

## ITINERARY

Accommodations may vary based on departure date.

9 Days Casual Hotels\*

### DAYS 1-2

Tramp through the spectacularly beautiful South Island | Hike to a Maori sacred site, Kura Tawhiti, a gorgeous set of limestone outcroppings | As you ascend Bealey Spur, soak up grand views of snowcapped peaks and the braided Waimakariri River | Behold beech forests and alpine lakes as you ascend to a sheep-station hut | Bird-lovers rejoice: look for tiny rifleman and gregarious alpine parrots called kea.

Accommodations

Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass

Arthur's Pass

A welcoming mountain retreat and high-country sheep station surrounded by a beech forest and frosted peaks.

### DAY 3

Climb through a mountain beech forest to a magical alpine garden in a glacier-hewn valley | Mighty mountains, dividing east and west, tower above as you make your way to the summit of Arthur's Pass—the striking beauty of the area is undeniable | Take in the views as you head south along the incredible West Coast to Franz Josef, the gateway town to "Glacier Country" and the Southern Alps, New Zealand's highest mountain range | Settle into our decadent retreat, situated next to Glacier Hot Pools.

Accommodations

Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Franz Josef

A serene hotel that provides for every comfort—even offering a pillow menu. (spa)

#### DAYS 4-5

Hike to the toe of Franz Josef Glacier, one of the few glaciers in the world that descends into a temperate rain forest | Swap rain forest for pounding surf at Munro Beach and search for pounamu, the native jade | Explore the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage area—choose hiking, swimming or kayaking with a naturalist on Lake Moeraki.

#### Accommodations

Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki

Lake Moeraki

This riverside lodge offers cozy guest rooms and excellent cuisine in a remote rain forest setting.

#### DAYS 6-7

Stroll the shore of Lake Hawea and visit the bustling town of Wanaka | Experience jaw-dropping Milford Sound, New Zealand's most famous fjord, on an optional excursion | Discover the stunning landscape of the surrounding Alps and catch a spectacular view of Lake Wanaka | Wind through a dazzling valley and traverse a swing bridge to the Rob Roy hanging glacier—a quintessential New Zealand hiking experience!

#### Accommodations

Edgewater Resort Hotel

Lake Wanaka

On the shore of Lake Wanaka with views of the magnificent Southern Alps. (spa)

#### DAYS 8-9

Explore the Central Otago wine region, famous for producing exceptional Pinot Noir | Amble among the Gibbston Valley vineyards and relish a tasting of local vintages | Discover picturesque Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure capital, situated near scenic Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by breathtaking views of the Remarkables mountain range.

#### Accommodations

Millbrook Resort

Arrowtown

Set on a sprawling estate, this luxurious retreat offers style, tranquility and mountain views. (pool, spa)