



OFFICIAL
ACCOMMODATION
& TRAVEL PROVIDER
FOR:



Pre/Post Touring Suggestion

Coast to Coast Tour (based on Meri's personal favourites)

Day 1-2: Christchurch

Brimming with street art, innovative architecture and progressive thinking, Christchurch is visibly rising back to greatness. Witnessing the modern rebirth of New Zealand's oldest city is reason enough to visit.

The 30-hectare (74-acre) Botanic Gardens are a truly splendid celebration of the city's gardening heritage, from English herbaceous borders to native sections and glasshouses of subtropical and desert specimens. Considered one of the top botanical gardens in the world, the area is enclosed within a loop of the Avon River as it winds through the 160-hectare (500-acre) Hagley Park. The park also includes a golf course, playing fields, tennis courts and a duck pond.

Enjoy a journey in style through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre on board their beautifully restored heritage Trams, one of Christchurch's leading attractions, exploring a little further afield from atop the Port Hills or out on the Banks Peninsula with towns such as Akaroa, Diamond Harbour and Little River full of local food and cultural delights.



Christchurch Tram

Day 3: Christchurch to Dunedin

Leaving Christchurch, you will cross the vast Canterbury Plains as you head South, crossing many braided rivers that start their life as glacial melt water high in the Southern Alps. New Zealand's longest bridge at Rakaia crosses such an example.

Enroute visit the small coastal town of Oamaru. Experience the Victorian Precinct which exists in the heart of the town and dates back to the 1860s. It was the focal point for trade for the town that has been beautifully restored to its original splendour. You can also pay a visit to Whitestone City, a great recreation of the area in its heyday with models, sets, dioramas and plenty of information and insight to share.

Make a quick stop at the iconic Moeraki Boulders. These boulders are made of a unique type of mudstone, they are large spherical-like rocks that sit on the shores of the quiet Moeraki Boulders Beach on the East Coast. Their sheer size and shape have captivated locals since the time of the first Maori settlers who incorporated them into oral legend.

Continue along the coast to Dunedin.

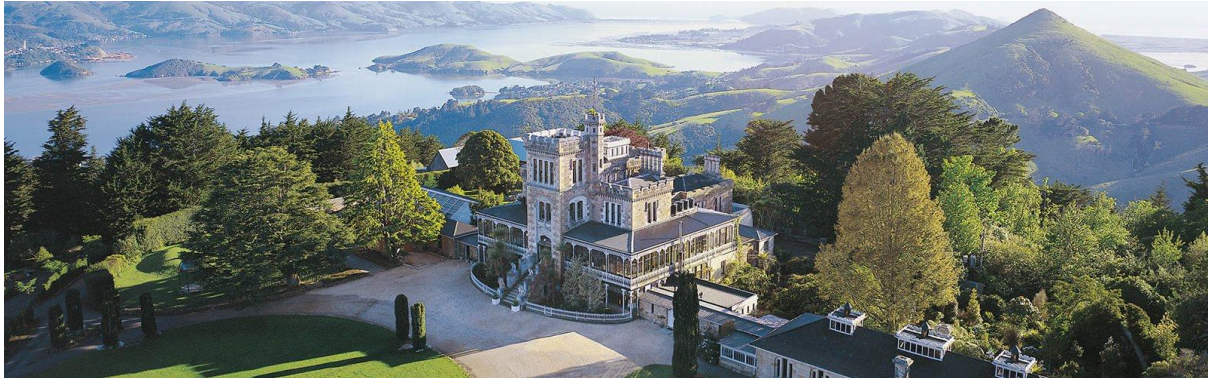


Moeraki Boulders

Day 4: Dunedin

Tucked into a sheltered harbour on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, Dunedin is a city rich in heritage, renowned for its wildlife and distinctly quirky character. Discover an intriguing mix of vibrant urban culture, wildly beautiful places and exceptional local cuisine.

See the world's only mainland nesting place for the Northern Royal Albatross. NZ fur seals also breed here and the impressive NZ Sealions may be seen on sandy beaches. Often seen are other albatross species, petrels, penguins, dolphins and more. You can also take a tour of Larnach Castle, one of Dunedin's great landmarks. Enjoy the history and superb craftsmanship of New Zealand's only castle. Climb to the parapets for 360 degree views of the Otago Peninsula and explore the stunning gardens of international significance.



Larnach Castle

Day 5: Dunedin to Queenstown

The scenic drive between Dunedin and Queenstown offers the opportunity to see a range of exciting and fascinating sights, such as the strangely shaped Elephant Rocks of the lush Waitaki Valley, and the historic shipwrecks of Otago Bay. Travel through the famous vineyards of Cromwell and Bannockburn, as well as through the small historic settlements that formed during the height of the Otago gold rush. The scenic Lake Dunstan, meanwhile, offers the chance to go jet skiing while keen anglers will want to visit Clutha River, a popular spot for trout and salmon fishing.



Bannockburn

Day 6-7: Queenstown

Although celebrated as New Zealand's 'adventure capital' Queenstown offers far more than a fast paced action-packed holiday. Settled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu beneath a soaring panorama of the Remarkables Mountain Range, this alpine town is surrounded by a plethora of historic, gastronomic and scenic wonders. Head down the Gibbston Valley wine trail to sample some of the region's best Pinot or catch a ride on the 100 year old Steamship - the TSS Earnslaw - to Walter Peak Station for dinner and a farm tour. Check out nearby historic Arrowtown and enhance your experience with a four-wheel drive trip to Macetown. Take a leisurely lakeside stroll or ride the gondola for breath-taking views. Venture further afield into the Fiordland National Park or head over the Crown Range to Wanaka. Drive through Lord Of The Rings country - or for the really fanatic, jump aboard one of many dedicated LOTR tours. And after all of that - if you do really want the adrenaline rush Queenstown is known for, take your pick from the Shotover Jet, Nevis Bungy, Canyon Swing, Zipline, Luge or White Water rafting.



Queenstown

If you have some spare time, why not take a day trip to Milford Sound. Described by Rudyard Kipling as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. Breath-taking in any weather, the fiord's cliffs rise vertically from the dark waters, mountain peaks scrape the sky and waterfalls cascade downwards from as high as 1000 metres. When it rains in Milford Sound, and it often does, those waterfalls multiply with magnificent effect.

Boat cruises – during the day or overnight – are an excellent way to experience the Sound. Adventurous types might also like to head out sea kayaking, diving or flightseeing. To learn more about the local marine life, visit the underwater observatory at Harrison Cove and marvel at the black coral, 11-legged sea stars and delicate anemones.



Milford Sound

Day 8: Queenstown to Franz Josef

Franz Josef Glacier was first explored in 1865 by geologist Julius von Haast, who named it after the Austrian emperor. The glacier is five kilometres from the town of the same name, and a 1.5 hour walk will take you to within 750m of its terminal face.

If you want to actually make contact with the glacier, take a guided ice walk or a heli-hike. Aerial sightseeing is another option.

There is a range of natural attractions in close proximity to Franz Josef Glacier Village. Lose yourself in the rainforests, waterfalls, and lakes.

In the town you will find plenty of places to stay and eat, or relax at the Glacier Hot Pools or explore the wildlife centre. At nearby Lake Mapourika, you can take a kayak tour or rent a stand-up paddle board.



Franz Josef Glacier

Day 9: Franz Josef to Greymouth

Once the site of the Maori pa Mawhera (which means 'wide spread river mouth', in reference to the town's river mouth location), Greymouth is considered the heart of the West Coast. It is the largest town on the South Island's west coast and the arrival point for the TranzAlpine from Christchurch.

The area has a history of gold mining, which can be appreciated at the local museum and nearby Shantytown. Local brewery Monteith's is something of a New Zealand legend; it runs tours that include a tasting session.

Around the town you will find galleries specialising in pounamu (New Zealand jade). Other Greymouth entertainments include sea fishing, fly fishing, and adventure activities like rafting and caving.

The 2-hour Point Elizabeth Walk passes through a scenic reserve and old gold mining sites. It begins 12km north of Greymouth at Rapahoe Beach, which also happens to be a favourite swimming spot during summer.



Hokitika Gorge

Day 10: Greymouth to Christchurch

Depart Greymouth on the famous TranzAlpine train which takes you through some of New Zealand's most dramatic scenery. On the way, you will pass through the wildly beautiful West Coast, before crossing the Southern Alps, over a series of viaducts to the dizzy heights of Arthur's Pass and passing through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains.



TranzAlpine

For further information contact the team at Orbit Groups & Events – Auckland Division

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