

NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND RAIL & CRUISE ESCORTED TOUR



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

www.mytravelxp.com

hello@mytravelxp.com

1300 168 910



South Island Fly-Tour-Cruise-Stay-Train

Duration: 10 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 8 nights hotels, 1 night cruise cabin

Travel style: Small group tour, rail travel & escorted cruise with flights

Booking code: NZSFGT10M

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

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

10 Days Tour with Fiordland Navigator, TranzAlpine & More

About the holiday

Celebrate the stunning South Island in this extraordinary small group tour of New Zealand!

Fly to picturesque Queenstown, famously known as the country's adventure capital. Then travel by coach to Milford Sound for the most spectacular way to explore the region – overnighting aboard the Fiordland Navigator. Cruise to the open sea with your 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.

Following the cruise, 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.

Complete the South Island discovery with two nights in Christchurch and explore the city by Tram with a hop-on, hop-off excursion.

Why you'll love this trip...

Explore Milford Sound on the Fiordland Navigator, nothing compares to a night on the fjord
Stay 4 nights in Queenstown and 2 nights in Franz Josef and Christchurch

Travel on the world-famous TranzAlpine Scenic Train

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

Escorted flights from Australia are included with a representative from *My Travel Experience!*

Travel dates & price

Escorted group from \$3999 per person, twin share

2023 - 17 October, 7 November, 21 November

2024 - 6 & 24 February; 12 & 26 March; 15 October; 5 & 19 November

Note: Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking & price will vary depending on travel dates. Minimum numbers required for My Travel Experience escort. Contact us for current details.



Small Group Tour Inclusions

Flights – Return economy airfare to Queenstown & from Christchurch

Fly from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane (ask for other cities)

Tour Escort – My Travel Experience representative will accompany the group

Transfers – Airport transfers in Queenstown & Christchurch

Accommodation – 8 nights in standard rooms, twin share

4 nights Queenstown – Heartland Hotel, Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Lakeview

2 nights Franz Josef – Punga Grove Motel

2 nights Christchurch – ibis Hotel or Heartlands Hotel Christchurch

Meals - Daily breakfast, Farewell group dinner, meals on the cruise

Cruise – 1 night aboard Fiordland Navigator, private cabin, twin share

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

Kayaking & tender boat activities (weather dependent)

Transport – Return transfers from Queenstown to Milford Sound

One-way coach transfer from Queenstown to Franz Josef to Greymouth

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

Sightseeing – Christchurch Hop On Hop Off Tram Tour

Package excludes:

Meals, sightseeing, optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry 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, tour company and local operators.

Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.

For current prices, please call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

Itinerary

Day 1 Fly to Queenstown

Welcome to New Zealand. On arrival in Queenstown, you will be transferred to your hotel. Meet your tour guide and the remainder of the day is free to explore at leisure. Overnight at Queenstown hotel.

Day 2: Lake Wakatipu Cruise and Lunch

Step aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw for a quintessential Kiwi experience on Lake Wakatipu and in the high country of Walter Peak. Complete with a delicious gourmet barbecue lunch and a look at New Zealand's farming life, this tour shows you the beautiful country in a stunning lakeside setting.

Your voyage begins with a cruise aboard a century-old steamship, which carries you across the lake from Queenstown. Once you arrive at Walter Peak, relax on the lakeside terrace of the Colonel's Homestead Restaurant and savour the tantalising aromas as the chef gets some great local produce sizzling away on the grill. The seasonal lunch menu gives you plenty to choose from, with salads, vegetables, and succulent meats cooked on the outdoor rotisserie or grill, along with tasty vegetarian options and a scrumptious dessert. After lunch, you get time to explore the history of Walter Peak High Country Farm, join an entertaining farm demonstration, or explore the lakeside gardens before cruising back to Queenstown.

Day 3: Mount Cook Tour

At 3724m, Aoraki/Mt Cook is by no means among the world's tallest, but with the nearby Mt Cook village just 750m above sea-level, the mountain can be viewed without any acclimatisation whatsoever, and so this tour is perfect for people of all levels of fitness.

The guided tour begins with pickups in Queenstown and Frankton, before you then travel through the stunning Kawarau gorge to Cromwell. After making a comfort stop in the quaint township of Omarama (where you have the option to taste one of the best creamy chicken pies in New Zealand), climb your way through Lindis Pass, one of only 3 alpine roads through the otherwise impassable Southern Alps. When exiting the Pass, you may catch glimpses of the mighty mountain itself; but before arriving there is much more to see, including what many consider one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Lake Pukaki is one of the bluest lakes you will ever see, and is framed by the backdrop of Aoraki and its brothers in the Southern Alps. The location of several scenes from the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Lake Pukaki is a destination in and of itself. You soon pass the delta where the mountain's various rivers, creeks and streams converge to form the lake, and the mountain continues to grow steadily in stature and grandeur until the scale of the view makes you feel powerless. Arriving at the alpine village of Mt Cook and the Hermitage - home of the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre - you now have the freedom to explore in whatever way suits your energy levels and budget. Please select the activity you would like to include during the booking process, which are at an additional charge.

Day 4: Drive to Milford Sound for overnight cruise

Today you will be transferred from Queenstown to Milford Sound over 5 hours' drive, stopping at Te Anau along the way.

Milford Sound Overnight Cruises – Nothing compares to spending the night on the Fjord.

Spend the night aboard the iconic Fiordland Navigator and wake up to dawn in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. It's the ultimate Milford Sound experience!

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.

The Fiordland Navigator 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 Fiordland Navigator (sleeps 72):
 - 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
- Specialist nature guide on board
- Wildlife sighting opportunities – seals, penguins and dolphins
- Take a Milford Guided Walk for an extra \$50 per person

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 5: Drive to Milford Sound to Queenstown

Disembark to Fjord Navigator 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 at your overnight accommodation.

Day 6: 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 7: Franz Josef Nature Tour

Nestled in thick historic West Coast forest and a stone's throw from wild black sand beaches, this is one of the world's most unusual glaciers. Beautiful blue skies or magical misty rain. With easy walking at your pace, information on glaciology, geology, geomorphology, flora and fauna, local legends, history and small guided groups with fantastic guides, you will experience this glacier in style and in the best hands with the only local company.

Wander past glacier rivers and streams and through beautiful podocarp forest; discover hidden natural treasures such as native snails, wild native mushrooms and dozens of species of native orchids; listen to native bird song and waterfalls; see if you can spot a Chamois or a Tahr on the huge snow-capped mountains above while drinking a cup of tea and talking one-on-one with your guide. This tour will be a highlight of your travels and you won't regret splashing out for a guided tour of this beautiful area of New Zealand.

Day 8: 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.

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 for 2 nights.

Day 9: Explore Christchurch

The Christchurch Tram City Tour Loop in New Zealand is ready to take you on an amazing ride on the 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. Remember, you can hop off at any of the stops to get a closer look at these and other attractions along the way.

Your trip starts at New Regent Street and takes you through Cathedral Junction and then on to Cathedral Square.

Next up you will pass the Canterbury Museum as well as Hagley Park, Cranmer Square and finally Victoria Square. At the moment, there are 17 stops along this route. 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.

Tonight, share wonderful memories together on your last night in New Zealand. Bid goodbye to your Tour Manager at dinner in the hotel.

Day 10: Depart Christchurch.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Tour Concludes – Memories Begin.

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.

My Travel Experience is a full-service travel agency

Want flights, car hire, escorted tours, airport transfers, travel insurance & more?

My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike other online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include whatever travel services that you want to pre-book.

Plus, we are with you all the way – from your first enquiry, until your departure and when you safely return home. You will always be able to reach us. Email us today on reservations@mytravelxp.com with your preferences for any of our travel packages!

Affordable Holidays – How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you – that's My Travel Experience!



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 make a payment to hold your reservation.
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 (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking 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.

Phone 1300 168 910

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

www.mytravelxp.com