11 Days Ultimate South Island Christmas

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Celebrate the festive season in style while travelling 'Business Class on Wheels' on the Ultimate 20 seat coach. Experience New Zealand's unique South Island attractions including an overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound on Christmas Eve, plus the world-renowned TranzAlpine Rail Journey, all while m...

DURATION	FROM PRICE	TOUR TYPE	TOUR CODE
11 Days	**$9,079**	**Cruises**	**GPT**

Overview

Celebrate the festive season in style while travelling 'Business Class on Wheels' on the Ultimate 20 seat coach. Experience New Zealand's unique South Island attractions including an overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound on Christmas Eve, plus the world-renowned TranzAlpine Rail Journey, all while making lifelong friendships. Enjoy two-night stays in Christchurch and Queenstown. On arrival into Christchurch you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink as you meet your travelling companions. Hotel Sudima Christchurch City (2 nights)

Itinerary

1

Arrive Christchurch

Meals: Two Course Dinner

On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink when you meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions for dinner. Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel

2

Christchurch (B)

This morning visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. Feel the chill of the Antarctic storm room, take a ride on the Hagglund all-terrain vehicle, see the little blue penguins and be astonished within the immersive 4D theatre. Afterward embark on a city tour of Christchurch discovering its rich history and culture. This afternoon, enjoy a leisurely ride aboard the Christchurch Tram. This evening is free to explore Christchurch...

3

Christchurch - Mt Cook

Meals: Full Breakfast, Two Course Dinner

Travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Aoraki/Mt Cook, New Zealand’s highest peak. The opportunity is available to enjoy a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the Southern Alps. Hotel The Hermitage Hotel

4

Mt Cook - Dunedin

Meals: Full Breakfast, Two Course Dinner

Depart Mt Cook and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue south to Dunedin and enjoy a city tour followed by some free time. Optional activities to consider include a wildlife excursion or a guided tour of Olveston Historic Home, containing a wealth of treasures of a bygone era. Hotel Distinction Dunedin Hotel

5

Dunedin – TE Anau (B,D)

This morning, travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander around this Garden of International Significance followed by an Ultimate High Tea in the Grand Ballroom. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland and your overnight stay. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional) or the Fiordland Cinema, specially constructed to sc...

6

Te Anau - Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise

Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

A leisurely start today before travelling to Manapouri. Enjoy lunch as you cruise across this glacial lake. After a short ride over the Wilmot Pass, join the Fiordland Navigator for an amazing overnight experience. As you cruise through the pristine beauty of Doubtful Sound, naturalist guides will provide commentary and point out the resident wildlife. When evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared by the onboard chef. Overnight Fiordland Navigator

7

TE Anau – Queenstown – Christmas Day (B,D)

Merry Christmas! Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back to Deep Cove for the trip back to Manapouri. Return to the wharf and meet your Ultimate Coach for the journey to Queenstown, a year-round resort, situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening dinner will be at your hotel. Rendezvous Heritage Queenstown (2 nights)

8

Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day to explore Queenstown. Your Coach Captain and Tour Leader will assist with the many optional activities available. You may wish to enjoy the thrill of a jet boat ride or a heritage tour of the scenic Skippers Canyon. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner featuring a menu of seasonal, fresh and locally sourced food at the Colonel’s Homestead....

9

Queenstown – Franz Josef (B,D)

Travel to Arrowtown, an old goldmining village where you visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Fox Glacier. Next you visit Franz Josef, where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers before arriving at your hotel for your overnight stay. Hotel Legacy Te Waonui Hotel, Franz...

10

Franz Josef – Arthur’s Pass – Christchurch (B,SD)

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory before arriving at Arthur’s Pass where you board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains. On arrival into the elegant city of Christchurch, your Ultimate Coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. This evening reminisce on the memories shared with ...

11

Depart Christchurch

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday. Itinerary valid from Sep 2026. (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner, (SD) Specialty Dinner

Inclusions

PREPAID ATTRACTIONS • International Antarctic Centre • Larnach Castle and Ultimate High Tea • HIGHLIGHT - Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise • Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw • Lakes District Museum • TranzAlpine Rail Journey • Christchurch City Sights Tour • Dunedin City Sights Tour COACH FEATURES • 20 Business Class seats on a full-size coach • 2 door access; dedicated seat side storage with tray table; cup holder • Restroom; daily onboard Wi-Fi allowance EXPERIENCE • Return airfares from your homeport • Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival • Return airport transfers in New Zealand • Professional Coach Captain • 9 nights 4.5 star accommodation • Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise • 2 two night stays • Hotel porterage • 1 rail journey • 1 cruise • All sightseeing and prepaid attractions • Extensive Optional Activities • Ultimate Documentation Pack MEALS • 10 cooked breakfasts • 9 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 2 specialty dinners: Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown; Intimate Farewell Dinner, selected beverages, Christchurch • 2 lunches: Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise • 1 Ultimate High Tea: Larnach Castle • Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks) • Day 1: Dinner not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

Ready to Book?

Contact our travel experts to discuss this tour.

1300 138 687
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm AEST

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We reply within 24 hours

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