

Abercrombie & Kent



WEST COAST GLACIER EXPERIENCE

With spectacular glaciers, coastlines and a mountain railway, New Zealand's South Island promises adventures at every turn.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



New Zealand & South Pacific,
New Zealand



8 days Call for a quote pp



Private

Journey Overview

With spectacular glaciers, coastlines and a mountain railway, New Zealand's South Island promises adventures at every turn. Ride on the world-famous TranzAlpine from Christchurch to Greymouth. Take an exhilarating helicopter ride and come face-to-face with a dramatic glacier. And discover the adventure capital of the world, Queenstown.

Journey Highlights

- Swim with the charismatic resident dolphins of Akaroa
- Ride the famous TranzAlpine railway from Christchurch to Greymouth
- Take a road trip along the untamed West Coast and inland
- Get a taste of glacial adventure on a Franz Josef heli hike
- Explore the world's adventure capital, Queenstown



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Christchurch

Arriving into Christchurch, meet your A&K guide and transfer by private vehicle to your luxury boutique hotel just steps away from the vibrant cultural precinct.

The George

Day 2: Christchurch - Akaroa - Christchurch

Meet your A&K representative this morning for a full day adventure to the beautiful Banks Peninsula southeast of Christchurch. Travel via the high summit route which gives glorious views of expansive farmlands, Akaroa Harbour, Lyttelton Harbour, the Canterbury Plains, Christchurch City and the distant Southern Alps as well as remote bays indenting the coastline. On arriving at the main wharf in Akaroa, you will be briefed for your Swim with the Dolphins experience, before embarking on your cruise. This once in a lifetime experience lets you swim alongside the endangered Hector's Dolphin, the world's rarest and smallest, allowing a unique and memorable interaction.

Afterwards, spend some time wandering around the charming 175-year-old French harbourside village of Akaroa with its museum of settlers' history, art and craft shops and studios before enjoying lunch at an award-winning café. On the journey back to Christchurch, stop in at Barry's Bay Cheese, the last outpost of traditional cheese making on the Peninsula and the Little River Art Gallery, where contemporary works by leading and emerging New Zealand artists are exhibited as well as sculpture, ceramics and jewellery.

The George / BL

Day 3: Christchurch - Franz Josef

Today is a journey on one of the world's most famous trains, the TranzAlpine. Ride the rails through the vast Canterbury Plains and spectacular gorges and river valleys. Climb the majestic Southern Alps to Arthur's Pass National Park, then descend through lush beech rainforest to Greymouth. Collect your rental vehicle and head south down the Great Coast Ride alongside ancient limestone cliffs and untamed native forest to glacier country. Stop in the historic village of Hokitika for its fascinating heritage of shipwrecks, gold miners and pounamu hunters. Arrive at your lodge in the heart of West Coast glacier country.

Te Waonui Forest Retreat / BD**Day 4: Franz Josef**

An adventure in store this morning as you head out on a unique shared heli-hike expedition on Franz Josef Glacier. This dramatic glacier is 10.5 kilometres long and features ice pinnacles as high as multi-storey buildings, deep crevasses and stunning, pristine blue ice.

Take to the skies by helicopter and witness the majesty of the ice from the air. Then, land on the glacier itself and set off for your hike across the ice. Equipped with glacier boots and crampons, your guide will lead you through some of the glacier's most stunning ice formations and pinnacles, immersing you in the world of the Franz Josef Glacier. To touch the ice and breathe in the fresh alpine air is a unique experience and one which you will never forget.

Return to your lodge with the afternoon at leisure. Optional activities in the area include kayaking, soaking in the hot thermal pools, short walks or a visit to Lake Mapourika and the coastal hamlet of Okarito.

Te Waonui Forest Retreat / B**Day 5: Franz Josef - Queenstown**

Continue the road trip today as you make the journey to Queenstown discovering rugged wilderness along the way. Pass waterfalls and river scenery as you leave the coast behind winding your way to Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure capital.

The Rees Hotel / B

Day 6: Queenstown

Your appreciation for the country's landscapes continues today, with a shared journey deep into the heart of the world-renowned Mt Aspiring National Park.

Departing Queenstown for the Dart River, you will get up-close with nature on a funyak tour, paddling on the crystal clear waters in an inflatable kayak. Be spellbound by the beauty of the Dart River as well as hidden side streams, rock pools and dramatic chasms. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of this stunning area at your own pace as you float downstream before a sumptuous buffet lunch. Travel onwards to Glenorchy taking scenic back-country routes to return to your start point, passing by iconic scenes used to depict famed Middle Earth locales.

The Rees Hotel / BL

Day 7: Queenstown

A free day to explore Queenstown. Every type of adventure awaits in this world-famous alpine resort. From bungy and jet boating to horse rides, quad biking and ziplining. An exploration of the Central Otago wine region or a Milford Sound adventure. All of this, and much more, awaits.

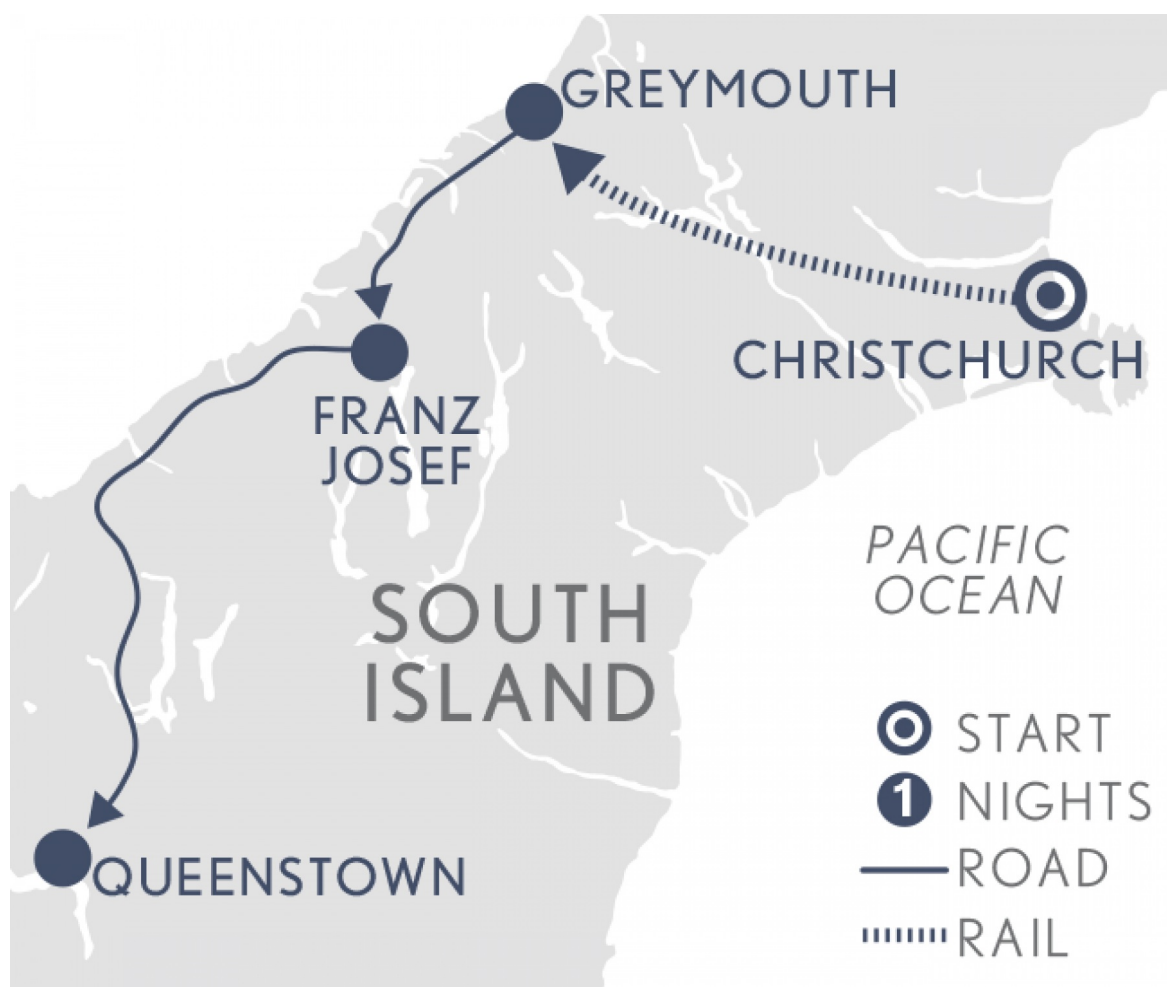
The Rees Hotel / B

Day 8: Depart Queenstown

Farewell the adventure capital and drive to Queenstown Airport for your outbound flight.

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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

The Rees, Queenstown



Quiet, private and sophisticated, The Rees Hotel Queenstown epitomises southern hospitality at its finest and an authentic New Zealand experience, situated right on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, in the South Island of New Zealand.

The Rees offers a variety of spacious and luxurious accommodation options including 60 Hotel rooms, 90 Apartments and five private, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom Lakeside Residences, all with terraces, showcasing spectacular views across Lake Wakatipu to the alpine panorama of the Remarkable Mountain range.

The many exceptional features at The Rees Hotel include a library of rare books and art, courtesy shuttle to/from Queenstown town centre, and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi. Keep fit at the onsite gym, or relax on the private beach and wharf.

Abercrombie & Kent

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