



**FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL**



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

New Zealand  
**Coach Holidays**  
2024 / 25



20 Seat Business Class or 32 Seat Premium Economy



**TOUR CODE** UGPTOS11

**STYLE** Ultimate Small Group  
**COACH** 20 seat Business Class  
**ACCOMMODATION** 4.5 star

**STARTS** Christchurch  
**FINISHES** Christchurch

**GUARANTEED DEPARTURES**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Nov 2	Jan 28
	Mar 19



Experience wilderness, wildlife and unique attractions in ultimate style

# 11 Day Ultimate Top of the South Island

No hidden extras

## PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Akaroa Harbour Nature Cruise
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Wilderness Gallery Hokitika
- Monteith's Brewing Co. Tasting
- Nelson Classic Car Museum
- Abel Tasman Guided Walk and Cruise\*
- Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre\*
- Marlborough Winery and Tasting
- Queen Charlotte Sound Cruise to Furneaux Lodge
- Kaikōura Museum
- International Antarctic Centre
- City sights tour of Christchurch and Nelson

\*Guided tour.

## COACH FEATURES

- 20 Business Class seats on a full-size coach
- 2 door access; dedicated seat side storage with tray table; cup holder
- Restroom; daily onboard Wi-Fi allowance

## EXPERIENCE

- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Professional Coach Captain
- 10 nights 4.5 star accommodation
- 3 two night stays
- Hotel portering
- 1 rail journey
- 3 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Optional Activities
- Ultimate Documentation Pack

## MEALS

- 10 cooked breakfasts
- 7 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 1 specialty dinner: Intimate Farewell Dinner, selected beverages, Christchurch
- 5 specialty lunches: Kingfisher Restaurant, Lake Brunner; Monteith's Brewing Co., Greymouth; Abel Tasman lunch, Abel Tasman National Park; Dodson Street Beer Garden, Blenheim; Furneaux Lodge, Queen Charlotte Sound
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

Day 1: Dinner not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

## Itinerary and Hotels

(B) Breakfast. (SL) Specialty Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner

### DAY 1: Arrive Christchurch (D)

On arrival into Christchurch you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink as you meet your travelling companions.

**Hotel** Sudima Christchurch City (2 nights)

### DAY 2: Christchurch - Akaroa - Christchurch (B)

After an introductory city sights tour, enjoy a scenic drive to the historic French village of Akaroa, with time to wander through the charming galleries and craft stores. This afternoon set off on a Nature Cruise in the hope of spotting the rare Hector's Dolphin and keep an eye out for penguins and other sea birds. Following your cruise, return to Christchurch where the evening is free to dine at one of the city's many restaurants.

### DAY 3: Christchurch - Moana - Hokitika (B,SL,D)

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges before descending through the Otira Tunnel

to Moana, on the banks of picturesque Lake Brunner. Enjoy lunch at Kingfisher Restaurant, before travelling to the Brunner Mine Site, the location of the 1896 mine explosion. This afternoon in the coastal town of Hokitika, visit a local gallery, for the opportunity to pick up a gift or souvenir.

**Hotel** Beachfront Hotel Hokitika (Ocean View Room)

### DAY 4: Hokitika - Punakaiki (B,SL,D)

Today, take in the natural beauty of the Hokitika Gorge on a short walk descending through the hardwood forest that will lead you to a swing bridge which crosses the Hokitika River. Continue north to Greymouth, home of Monteith's Brewing Co. where you will sample locally brewed beers over lunch. This afternoon travel along the Great Coast Road to the world-famous Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Punakaiki (Superior Room)

### DAY 5: Punakaiki - Nelson (B,D)

Journey north along the coast to Tauranga Bay and Cape Foulwind, named by Captain Cook in 1770 when he encountered



Set off on your Nature Cruise from the historic French Village of Akaroa for the chance to see the rare Hector's dolphins and other marine life.

### SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS AND WALKS

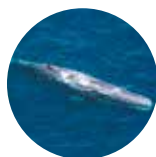
- Historic French Village of Akaroa
- Lake Brunner
- Brunner Mine Site
- Hokitika Gorge 🐾
- Punakaiki Pancake Rocks 🐾
- Cape Foulwind walkway 🐾
- Buller Gorge
- Seaside town of Kaiteriteri
- Abel Tasman National Park 🐾
- Marlborough Wine Region
- Marlborough Sounds
- Coastal town of Kaikōura

### FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED

Tour includes a number of short walks of up to 1 hour that require a moderate level of fitness. The walks are scenic and not excessive but can include slight inclines and uneven surfaces. Ensure you feel comfortable with this level of fitness before booking.

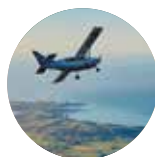


## Optional Activities



### OCEAN SAFARI TOUR

Arguably the best scenic views in New Zealand! Enjoy a scenic helicopter flight above the Kaikōura Peninsula and experience a mountain landing with 360 degrees of breath taking panoramic views.



### WHALE WATCHING TOUR

View whales and dolphins in their natural environment and gain an insight into their world. From the comfort of a high-wing aircraft you will enjoy unimpeded viewing and photo opportunities at every turn.

nasty weather. A short walk along the rocky headland will showcase the rugged coastline and sea life often on show amongst the rocks. Travel inland via the Buller Gorge and Murchison to Nelson, one of the sunniest cities in New Zealand. This afternoon enjoy a visit to the Nelson Classic Car Museum where you will marvel at an incredible collection of iconic cars. This is followed by an orientation tour of the city.

**Hotel** Rutherford Hotel (Premium Room. 2 nights)

### DAY 6: Nelson - Abel Tasman National Park - Nelson (B,SL) 🐾

Travel to Kaiteriteri, gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park and join a cruise along the parks' picturesque coastline. At Anchorage Bay, a picnic lunch will be provided. Re-join your coach and depart for Nelson via the vineyards. This evening is free for you to dine at one of the local restaurants in town.

### DAY 7: Nelson - Blenheim (B,SL,D)

Today travel via Havelock and the wine-growing region of Marlborough. Visit the Omas Aviation Heritage Centre, home to one of the largest private collections of

WW1 Aircraft, brought to life in sets created by the internationally acclaimed WingNut Films and Weta Workshop. Head back into town where you will enjoy lunch at a local Blenheim beer garden before a short drive to an iconic Marlborough Winery where you will experience a personalised wine tasting. You will taste award-winning wines and enjoy exploring the beautiful Marlborough vineyards.

**Hotel** Chateau Marlborough (2 nights)

### DAY 8: Blenheim - Marlborough Sounds - Blenheim (B,SL)

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before travelling to Picton where time is available to explore this picturesque port. Cruise from Picton Marina to the stunning Queen Charlotte Sound, while enjoying informative commentary on this remarkable region, enroute to Furneaux Lodge. At Furneaux Lodge a delicious lunch will be served followed by time to enjoy the peaceful surroundings. There is access to kayaks and short walks around the property.

On the return cruise to Picton a cheese platter featuring local produce is served accompanied by a glass of Marlborough wine, the perfect end to your Marlborough

Sounds adventure. Board the coach for the short journey back to Blenheim where the evening is free to dine locally.

### DAY 9: Blenheim - Kaikōura (B,D)

Farewell the Marlborough region and journey to Kaikōura. Visit the Kaikōura Museum, which features an exhibition depicting the impact of the 2016 earthquake. This afternoon you may like to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the coastline to see the many species of whales that migrate through this area.

**Hotel** Sudima Kaikōura (Ocean View Room)

### DAY 10: Kaikōura - Christchurch (B,SD)

Depart Kaikōura and head to Christchurch to visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This evening reminisce on the memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner which includes selected beverages.

**Hotel** Sudima Christchurch City

### DAY 11: Depart Christchurch (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable NZ holiday.