

10 Day Itinerary – Christchurch – Greymouth – Glacier Country – Wanaka – Queenstown – Milford Sound – Invercargill – Stewart Island

Day 1	Arrive Christchurch
	<p>Arrive Christchurch International Airport. www.christchurchairport.co.nz</p> <p>New Zealand's network of 90 i-SITE Visitors Centres offer local advice and can make fee free bookings www.i-site.org</p> <p>All of the major rental car companies operate from Christchurch Airport. Intercity bus services also have regular services around the South Island www.intercity.co.nz</p>
	ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS
	<p>Depending on arrival times, clients may wish to do an activity in Christchurch before commencing their itinerary.</p> <p>Comprehensive information on which visitor attractions in Christchurch are currently open can be found listed below and at:</p> <p>www.christchurchnz.com/christchurch--canterbury-tourism/christchurch-activity---update.aspx</p>
Open from 9am daily	<p>International Antarctic Centre www.iceberg.co.nz</p> <p>Located beside the Airport, the International Antarctic Centre is Christchurch's leading visitor attraction and has been a multiple winner and finalist in the New Zealand Tourism Awards. The Antarctic Centre is designed to bring a powerful and memorable experience of Antarctica to visitors in a fun, exciting, informative and commercially successful way. Visitors can view Little Blue Penguins, ride in an Antarctic all-terrain vehicle, experience an Antarctic ice storm and much more.</p>
	<p>Horsepower www.horsepower.co.nz</p> <p>Horsepower is the suburb of Avonhead. Bookings at least a day ahead essential. Come horse racing around an all weather track at 50kph firmly seated in our specially developed dual sulkies, behind real champion pacers at full speed. A world's first technology.</p>
Open: 0930-2200 daily.	<p>Willowbank www.willowbank.co.nz</p> <p>Willowbank is a wildlife reserve, including New Zealand's largest and most accessible kiwi viewing area. This attraction is around 5 minutes drive from Christchurch International Airport. Please note that the Ko Tane cultural experience is in the evening.</p>

	ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS
	<p>A wide range of Hotels and Lodges, motels, holiday parks, backpackers and Bed and Breakfasts in Christchurch are open. The regional tourism organisation, Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism and the Automobile Association provided updates on which properties are currently open:</p> <p>www.christchurchnz.com/christchurch--canterbury-tourism/christchurch-accommodation---update.aspx</p> <p>www.aatravel.co.nz/christchurch-earthquake/</p>
Day 2	Christchurch – Greymouth – Fox or Franz Josef Glacier
<p>Self Drive option</p> <p>Christchurch-Arthur's Pass 2 hour drive</p> <p>Arthur's Pass-Greymouth 1 hour 30 minute drive</p>	<p>Self drive via Arthur's Pass.</p> <p>Arthur's Pass www.christchurchnz.com</p> <p>Arthur's Pass National Park is in the heart of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. Its high mountains with large scree slopes, steep gorges and wide braided rivers, straddles the main divide – the 'back bone' of the South Island – between Canterbury and the West Coast. It's a park of contrasts, with dry beech/tawhai forest in the east, luxuriant rainforest on western slopes.</p> <p>Visitors can choose from several short bushwalk options around the Arthur's Pass village. Native birds commonly seen include the kea, tui and bellbird.</p>
<p>Train option</p> <p>0815-1245 Christchurch-Greymouth</p>	<p>Tranzscenic www.tranzscenic.co.nz</p> <p>Travel by train between Christchurch and Greymouth.</p> <p>The TranzAlpine scenic train journey travels between Christchurch and Greymouth, from one coast of New Zealand to the other. Travellers see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. The train then climbs into the Southern Alps before descending through lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Greymouth.</p> <p>All carriages include both one way seating and tabled group seating allowing passengers to enjoy the company of others. There is an open air viewing carriage.</p>
<p>Train option 1315</p>	<p>Collect pre booked rental car at Greymouth.</p>
<p>Drive Greymouth-Franz Josef 2 hours</p>	<p>Afternoon. Drive south to the Glaciers in South Westland.</p> <p>Greymouth www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-towns/</p>

30 minutes	<p>Greymouth is the largest town on the West Coast, and the commercial centre of the region. The TranzAlpine train arrives from and departs to Christchurch daily, and there are air services to/from Greymouth Airport. Daily transport services to and from other South Island and West Coast centres are provided.</p> <p>Local activities include quad biking and 4X4 off-road experiences, mountain biking/ cycling, river and cave rafting/caving, white water rafting, kayaking and canoeing. Climbing, hiking and guided walks, scenic flights, helicopter flights and glacier landings are also offered. Jade carving, several art galleries and museums are open in the town.</p>
	<p>Stop in at Hokitika to buy pounamu (jade) jewellery.</p> <p>Hokitika www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-towns/</p> <p>Inspired by locals landscapes and raw materials (jade, gold and other minerals, driftwood, timber, clay, shell, bone and fibres) it is no coincidence that craft artists, sculptors, jewellers, painters and poets have chosen the Hokitika area as their home.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-what/</p>
	<p>Franz Josef or Fox Glaciers. www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-Glacier_Country/</p> <p>Out of the 140 glaciers flowing from the soaring peaks of New Zealand's Southern Alps, only two creep as far as the lower rainforests – the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. The advantage of this for visitors is that the ancient glaciers are accessible, and those not wanting to venture further can get good views of their beauty, not far from the small townships that take their names.</p> <p>For anyone seeking icy adventure, there's a huge variety of thrill seeker options. Guiding companies offer guided glacier walks, climbing experiences, or you can take a heli-hike or scenic flight over breath taking views, landing on the snow for a real taste of alpine life.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-what/</p> <p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.westcoastnz.com/visit/AccommodationWestCoast/</p>
Day 3	Fox or Franz Josef Glaciers
Please book ahead in the peak summer	<p>Franz Josef or Fox Glaciers. www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-Glacier_Country/</p> <p>The Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers grind down through temperate rainforest to</p>

season (from Dec-Feb).	<p>just 250 meters above sea level (this is the only place outside Argentina where this occurs). The terminal face of Fox Glacier is just 5 kilometres from the township that serves it. The road to the walking track crosses ancient moraine from earlier advances and retreats.</p> <p>At Franz Josef Glacier the walk to the terminal of the glacier in about 10 minutes. Two guiding companies offer a variety of guided glacier walks and climbing experiences, to suite all ages and abilities.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.westcoastnz.com/visit/visit-what/</p> <p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.westcoastnz.com/visit/AccommodationWestCoast/</p>
Day 4	Fox or Franz Josef Glaciers – Wanaka - Queenstown
	Drive to Wanaka via the Haast Pass.
Drive Franz Josef - Wanaka 4 hours 10 minutes	<p>Department of Conservation www.doc.govt.nz</p> <p>Just north of Haast is Lake Moeraki, a peaceful forest lake with good fishing – a 40 minute walk leads to the penguin colony at Monro Beach.</p>
	<p>Lake Wanaka www.lakewanaka.co.nz</p> <p>Lake Wanaka is a region of striking mountains and deep alpine lakes. Wanaka is a resort town and gateway to the Mt Aspiring National Park. Four world class ski areas – Cardrona Alpine Resort, Snow Farm, Snow Park and Treble Cone - are within an easy drive.</p> <p>www.cardrona.com www.snowparknz.com www.snowfarmnz.com www.treblecone.com</p> <p>Those with a passion for aviation will love all the many options available at Wanaka Airport.</p> <p>Many attractions and adventure sports are within reach of Wanaka. Take a scenic cruise on the Lake, sample locally made, exquisite wines, or fish at one of the many easily accessible spots. Alternatively, venture into the hills and mountains surrounding Wanaka. Skiing, heli skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking and climbing are all available.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.lakewanaka.co.nz/new-zealand/Activities/</p> <p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.lakewanaka.co.nz/new-zealand/Accommodation/</p>

Drive Wanaka- Queenstown 1 hour.	There are two ways to drive between Queenstown and Wanaka, and the Crown Range Road via the Cardrona Valley is the most memorable. The Crown Range road is the highest main road in New Zealand.
	<p>Queenstown www.queenstown-nz.co.nz</p> <p>Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is New Zealand's premier four season lake and alpine resort.</p> <p>Adventure activity options include skydiving, bungy jumping, jetboating, canyon swinging, white-water rafting, parapenting and heli-skiing.</p> <p>There are two ski fields in the Queenstown Lakes District: Coronet Peak and the Remarkables www.nzski.com</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/thingstodo/</p> <p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/Accommodation/</p>
Days 5-6	Queenstown
	<p>Opportunity to enjoy further activities and attractions in the Queenstown Lakes District, including Arrowtown.</p> <p>Queenstown www.queenstown-nz.co.nz www.arrowtown.com</p>
Day 7	Queenstown – Te Anau or Milford Sound
Queenstown- Te Anau 2 hours 30 minutes.	Drive from Queenstown to Te Anau or Milford Sound.
	<p>Fiordland has achieved World Heritage status and is renowned as the home of Mitre Peak and the Fiords of Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound. Also well known are the Great Walks (the Milford Track, Routeburn Track, and Kepler Tracks), within the Fiordland National Park and Mount Aspiring National Park.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.fiordland.org.nz/category_index.asp?tid=2</p>

	<p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.fiordland.org.nz/category_index.asp?tid=1</p>
Option	<p>Overnight Te Anau, where there is a wide range of accommodation and evening activities include a visit to the Ta Anau au Caves.</p> <p>The serene deep waters of Lake Te Anau make up the largest lake in the South Island and second largest in New Zealand, and are bordered on its western shore by lush virgin forest. Te Anau lies nestled on the edge of this beautiful lake, with a spectacular backdrop of Mt Luxmore and the Murchison mountains.</p> <p>Lodge, hotel, motel and boutique accommodation provide a restful break in comfort and style, while home and farm stays provide a genuine New Zealand experience. A range of holiday parks, backpacker and budget options ensure that everyone can find accommodation to suit their needs. Visitors are advised to book in during the summer months (particularly in February) as accommodation is in high demand.</p> <p>Local cafés and restaurants provide a variety of dining options, from fish and chips to fine dining, and the opportunity to sample local Fiordland fare of venison, lobster and other seafood.</p>
<p>Te Anau-Milford Sound 2 hour 20 minutes.</p>	<p>Drive Te Anau to Milford Sound.</p> <p>Milford Sound is by far the best known of all of the fiords and the only one that can be accessed by road. It is approximately 16km from the head of the fiord to the open sea, which means visitors can comfortably travel the length of the fiord to open ocean and return on one of the many cruise options available in 1½ to 2 hours cruising time.</p> <p>Visitor to Milford Sound will not be disappointed. It is truly spectacular, with scenery that has remained unchanged throughout the ages. In 1883 Explorer James Hingston wrote "For thousands of feet upwards the eye looks upon straight cut rocky frontages, not worn smooth by time, or by wind or water, but as sharply defined and as fresh looking in all respects as if riven asunder but yesterday by the stupendous wedges of Titanic Masons." James Hingston 1883</p> <p>The Milford Road is a stunning alpine drive. Visitors need to allow plenty of time to make the drive if travelling independently as this is a steep and windy highway. Numerous viewing points and short walking opportunities en route.</p> <p>For information on the Milford Road - http://www.fiordland.org.nz/ABOUT-FIORDLAND/Milford-Road.asp</p>
Option 1	Visitors can overnight on Milford Sound on a vessel
Option 2	or hang up the keys for the day, relax and enjoy a coach with experienced drivers from Te Anau

Option 3	Day or overnight excursion on Doubtful Sound www.fiordland.org.nz/About-Fiordland/Milford-Sound.asp
Day 8	Milford Sound or Te Anau – Invercargill – Stewart Island
Milford Sound- Te Anau 2 hour 20 minutes. Te Anau- Invercargill 2 hours 20 minutes	<p>If overnighting at Milford Sound return to Te Anau. Then drive along the Southern Scenic Route from Te Anau to Invercargill.</p> <p>www.southernscenicroute.co.nz</p> <p>The route is well signposted, guiding visitors from Queenstown to Dunedin (or vice versa) with many small communities in between – each one with it's own delights and unique history. Along the way are remote beaches, lush rainforest, pristine lakes and stunning mountain vistas.</p>
	<p>The pride of Invercargill is Queens Park, a beautiful park in the centre of the city sprawling across 80 hectares. Highlights include a beautiful and varied rose garden, a rhododendron dell, an azalea garden, Japanese garden, dramatic tree lined walkways, bush paths through a selection of native plants and rock and herb gardens.</p> <p>An indoor Winter Garden features tropical and flowering plants and cacti are displayed in an adjoining house. Queens Park also has an impressive bird aviary, animal enclosures, children's play areas, extensive sporting facilities and cafes. At the southern entrance you will find the Southland Museum & Art Gallery, and i-SITE Visitor Information Centre. www.i-site.org</p>
<p>Departs Bluff 1630 or 1700 Arrives 1730 or 1800 Varies by season</p> <p>Departs Invercargill 1600 or 1700 Varies by season.</p>	<p>Fly or ferry from Invercargill to Stewart Island.</p> <p>Ferry www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p> <p>Fly www.stewartislandflights.com</p>
Day 9	Stewart Island
	<p>Activities on Stewart Island.</p> <p>With only 28km of road, but an impressive 280km of walking track, short and long, including the Rakiura Track - one of the country's nine Great Walks, there is something for everyone on Stewart Island.</p>

	<p>Predator free Ulva Island is a dream destination for bird lovers. It is a place where wildlife roams free and without threat, where bird song fills the air, and rare native plants carpet the island's floor. Ulva Island can be accessed via a short water taxi ride from the village of Oban/ Halfmoon Bay.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.southlandnz.com/VisitSouthland/Activities.aspx</p> <p>A full list of accommodation options can be found here: www.southlandnz.com/VisitSouthland/Accommodation.aspx</p>
Day 10	Stewart Island – Invercargill – Christchurch departure
<p>Departs Stewart Island 0800</p> <p>0830 or 0900 Departs Stewart Island Varies by season.</p>	<p>Fly or ferry from Stewart Island to Invercargill.</p> <p>Ferry www.stewartislandexperience.co.nz</p> <p>Fly www.stewartislandflights.com</p>
	<p>Visitors may have more time for local activities depending on their departure time from Invercargill Airport.</p> <p>A full list of activity options can be found here: www.southlandnz.com/VisitSouthland/Activities.aspx</p>
	<p>Visitors fly out of Invercargill Airport to connect with a departing flight at Christchurch International Airport. www.invercargillairport.co.nz www.christchurchairport.co.nz</p>