

SOUTH SCENIC TOUR: wildlife, fiords & forest

Trip Notes



Tour Highlights

- + Journey through the natural landscapes of the Otago Peninsula, Catlin's Coast and Fiordland
- + View Blue Penguins as they come ashore in Oamaru, and a NZ Fur Seal colony at Moeraki
- + Take a guided tour of Orokonui Ecosanctuary and see multiple species of rare native flora and fauna up close
- + Explore Otago Peninsula and the Victorian and Edwardian architecture of Dunedin City
- + See waterfalls, sweeping beaches and other hidden gems on the Catlins Coast
- + Experience some authentic kiwi culture in Gore, NZ's country music capital and home to the famed Eastern Southland Gallery, housing the Ralph Hotere Gallery and John Money Collection
- + In Fiordland visit Lake Manapouri and take a cruise across Lake Te Anau to see mysterious and magical glow worms up close
- + Opt to take a once in a lifetime journey into Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound, or possible a helicopter ride over the rugged mountains of Fiordland

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; 6 breakfasts
- + Oamaru Penguin Colony viewing entry
- + Orokonui Ecosanctuary entry
- + Eastern Southland Gallery Entry
- + Te Anau Glow worm Caves Cruise
- + the services of a tour leader
- + all transport from/to Christchurch
- + Goods & Services Tax of 15%

Not included:

- + lunches
- + single accommodation supplement (\$500)
- + Milford Sound Cruise \$135) OR Doubtful Sound Cruise \$275 OR Fiordland Scenic flight (from \$250)
- + 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: \$2,500
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 - Oamaru

We depart Christchurch for the drive south through the Canterbury Plains, stopping off to explore the small town of Geraldine on the way. In Oamaru visit the numerous artisan workshops in the magnificent Victorian Precinct, or perhaps the Steampunk Museum. In the early evening we head to the harbour to see the Blue Penguins emerge from the ocean at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. **Meals (D)**



Day 2 Oamaru - Dunedin

This morning we visit Moeraki, a lovely little fishing village in a secluded bay near a NZ Fur Seal colony. After spending some time here we head south to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary. Here they have installed predator-proof fencing to protect a number of rare native bird species. Take a guided tour to see some of these birds and other native flora and fauna. From here we head to the Otago Peninsula via the quirky town of Port Chalmers to Portobello. Enjoy a seaside lunch before heading into Dunedin City for some time exploring the galleries and museums of this city steeped in Scottish and Maori heritage. **Meals (B/D)**



Day 3 Dunedin - Gore

Today we travel along the relatively unknown Catlin's Coast, visiting various points of natural beauty along the way such as light houses, waterfalls, beaches and lakes. In the afternoon we arrive in Gore, the country music capital of NZ. Here we experience some authentic kiwi culture. There is the opportunity to visit the famed 'Goreggenheim' Eastern Southland Gallery, housing the Ralph Hotere Gallery and John Money Collection, or alternatively the Hokonui Moonshine Museum, bringing Gore's colourful past as a centre for illicit whisky distilling and bootlegging to life! **Meals (B/D)**



Day 4 Gore - Te Anau

We head to Fiordland, first visiting Lake Manapouri. There is an opportunity to do a short walk amongst the beech forest on the Kepler Track before we head to the quaint town of Te Anau. Here we board a boat for a cruise across Lake Te Anau and a tour of the magical glow worm caves, visiting a hidden grotto inhabited by hundreds of glow-worms, unique to New Zealand. In the subterranean darkness, they produce a glittering display that is nothing short of extraordinary. Back in Te Anau we settle into our accommodation for the next two nights. **Meals (B/D)**



Day 5 Te Anau (Fiordland)

Today is free for you to explore Fiordland in your own way. Being dominated by the steep sides of the snow-capped Southern Alps, deep lakes, and steep, glacier-carved fiords, most of Fiordland is inaccessible by road. Seeing it from the water in either Milford or Doubtful Sound, or by the air, is the way to go. There are many options to choose from however a journey into Milford Sound followed by a cruise, or alternative a day trip to Doubtful Sound are a great options. For a once in a lifetime experience, a scenic helicopter flight would offer a truly remarkable experience of Fiordland. In the evening we regroup and share our adventures. **Meals (B/D)**



Day 6 Te Anau - Arrowtown

This morning we enjoy the amazing views alongside Lake Wakatipu on our way to Arrowtown. We stop off at a winery for a chance to taste the local wines along the way. In Arrowtown explore the galleries and boutiques of the Arrowtown precinct and Chinese Village, or take a walk along the river trail. In the evening we enjoy a final dinner together. **Meals (B/D)**

Day 7 Arrowtown - 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 Geraldine, Oamaru, Dunedin, Gore, Te Anau, & 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 the east coast, Southland and Fiordland (with the exception of Milford/Doubful Sounds).

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 speciality 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

Otago, Southland & Fiordland can experience rapidly changing weather conditions. Temperatures range from -10 to 28°C.

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