

The Southern Drift

12 DAYS • Christchurch • Arthur's Pass • Franz Josef Glacier • Queenstown • Milford Sound • Te Anau • Dunedin

Discover New Zealand on this Inspiring Journey through the natural treasures of the South Island. From the still waters of Milford Sound and snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps to the rolling hills of Central Otago, delve into the beauty of landscapes that have remained unchanged for millennia.



🌿 Milford Track

Join your guide for a picture-perfect walk to Giant's Gate Falls, where ancient canopy trees tower above, emerald-green ferns hang below and bird songs echo through the trees.



TransAlpine



Franz Josef Glacier

🎯 Immerse

Delve deep into the natural wonders of Milford Sound, with specialist nature guides sharing their knowledge of this mystical landscape.

🍷 Indulge

Join a behind-the-scenes tour and tasting at Emerson's, a state of the art craft brewery, and embark on a culinary discovery of Queenstown.

🚣 Explore

Journey down the Haast River in a fully enclosed jet boat, and discover the remarkable glacial valley where temperate rainforest thrives.

🌸 Relax

Take a dip in Franz Josef's local geothermal hot pools and relax and rejuvenate after a day of discovering the South's natural wonders.



Walter Peak High Country Farm (Optional Experience Queenstown)

See itinerary next page >



Milford Sound Lodge

Wake up to exquisite views of the Cleddau Valley from your eco-friendly chalet.



Christchurch

Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch

On arrival in Christchurch you will be transferred by private car to your hotel. Spend some time at leisure to relax or explore on your own. Perhaps visit the International Antarctic Centre, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens or take a ride on the Christchurch Tram. This evening, join your Journey Director for Welcome Reception.

🏠 **The George**

Day 2: Christchurch – TranzAlpine – Franz Josef

- 🌿 **It's all aboard the TranzAlpine train. Rated as one of the world's great scenic railway journeys,** you'll travel in comfort across the Canterbury Plains through the Southern Alps. From Arthur's Pass, visit the small town of Hokitika, the heritage and cultural centre of the West Coast, and meet a local greenstone (jade) carver for a jewellery demonstration. Later we continue to Franz Josef. Your eco-friendly accommodation is set amid native bush, with an emphasis on relaxation and rejuvenation. This evening, why not enjoy Franz Josef's local geothermal hot pools?

🏠 **Te Waonui Forest Retreat, 2 nights**

🍷 **Breakfast, dinner with wine**

Day 3: Franz Josef (Relaxed Start)

- 🌿 **We explore this area on a walk with a local guide, who will take you up alongside the Waiho River bed following the glacier's path of retreat, and will explain the history behind mighty Franz Josef Glacier.** Later, you may want to get up close to the glaciers on an optional helicopter flight. Your flight will hover over the snow face and may land high up in the valley so that you can walk across the ice fall – subject to weather conditions.

🍷 **Breakfast**

Day 4: Franz Josef – Arrowtown – Queenstown

- 🌿 **This morning it's time for an adventure as we travel in a purpose-built fully enclosed river jet boat and journey down the Haast River.** After a lunch stop at Makarora we head to Queenstown, taking time to stop to explore the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown. The adventure-capital awaits you for your extended 3 night stay, and you'll have the opportunity to explore it during an orientation tour when you arrive.

🏠 **Hotel St. Moritz, 3 nights**

🍷 **Breakfast, dinner with wine**



Haast River Safari

Day 5: Queenstown at Leisure

- 🌿 **Today is at leisure to discover Queenstown – your way.** You could join a wine tour, view The Lord of the Rings film locations and scenery of Queenstown and Glenorchy on a scenic tour or spend time having a relaxing massage in the spa.

🍷 **Breakfast**

Day 6: Queenstown at Leisure

Make the most of your extended stay in Queenstown. Why not sit back and enjoy a peaceful cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard New Zealand's oldest steamship, the TSS Earnslaw, to Walter Peak Station. Otherwise, you could simply relax, shop or enjoy time at one of the many cafés and restaurants while soaking up the alpine views. **Tonight, enjoy a Local Dining Experience at one of Queenstown's exclusive restaurants.**



🍷 **Breakfast, Local Dining Experience**

Day 7: Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound

- 🌿 **Travel south along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau on the shores of the South Island's largest lake. Later you'll travel through the rainforest of World Heritage Fiordland National Park, sighting glaciers and mountain ranges before driving through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel to the amazing views.** Afterwards, walk to see the Chasm on your way into Milford Sound. **Tonight, stay at the magical Milford Sound Lodge, with views of the Cleddau Valley.**



🏠 **Milford Sound Lodge, 2 nights**

🍷 **Breakfast, dinner with wine**

Day 8: Milford Track Walk & Milford Sound Cruise

- 🌿 **Wake up to the breathtaking beauty of Milford Sound. Get a taste of the world-famous Milford Track with a half-day walk.** Walking in a small group, your nature guide will point out the native fauna and flora and share the fascinating human heritage of the track. This afternoon, enjoy Milford Sound's awe-inspiring scenery from the comfort of a small boat. **Cruise the length of the Fiord, view iconic Mitre Peak and get up close to Stirling Falls.** With limited numbers, you'll be rewarded with an intimate experience and unobstructed photo opportunities from the outdoor viewing decks. Keep an eye out for seals and maybe a pod of dolphins. The perfect way to round off your day.



🍷 **Breakfast, dinner with wine**

[Visit our website for prices >](#)

Departures

| 2022 | 2023 |
|--------|----------------|
| Oct 10 | Jan 02, 09, 30 |
| Nov 07 | Feb 06 |
| | Mar 06 |

See available prices or additional departure dates including those from 01 Oct 2023 at inspiringjourneys.com/nzsj or contact your local agent. Single traveller must pay the single price.

Inclusions

- Small group (22 guests max)
- 6+ Unforgettable experiences
- 18 included meals
- 11 Nights premium accommodation

NZSI: Christchurch Return

Flights are not included in holiday price.

Flight Information:

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport

Day 12 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch Airport

Day 9: Milford Sound – Gore – Dunedin



We leave the majestic Fiordland National Park for the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago. **Travel through Te Anau known for its beautiful lake and on to the country music town of Gore** before arriving in Dunedin, New Zealand's southern-most city.

🏠 **Distinction Dunedin Hotel, 2 nights**

🍷 **Breakfast, dinner with wine**

Day 10: Dunedin (Relaxed Start)



Join a behind the scenes tour at a state-of-the-art 5000L craft brewery, Emerson's, before joining your hosts for an exclusive tasting. This afternoon is at leisure, so perhaps tour imposing Larnach Castle or take a wildlife cruise out to the Otago Peninsula to spot penguins and the Royal Albatross.

🍷 **Breakfast**

Day 11: Dunedin – Christchurch



Travel up the east coast of the South Island via Oamaru and Timaru. Once back in Christchurch **embark on a sightseeing tour of the city to learn about its rebirth after the devastating 2011 earthquake.** This evening, toast your trip at a Celebration Dinner with your new-found friends and Journey Director.

🏠 **The George**

🍷 **Breakfast, Celebration Dinner**

Day 12: Farewell from Christchurch

Say farewell to your fellow travellers as your Inspiring Journey comes to an end and we transfer you by private car to Christchurch Airport for your onward flight.

🍷 **Breakfast**