown is characterized by jagged mountains, deep canyons, wild cascading rivers, crystal-clear lakes, rainforest, tussock grassland and fresh mountain air.

Central Otago' scenery is wild and untamed. Barren brown mountains, historic gold mining towns and dry hot summers mixed with frigid winters make Central Otago a commanding forceful land. In the 1860's this was a place of gold but today that gold is wine. Pinot Noir, the most fickle of grape varieties, excels in these southernmost vineyards and most of the wineries offer tastings and guided tours, some are home to world-class fine dining establishments

Overnight:

Eichardt's Private Hotel Queenstown 5*, Lake View Suite

*A true Queenstown icon in a historic building, **Eichardt's Private Hotel** reflects contemporary provincial elegance designed by Virginia Fisher. This small luxury hotel is situated on a premium lakefront position in the heart of Queenstown. The 7 Suites, 4 Apartments and the Penthouse are super-chic with an air of refined exclusivity.*



Day 9

MILFORD SOUND

(B/PL/-)

A taxi will pick you from your central Queenstown hotel and brings you to Queenstown Airport's general aviation center. After check-in completion, your pilot will give you a pre-flight briefing on the route and scenic highlights likely to be encountered. These include the famous Skippers Canyon, the Paradise region and the Donne Glacier and many other awe-inspiring features. Your 35 minutes flight concludes with an overflight of the fiord of Milford Sound. Upon landing, your pilot will personally escort you to the cruise terminal and complete the check-in for your scenic cruise. You then take to the water for a 1 hour 45-minute boat cruise to marvel at towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic Mitre Peak. We have chosen one of the smaller and family run vessels for you to maximize your experience in this truly stunning part of New Zealand. Get close to waterfalls and vibrant rainforest and keep an eye out for wildlife including fur seals, dolphins and yellow-crested penguins. Following your cruise, your return flight back to Queenstown takes in many of the pristine alpine lakes and waterfalls that Fiordland National Park is recognized for, including the Sutherland Falls. After landing in Queenstown, taxi will transport you back to your hotel. Total duration approximately 4 hours.



Overnight:

Eichardt's Private Hotel Queenstown 5*, Lake View Suite

Day 10

QUEENSTOWN & DART RIVER

(B/L/-)

Enjoy a day of personal exploration through one of New Zealand's most spectacular regions; from the history-rich gold rush town of Arrowtown to the vast wilderness of Glenorchy and Paradise. Wander through the historic cobblestoned streets of Arrowtown, a township with a vivid history. From here experience a spectacular drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu towards Glenorchy, recently recognized as 'one of the most beautiful drives in the world. Stop at the famous Bennet's Bluff lookout for sweeping views across Lake Wakatipu. After lunch, embark on the exhilarating Dart River jet boat venturing deep into the world-renowned Mount Aspiring National Park. Enjoy a unique combination of breathtaking landscapes and a thrilling ride as you explore the braided, glacier-fed Dart River. Disembark and your guide will talk you through the region's rich history and Maori legends and wander amongst ancient beech forests. On the way back to Queenstown, take a leisurely stroll around beautiful and historic Bob's Cove.



Overnight:

Eichardt's Private Hotel Queenstown 5*, Lake View Suite

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Day 11

QUEENSTOWN

(B/-/-)

Today is at your own leisure to relax and explore everything that Queenstown has to offer. Contact us for additional activities in- and around Queenstown, including guided hikes, scenic helicopter flights, wine tours or a guided Queenstown art tour



Overnight:

Eichardt's Private Hotel Queenstown 5*, Lake View Suite

Day 12

QUEENSTOWN DEPARTURE

(B/-/-)

After breakfast, short self-drive to Queenstown Airport and return of your rental