

11 Days | Signature Top of the South Island | With Flights

Christchurch - Akaroa - Moana - Hokitika - Punakaiki - Nelson - Abel Tasman National Park - Blenheim - Marlborough Sounds - Kaikoura

From **\$6,559** Typically \$6,859 ✈️ pp twin share



Return International Flights from Australia to New Zealand

Enjoy a Premium Economy 32-Seater Coach on your travels through NZ

Take a ride on the TranzAlpine Rail system and cruise Queen Charlotte Sound

Discover the magic of Christchurch, Nelson, Blenheim and MUCH MORE!

Description



For a LIMITED TIME ONLY receive the extremely popular GPT JACKET for FREE

The adventure begins in Christchurch, where the modernity of the city seamlessly blends with its historic charm. As you explore the city, you'll witness the resilience and creativity of the community following the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, and the rebuild efforts that have transformed Christchurch into a vibrant hub.

Leaving Christchurch, the tour takes a scenic route to Akaroa, a charming French-inspired town nestled on the Banks Peninsula. The journey continues through Moana, where the serene Lake Brunner reflects the surrounding Southern Alps, creating a picture-perfect scene. Hokitika, renowned for its greenstone (pounamu) carving, provides a cultural interlude before reaching Punakaiki. Here, the Pancake Rocks and blowholes showcase the wild beauty of the West Coast, a natural spectacle that captivates visitors.

Read our latest Blogs about travelling through New Zealand at ['Wake Up Here'](#)

Nelson beckons with its artistic flair and golden beaches, setting the stage for exploration and relaxation. The tour then leads to the Abel Tasman National Park, a coastal paradise known for its golden sand beaches, lush forests, and crystal-clear waters. Activities such as kayaking and hiking offer immersive experiences in this natural wonderland. Blenheim, the heart of the Marlborough wine region, invites you to savor the world-renowned Sauvignon Blanc amidst the picturesque vineyards.

The journey through the Marlborough Sounds, with its intricate waterways and verdant landscapes, provides a tranquil contrast. As the tour progresses to Kaikoura, the coastal town unfolds its marine wonders, offering opportunities for whale watching and seal encounters. Finally, the route loops back to Christchurch, completing a circuit of the South Island that showcases the diversity and beauty of New Zealand's landscapes. Throughout the Signature tour, Grand Pacific Touring ensures a seamless blend of luxury and adventure, making every moment a cherished memory in the heart of Aotearoa.



Itinerary

Day 1

Australia ✈ Christchurch, New Zealand

Today you will check in and board your flight bound for New Zealand. 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.

Meals: Inflight Menu and Dinner

Accommodation: Distinction Christchurch Hotel

Day 2

Christchurch 🚗 🏰 Akaroa 🏰 🚗 Christchurch

After an introductory city sights tour, enjoy a scenic drive to the historic French village of Akaroa, with time to wander through the charming galleries and craft stores. This afternoon set off on a Nature Cruise in the hope of spotting the rare Hector's Dolphin and keep an eye out for penguins and other sea birds. Following your cruise, return to Christchurch where the evening is free to dine at one of the city's many restaurants.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Distinction Christchurch Hotel

Day 3

Christchurch 🚗 Moana 🚗 Hokitika

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges before descending through the Otira Tunnel to Moana, on the banks of picturesque Lake Brunner. Enjoy lunch at Kingfisher Restaurant, before travelling to the Brunner Mine Site, the location of the 1896 mine explosion. This afternoon in the coastal town of Hokitika, visit a local gallery, for the opportunity to pick up a gift or souvenir.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Beachfront Hotel Hokitika (Ocean View Room)

Day 4

Hokitika 🚗 Punakaiki

Today, take in the natural beauty of the Hokitika Gorge on a short walk descending through the hardwood forest that will lead you to a swing bridge which crosses the Hokitika River. Continue north to Greymouth, home of Monteith's Brewing Co. where you will sample locally brewed beers over lunch. This afternoon travel along the Great Coast Road to the world-famous Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Punakaiki (Superior Room)

Day 5

Punakaiki 🚗 Nelson

Journey north along the coast to Tauranga Bay and Cape Foulwind, named by Captain Cook in 1770 when he encountered nasty weather. A short walk along the rocky headland will showcase the rugged coastline and sea life often on show amongst the rocks. Travel inland via the Buller Gorge and Murchison to Nelson, one of the sunniest cities in New Zealand. This afternoon enjoy a visit to the Nelson Classic Car Museum where you will marvel at an incredible collection of iconic cars. This is followed by an orientation tour of the city.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodation: Rutherford Hotel (Premium Room)

Day 6

Nelson 🚌 🏰 Abel Tasman National Park 🏰 🚌 Nelson

Travel to Kaiteriteri, gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park and join a cruise along the parks' picturesque coastline. At Anchorage Bay lunch will be served. Re-join your coach and depart for Nelson via the vineyards. This evening is free for you to dine at one of the local restaurants in town.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: Rutherford Hotel (Premium Room)

Day 7

Nelson 🚌 Blenheim

Today travel via Havelock and the wine-growing region of Marlborough. Visit the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, home to one of the largest private collections of WW1 Aircraft, brought to life in sets created by the internationally acclaimed WingNut Films and Weta Workshop. Head back into town where you will enjoy lunch at a local Blenheim beer garden. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Marlborough

Day 8

Blenheim 🚌 Picton 🏰 Queen Charlotte Sound 🏰 Picton 🚌 Blenheim

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before travelling to Picton where time is available to explore this picturesque port. Cruise from Picton Marina to the stunning Queen Charlotte Sound, while enjoying informative commentary on this remarkable region, enroute to Furneaux Lodge. At Furneaux Lodge a delicious lunch will be served followed by time to enjoy the peaceful surroundings. There is access to kayaks and short walks around the property. On the return cruise to Picton a cheese platter featuring local produce is served accompanied by a glass of Marlborough wine, the perfect end to your Marlborough Sounds adventure. Board the coach for the short journey back to Blenheim where the evening is free to dine at one of the local restaurants.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Marlborough

Day 9

Blenheim 🚌 Kaikoura

Farewell the Marlborough region and journey to Kaikōura. Visit the Kaikōura Museum, which features an exhibition depicting the impact of the 2016 earthquake. This afternoon you may like to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the coastline to see the many species of whales that migrate through this area.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodation: Sudima Kaikōura

Day 10

Kaikoura 🚌 Christchurch

Depart Kaikōura and head to Christchurch to visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink and reminisce on memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodation: Distinction Christchurch Hotel

Day 11

Christchurch ✈ Australia

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

Meals: Breakfast and Inflight Menu

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Return International Airfares from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane
- Travelling from another city or from regional Australia? Contact us for a quote!
- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Professional Coach Captain
- Tour Leader
- 10 nights 4-star accommodation
- 3 two night stays
- Hotel portering
- 1 rail journey and 3 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Signature Documentation Pack
- 32 Premium Economy Comfort seats on a full-size coach with Restroom and daily onboard Wi-Fi allowance
- 10 cooked breakfasts
- 7 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 1 specialty dinner: Farewell Dinner including pre-dinner drink, Christchurch
- 5 specialty lunches: Kingfisher Restaurant, Lake Brunner; Monteith's Brewing Co., Greymouth; Abel Tasman lunch, Abel Tasman National Park; Dodson Street Beer Garden; Blenheim; Furneaux Lodge, Queen Charlotte Sound
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

Travelling on your own? Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.

WAKE UP HERE! Read the latest from the [Official Traveldream Blog](#)

Exclusions

- Meals not mentioned
- Any additional requests
- Travel Insurance
- Tipping/Gratuities

Passport and Visa Requirements: All visitors require a passport to enter New Zealand. Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the date that you intend to leave New Zealand. For Australian citizens travelling on an Australian passport, you do not need a visa or permit to visit New Zealand. Visitors from visa-waiver countries must request an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) prior to travelling to New Zealand. For visitors from non-visa waiver countries, it is recommended you contact your Travel Agent or NZ Immigration for full entry requirements. If you are not an Australian Citizen or permanent resident, you may also have to pay for an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). Please check with your Travel Agent for up-to-date immigration requirements.

Solo Supplement: Please contact us for a quote and availability.

Child Policy: Children under 16 years are not permitted.

Fitness Level Required: The tour includes a number of short walks of up to 1 hour that require a moderate level of fitness. The walks are scenic and not excessive but can include slight inclines and uneven surfaces. Ensure you feel comfortable with this level of fitness before booking.

Travel Insurance: We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

Wanting to arrive earlier or stay later: Please contact us to arrange pre or post-arrangements.