



10 Day AAT Kings Southern Spectacular 24/25

Southern calling? This trip to New Zealand unites some of the country's most fabled playgrounds – think adventure-filled Queenstown tours, a World Heritage listed Milford Sound/Piopiotahi tour and possible gem-like Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere tours – with some of its must off-the-radar pockets. Have you heard of the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks, or glimpsed the turquoise lakes outside Twizel?

Starts in: Christchurch
Finishes in: Christchurch
Length: 10days / 9nights
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: Comprehensive tour pack (detailed itinerary, driving, instructions, map/guidebooks, brochures)
Included: Be My Guest Afternoon Tea
Included: Christchurch City Tour
Included: Milford Sound Cruise
Included: Punakaiki Rocks
Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise and dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown : 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners, 1 special dinner

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Includes: 24/7 support while touring in New Zealand

Included: Boat ride on Lake Manapouri

Included: Franz Josef Glacier

Included: Monteith's Brewery Experience

Included: TranzAlpine Rail Journey

Included: Visit a Local Orchard

Day 1

At once forward-thinking and fun, Christchurch is the kind of city you could lose yourself in for a week – or more. You have this afternoon, so make the most of it. We recommend riding the rails on the vintage Christchurch Tram, a narrated hop-on, hop-off experience that loops around town, your energetic host pointing out historic architecture and new developments that have popped up since the 2010/2011 earthquakes. Freshen up because it's time to meet your fellow adventure-seekers over a couple of wines at a Welcome Reception.

Staying in:

- Distinction Christchurch Hotel (1 night)
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Day 2

If you didn't get your bearings yesterday, you certainly will on today's Christchurch tour, taking in the city's record-breaking Transitional Cathedral – who knew you could build a church from cardboard and not much else? – as well as past the gilded library, gleaming like an architectural beacon. The buildings of the city fade into a patchwork of farms as you ease across the Canterbury Plains toward Morelea. Here, Angie and Stan Taylor welcome you to their home with a slap-up Be My Guest afternoon tea and tales about life on the land. And this land is truly dramatic, backdropped by powdery mountains and cut with turquoise lakes, none quite as pretty as Lake Tekapo, on its banks the stone-hewn Church of the Good Shepherd. It's like someone has taken the glasses off your nose and cleaned them for the first time.

Staying in:

- MacKenzie Country Hotel (1 night)
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Day 3

More water awaits on day three, your journey following the Waitaki River to mighty Benmore Dam; it powers 300,000 New Zealand homes. You're en route to the city of Dunedin, replete with rolling green meadows and grand stone castles. It kind of feels like you've been transported to Scotland – small wonder it's known as the 'Edinburgh of the South'. With this afternoon at your leisure, we recommend a cruise to spot penguins and fur seals along the Otago Peninsula, or perhaps a visit to Speight's Brewery – a New Zealand institution that makes everything from a fragrant Old Dark to a crisp Apple Cider. And pretty much everything in between. There's always that castle to explore... Larnach may not have the history of Scotland's grand estates, but it's just as pretty in our humble opinion. A NZ holiday must.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Southern Cross (1 night)
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Day 4

Leave Dunedin's bucolic sheep-farming countryside behind as you venture into World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, a place of yawning gorges and gem-like glaciers, and azure lakes so large they have their own islands. Case in point Pomona Island, where a charitable trust of passionate volunteers works to restore flora and fauna. With your help. Your cruise across Lake Manapouri is remote and ravishing during the day – it's even prettier at night, when glowworms fill caves. Can we tempt you?

Staying in:

- Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas (1 night)
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Day 5

Nature rules again today, from the moment you depart Te Anau and begin your journey deep into the heart of Fiordland National Park. Think native rainforests, beech forests, alluvial flats and meadows; Mirror Lakes perfectly reflecting mountain scenery; and precipitous lookouts holding guard over alpine rivers. And this is just the entrée. The main course is your Milford Sound/Piopiotahi tour, where you cruise in the company of dolphins that frolic under the torrent of mighty Bowen and Stirling Falls, and gaze at misty escarpments so sheer they appear to cleave off the edge of the Earth. You're in the company of a naturalist who knows every nook and cranny of this mighty cavern and will point out flora and fauna you would have never spotted on your own.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel, Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 6

Take today at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet, perhaps. Prefer wine to get your heart started? See why Central Otago makes some of the world's most raved about cool-climate pinots on a cellar door tour. Wherever your Queenstown New Zealand tour wanderings take you, reunite with your companions come dusk to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw, your barbecue Highlight Dinner served on the grounds of Walter Peak High Country Farm. Trips to New Zealand don't get much tastier than this.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel, Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 7

In the shadow of the Remarkables, Queenstown is pretty spectacular. But it has some stiff good-looks competition from neighbouring Arrowtown, with its movie-set tree-lined avenues and 19th-century buildings that once housed gold-rush fortune-seekers. Things grow well in this verdant countryside, from cherries to pinot grapes and all manner of stone fruit. Have you ever eaten a freshly-plucked peach handed to you by a farmer? Prepare for a flavour explosion. The next explosion is a visual one as you arrive at Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Get some perspective of this immense ice fall on an optional helicopter flight – you may even get to land on it.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (1 night)
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Day 8

Emerald hues are reflected in the greenstone (jade) mined in Hokitika, where artisans show you just how talented they are at carving jewellery and mementos. Just try and keep your purse closed here. Nature carved Punakaiki's Pancake Rocks and blowholes, where waves thunder through cracks in the Earth. This is the soundtrack that lulls you to sleep at tonight's eco-resort.

Day 9

Wine may steal the scene across much of New Zealand, but at legendary Monteith's Brewery, beer rules. Sip your way through a tasting paddle of XPA, IPA, lager and pale ale because you're not driving to the station where your TranzAlpine for your train trip across New Zealand's South Island. This is one of those NZ holiday experiences where the journey matters just as much as the destination, as you sweep through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. What a way to end a day.

Staying in:

- Distinction Christchurch Hotel (1 night)
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Day 10

The last 10 days of your NZ holiday flew by. Return home with new friends, a full SD card on your camera – and even more memories.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Guided Coach Tour
Starts:	Christchurch
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	10
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Included activities

Includes	All breakfasts
Includes	7 dinners
Includes	Airport transfers
Includes	TranzAlpine Train from Greymouth to Christchurch
Includes	TSS Earnslaw cruise and dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown
Includes	Morelea Farm and lunch
Includes	Punakaiki Rocks
Includes	Dunedin City Sights tour
Includes	Greenstone Jade craft experience

Accommodation summary