

CENTRAL SCENIC TOUR: alps, tussock & schist

Trip Notes



Tour Highlights

- + Journey through the magical landscapes of Mackenzie Country and Central Otago
- + Learn about Maori Astronomy at the Tekapo Dark Sky Observatory and absorb the scenery while soaking in the hot pools or walking up Mt John
- + Visit Aoraki Mt Cook, explore the Sir Edmund Hillary Museum, and take in the majestic peaks on a short walk or optional scenic flight
- + Explore buildings and villages of the gold-mining pioneers in Central Otago as well as the modern day galleries and boutiques
- + Meet a 4th generation farming family and tour their high country station
- + Try your hand at the ancient sport of curling at Naseby
- + Taste local Central Otago wines
- + Opt to do a high speed lap at the internationally renowned Highlands Motorsport Facility
- + Get off the beaten track at Queenstown on either the Dart River Safari or Gold Heritage 4WD tour

Small group touring (no more than 14 people) in our comfortable Mercedes Benz Sprinter tour bus with a friendly PureTrails tour guide

What's included?

- + 6 nights double/twin share ensuite accommodation
- + 6 evening meals; 1 lunch; 6 breakfasts
- + Tekapo day time astro tour
- + Sir Ed Hillary Museum entry
- + Wedderburn farm tour
- + Curling Have a go Session
- + Dart River Safari OR Gold Heritage 4WD tour
- + the services of a tour leader
- + all transport from/to Christchurch
- + Goods & Services Tax of 15%

Not included:

- + lunches unless otherwise stated
- + single accommodation supplement (\$500)
- + Tekapo Springs hot pools entry from \$22; or ice skating from \$17
- +Mt Cook scenic flight from \$250 - \$500
- +Twizel Star Gazing tour from \$90
- + Highlands Motorsport ride from \$180+
- + optional wine tasting from \$10
- + wine; beer; espresso coffees



Tour Details

- + 7 days, 6 nights
- + Starts in Christchurch
- + Ends in Arrowtown or Christchurch

Tour Cost

Tour Price: \$2,650
Deposit: \$500

Departure Dates

Refer to our website for current departure dates and tour availability.

Got a group?

This tour can be run on demand for groups of 4 or more from May to September.



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Tour Itinerary

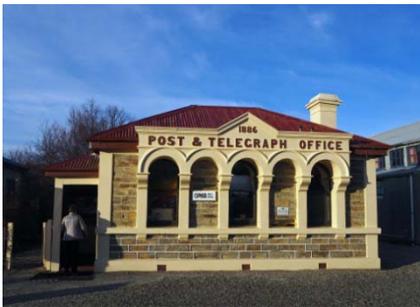
Day 1 Christchurch - Twizel

We depart Christchurch for the drive south through the Mackenzie Country, stopping off to explore the small towns of Fairlie and Burkes Pass along the way. At Lake Tekapo absorb the brilliant turquoise coloured glacial lake and snow covered Southern Alps while soaking in the hot pools, or perhaps on a walk to Mt John. Or you may wish to have a go at ice skating! Learn about the significance of the southern night sky to Maori on the Dark Sky Experience. We then head across the Mackenzie Basin to the town of Twizel and our accommodation for the next two evenings. **Meals (D)**



Day 2 Twizel (Aoraki Mt Cook)

Today we head to the Mt Cook village at the base of the magnificent Aoraki Mt Cook. Explore the history of the region at the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre. Take in the grandeur of the majestic peaks of the Aoraki Mt Cook National Park on a walk, or perhaps on an optional scenic flight. We then return to our Twizel accommodation. In the evening there is the opportunity to take a night time star tour to fully appreciate the clarity of the amazing southern night sky. **Meals (B/D)**



Day 3 Twizel - Wedderburn

We travel over the Lindis Pass and into Central Otago. Explore the small towns of our pioneering forebears, who came to this area in the 1860's in search for gold, and later to farm. We visit a number sites of historical interest including Ophir Post Office and Hayes Engineering Works. Stay in cosy cottages nestled beneath the Ida Range at the wee settlement of Wedderburn in the Maniototo. Meet our accommodation hosts Stu & Lorraine Duncan over afternoon tea, and enjoy a tour around their 4th generation high country cattle, sheep and venison station. Get an insight into modern day farming and the rural lifestyle. **Meals (B/D)**



Day 4 Wedderburn - Clyde

This morning we visit the historic gold-mining town of Naseby where you can have a go at curling, the ancient Scottish sport. Walk around the amazing white clay sluicings and Blue Lake at St Bathans. We head to Alexandra where there is the opportunity to visit the Central Stories Museum and walk up the famed 'Alexandra Clock' on the hillside overlooking the town. In Clyde browse the many art galleries and boutiques before settling into our accommodation in the Historic Precinct of Clyde. **Meals (B/L/D)**



Day 5 Clyde – Arrowtown

We head to Cromwell where you have the opportunity to visit Highlands Motorsport Park and partake in a range of adrenalin charged motoring experiences! Alternatively you may wish spend some time exploring the gold mining sluicings on a scenic walk and the Cromwell Historic Precinct. We then head through the Kawarau Gorge, visiting a few vineyards and cellar doors on our way to Arrowtown. **Meals (B/D)**

Day 6 Arrowtown (Dart River/Skippers)

We have a relaxing morning exploring the Arrowtown precinct and Chinese Village before embarking on an awesome Queenstown adventure. You have the choice of either heading to Glenorchy for the Dart River Safari, a wilderness jet boat ride up the braided, glacier-fed Dart River and a guided walk through magical beech forest, or alternatively a Gold Heritage 4WD tour to Skippers Canyon, voted by British Automobile as one of the 25 most scenic roads in the world, high above the Shotover River. We regroup in the evening to share our adventures and enjoy a final dinner together. **Meals (B/D)**

Day 7 Arrowtown to Christchurch

After breakfast your guide will head back to Christchurch. You are welcome to return to Christchurch with our vehicle or alternatively finish your trip with us in Arrowtown for onward travel or flights out of Queenstown Airport. **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 a country hotel, a restored historic hotel, cottages on a farm, and a motel. Accommodation is based on double or twin share rooms, 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 7 days is Fairlie, Twizel, Alexandra, Clyde, & Arrowtown. 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 Mackenzie Country and 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.

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.



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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.

Insurance Tip:

Domestic New Zealand travellers can obtain a Domestic Travel Insurance Policy online from www.1Cover.co.nz (Comprehensive Domestic) or www.CoverMore.co.nz (Domestic Plan D) for reasonable prices (approx \$100-\$150 for two seniors for 8 days cover). Ensure your policy includes cover for 'Cancellations & Lost Deposits'. Pre-existing medical conditions are not generally covered so check the policy wording and exclusions carefully.

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 7. 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 7, do not book flights that require check in before 7:00pm.

Finishing your tour in Arrowtown

If you are finishing your tour in Arrowtown local transport to and from the Airport or Queenstown is available on the local bus network (no bookings needed) or via taxi or uber.

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

There are laundry facilities for you to use at our accommodation during the tour. There is usually a \$4 - 5 charge per wash and dry cycle.

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 day 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.



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Breakfasts are a continental style breakfast supplied by our accommodation hosts. Lunches are mostly excluded from the tour package and are taken either in cafes along way or packed lunches can be purchased from bakeries etc. For dinner we dine in the local taverns and restaurants 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.

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

Mackenzie Country and Central Otago has one of the greatest extremes of weather variation in New Zealand, with temperatures ranging from -10 to 38°C. The altitude 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 0 - 15C between May and September. Frosts are common and snow is possible, particularly in July/August The visual landscape is impossibly beautiful regardless of season or temperature. You will gain maximum enjoyment by being prepared for all temperatures.



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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:

- Clothing:**
- Waterproof raincoat – **essential for walks**
 - Woollen or fleece jacket layers (not cotton)
 - Comfortable casual wear
 - Warm hat and gloves for Dart River Safari
 - A second pair of shoes in case one pair gets wet

- 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
 - Camera
 - Swimsuit for the Tekapo hot pools
 - Towel for the Tekapo hot pools (or can be hired for \$5)