

## 9 Day Southern Encounter

### *Platinum Tour Itinerary*

**STARTS:** Christchurch  
**FINISHES:** Christchurch  
**DURATION:** 9 days & 8 nights

#### 2020-2021 DEPARTURE DATES:

**2020:** 19 Sep, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 12 Dec

**2021:** 16 Jan, 6 Feb, 6 Mar, 3 Apr, 24 Apr

#### DAY 1 Arrive Christchurch (D)

'Haere Mai' Welcome to New Zealand. On arrival, you will be met by a Kirra Tours representative and transferred to your downtown city hotel. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner to get to know each other before the adventure begins!

**TRANSFER:** Christchurch Airport to the Rydges Latimer Christchurch

**STAY:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch (1 night)

#### DAY 2 TranzAlpine, Franz Josef (B,D)

This morning, you board the award-winning TranzAlpine train for the spectacular rail journey to Arthur's Pass, the South Island's highest altitude settlement. Enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as you travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River and traverse the majestic Southern Alps, where spectacular views of the chiseled alpine landscape will take your breath away at every turn. On to the West Coast village of Franz Josef where you can relax in a tranquil rainforest environment.

**STAY:** Te Waonui Forest Retreat (1 night)

**ACTIVITY:** TranzAlpine train journey

#### DAY 3 Wanaka, Queenstown (B)

Before our departure this morning, there is the opportunity to take an optional scenic flight over this remarkable glacial region (subject to weather conditions). Later, view incredible scenery as you travel past the untouched wilderness and pristine lakes of the Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks. There is time to wander around the popular lakeside township of Wanaka before stopping at the historic gold mining village of Arrowtown, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's and home to a fascinating collection of mining cottages. Finally, it's on New Zealand's premier holiday destination, Queenstown.

**STAY:** Heritage Queenstown Hotel (2 nights)

**ACTIVITY:** A visit to historic Arrowtown

#### **DAY 4 At leisure in Queenstown (B)**

Today is free to experience this magnificent alpine resort. Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure and leisure activities and your Coach Captain can assist with any optional activities you would like to do. Experience the thrills of riding on the world-famous Shotover Jet Boat, perhaps cruise Lake Wakatipu on the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw, take a 4WD tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon or for the more adventurous, try white water rafting. Alternatively, browse in the many local shops and galleries or take a stroll around the lakefront.

#### **DAY 5 Overnight Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise (B,L,D)**

Skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu and travel through lush farmland to Manapouri, where you enjoy a leisurely cruise across the picturesque lake to West Arm. A short coach trip on New Zealand's most expensive road travels over Wilmot Pass, pausing along the way to experience the dense Fiordland rainforest and (weather permitting) view Doubtful Sound glistening far below. At Deep Cove, your crew and the 'Fiordland Navigator' await. Designed along the lines of a traditional scow, the 'Fiordland Navigator' blends old world charm with modern comfort and as you cruise through some of the fiord's most stunning scenery, knowledgeable and friendly nature guides will share with you their passion for the region through their commentary. After dropping anchor in a sheltered cove, you can choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender boat or you can simply relax on board. As the majesty of Doubtful Sound unfolds before you, its beauty and vastness will take your breath away.

**STAY:** Fiordland Navigator (1 night)

**ACTIVITY:** Overnight Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise

#### **DAY 6 Manapouri, Dunedin (B,D)**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast on the boat this morning before we retrace our steps back to Manapouri, where you re-join your coach. This drive takes us to the coast, crossing rich farmlands and passing through Southland's agricultural townships on the way to Dunedin, sometimes referred to as the 'Edinburgh of the South' for its unique Scottish heritage.

**STAY:** Distinction Dunedin Hotel (2 nights)

#### **DAY 7 Larnach Castle, Dunedin (B)**

This morning, travel to Larnach Castle for a guided tour, learning about its tragic and mysterious history before enjoying High Tea in the historic ballroom. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Dunedin and the greater Otago Peninsula. Your Coach Captain will assist with any optional activities you would like to do.

**ACTIVITY:** Guided tour of Larnach Castle with High Tea

## **DAY 8 Moeraki Boulders, Christchurch (B,D)**

Stop to view the mystical Moeraki Boulders, geological marvels that began to form about 60 million years ago and were exposed by the erosion of sedimentary rocks over time. From there, we travel north up the coast through Oamaru, known for its Victorian precinct and Steampunk HQ Museum, and port city of Timaru, before crossing the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. This evening join your friends for a farewell dinner and relive the great experiences of your trip.

**STAY:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch (1 night)

**ACTIVITY:** Moeraki Boulders

## **DAY 9 Depart Christchurch (B)**

Sadly, your holiday ends after breakfast this morning. Here we bid you farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay. You will be transferred to Christchurch Airport to connect with your onward flight.

**TRANSFER:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch to the Christchurch Airport

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### Accommodation:

- + 7 nights luxury hotel and boutique accommodation
- + 1 night overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound

### Meals:

- + Full breakfast daily (B), 1 lunch (L) & 5 dinners (D)
- + Welcome dinner and farewell dinner & drinks included

### Transport & Touring:

- + Guided by a professional Coach Captain
- + All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as shown
- + Travel by purpose built, luxury Platinum Touring coach
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure
- + Hotel portorage

### Activities & Sightseeing:

- + TranzAlpine train journey
- + A visit to historic Arrowtown,
- + Overnight Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise
- + Guided tour of Larnach Castle with High Tea
- + Moeraki Boulders

*Valid: September 2020 – April 2021*