

## WILDERNESS SOUTH EXPEDITION EXTENSION

Queenstown -Mt Cook - Christchurch  
*Plains, alps, snow, sheep & wine*

Tour Code: WSEx

**\*\*SPECIAL OFFER FOR GUESTS ON THE  
WILDERNESS SOUTH EXPEDITION\*\***

### Mt Cook and Lake Tekapo

Extend your expedition with Canterbury Trails by returning to Christchurch over two days with a visit to Mount Cook Village and an overnight overlooking the spectacular Lake Tekapo.

#### Day 1...

After an early start you depart Queenstown and head north along the Kawarau Gorge where a stop can be made at 'The Bungy bridge' (where it all started) or perhaps at Goldfields Mining Centre. We follow the shores of manmade Lake Dunstan and visit Tarras where there is a small exhibition of Shrek (honouring a sheep that lived wild and went unshorn for 5 years!!!).

After leaving Lake Dunstan the land becomes drier as we climb over the Lindis Pass into McKenzie Country. The wild rugged scenery is broken up by a number of manmade lakes and irrigation channels where the water is a stunning turquoise. We head towards Mount Cook Village and Mt Cook National Park.

At 3754 meters, New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki Mount Cook is dazzling and there are 20 other mountains in this alpine backbone which peak at over 3000 meters. Hundreds of others are not far short of that, all making up the famous Southern Alps.

We spend some time in Mt Cook Village to explore the surrounds. Walks can be made to experience the alpine vistas or to view the Tasman Glacier, the longest glacier in the world that exists in a temperate zone. The Department of Conservation hosts a display on the geography and history of the area and The Hermitage Hotel hosts The Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre.

Our overnight stop is in the township of Tekapo which overlooks the lake of the same name. There are thermal springs and pools at the Alpine Springs Resort nearby and the option of visiting the St John Observatory for a conducted tour of the sky at night. The Southern Night Sky is very special and this location was chosen because of the high ratio of clear nights, the stability and transparency of its atmosphere and the lack of light pollution.

#### Day 2...

Before you leave the area there is an option of taking a scenic flight (at your own cost) over the mountains, glaciers and lakes of this stunning region.

The drive east crosses Burke's Pass and we leave the high country to travel through foothills of green pasture. Fairlie and Geraldine are important country towns and we stop in the later to sample some of the local produce. The world's largest jumper has been knitted here and it is also home to a replica of the Bayeux Tapestry. The final leg of the journey takes you across the wide expanse of the Canterbury Plains and across a number of wide river beds and their braided channels which drain the Sothern Alps.

We arrive in Christchurch where you can either be dropped off at the airport or at your hotel following a brief orientation of the city. Your Canterbury Trails guide will bid you farewell at the conclusion of the day.



#### Tour Inclusions;

- Travel by deluxe vehicle from Queenstown to Christchurch
- Picnic morning or afternoon teas
- Café lunches on each day
- Guided walks to explore the alpine landscape (as required)
- Accommodation (B&B basis) at Tekapo
- Fully escorted with local knowledgeable guide
- Depart Queenstown at 8.00am, arrive in Christchurch at approximately 4.30pm on Day 2

#### Not included...

- evening meals
- Additional optional activities