

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND



MILFORD SOUND/PIOPIOTAHU • QUEENSTOWN • HAWKE'S BAY • ROTORUA

THE SOUTHERN DRIFT

CHRISTCHURCH | ARTHUR'S PASS | FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER/KĀ ROIMATA O HINE HUKATERE | QUEENSTOWN | MILFORD SOUND/PIOPIOTAHĪ | TE ANAU | DUNEDIN

12
DAYS



Milford Sound Overnight Cruise

Discover New Zealand on this Inspiring Journey through the natural treasures of the South Island. From the still waters of Milford Sound/Piopiotaĥi and snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps to the rolling hills of Central Otago, delve into the beauty of landscapes that have remained unchanged for millennia.

IMMERSE

Delve deep into the natural wonders of Milford Sound/Piopiotaĥi, with specialist nature guides sharing their knowledge of this mystical landscape.

INDULGE

Join a behind-the-scenes tour at Dunedin Craft Distillers, OCHO Chocolate, and embark on a culinary discovery of Queenstown.

EXPLORE

Journey down the Haast River in a fully enclosed jet boat, and discover the remarkable glacial valley where temperate rainforest thrives.

RELAX

Take a dip in the Franz Josef/Waiau local geothermal hot pools and relax and rejuvenate after a day of discovering the South's natural wonders.

Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch

On arrival in Christchurch you will be transferred by private car to your hotel. Spend some time at leisure to relax or explore on your own. This evening, join your Journey Director for a Welcome Reception with local wines and canapés.

HOTEL Hotel Montreal

Day 2: Christchurch – TranzAlpine – Franz Josef/Waiau

It's all aboard the TranzAlpine train. Rated as one of the world's great scenic railway journeys, you'll travel in comfort across the Canterbury Plains through the Southern Alps. From Arthur's Pass, visit the small town of Hokitika. Later we continue to Franz Josef/Waiau. Your eco-friendly accommodation is set amid native bush, with an emphasis on relaxation and rejuvenation. This evening, why not enjoy Franz Josef's/Waiau local geothermal hot pools?

HOTEL Te Waonui Forest Retreat, 2 nights

MEALS Breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 3: Franz Josef/Waiau (Relaxed Start)

An experienced local guide will host you on a walking tour in one of the most pristine places on Earth. They will share their knowledge of the glacier region, leaving you with a whole new appreciation for Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukaterere. Later, you may want to get up close to the glaciers on an optional helicopter flight.

MEALS Breakfast

Day 4: Franz Josef/Waiau – Arrowtown – Queenstown

This morning it's time for an adventure as we travel in a purpose-built fully enclosed river jet boat and journey down the Haast River. After a lunch stop at Makarora we head to Queenstown, taking time to stop to explore the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown. The adventure-capital awaits you for your extended 3 night stay, and you'll have the opportunity to explore it during an orientation tour when you arrive.

HOTEL Hotel St. Moritz, 3 nights

MEALS Breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 5: Queenstown at Leisure

Today is at leisure to discover Queenstown – your way.

MEALS Breakfast

Day 6: Queenstown at Leisure

Make the most of your extended stay in Queenstown. Why not sit back and enjoy a peaceful cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard New Zealand's oldest steamship, the TSS Earnslaw, to Walter Peak Station. Tonight, enjoy a Local Dining Experience at one of Queenstown's exclusive restaurants.

MEALS Breakfast, Local Dining Experience

Day 7: Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound/Piopiotaĥi

Travel south along Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau. Stop for lunch at a local farm, where you will hear stories of life on the land and meet a cuddly animal or two. Continue through the rainforest of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Fiordland National Park, sighting glaciers and mountain ranges onto the amazing Mirror Lake before driving through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel. Spend the night aboard the iconic Milford Mariner and wake up in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and diverse wildlife such as seals, penguins and dolphins. Hear from the specialist nature guide on board or choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or small boat. Enjoy exclusive access to the Fiord once the day trippers depart the sound.

HOTEL Milford Mariner

MEALS Breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine

Day 8: Milford Sound/Piopiotaĥi – Invercargill

We leave the majestic Fiordland National Park for the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago through to Invercargill, a commercial hub full of grand architecture and gardens. A city obsessed with motoring history, there are tributes to speed legends across town, from Burt Munro to Bill Richardson and his shed full of classic vehicles. Enjoy a tour of the largest private collection of its type in the world. Later this afternoon you will have some free time to explore this city, and an evening free to seek out local hot spots.

HOTEL The Langlands, 2 nights

MEALS Breakfast

Day 9: Invercargill (Stewart Island)

Board a ferry at Bluff and cruise to Stewart Island, known by locals as Rakiura the Māori reference to Glowing Skies. It has been described as rugged, pristine and tranquil – and rightly so as 97% of the island is designated National Park and Conservation Estate. This means the birdlife, native flora & fauna and other natural environmental features have been able to thrive. You will gain an entertaining insight into New Zealand's southernmost community and learn about the history and environment of Stewart Island on a Village and Bays tour. Later you will join a leisurely cruise, including a picnic lunch, around Paterson Inlet that will take you past unique places including Acker's Cottage before docking at Ulva Island to admire the bird life and native flora. Travel back to Invercargill for a relaxed dinner.

MEALS Breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine

Day 10: Invercargill – Dunedin

Enjoy a relaxed start before departing for Dunedin. On a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience visit Dunedin Craft Distillers, who produce botanical spirits from surplus bread and bakery products that would otherwise go to landfill. Venture just next door for a special Chocolate tasting journey at OCHO Chocolate.

HOTEL Distinction Dunedin

MEALS Breakfast, Dinner with wine

Day 11: Dunedin – Christchurch

Travel up the east coast of the South Island via Oamaru and Timaru to Christchurch for a sightseeing tour. This evening, toast your tour at a Celebration Dinner with your new-found friends and Journey Director.

HOTEL Hotel Montreal

MEALS Breakfast, Celebration Dinner

Day 12: Farewell from Christchurch

Say farewell to your fellow travellers as we transfer you by private car to Christchurch Airport for your onward flight.

MEALS Breakfast

DEPARTURES

2023	2024	2025
Oct 09	Jan 01, 08, 29	Jan 06, 27
Nov 06	Feb 05	Feb 03
	Mar 04	Mar 03
	Oct 07	
	Nov 04	

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and definite departure dates visit inspiringjourneys.com/nzsi or contact your local travel agent. A limited number of single rooms are also available.

INCLUSIONS

- Small group (average 16 guests)
- 6+ Unforgettable experiences
- 20 included meals
- 11 Nights premium accommodation

NOTES

NZSI: CHRISTCHURCH RETURN

- Flights are not included in holiday price.
- Return private vehicle airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.
- Flight Information:
Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
Day 12 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch Airport

