

Central Otago Winter Photography Tour

Trip Notes

Take a tour through Central Otago to photograph a magical winter wonderland with coaching from photographer Georgia Hendrie.



Tour Highlights

- + Journey through and photograph the magical landscape of Central Otago during winter
- + Enjoy the vast and raw 'big sky' scenery and endless photo opportunities
- + Enjoy photography coaching and tuition from budding local photographer Georgia Hendrie
- + Explore the historic gold mining town of St Bathans
- + Relax and enjoy two nights at Dunstan House in the quaint village of Clyde
- + Relax and enjoy two nights at the peaceful Wedderburn Cottages
- + Discover the serene waters of the Otago Peninsula with a chance to view the famed Aurora
- + Capture the Edwardian Baroque style architecture of Dunedin City

Tour Details

- + 6 days
- + Starts in Christchurch or Queenstown
- + Ends in Christchurch, Queenstown or Dunedin

Tour Cost

Tour Price: \$2,250

Deposit: \$400

What's included?

- + 5 nights twinshare accommodation
- + 5 evening meals; 4 lunches; 5 breakfasts
- + the services of a tour leader who provides support & information
- + the services of a photographer (Georgia Hendrie) who provides technical support & information
- + all transport from/to Christchurch
- + Goods & Services Tax of 15%

Not included:

- + lunch on Days 1/6
- + single accommodation supplement (\$350)
- + wine; beer; espresso coffees
- + transfers from Queenstown to Clyde on Day 1 (\$35 approx)
- + transfers from Dunedin to Queenstown on Day 6 (\$40 approx)

Departure Dates

Refer to our website for current departure dates and tour availability

This photography tour is very much for amateur photographers looking for the opportunity to visit some amazing rural locations and get a collection of unique photos, with all the logistics and organising taken care of.



Questions? Call us

Phone within NZ: 0800 222 775
Phone within Australia: 1800 738 667
Phone worldwide: +64 21 178 8287
www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz

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Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Christchurch/Queenstown - Clyde

We depart Christchurch for the drive south through the Mackenzie Country to Central Otago via the scenic inland route that passes by Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki, and over the Lindis Pass to Clyde. Alternatively there is the option of meeting the tour in Clyde in the afternoon from Queenstown which we can organise for you. We stay in the charming historic precinct of Clyde in the beautifully restored Dunstan House.

Meals (D)



Day 2 Clyde

We meet up with budding local photographer Georgia Hendrie who will accompany us on our journey. Georgia has a huge passion and talent for photography and is really keen to help everyone get the most out of their cameras and taking amazing photos. Today we visit local orchards and vineyards to capture the lines for fruit trees and grape vines as they lay dormant over the winter. After lunch at a cellar door we head to Butchers Dam. In the afternoon spend some time exploring the schist stone cottages and miners huts in the Clyde area.

Meals (B/L/D)



Day 3 Clyde - Wedderburn

Today we travel up the Manuherikia Valley, stopping off at several villages including Ophir Drybread and Becks along our way to St Bathans. At St Bathans enjoy a hearty lunch in the famous Vulcan Hotel followed by time exploring the Blue Lake and village buildings and ruins. We then head along some rural back roads offering amazing views of the Hawkdun Range, made famous by prominent local artist Grahame Sydney. The Falls Dam also offers some great photo opportunities. We then head to our accommodation at the Wedderburn Cottages a short distance away.

Meals (B/L/D)

Day 4 Wedderburn

Today we explore the Maniototo Plains area with a trip down the White Sow Valley to Patearoa. There are many stone fences, historic shearing sheds and ruins along the way with mountain views in every direction. We visit Hamiltons Cemetery before enjoying lunch at the Waipiata Pub. And finally we visit Naseby, an historic gold-mining town where they is the option of having a go at ice skating on the outdoor ice rink. We then head back to Wedderburn to our cosy cottages for the evening.

Meals (B/L/D)



Day 5 Wedderburn – Otago Peninsula

This morning we travel out of Central Otago down the Strath Taieri Valley, stopping off at Georgia's sheep station to see some farm activities and farm dogs in action. We then head out to the coast and visit a tiny beach on the rugged south coast. From here we head on the Otago Peninsula. Follow the many boat-shed lined bays around the harbour to the small settlement of Portobello and our accommodation. If the conditions are clear this evening we will head to nearby Hoopers Inlet for a chance to view and photograph the Aurora Australis!

Meals (B/L/D)

Day 6 Otago Peninsula - Christchurch/Dunedin/Queenstown

After some early morning photos on the harbour, our final destination for the trip is Dunedin City, famous for its Edwardian Baroque style architecture. Take some time walking around the city capturing the vibe. We enjoy a final coffee together and say our goodbyes. You can either stay on in Dunedin, travel back to Christchurch in our bus arriving at around 6pm, or alternatively catch a bus back to Queenstown arriving at around 7:20pm.

Meals (B)

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Accommodation in Christchurch

If you need accommodation before and/or after your tour we recommend the following places. We provide **courtesy transfers from any of these locations** before/after your trip:

Airport Precinct:

[Airport Palms Motel](#)

56 Roydvale Avenue | Phone: 0800 200 529 | www.airportpalmsmotelchch.co.nz
Motel complex with a range of room options and free airport transfers. Breakfast available. Close proximity to the airport.

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Airport Gateway Motel

45 Roydvale Avenue | Phone: 0800 242 8392 | www.airportgateway.co.nz

Motel complex with a range of room options and free airport transfers. It also has an on-site café/restaurant & bar for convenient dining. Close proximity to the airport.

Copthorne Hotel Commodore Christchurch Airport

449 Memorial Avenue | Phone: 0508 226 663 | www.commodore.net.nz

Hotel complex in close proximity to Christchurch airport. Free 24 hour courtesy shuttle. Free bike's available to explore the local area.

Sudima Hotel

550 Memorial Avenue | Phone: 03 358 3139 | www.sudimahotels.com/christchurch

Closest hotel to Christchurch Airport.

Papanui Precinct:

Quality Hotel Elms

456 Papanui Road | Phone: 0800 109910 | www.elmshotel.co.nz

Hotel complex with a range of room options. On-site café/restaurant & bar for convenient dining. Close proximity to shops & restaurants and the PureTrails depot.

Christchurch Top10 Holiday Park & Motels

39 Meadow Street | Phone: 0800 396323 | www.christchurchtop10.co.nz

Holiday park with a range of motel style accommodation at budget-wise prices. Close proximity to shops & restaurants and the PureTrails depot.

Accommodation on the tour

Our comfortable accommodation on this tour includes restored historic hotel, cottages on a farm, and a motel. Accommodation is based on double or twin share rooms, with mostly en-suite facilities. Single travellers are required to pay the single room supplement fee, however if there are other singles on the trip willing to share a twin room we can arrange this for you in which case no single supplement fee will be payable.

On our website you will find links to some of the accommodations we use within the tour itinerary description. We do not send out a list of accommodation venues for your trip prior to the tour departure unless specifically requested.

Booking Conditions & Cancellation & Refunds policy

Bookings will be confirmed and held on receipt of a deposit by PureTrails New Zealand. The full name and contact details (phone, email & postal address) for each person booking the tour are required at the time of booking.

Prices quoted are in New Zealand dollars. The balance of the tour price is payable **60 days** prior to departure and payments must be made in New Zealand dollars.

Payment is accepted by:

- + direct credit;
- + visa or mastercard & debit cards (add 2.5% surcharge);
- + cheque (in NZ currency);
- + international bank transfer (add \$25 funds clearance fee);
- + international bank draft

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Cancellations must be received in writing and the following conditions apply:

- + Cancellations outside 90 days of the tour departure date will receive a full refund;
- + Cancellations between 90-61 days prior to the departure date will lose the deposit; this deposit can be transferred to an alternative tour within 12 months of the original departure date
- + Cancellations between 60-31 days of the departure date will receive no refund; however a 50% credit can be transferred to an alternative tour within 12 months of the original departure date
- + Cancellations within 30 days of the departure date will receive **no refund**; and no transfers or credits are available.

PureTrails New Zealand strongly recommends all clients, including **domestic** travellers, purchase travel insurance to protect against unexpected cancellations. We strongly recommend you obtain travel insurance should you need to cancel your trip unexpectedly within 3 months of departure.

Tour departures are subject to a **minimum of 4 people**. You can enquire with us as to the status of your tour at any stage. The full conditions are available on our website at www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions.

Car Storage

In Christchurch secure car storage is available at our depot in Papanui for \$10 per day. This needs to be booked in advance.

Cash facilities

The only places you will encounter a cash ATM machine or bank during the 5 days is Alexandra, Ranfurly, & Dunedin. EFTPOS and credit cards can be used at virtually all the cafes and hotels along the trail.

Contact details while on the tour

If your friends or family need to contact you urgently during the tour, they can contact you via our office on: Phone: +64 21 178 8287. Please note there is good mobile phone reception throughout Central Otago.

Departure time and place (Christchurch)

PureTrails offer courtesy pick ups and drop offs from the locations recommended on pages 3 & 4. If you are staying at one of these locations, we will pick you up between 8:00am and 8:20am approximately. For those staying elsewhere, we ask that you make your way to our depot in Papanui (11a Langstone Lane) **by 8:15am**.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide pick ups or drop offs at Christchurch Airport. The nearest pick up point available is at the Airport Gateway Motel, 2kms from the terminals.

Departure time and place (Queenstown)

If you opt to start your tour from Queenstown rather than Christchurch, we can organise a bus connection to Clyde for you. Bus times available vary from day to day and month to month, so please check the timetable with us before finalising your flights. The cost is Queenstown – Clyde (\$35 pp approx).

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International Transfers Tip:

Conventional Banks have high fees when it comes to international transfers (hence our \$25 funds clearance fee). Third party institutions such as Western Union or CurrencyFair or TransferWise will offer you a competitive currency exchange rate and significantly lower transfer fees. We are happy to refund you the difference (in NZ\$ cash) in funds clearance fees if you manage to secure a better rate.

The tour will meet you in Clyde at approximately 4:30-5pm on Day 1, at our accommodation at Dunstan House.

Final Payment

Your final payment is required **60 days prior** to your tour departure date, and will include items which may not be listed on your original invoice such as bike hire and any tour transfers required. You will receive an updated invoice around 10 weeks prior to departure once we have received your Tour Information & Safety Declaration Form – see page 9.

Payment can be made by:

- + visa or mastercard (Inc debit cards) - subject to a 2.5% surcharge;
- + direct transfer (NZ bank account holders only);
- + international transfer (subject to a \$25 funds clearance fee which covers the fee NZ banks charge to receive your payment);
- + cheque in NZ currency ;
- + international bank draft (cheque)

Finishing your tour in Christchurch

If you are finishing your tour in Christchurch, you are likely to be back in the city by 6:00pm on Day 6. Your guide can drop you off at any of the accommodation locations on pages 3 & 4. If you are flying out of Christchurch on Day 5, do not book flights that require check in before 7:00pm.

Finishing your tour in Queenstown

If you are finishing your tour in Queenstown we can organise a bus connection for you, departing Dunedin at 3pm and arriving in Queenstown at 7:20pm. The cost is \$40 pp to Queenstown.

Guide

Your tour will be led by one of our friendly and professional guides who drives the support vehicle and will be at hand for (almost) anything you need or want to know during your tour (we try our best anyway!) We are very approachable so please do ask if you have any queries or concerns.

Insurance

You never know when either yourself or a family member may fall ill. You are urged to take out travel insurance to cover yourself in the event that you need to cancel your tour with us within three months of the tour departure date. **This includes New Zealander's travelling within New Zealand.** PureTrails New Zealand Ltd is not obligated to give you a refund within this period. Refer to our website for the full terms and conditions www.puretrailsnewzealand.co.nz/booking-terms-conditions.

Laundry facilities

Central Otago and particularly the Maniototo often experience drought conditions and water shortages and, as such, there are no laundry facilities for you to use during

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the tour. Well, that's what holidays are all about aren't they?! Please bring enough clothing for the 6 days.

Luggage

We urge you to try to keep your luggage to a minimum. Please limit yourself to 20kgs. All luggage is transported in our vehicle during the day. Anything you need access to during the days cycle ride should be stored in a small bag which can be left on the bus rather than in your suitcase. Those starting and finishing in Christchurch with excess luggage not needed on the tour are welcome to store bags at our depot free of charge while you are away.

Meals & Special Dietary Requirements

Meals are supplied as indicated on the itinerary (B/L/D). Beer and wine, tea & coffee etc are not included in the tour package however there will be the opportunity for you to buy beverages along the way.

Breakfasts are a continental style breakfast supplied by our accommodation hosts, and lunches are taken either in taverns or cafes along way. For dinner we dine in the local taverns in the villages where we stay following a two course set menu format.

PureTrails New Zealand will **endeavour** to cater to any special dietary requirements you may have (please disclose this on the Tour Info & Health & Safety Declaration form). Vegetarian and gluten free and dairy free diets are not a problem for our meal providers. Requests such as a sugar free or grain free diet and vegan meals etc are a little more problematic given the remote rural location of the tour. In these instances you may need to bring your own snacks and specialty foods. We are unable to guarantee a peanut free or allergen free trip, and therefore we strongly encourage that travellers with life threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self administering these medications.

Medical conditions

If you have a medical, physical or mental condition that may affect your ability to participate in the tour you must disclose this to us on our Tour Information and Safety Declaration form (see page 9). Your guide may follow up on your condition with you on Day 1 to help us manage your safety in the event of a medical event.

Phone reception/Wifi

There is very good mobile phone reception throughout Central Otago. Wifi in this area is still not readily available at most accommodation places. There is good 3G/4G coverage however.

Photographer

Budding local photographer Georgia Hendrie joins us on the tour to provide technical advice on your photography skills. Georgie is an up and coming photographer with her own business selling prints etc, with a special interest in rural, landscape and animal photography. She is passionate about being able to help people take great photos. Visit Georgia's website at www.georgiahendriephotography.co.nz

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Tour Information and Safety Declaration Form

All tour participants are required to complete a separate copy of our 'Tour Information and Safety Declaration Form', and return it to us **2 months** prior to your tour departure date. Please note this includes those who have been on another PureTrails New Zealand tour at some point in the past. Although we keep a database of information from previous tours, medical/dietary/emergency contact details can change from year to year so we require that a new form be completed for each tour you join.

Weather conditions

Central Otago has one of the greatest extremes of weather variation in New Zealand, with temperatures ranging from -10 to 38°C. The altitude of the rail trail ranges from 200 – 600 metres above sea level, and the region can be subject to strong winds. You could experience very hot or cold temperatures at any time of the year.

Generally, you can expect the temperature to be around 15-30°C in Jan/Feb, and 15 - 25°C in Nov/Dec/Mar/April. By April, it tends to get quite cold in the evenings with frosts, and possibly snow in late April (!) The visual landscape is impossibly beautiful regardless of season or temperature. You will gain maximum enjoyment by being prepared for both hot and cold temperatures.

What to bring

In the interest of safety and enjoyment, please ensure you are adequately equipped for your tour. **Warm clothing is essential.** The following is a list of what you need to bring:

1st Aid Kit Tip:

PureTrails NZ carries a comprehensive 1st Aid Kit and an Emergency Response Kit in our support vehicle; however this is kept for emergency situations only. Please bring your own supply of paracetamol, voltaren, antihistamine and any other medication you take.

- Clothing:**
- Waterproof raincoat – **essential**
 - Woollen or fleece jacket layers (not cotton)
 - T-shirts (breathable fabrics are best)
 - Warm hat and gloves
 - Sports socks for cycling
 - Comfortable casual wear for evenings

- Equipment:**
- Personal toilet gear
 - Personal first aid kit** containing paracetamol, voltaren, antihistamine and any other medication you take
 - Mobile phone to enable phone contact with your guide
 - Backpack for storing camera equipment etc (ideally waterproof)

- Camera Equipment:**
- Camera and any lenses you use
 - SD cards and flash drives to back up your images
 - Device for editing images (optional)
 - Tripod (highly recommended)