



NEW ZEALAND: SOUTH ISLAND DISCOVERY

New Zealand's South Island is home to wild and sweeping landscapes of gushing rivers and epic rainforests, glaciers, fjords and extraordinary volcanic terrain.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



New Zealand & South Pacific,
New Zealand



9 days from AU\$7,140 pp



Private

Journey Overview

New Zealand's South Island is home to wild and sweeping landscapes of gushing rivers and epic rainforests, glaciers, fjords and extraordinary volcanic terrain. On this spellbinding self-drive adventure discover the spectacular Ahuriri Valley, carved out by millions of years of glacial movement, with a stay at The Lindis, where luxury is in harmony with the land. Admire magnificent Milford Sound from above, cruise through the country's most breathtaking fjord and revel in a rare star-gazing odyssey at the summit of Mt John.

Journey Highlights

- Explore the captivating Mount Cook region, with its glittering Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake
- Stay in alpine valley luxury at the Lindis, nestled among the wonders of the Ahuriri Valley
- Be left spellbound on a scenic heli-tour of Milford Sound, and cruise through its famous fjord
- Discover the cosmopolitan charms and adrenalin-pumping adventure pursuits of Queenstown
- Embark on a Dark Sky stargazing journey at Mt John, home to the world-renowned astronomical research centre



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Christchurch

Arrive at captivating Christchurch, collect your rental car* and drive to your luxury home away from home, The George. Christchurch is one of the world's most unique destinations, combining urban regeneration and innovation with heritage, culture and exhilarating activity. The rest of the day is yours to discover the city

The George

Day 2: Tekapo

Rise with a sense of adventure and drive to the breathtaking Tekapo region. The town faces out across the remarkable turquoise-coloured lake to the mountainous drama of the Southern Alps. Arrive and settle into your charming B&B, Ranginui.

This evening, embark on a Dark Sky stargazing journey from the summit of Mt John, home to the world-renowned astronomical research centre. In 2012 the Aoraki Mackenzie area was declared an International Dark Sky Reserve, one of only 20 in the world, and Mt John offers unrivalled 360-degree views across the twinkling sky. Listen in as your expert astronomy guide shares the science of space. Begin with the naked eye before gazing through 16" optical telescopes with a visit to the private observatory dome. Take in the incredible Milky Way, far off planets, star clusters, solar systems, and even distant galaxies.

Ranginui B&B Tekapo | B

Day 3: Tekapo

Today is at leisure to experience the Mackenzie Region and Lake Tekapo your way. Discover rugged mountains, hiking trails, rippling tussocks, and the vast glacier fed lakes. Perhaps begin by exploring one of Lake Tekapo's walking and cycling tracks, stopping at the famed Church of the Good Shepard for some scenic photography. Take a drive into the high country to Lake Alexandrina where you can cast a line for brown trout and salmon. Romp through Mackenzie Country on a 4WD tour, spotting sheep stations, pristine wilderness and backcountry as you go. Follow it up with a relaxing soak in the Tekapo hot springs surrounded by pristine alpine views. Other options include horse trekking, golfing, or kayaking on the lake (activities at extra cost).

Ranginui B&B Tekapo | B

Day 4: Ahuriri Valley

Perhaps venture a little further afield to majestic Mount Cook on your journey today. New Zealand's Ahuriri Valley is your final destination. Drive through breathtaking mountain landscapes, admiring gorgeous vistas as you travel. Arrive at your architecturally stunning hotel, nestled amid spectacular valley views, and settle in for a luxurious evening of Lindis' dining.

The Lindis | BD

Day 5: Ahuriri Valley

Today is yours to discover this spectacular region at leisure. Explore Ben Avon station & The Ahuriri Valley by jumping on one of the hotel's available e-bikes, or perhaps consider an exploration on horseback to trek across the high country. Keen anglers can opt for a spot of fly fishing in the Ahuriri River, or you can explore the magnificent alpine meadows by 4WD, discovering wetlands, river valleys and beech forests that are teeming with native wildlife (all activities at extra cost).

The Lindis | BLD

Day 6: Queenstown

Rise this morning and drive south to the adventurer's playground of Queenstown, admiring natural vistas and breathtaking landscapes as you travel. With Cromwell's many wineries and spectacular natural gorge, as well as Mount Pisa en route, consider a few stops along the way. Arrive into Queenstown at your leisure, and settle into your luxurious base for the remainder of your stay.

Azur Lodge | B

Days 7-8: Queenstown

The next few days are yours to explore this spectacular city and its surrounding landscapes. Enjoy a half-day tour of magnificent Milford Sound including a shared scenic heli-tour across the Southern Alps. Fly above the rugged backcountry of Central Otago, before heading westward to where the glacial-fed rivers empty into Lake Wakatipu. Soar over the Fiordland National Park to discover an untouched world of peaks and valleys, and touch down in Milford Sound where you'll cruise past cascading waterfalls, immense rock faces and unique wildlife.

The rest of your time is at leisure. From alpine heliskiing to zip-lining, there's an adventure for every thrill seeker (additional cost). Leap, lunge or luge here, or perhaps find time to visit some of the many renowned wineries. You might like to discover the cosmopolitan arts scene, or simply sit at the lakeside and watch the ever-dynamic play of light on the Remarkables and Lake Wakatipu — one of the most dramatic natural scenes in New Zealand.

Azur Lodge | B

Day 9: Depart Queenstown

Today, your South Island adventure comes to an end. Return your rental car at the airport in time for your onward flight.

B

*Vehicle hire not included.

Map



Accommodation

The George, Christchurch



Located in the heart of Christchurch, The George Hotel is a small luxury boutique hotel just minutes from the city centre and main attractions. Having survived the devastating earthquake of 2011, Christchurch's most exclusive hotel offers supreme comfort in all its 52 rooms, with views overlooking the picturesque Hagley Park and Avon River. The warm and welcoming staff make for a truly memorable stay.

Home to one of Christchurch's most iconic restaurants and regarded by many as one of the city's best, 50 Bistro is a fine dining restaurant offering 'neo-bistro' contemporary New Zealand cuisine. Hotel facilities include an onsite gym and complimentary use of the hotel's mountain bikes and yoga mats.

Why we like it

- An award winning restaurant complemented by attentive staff
- Excellent location between Hagley Park and the Avon River
- Scenic gardens, excellent for a walk
- 10 minutes from Christchurch Airport
- Voted NZ's Leading Boutique Hotel

Ranginui B&B, Tekapo



Ranginui is your luxury getaway in Tekapo with panoramic views of the turquoise beauty of Lake Tekapo and the majestic Southern Alps.

With 3 cosy suites, each named in traditional Maori, each boast soft king beds and an elegantly appointed ensuite, with private balconies from which to drink in breathtaking lake views with a glass of wine. Delicious breakfasts and spectacular views are served in the dining room each morning, and the staff at Ranginui pride themselves of offering a truly unforgettable, luxurious stay.

The Lindis, Ahuriri Valley



The Lindis is a beautifully modern lodge residence, nestled almost imperceptibly in the Ahuriri Valley in the New Zealand's south, and is architecturally designed to mimic the rolling contours of the high-country valley floor. The lodge features two spacious master suites, three luxurious lodge suites, three pods, the spectacular Great Hall for dining, a bar, lounge areas, a games room, and a billiards room, all finished in the same beautiful aesthetic and designed for the utmost comfort and luxury.

The menu highlights unique and distinguished natural ingredients such as locally foraged porcini mushrooms, and wild Fiordland Venison, creating contemporary and refined dining experiences — matched with amazing wine selections, dining here truly is unforgettable.

Azur Lodge, Queenstown



Azur is a contemporary luxury lodge overlooking some of the most spectacular scenery in New Zealand, and consists of nine private villas, with open plan living. The bathtub is set in a bay window allowing an indoor/outdoor experience. The floor to ceiling windows frame the uninterrupted views of Lake Wakatipu and the mountain ranges. Rates include a private transfer to/from the airport and transportation to the local downtown area; only a 5min drive from Azur. Breakfast, afternoon tea and pre-dinner drinks and canapés are also included. Queenstown has a wide range of dining experiences and the Azur team will assist with recommendations, alternatively, guests can dine in fine style in the privacy of their own villa, ordering from an extensive list of local restaurants. Azur is known for its privacy and discretion. The Azur team prides themselves in personalised, friendly service, sharing their local knowledge with guests to ensure a memorable, unique experience.

Why we like it

- Located on a hilltop with spectacular vistas of The Remarkables, Walter Peak Station and Lake Wahtipu.
- 9 stand-alone villas offering complete privacy and chic luxury.
- Just a short 4 minute drive away from the cafes, shops and sights of bustling Queenstown.

Abercrombie & Kent

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