

POTTER TRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

South Island & Stewart Island

Departs: Tuesday 20 November 2018
Returns: Saturday 01 December 2018



TOUR COST:

\$5145.00 per person Twin/Double Share

\$6345.00 Sole Occupancy

Please call the office for Direct Deposit details

Day 1: CANBERRA TO CHRISTCHURCH: Tuesday 20 November 2018 (Meals inflight)

Today we depart Canberra Airport and fly via Sydney to Christchurch. Welcome to New Zealand! You are met on arrival at the Christchurch International Airport before being transferred to your hotel. *Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch.*

Day 2: CHRISTCHURCH – AKAROA – CHRISTCHURCH: Wednesday 21 November 2018 (BD)

This morning we visit the beautiful unspoilt old French whaling depot of Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. Akaroa was settled by the French in an early attempt to colonise New Zealand and still retains a good deal of French character in its street names, boutique shops and cafés. Visit a cheese factory en route and sample the local produce then explore the charming village with its cafés, art and craft shops and colonial style architecture. Explore the delightful village and time for lunch (not included). In the afternoon enjoy a cruise on Akaroa Harbour which is known for its wildlife including penguins, marine birdlife and the very rare Hector's Dolphins (smallest species in the world). Return to Christchurch in the late afternoon for a tour of the CBD before returning to the hotel. *Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch.*

Day 3: CHRISTCHURCH – FRANZ JOSEF: Thursday 22 November 2018 (BD)

From Christchurch traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous Tranz-Alpine rail journey to Arthur's Pass. From your carriage you'll see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps. Crossing Southern Alps, into the village of Arthur's Pass where you will be met by coach to continue your journey to the West Coast – or "the Coast" as locals call it, stopping in Hokitika where a visit is made to the Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories. Further south, tour the Westland National Park, the home of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. On arrival, time is available for optional scenic flights, before continuing onto our accommodation for the night. *Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier, Franz Josef*

Day 4: FRANZ JOSEF – QUEENSTOWN: Friday 23 November 2018 (B)

Driving towards the southern end of the South Island's West Coast Road, there is a strong sense of entering a primeval land, and a feeling of total isolation. Arriving at Haast, you are surrounded by a landscape of rainforest, wetlands, sand dunes and surf-pounded shingle beaches. This wilderness forms part of the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, so designated because South Westland and Fiordland have some of the most dramatic forest and mountain scenery and natural resources in the world. From the Westland National Park, travel through the Haast River valleys and over the Haast Pass to Makaroa and onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. Travelling past Lake Hawea, reaching the popular Lake Wanaka, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. This afternoon you travel via Cromwell following the Kawarau Gorge Road into Queenstown. Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafés and bars. *Mercure Queenstown Resort, Queenstown.*

Day 5: QUEENSTOWN: Saturday 24 November 2018 (BD)

Today is at leisure. Visit the Remarkable's or Coronet Peak. Experience the thrill of a jet-boat ride along the Shotover or Kawarau Rivers. Perhaps a scenic 4-wheel drive excursion through Skippers Canyon, it's up to you. Take a cruise this evening, across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead. *Mercure Queenstown Resort, Queenstown.*

Day 6: QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD SOUND – TE ANAU: Sunday 25 November 2018 (BLD)

Leaving Queenstown you skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake. Travelling via Te Anau to reach the beautiful Eglinton Valley climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach Milford Sound and enjoy a cruise of the Sound. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls. From Milford Sound you return to Te Anau reaching our overnight accommodation. *Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Lake Te Anau*

Day 7: TE ANAU – INVERCARGILL – STEWART ISLAND: Monday 26 November 2018 (BD)

Departing Te Anau we travel across country through some of New Zealand's most populated sheep country to Lumsden then south to New Zealand's southern most city. On arrival we enjoy a brief sightseeing tour of Invercargill including a visit to the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. Visit the unique Roaring 40's Gallery featuring the Sub-Antarctic Islands, and the Burt Munro exhibition - a tribute to a southern legend and land speed record holder. It is



also home to the successful Tuatara Breeding Programme which has bred over 80 Tuatara. With wonderful museum items and varying art exhibitions, this magnificent museum will keep you enthralled. Next we visit the rather impressive Bill Richardson Transport World - home to more than 300 trucks and classic vehicles, spread across 15,000 square metres. There are also more than 150 vintage petrol bowlers, along with other motoring memorabilia. More than just transport this museum tells the tale of New Zealand's social history. Later this afternoon we travel to Bluff for a photo of the famous sign post then board the catamaran ferry to Stewart Island. Upon arriving at Stewart Island we have dinner at the South Seas Hotel – a real chance to mix with the locals! *Bay Motel & South Sea Hotel, Stewart Island* ****note that depending upon final numbers, the group will be split between two separate properties****

Day 8: STEWART ISLAND – INVERCARGILL: Tuesday 27 November 2018 (BD)

This morning enjoy a continental breakfast served in your room. After breakfast we are met by a local guide at our motel for a Village and Bays Tour. Enjoy the comprehensive commentary providing us all an insight into Stewart Island's community, history and environment. Highlights include the Rakiura National Park entrance at Lee Bay, Halfmoon Bay, Horseshoe Bay and views of Paterson Inlet from Observation Rock. Guides share their local knowledge and there is time available for photo stops. Free time for lunch in the village before cruising through Paterson Inlet view hidden coves and unspoilt beaches to visit Ulva Island - a renowned wildlife sanctuary where many rare and endangered native species of birdlife and plants flourish in a predator free protected environment. During the easy 45 minute guided walk through native podocarp forest with a specialist nature guide you will be able to view diverse plant species and abundant bird life. The island is home to such wildlife as native Weka, Robins, rare Saddlebacks and Yellowheads among other species, even Kiwi are known to wander around in the area. After we return from Ulva Island we board the ferry back to the mainland staying the night in Invercargill. *Kelvin Hotel, Invercargill*

Day 9: INVERCARGILL – DUNEDIN VIA THE CATLINS: Wednesday 28 November 2018 (BD)

Today we travel the Southern Scenic Route from Invercargill through the Caitlin's to Dunedin. Our first stop is at Curio Bay to walk amongst the Petrified Forest. Travelling through some of the South's last bastion of Podocarp Forest to visit Pounaweia, and the most photographed Purakanui Falls. Further north we visit Nugget Point which is great for wildlife viewing including seals, sea lions and penguins. Here also is the historic lighthouse which was built in 1869 and is still working today, although now automated. We re-join the main road in Balclutha and continue onto Dunedin - the 'Edinburgh of the South'. The influence of its Scottish heritage is still strongly evident, so tonight we dine with a decidedly Scottish air enjoying the Haggis presentation and dinner at the hotel. *Scenic Hotel Dunedin City, Dunedin*

Day 10: DUNEDIN – OMARAMA: Thursday 29 November 2018 (BD)

This morning, visit Olveston House – an impressive turn-of-the-century house that is still home to all the lavish furnishings and art collections that have been collected from all corners of the world. Continue to take in the sights of this old Scottish City before travelling onto Oamaru where you will have time to look at the 'White Stone City', where the old buildings have been constructed with local limestone. It was from Oamaru that New Zealand's first frozen meat was shipped in 1882 taking over three months to reach England, and thus began New Zealand's most important export industry. Travelling inland through Benmore and Otematata, through Sailors Cutting before arriving at Omarama. *Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama*

Day 11: OMARAMA – CHRISTCHURCH: Friday 30 November 2018 (BD)

Today is a day for spectacular sights as you head north to skirt the shore of Lake Pukaki to Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. Time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers (weather permitting – a highly recommended option). Travelling to Tekapo, you'll witness the magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo. See the Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog, before travelling the vast Mackenzie Basin, over Burke's Pass through Fairlie, Geraldine, Ashburton and across the Canterbury Plains into Christchurch.

Day 12: CHRISTCHURCH TO CANBERRA: Saturday 01 December 2018 (B, inflight meals)

Farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you will be transferred from the hotel to Christchurch International Airport for your flight back home to Canberra via Sydney.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT: The deposit on this tour is required within 7 days of the booking request. If no deposit is received, Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel the booking. The deposit for this tour is **\$500.00 per person**.

FINAL PAYMENT: FRIDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2018

CANCELLATION TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Reservations cancelled prior to **Fri 21 Sept 2018**: Full refund of deposit less a \$50.00 administration fee.

Reservations that are cancelled on or after **Fri 21 Sept 2018** and prior to **Fri 05 Oct 2018**: loss of deposit.

Reservations that are cancelled on or after **Fri 05 Oct 2018** and prior to **Wed 17 Oct 2018**: loss of 35% of total tour cost

Reservations that are cancelled on or after **Wed 17 Oct 2018** and no shows: loss of 100% of total tour cost.

The \$50.00 Potter Travel administration fee only occurs when a refund cheque is issued. There is no administration fee for funds transferred to another Potter Travel tour. No shows on day of departure or cancellations whilst on tour will be charged a 100% cancellation fee. Where Potter Travel cancels the tour as a result of insufficient numbers or due to reasons within Potter Travel's control, a full refund of any monies paid at the time of cancellation will be given apart from any non refundable airline deposits.

Additional Fees & Surcharges: Changes to your booking and or name changes will incur a \$200 fee. Loss of ticket will incur a \$200 re issue fee. Airfares are non refundable and non transferable. If your cancellation **affects our minimum group numbers**, Potter Travel reserves the right to impose further cancellation fees in addition to those noted above. Potter travel reserves the right to pass on any additional fees or surcharges imposed by the airlines or wholesaler with or without notice. If the tour is cancelled due to natural disasters or other circumstances beyond our control, a cancellation fee may be payable by passengers depending on charges we have already incurred on your behalf.

The prices shown on this leaflet are in Australian dollars and are based on rates of exchange as at **29 January 2018**. Prices may be subject to change during the validity of this brochure due to international currency fluctuations and other factors beyond our control. Prices are "per person" based on a twin share or double share room. A single supplement is payable if a guaranteed single room is required. The information presented in this itinerary was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. **Travel arrangements are by Leisure Time Tours New Zealand in conjunction with Potter Travel**. The company reserves the right to vary the itinerary in any way at any time it deems necessary; to cancel the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control that would adversely affect the tour; and accepts no responsibility or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other operators used for the operation of the tour.

INCLUSIONS: This tour is fully escorted from Australia. The group is subject to **minimum numbers of 20 passengers**. Economy class airfares from Canberra, Australia to Christchurch New Zealand and return and all taxes* (***taxes are subject to change by the airlines, with or without notice, until the airline tickets are paid in full and the tickets are issued**). Flights to and from Christchurch are operated by Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand. This trip also includes breakfast, lunch and dinner as stated on the itinerary. Meals included are identified by the symbols, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner. Hotel accommodation is based on quality hotels with private facilities. Transport by coach as specified in the itinerary. Admissions for sightseeing as specified in the itinerary. **EXCLUSIONS: Fares do not include: 1) Meals other than those included in the itinerary. 2) Room Service. 3) Items of a personal nature, drinks, telephone calls, laundry etc. 4) Travel Insurance 5) Passports & Visas 6) Portage at airports 7) Gratuities and 8) Optional tours.**

PASSPORT & VISA INFO: A valid passport with a minimum validity of six months is required for this tour. Please provide us with a photocopy of your passport for our records. Australian passport holders do not require visas for Singapore for a stay under 90 days. If you are not travelling on an Australian passport you may require a visa or a re-entry permit for Australia. Please check with your consulate.

AIRLINE TICKETS: The name on your airline ticket **MUST** be **EXACTLY** the same as your **PASSPORT** (which must have a minimum validity of six months). Potter Travel is not responsible if you are denied boarding the aircraft because you have not advised us of your correct name. Our airfare is based on a minimum group size of 10 passengers travelling on the same flights. If group size falls below 10, an additional airfare cost will be payable by all passengers travelling. The airfare & taxes are subject to change with or without notice and can only be guaranteed once full payment has been made and tickets are issued. Travel is valid on Singapore Airlines flights as per the itinerary. Airline tickets are non-refundable & non-transferable and penalties may apply for changes or amendments (i.e. if names given to Potter Travel when booking are incorrect and amendments or corrections requires a ticket re-issue). Cost for amendments to airline tickets are from \$200 per action. In these events we will bill you for any airline costs incurred by you for actions such as cancellation fees and/or charges requested by you in addition to our own administration fee.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: The baggage allowance is for 1 x 30kg suitcase (checked in luggage) on tour person plus 1 piece of carry on luggage (maximum 7kg). Please label baggage. Any excess baggage charges are the responsibility of the passenger and paid for at the point of departure by the passenger.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you are adequately insured for the duration of your tour with full comprehensive travel insurance. Potter Travel can provide you with details on SureSave Travel Insurance. Please contact us for further information.

RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES

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