



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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Southern Wonders

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

We love leading you to NZ's top attractions. But we also give you the freedom to discover at leisure. Ask us about Queenstown's best restaurants, or enjoy an unplanned adventure.

📍 Iconic Sites

The TranzAlpine train ride has been described as one of the most scenic cross-country jaunts in the world. But don't take our word for it.

🌿 Sustainable Travel

Dark Sky Project is committed to preserving our night skies by connecting manuhiri (visitors) to the relevance of the night sky via scientific and cultural experiences.

🏞 Natural Wonders

The Dunedin coast dials up the natural drama, its wind-carved cliffs and beaches attracting wild seabirds, sea lions and penguins.



Mirror Lakes

9 DAYS

10 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 02, 23	Jan 01, 08, 15, 22, 29	Jan 06, 13, 20, 27
Nov 20, 27	Feb 05, 12, 19, 26	Feb 03, 10, 17, 24
Dec 18, 25	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25	Mar 03, 10, 17, 24
	Apr 01, 08	
	Sep 02, 30	
	Oct 14, 21, 28	
	Nov 04, 18, 25	
	Dec 02, 09, 16, 23, 30	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit atkings.com/lrqc or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

8 Full buffet breakfasts B 1 Highlight Dinner HD
3 Dinners D 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport

Day 9 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price

1 Welcome to Christchurch

You don't have to arrive in Christchurch early, but we recommend you do – this South Island city has some of New Zealand's most innovative architecture, not to mention forward-thinking restaurants and bars. You may choose to spot them aboard the Christchurch Tram, linking some of the city's most legendary attractions. Tonight, it's time to meet your Travel Director and travelling companions for a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Ibis.**

2 Christchurch – Franz Josef/Waiau

Your South Island New Zealand Tour starts on a literal high as you jump aboard the TranzAlpine train, crossing the Canterbury Plains towards the Southern Alps and Arthur's Pass. This is one of the world's most scenic rail experiences, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. At the other end of the line is Hokitika, the home of pounamu (native greenstone or jade). Just when you thought your day couldn't get any better, Franz Josef town twinkles on the horizon. This afternoon, you may choose to fly over Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

3 Franz Josef/Waiau – Queenstown

Over the Haast Pass, alpine drama awaits. The Southern Lakes deserve their name: there are almost more waterways here than you can count. First up there's lovely Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Followed by oh-so-blue Lake Hawea and Lake Dunstan, where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. As tempting as it is to linger in Arrowtown's movie-set-like streets, lined with trees and character-filled boutiques, Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables await in Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

4 Queenstown Free Time

The adventure capital of New Zealand doesn't disappoint when it comes to activities that are fast and furious. Take your pick, you could explore the natural drama of Skippers Canyon. Prefer life at a more leisurely pace? Opt to step onto a Lord of the Rings filming locations or sip your way through surrounding vineyards. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in

time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner and farm show. **B HD**

5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Nature rules today as you motor from the Mirror Lakes through the Cleddau Valley. But this is just a teaser of what's to come: World Heritage listed Milford Sound. A Milford Sound cruise across this dreamy expanse will give you goosebumps, its string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins and fur seals – they're a common sight here. The road back through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and gin-clear rivers, carving up the countryside en route to Te Anau. And just when you thought things couldn't get any more magical, nestled on the edge of the South Island's largest lake, Te Anau is the perfect place to savour some peace and relaxation after the spectacle of the day. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

6 Te Anau – Dunedin

The South Island's biggest lake is a blissful place for an invigorating morning walk. If it doesn't set your pulse racing, than your outlook of rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep surely will. This pastoral countryside surrounds the city of Dunedin. While away the afternoon in atmospheric art-lined alleys or sipping a lager or two in Speight's Brewery (a national institution). Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

7 Dunedin – Omarama

Did you know that Dunedin takes its name from the Scottish word for Edinburgh? The city nods to its European heritage at Larnach Castle – the only one of its kind in the country – as well as through the grounds of Otago University and along the city's main George Street. Explore at your leisure, before venturing on to New Zealand's oldest public gardens and grand limestone buildings at Omarama. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

8 Omarama – Christchurch

If there's a lake with a more vivid turquoise colour than Tekapo, we're yet to see it. It's made even more dramatic by snow-capped mountains, the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd and atmospheric towns that surround. Your tour of the Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate guides, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe. Back on earth, you're becoming reacquainted with Christchurch, your in-the-know Travel Director pointing out the city's miraculous transformation over the last decade. Local spirit is strong here. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

9 Farewell from Christchurch

If you feel like you've only seen the tip of the South Island's iceberg, you'd be correct. This beguiling part of the country could keep travel enthusiasts entertained for eons. Thankfully, we have more itineraries – ask your Travel Director and start planning your next trip to New Zealand. **B**

