

***NEW ZEALAND  
SOUTH ISLAND  
FLY, DRIVE  
RAIL & CRUISE***



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**South Island Fly-Drive-Cruise-Stay-Train**

**Duration:** 9 days

**Stay:** 7 nights hotels, 1 night cruise cabin

**Travel style:** Independent self-drive, rail travel & escorted cruise with flights

**Booking code:** NZSFND9M

**Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience**

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# 9 Days Milford Mariner, TranzAlpine & Self-Drive

## About the holiday

Celebrate the beauty of the South Island in this extraordinary New Zealand holiday! Fly to picturesque Queenstown, famously known as the adventure capital of New Zealand.

Then drive to Milford Sound for the most spectacular way to explore the stunning region – overnighting aboard the Milford Mariner. Cruise to the open sea with the nature guide and friendly crew, before anchoring for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. Wildlife viewing opportunities and a special dinner are all part of the unforgettable experience.

Jump back in the car and head to Franz Josef Glacier where you have two nights to explore the lively town in the heart of the West Coast. Of course, the unmissable attraction is to get a good view of the famous 12km long glacier.

Next is another spellbinding highlight aboard one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Scenic Train. Travel across the South Island, from west to east, through Arthur's Pass National Park and descend to the Canterbury Plains before arriving in Christchurch.

## Why you'll love this trip...

Explore Milford Sound aboard Milford Mariner, nothing compares to a night on the fjord

Stay 3 nights in Queenstown and 2 nights in Franz Josef and Christchurch

Enjoy the convenience of car hire to see more of the South Island

Travel on the world-famous TranzAlpine Scenic Train

Take an amazing ride on the heritage trams around Christchurch's city loop

Flights from Australia are included on this worry-free holiday!

## Travel dates

**Departs Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday\***

**2024 & 2025** – Contact us for available departure dates & the best deals

\*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking & price will vary depending on travel dates. Please contact us for current details.



## Holiday Inclusions

**Flights** – Return economy airfare to Queenstown & from Christchurch  
Fly from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane (ask for other cities)

**Car hire** – 6 days Economy, automatic vehicle  
Unlimited kilometres

Pick up Queenstown Airport, drop off Greymouth Rail Terminal

**Accommodation** – 7 nights in standard rooms, twin share

3 nights Queenstown – Quest Hotel, Ramada Suites or Holiday Inn

2 nights Franz Josef – Punga View or Glacier View Motel

2 nights Christchurch – Quest on Manchester or Ramada Suites

**Cruise** – 1 night aboard Milford Mariner, private cabin, twin share

3-course dinner & cooked breakfast prepared by the onboard chef

Kayaking & tender boat activities (weather dependent)

**Train** – TranzAlpine Scenic Train, one-way from Greymouth to Christchurch

**Sightseeing** – Christchurch Hop On Hop Off Tram Tour

## Package excludes:

Airport transfers

Car hire extra expenses, such as fuel, road tolls, insurance excess waivers etc.

Meals, sightseeing, optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi access etc.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

***This package is subject to confirmation by the airlines, hotels, car company and local operators.  
Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.***

See [www.mytravelxp.com](http://www.mytravelxp.com) for details.

For current prices, please call 1300 168 910 or email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com)

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Arrive Queenstown

Welcome to New Zealand. On arrival in Queenstown, please collect your rental car and overnight at Queenstown hotel.

### Day 2: Explore Queenstown and surrounds

Although celebrated as New Zealand's 'adventure capital' Queenstown offers far more than a fast-paced action-packed holiday. Settled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu beneath a soaring panorama of the Remarkables Mountain Range, this alpine town is surrounded by a plethora of historic, gastronomic and scenic wonders.

Head down the Gibbston Valley wine trail to sample some of the region's best Pinot or catch a ride on the 100 year old Steamship - the TSS Earnslaw - to Walter Peak Station for dinner and a farm tour. Browse the waterfront cafes and have lunch at Michelin star chef Josh Emmett's 'Rata.' Check out nearby historic Arrowtown and enhance your experience with a four wheel drive trip to Macetown.

Take a leisurely lakeside stroll or ride the gondola for breathtaking views. Drive through Lord Of The Rings country - or for the really fanatic, jump aboard one of many dedicated LOTR tours. If you do really want the adrenaline rush Queenstown is known for, take your pick from the Shotover Jet, Bungy, Canyon Swing, Zipline, Luge or Heli-ski.

### Day 3: Drive to Milford Sound for overnight cruise

Drive from Queenstown to Milford Sound over 5 hours stopping at Te Anau along the way.

Spend the night aboard the Milford Mariner and wake up to dawn in one of the most beautiful places on earth. It's the ultimate Milford Sound experience!

Enjoy accommodation in private cabins with ensuite bathrooms.

3-course buffet dinner and cooked breakfast prepared by our on-board chef

Choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or small boat

Specialist nature guide on board. Take a Milford Guided Walk for an extra \$50 per person.

Wildlife sighting opportunities – seals, penguins and dolphins

Duration: 1 night

This overnight cruise through the heart of Fiordland provides astonishing views and the ultimate Milford Sound adventure.

You'll start by departing from the Milford Sound wharf in the late afternoon before cruising through Milford Sound accompanied by our specialist nature guide. They'll explain the history and geology of the area and be on hand to answer your questions.

This cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife – you're bound to encounter seals and, if you're lucky, maybe dolphins and penguins too.

The Milford Mariner then anchors in a sheltered cove. From here you can join the guide and explore in the vessel's tender craft (small boat) or kayaks. If you prefer, you can simply relax on deck and soak in the beauty of this amazing place. If you're feeling brave there's always the option of a refreshing swim too. All activities are weather dependent.

As evening falls, you'll enjoy a delicious carvery buffet in the dining saloon – a feast prepared freshly by our on-site chef. Then it's time to relax in the company of your fellow traveller, indulge in some star-gazing and story-sharing or simply retire to your private cabin.

The next day you'll be able to dig into a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) and exploring more of the fiord.

### **Things you should know**

- The trip duration is for 1 night
- Accommodation onboard the Milford Mariner:
  - Private cabins with ensuite bathrooms (twin, double or single occupancy)
  - Quad share bunk-style compartments (shared bathrooms)
- Three course buffet dinner including appetisers, soups, salads, hot dishes and a selection of desserts and cheeses (vegetarian options available)
- A full buffet breakfast with cooked and continental options is served
- There is a licensed bar on board. Due to the remote location, we can only accept cash
- Kayaking and tender craft (small boat) activities included

### **Extra Information**

- Duvets, sheets and towels provided
- Suitable for all ages, with the exception of infants in quad share
- Complimentary tea and coffee is available

### **Departure Times**

The trip leaves from the Milford Sound Terminal at 4.30pm and returns by 9.15am the following day.

You are required to check-in at the counter 30min prior to departure.

### **Day 4: Drive to Milford Sound to Queenstown**

Disembark Milford Mariner this morning and make your way back towards Te Anau. Admire waterfalls gushing into pools of sparkling water, take in the panoramic views from The Divide and the Hollyford Valley Lookout and take a thrilling walk over a footbridge at The Chasm.

The biggest lake in the South Island, Lake Te Anau is the perfect pit-stop. Admire the picturesque lake, capture some photographs and stop for a bite to eat. From Te Anau, travel on to Mirror Lakes and stop here to take more photos! Carry on your journey towards Milford Sound as you come across many other scenic spots.

Along the way you'll pass through small farming towns like Kingston, home of the famous Kingston Flyer steam train, and Mossburn, the deer capital of New Zealand. This two-hour drive along Lake Wakatipu and into southern farmland is absolutely stunning. The glistening waters of Lake Wakatipu are framed by the appropriately named mountain range, The Remarkables. You will arrive back in Queenstown late afternoon for your overnight accommodation.

### **Day 5: Queenstown to Franz Josef Glacier (via Wanaka)**

From Queenstown you'll cross the Crown Range - the highest sealed road in New Zealand - to arrive in the Alpine town of Wanaka, gateway to Mt Aspiring National Park. Skirting the shores of both Lake Wanaka and Hawea, you will enter the small town of Makarora. Stop at Blue Pools for a 1 hour return walk through native beech forest to a glacier-fed swimming hole. Continue on through the remote seaside settlement of Haast before heading up the wild West Coast - a 600 km stretch of bush and native rainforest. Fox Glacier welcomes you first, then comes your destination for the night - Franz Josef township.

### **Day 6: Explore Franz Josef Glacier**

Franz Josef is a small but lively town in the heart of the West Coast, known for its 12 km long glacier. Surrounded by lush rainforest-clad mountains the township has a vibrant and bustling atmosphere. To see the ice from a viewpoint you can walk along the valley floor to the viewpoint below the terminal face. However, to go on the glacier itself you must take a licensed helicopter tour.

### ***SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Twin Glacier Scenic Helicopter Flight with The Helicopter Line***

*Take a spectacular scenic flight over two of New Zealand's most famous glaciers. Land at the head of one and view the incredible sight of this frozen river.*

### **Day 7: Franz Josef to Greymouth Train Station**

Today, you'll head north through the historic gold mining region of Hokitika. Known for its Greenstone (Pounamu) this seaside town has a rich history dating back to the 1860's. Head to the coast and take in the endless sea-views or pick up a souvenir at one of the many craft shops. Continue on to Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast and the starting point for the next leg of your journey - the TranzAlpine Scenic Train.

Drop your rental car at the Greymouth Train Station depot located inside the train station building before boarding your train to Christchurch.

## **TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Greymouth to Christchurch**

Considered one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Scenic Train takes you from Greymouth to Christchurch. You'll travel across the South Island from the west to the east coast through Arthur's Pass National Park. From the comfort of your carriage see lush beech forest, deep river valleys and the spectacular peaks of the Southern Alps. Descend to the windswept Canterbury Plains before arriving in the city of Christchurch. On arrival at the Christchurch train station, please catch a taxi to your overnight accommodation.

## **Day 8: Explore Christchurch**

The Christchurch Tram City Tour Loop in New Zealand is open and ready to take you on an amazing ride on our heritage trams, filled with history and the best sightseeing in the city! The wonderfully restored heritage Trams are one of the main attractions in Christchurch and now you too can enjoy a trip through the city centre in comfort and style. Friendly drivers are well-informed regarding the history and facts of the city. They will share their knowledge about the various landmarks and sights on the way and, with a day-long ticket in hand, you can hop on and off as many times as you like throughout the day!

The trip takes you to various main stops so that you can also enjoy Punting on the Avon and sign up for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Caterpillar Tour. Some of the main sights that you will enjoy from the comfort of your Tram include New Regent Street, The Art Gallery, Cathedral Junction, Avon River, the Canterbury Museum and the Arts Centre. You are welcome to board at any of the 17 tram stops and, with your ticket for the day, you can get on and off as you please. The trams run at intervals of 15 to 25 minutes so you won't have long to wait until another one arrives. The seats inside offer cosy and secure seating while the outside seats are not weatherproof. Due to safety reasons, all children on the trams must be accompanied by a paying adult. Just like any other city, you must ensure the safety of your child in traffic. The trams are happy to accommodate folded prams on board.

## **Day 9: Depart Christchurch**

After you check out of your hotel, please catch a taxi to Christchurch Airport in time for your departing flight.

*Please note: The day by day descriptions published are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, rail & road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and a multitude of other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that ultimately are for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible and open minded in this regard.*

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## MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

### Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.



**This is a summary in brief for our customers:**

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (you will be notified if your supplier requires earlier payment).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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