

Signature | Inspirational Alps Tour

Christchurch to Queenstown – 7 Days

Inspirational Alps is also offered as a Queenstown to Christchurch tour.
See the end of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Christchurch

Kia Ora!

Welcome to Christchurch – New Zealand’s Garden City! The largest city in the South Island, Christchurch is known for its historical earthquake in 2011 and how it rebuilt itself into a charming, multicultural city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican 'gothic revival' architectural influence.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Christchurch has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to wander through the enticing stalls at Riverside Market or explore the botanical gardens before heading to the art gallery, museums, and other city attractions.

After an exciting day on the town, your journey will officially begin as you meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director at aboard Christchurch’s historic tramway restaurant.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Christchurch Historic Tramway Dinner

Day 2

Christchurch to West Coast

The TranzAlpine Scenic Train

Today you will experience the world-famous TranzAlpine journey, indulging in the Scenic Plus experience as you climb through the Southern Alps.

On this fantastic escape, you will see epic vistas, soar on the edges of the ice fed Waimakariri River, traverse through the Great Divide, and experience ever-changing landscapes. The natural scenery isn't the only marvel, though. The TranzAlpine passes through the Otira Tunnel, a true engineering marvel of 100 years!

Once you arrive on the West Coast, a private coach will take you even further off the beaten track to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks. Here you will explore curious limestone formations and blowholes before finishing your day in the ocean-front town of Hokitika.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

TranzAlpine Scenic Plus
Punakaiki Pancake Rock Excursion

Day 3

West Coast to Franz Josef

Explore the West Coast

This morning, you'll start your West Coast adventure by visiting one of the South Island's most popular activities – the West Coast Tree Top Walk. This elevated adventure will get you acquainted with the locals – the ancient Rimu and Kamahi trees.

After your sky-high experience, continue south into Glacier Country. Franz Josef Glacier is quite special in that it survives in coastal rainforest temperatures. With a short walk to a viewpoint, you'll get a fantastic view of the vast valley, as well as a sneak peek of Franz Josef Glacier itself. If you would prefer to get up close, we recommend booking an optional helicopter flight. This will ensure you are getting the best possible view of this natural wonder.

After indulging in the local activities and retail therapy in Franz Josef's souvenir shops, join your group for an impeccable highlight meal at Te Waonui Forest Retreat.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

West Coast Tree Top Walk

Short Nature Walk to Glacier Viewing Point

Degustation Dinner at Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 4

Franz Josef to Queenstown

Explore the Southern Lakes

Today you will explore the Haast Pass. With changing landscapes around every bend, this journey of about five hours to Queenstown, will be one of the most scenic drives you may ever take. While aboard an exciting river boat and private coach, marvel at the beaches, crystal blue lakes and rivers, mountain peaks, lush vineyards, charming plains and majestic glaciers as your Tour Director guides you between local hidden gems. Stop in unique locations that only locals know about.

Emerging on the other side of the pass, explore the local fruit hotspot – Mrs. Jones' Fruit Stall before exploring the cobblestone streets of Arrowtown.

After an exciting plunge into the history of this gold rush village, you will arrive in the world-famous resort town of Queenstown.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (3 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Scenic coach journey through Haast Pass with stops along the way

Haast River Safari

Mrs Jones' Fruit Stall and Arrowtown Visit

Day 5

Queenstown & Milford Sound

Explore Milford Sound

Make sure you charge your camera before you set off on today's adventure. Today you're heading to Milford Sound/ Piopiotahi to be engulfed in towering peaks and waltz through plunging valleys.

After travelling through native rainforests, meadows, and past beautiful reflective pools, you will join your cruise in Milford Sound. Enjoy one of the most stunning natural features New Zealand has to offer. Aboard the cruise, you will meander down the sound to experience the rumble of Bowen and Stirling Falls as they plummet from glacial hanging valleys. Marvel at the sheer pinnacle of Mitre Peak, rising from the deep waters of the fjord.

Or, if you'd like to soar like the Piopio (ancient bird), why not elevate your day by booking a flight into the Sound by plane?

After this adventure, you will be heading back to Queenstown for a relaxing evening.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (3 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Milford Sound Day Excursion

Day 6

Queenstown

Explore Queenstown

Queenstown truly has something for everyone. Personalise your day to be as active or relaxed as you'd like. Whether it's exploring Walter Peak on a horse trekking adventure, hopping on the gondola for inspiring views, or sipping wine in Gibbston Valley, there is no shortage of activities to delight your senses.

Enjoy a 'final hurrah' this evening as we board the TSS Earnslaw Steamship Cruise, dinner, and show. Reflect on your great adventure with your fellow travellers as you cruise to your dining experience at Walter peak overlooking the beautiful Table Bay. Sit back and watch a true Kiwi experience as you learn about sheep shearing and dog herding in this beautiful setting. This evening will truly encapsulate your great journey as a truly New Zealand highlight.

Not ready to call it a night? Sip cocktails and indulge in Queenstown's exciting nightlife alongside the sparkling Lake Wakatipu.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (3 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Farewell Dinner at Walter Peak Farm
TSS Earnslaw Cruise & Farm Show

Day 7

Queenstown

Departing Queenstown

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers.

Not ready to leave Queenstown? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

GREAT JOURNEYS NEW ZEALAND

AOTEAROA
BY TRAIN

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport

Signature | Inspirational Alps Tour

Queenstown to Christchurch – 7 Days

Inspirational Alps is also offered as a Christchurch to Queenstown tour.
See the start of this itinerary for details.

Day 1

Queenstown

Kia Ora!

Welcome to Queenstown, the adventure capital of New Zealand! Famed for its striking mountain ranges, enchanting vineyards, diverse dining options, and the picturesque Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown offers a unique experience.

Upon settling in your hotel and acquainting yourself with the welcome letter from your Tour Director, take the opportunity to explore. The beachfront beckons, retail therapy awaits, and the beautiful rose gardens are a must-see.

The journey begins at this evening's welcome reception with your fellow travelers and Tour Director. Embark on the TSS Earnslaw Steamship Cruise for a memorable dinner and show, cruising towards Walter Peak and overlooking Table Bay. Enjoy an evening filled with iconic Kiwi experiences such as sheep shearing and dog herding, set against the stunning backdrop of the lake.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Dinner with Welcome Drink

Activities

Welcome Dinner at Walter Peak Farm
TSS Earnslaw Cruise & Farm Show

Day 2

Queenstown & Milford Sound

Explore Milford Sound

Make sure you charge your camera before you set off on today's adventure. Today you're heading to Milford Sounds/ Piopiotahi to be engulfed in towering peaks and to waltz through plunging valleys.

After travelling through native rainforests, meadows, and past beautiful reflective pools you will join your cruise in Milford Sounds. Enjoy one of the most stunning natural features New Zealand has to offer. Aboard the cruise you will meander down the sound to experience the rumble of Bowen and Stirling Falls as they plummet from glacial hanging valleys. Marvel at the sheer pinnacle of Mitre Peak, rising from the deep waters of the fiord.

Or, if you'd like to soar like the Piopio (ancient bird), why not elevate your day by booking a flight into the Sound by plane?

After this adventure, you will be heading back to Queenstown for a relaxing evening.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Milford Sound Day Excursion

Day 3

Queenstown to Franz Josef

Explore the Southern Lakes

Today you'll be exploring the Haast Pass. With changing landscapes around every bend, this journey of about five hours to Franz Josef will be one of the most scenic drives you may ever take. Marvel at the beaches, crystal blue lakes and rivers, mountain peaks, lush vineyards, charming plains and glaciers as your Tour Director guides you between local hidden gems. Stop in unique locations only the locals tend to stop at.

Grab a warm aromatic coffee as you wander the cobblestone streets of Arrowtown. Next, explore Haast by private coach and exciting jet boat. You'll be escorted through the outstanding

scenery of Haast Pass bound for Franz Josef with amazing sights along the way. Stop in unique destinations that only locals know about.

Reaching Franz Josef, join your group for an impeccable highlight meal at Te Waonui Forest Retreat.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Arrowtown Visit

Haast River Safari

Scenic coach journey through Haast Pass with stops along the way
Degustation Dinner at Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 4

Franz Josef to West Coast

Explore the West Coast

Franz Josef Glacier is quite special in that it survives in coastal rainforest temperatures. Before you head off up the coast, why not set off on a nature walk? No matter which one you choose, you'll get a fantastic view of the vast valley and maybe even a sneak peak of Franz Josef Glacier itself.

Aboard the private coach, you'll journey further along the coastline, reaching the TreeTop Walkway. This elevated adventure will get you acquainted with the locals – the ancient Rimu and Kamahi trees of course.

This evening, you'll have free time to explore the beach at your leisure.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Short Nature Walk to Glacier Viewing Point
West Coast Tree Top Walk

Day 5

West Coast to Christchurch

The TranzAlpine Scenic Train

Before you escape into the Southern Alps aboard the world-famous TranzAlpine scenic train, a special excursion is beckoning - the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks. Here you will explore curious limestone formations and blowholes before joining the scenic journey to Christchurch at the Greymouth Railway Station.

Comfortably resting in plush, reclined seats, you will be surrounded by panoramic views. Start the journey by passing through the engineering marvel of the Otira Tunnel before emerging into a new landscape. Travel beneath the Great Divide before a brief photo opportunity at Arthur's Pass. As you soar on the edges of the ice fed Waimakariri River, you'll see epic vistas in all directions while breathing fresh mountain air in the open carriage.

Just a few hours later, you'll arrive into 'The Garden City'.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Punakaiki Pancake Rock Excursion
TranzAlpine Scenic Plus

Day 6

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the hub for South Island exploration is also a wonderful city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican influence. Often remembered for its earthquake in 2011, the city is rebuilding itself into a multi-cultural haven.

Today you are free to explore the museums, Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, Gondola and botanical gardens. There is also a multitude of delicious cafes tucked into quaint side streets we're sure you will love.

This evening you will re-join your fellow travelers for a special dinner on Christchurch's historic dinner tram. Enjoy a wonderful circuit of the city while indulging in fantastic conversation and seasonal cuisine.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Hop on hop off tram
Christchurch Historic Tramway Dinner

Day 7

Christchurch

Departing Christchurch

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast at your hotel.

Not ready to leave Christchurch? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to airport