

Day 1

On arrival at Auckland International Airport you will be met by a representative of Southern Crossings who will transfer you by private vehicle to Auckland Domestic Airport prior to your onward flight (approximately a 10 minute journey).

Fly Auckland to Nelson

Accommodation for three nights in a King Suite including pre dinner drinks, light dinner platter (or return dinner transfers) and breakfast at: Pihopa Retreat, Nelson

Day 2

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your private guide and vehicle to enjoy a hiking tour of Kahurangi National Park.

Kahurangi, meaning 'treasured possession', is New Zealand's second largest national park. Being home to the Mt Arthur range it features some of our oldest rocks, most extensive cave systems, craziest plants, and several of our rarest birds.

The access road to Mount Arthur – the second highest mountain in Kahurangi National Park – climbs to almost 1,000 metres, leading us to the start of our hike. The views on the drive alone are spectacular. The walk starts with a gentle hike through towering beech forest as we climb towards the tree line. During the morning, an ever improving and diverse birdlife becomes apparent, often with Kea, Weka, Bellbirds, the tiny Rifleman, Tomtit, and the fearless Bush Robin entertaining us. Mid-way up, the forest changes dramatically as we cross a mineral belt, into predominantly dragon trees and mountain neinei, the beech tree's here look like Bonzai! This is a hugely interesting forest and quite from another world! Emerging above the beech forest, giant granite slabs are reached offering spectacular 360- degree views over the top of the South Island, a great place for lunch which is included today! The afternoon brings a relaxed return walk (approximately a 7 hour 30 minute duration).

On conclusion of your hike, you will be returned to your accommodation.

Day 3

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your guide to enjoy a leisurely privately guided kayak and hike in the beautiful Abel Tasman National Park (approximately a 10 hour 15 minute duration).

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the breathtaking landscapes of Abel Tasman National Park with our Cruise, Picnic & Walk adventure. Begin your day with a leisurely cruise along the pristine coastline, where turquoise waters meet golden sands. Admire the rugged sea carved cliffs and lush greenery as you relax on deck, listen for birdsong and spot fur seals while we stop alongside Adele Island.

Disembark for a guided walk through the park's well-maintained trails, discovering hidden coves, native flora, and panoramic viewpoints while our skipper prepares a delectable picnic served onboard, featuring local delights and flavours that complement the stunning surroundings. Savour your meal while basking in the coastal breeze and absorbing the natural beauty that surrounds you. In the afternoon, you can relax onboard, enjoy some more short hikes or explore the coastal lagoons by kayak. You will reach Awaroa later in the afternoon.

On conclusion of your excursion, you will be returned to your accommodation

Day 4

Today you will be met at your accommodation by your private driver and vehicle for the journey to Franz Josef with a few short guided walks en route (approximately a 6 hour journey). En route, your guide will make a suitable suggestion for lunch at a local café/restaurant.

Accommodation for two nights in a King Deluxe Room including dinner and breakfast at: Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef

Day 5

This morning, make your way independently to the West Coast Wildlife Centre to report for your excursion (approximately a 5 minute walk from your accommodation).

Enjoy a shared VIP Backstage Pass Tour with a Wildlife Ranger who will show you the incubation and rearing facility where you will learn about the history and successes of the Operation Nest Egg program. Your tour will then include a guided live kiwi spotting experience inside the Nocturnal House. The West Coast Wildlife Centre is the largest Kiwi Captive Rearing facility in the South Island and is helping bring the critically endangered rowi and Haast tokoeka kiwi back from extinction (approximately a 40 minute duration).

On conclusion of your guided tour, return to your accommodation at your leisure (approximately a 5 minute walk).

Today enjoy a shared scenic helicopter flight over two of New Zealand's glaciers. You will land at the head of either the Franz Josef Glacier or Fox Glacier and experience the incredible natural phenomenon of the glacier as it winds slowly down the carved valleys from its origin in the mountains high above you (approximately a 30 minute duration).

On conclusion of your flight, return to your accommodation at your leisure.

While at leisure at Ka Roimata-a-Hinehukatere - Franz Josef we recommend the following optional local experiences:

- Extend the trip above to include the Southern Alps and Mount Cook
- Walk easy paths through the rainforest to several glacier viewing areas
- Luxuriate in your own log fire heated private tub in the rainforest at Waiho Hot Tubs
- About 30 minutes north of Franz Josef is Okarito Lagoon, a beautiful spot for a kayak, and home to many rare native birds including kiwi and the kotuku, a New Zealand species of white heron

Day 6

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your private driver and vehicle for your scenic transfer via the Haast Pass Highway to Wanaka (approximately a 4 hour 15 minute journey).

En route we suggest you take a short detour at Fox Glacier to picturesque Lake Matheson where you can enjoy a pleasant bush walk. If weather conditions are suitable you will experience wonderful bush and mountain reflections in the lake.

On arrival you will be met by your private helicopter for your scenic flight to Minaret Station with a guided hike and gourmet picnic lunch en route.

Accommodation for two nights in a King Alpine Chalet including pre dinner drinks, dinner, breakfast, lunch and beverages at: Minaret Station, Wanaka

Day 7

At the pre arranged time, enjoy your guided hike. Minaret Station has some stunning hiking trails right on the doorstep. The glacial valley floor where the Lodge is located has an elevation of 3,000 feet which is right where the golden Tussock grasses begin to merge with the sub-alpine shrubs and mountain daisy wild flowers. Choosing a hiking trail that winds up the river valley will take you through this native vegetation transition and into the higher hanging basins formed from thousands of years of glaciation. The trails that head down stream follow the Estuary Burn river and soon merge into the native Beech Forest which forms a canopy over much of the valley floor. Your guide is on hand to tailor the hiking to your desired activity level.

While at leisure at Minaret Station we recommend the following optional local experiences (subject to availability – booking prior is recommended):

- Fly to Fiordland by helicopter to see the stunning UNESCO World Heritage listed wilderness area known for its misty rainforests, brooding fiords and soaring mountain peaks
- Additional helicopter tour options include Aoraki Mount Cook, the West Coast or Dusky Sound – where one can retrace the steps of explorer Captain Cook
- Take a guided fishing tour to well stocked backcountry streams and rivers with gin-clear water
- Hike rocky ridge lines, grassy undulating valleys or luscious ancient rainforests
- Mountain bike on purpose-built trails
- Tour the working farm to see sheep, cattle and deer

Day 8

Today depart Minaret Station aboard your private helicopter for your transfer to The Lindis (approximately a 20 minute duration).

Accommodation for two nights in a King Lodge Suite including pre-dinner drinks and all meals at: The Lindis, Ahuriri Valley

Day 9

At the time and location pre arranged with your host, enjoy a privately guided hike.

Leaving from the stables, climb from 750m altitude to 1200m. The walk ends at the boundary of Ben Avon Station with views into Longslip Station and the head of the Avon Burn. Included today is a picnic platter to enjoy during the course of your excursion (approximately a 2 hour duration).

While at leisure at The Lindis Lodge, we recommend the following optional local experiences (subject to availability – booking prior is recommended):

- Take advantage of one of the top ten fly fishing locations in the world, just a short stroll from the lodge
- Explore the rugged countryside on horseback or mountain bike
- Get off-road, exploring the property by 4WD buggy
- Partake in the nightly excursion outdoors to map the stars, constellations, and planets, all gloriously viewable by the naked eye in this International Dark Sky Reserve
- Study the unique flora and fauna of the area with an ecological guide
- Further afield, travel to the azure blue lakes of Pukaki or Tekapo, or head to Aoraki Mount Cook to experience excellent hiking, cruise the glacier-filled Lake Tasman, or fly to a remote glacier for a walk across the icy landscape
- Soar over the beautiful Waitaki Valley in a glider

Day 10

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your private driver and vehicle and transferred to your accommodation in Te Anau (approximately a 4 hour and 20 minute journey).

En route, your guide will make a suitable suggestion for lunch at a local café/restaurant.

Accommodation for two nights in a King Lodge Room including dinner and breakfast at: Fiordland Lodge, Te Anau

Day 11

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your guide for your full day small group Milford Sound excursion.

From Te Anau travel along the spectacular Milford Road with your local, experienced nature guide, eager to share their stories, knowledge and passion for the area, bringing the mysteries of Fiordland to life.

On reaching Milford Sound, join a shared cruise of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea. The cruise provides excellent viewing opportunities to include waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. The Milford Discovery Centre option is available as an add on.

On completion of the cruise, you will rejoin your guide and begin your overland tour. Enjoy a series of short walks in a range of different environments. There is the opportunity to access Gertrude Valley, Lake Gunn, Marian Gantry, the historic Hollyford Museum and Humbolt Falls, alongside the more traditional stops of Mirror Lakes, and The Chasm. The day is tailored to the weather, seasonal highlights and getting off the beaten path. Many walks are included in the day, ranging in length from 5- 30 minutes suitable for all abilities and ages. This ensures clients get to enjoy the best wilderness and wildlife opportunities available in this incredible, World Heritage Site. Also included is a wilderness teabreak with complimentary tea, coffee, and home style biscuits, and a picnic lunch (approximately a 9 hour duration).

On conclusion, you will be returned to your accommodation.

Day 12

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your private driver and vehicle and transferred to your accommodation in Glenorchy (approximately a 3 hour journey).

Accommodation for three nights in a King Lodge Room including pre dinner drinks, dinner and breakfast at: Blanket Bay, Glenorchy

Day 13

While at leisure at Blanket Bay, we recommend the following optional local experiences:

- Visit one of many surreal film sites used in The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit, and other movies
- View the beautiful alpine and farmland scenery of Glenorchy on horseback
- Stroll the Glenorchy Boardwalk, where the mountainscape reflects on the water. Look for native birds while crossing boardwalks over wetlands

Alternatively relax and enjoy the gracious surroundings of Blanket Bay directly overlooking Lake Wakatipu and the mountains beyond. Enjoy the facilities available at the lodge such as the games room, self service bar, pool table, TV lounge, cards tables and shuffle board, fully equipped gym, steam rooms and spa, outdoor lap pool, private jetty with boat and mountain bikes and canoes.

This afternoon, make your way to Blanket Bay's jetty to meet your shared jet boat.

Depart aboard your shared jet boat for your excursion on the Dart River.

Enjoy your shared jetboat for the journey deep into the heart of the world-renowned Mt Aspiring National Park, where myth, heritage and fantasy come to life. You'll experience a unique combination of breath-taking scenery and an exhilarating jet boat ride as you travel up the braided, glacier-fed rivers. Your guides give you their authentic touch, talking about the area's rich history, the Greenstone Trail and countless Maori legends. Time and conditions permitting, the guide will stop the boat so that you may enjoy a brief walk (approximately a 2 hour duration).

On conclusion, you will be returned to Blanket Bay's jetty.

Day 14

This morning you will be met at your accommodation by your private guide and vehicle to enjoy a half day hiking excursion on the Invincible Gold Mine Track (approximately 5.5 kilometres).

Follow a steady uphill track built by miners in the 1880s to an amazing view over the Rees Valley. Starting in the beech forest, you will pass by historic mining equipment left behind by the men and horses who ground the ore and transported the equipment up that same track. The manuka forest track leads you to panoramic mountain views of Mount Earnslaw and surrounding valleys. There will be a stop to enjoy your picnic lunch which has been included today.

On conclusion of your hike, you will be returned to your accommodation.

Enjoy your afternoon at leisure.

Day 15

You will be met at your accommodation by your private driver and vehicle and transferred to Queenstown Domestic Airport prior to your onward flight (approximately a 1 hour journey along the scenic shores of Lake Wakatipu).

Depart Queenstown.