

Queenstown - Mt Cook - Christchurch

High Country, Valleys, Coastlines, Geology, History
Short Hop Transfer: 2 Days 1 Night

Tour Code: SH02a

Day 1: Queenstown to Mt Cook

Depart Queenstown and visit Arrowtown (historic old goldminers' village) and then head north via Kawarau Gorge to view the Bungy bridge (where it all started!). Travel over the Lindis Pass and view a dramatic change in the landscape as you head through the MacKenzie Country to Omarama (world renowned as a gliding centre) and from where a view can be made of the "Clay Cliffs" - an example of NZ's "badlands". Next stop is Mt Cook at 3754 metres, 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 metres. Hundreds of others are not far short of that, all making up the famous Southern Alps.

At Mt Cook National Park, walks can be made to experience the alpine vistas and explore the national park. A walk or boat trip (optional extra) can be made to view the Tasman Glacier, the longest glacier in the world that exists in a temperate zone (and on a Pacific island!).

Day 2: Mt Cook to Christchurch

Before departing Mt Cook time can be allowed for walks or perhaps a glacier flight with a landing on the Tasman Glacier. Heading north you will pass Lake Pukaki and Lake Tekapo, examples of the turquoise coloured high country lakes. Then enter the high country of the MacKenzie Plains, named after a sheep rustler and cross Burke's Pass to Geraldine. Traveling alongside the foothills of the Southern Alps and through small picturesque country towns to the Rakaia Gorge. After crossing the Rakaia river your journey takes you across the wide expanse of the Canterbury plains and into Christchurch. After a familiarization tour of the city and a chance to see how Christchurch is rebuilding after the 2010/2011 earthquakes your guide will bid you farewell at your accommodation.

Canterbury Trails will guide you properly so that your adventure unfolds at your pace.



Inclusions:

- Travel by deluxe mini-van
- Picnic morning or afternoon teas
- Café lunches on each day
- Guided walks to explore the alpine landscape (as required)
- Fully escorted with local knowledgeable guide

Not included:

- Guest accommodations, breakfasts, evening meals or optional activities

Depart Queenstown at 8.30am on Day 1, finish in Christchurch at approximately 5.30pm on Day 2