

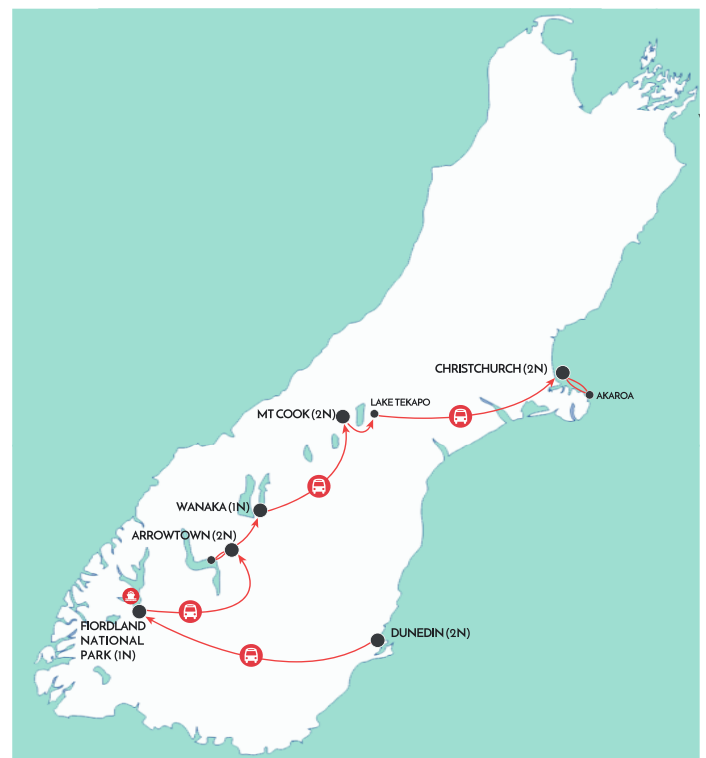


11 Days - Hidden Gold of the South

Discover the hidden gold of New Zealand's spectacular South Island. Journey from the Otago Peninsula where wildlife abounds, to moody Fiordland National Park for a breathtaking cruise. Explore adrenaline seeking Queenstown, charming Arrowtown with its gold rush history, and picturesque Lake Wanaka. Head to Aoraki Mt Cook National Park for a visit to the Tasman Glacier terminus, and finish the tour near Christchurch with Hector's dolphins and eclectic art in French-inspired Akaroa...plus so much more!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Larnach Castle & the Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens in Dunedin
- Blue Penguins at dusk, Otago Peninsula
- Fiordland National Park cruise
- Arrowtown's Gold Rush history
- Skippers Canyon 4WD safari
- Central Otago wine tasting & lunch
- Wanaka's Mou Waho Island cruise & nature walk
- Mt Cook's Hermitage Hotel & surrounds
- Tasman Glacial Lake to terminus exploration
- Lake Tekapo & Christchurch site-seeing
- A dolphin & wildlife experience in Akaroa Harbour
- Mosaic Gardens at The Giant's House



ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrive in Dunedin

On arrival at Dunedin Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Once checked-in, take the time to wander around the city visiting its iconic train station, numerous museums and art galleries - or perhaps you are keen for some shopping! Later, we'll meet in the hotel's restaurant for dinner.

Meals – Dinner

Destination Information

Dunedin – Famous for being one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. Also known as the 'Edinburgh of New Zealand' due to its Scottish heritage. Dunedin is also home to rare New Zealand wildlife such as the yellow-eyed penguins, fur seals, sea lions, little blue penguins, and the Northern Royal Albatross.



Day 2 – Dunedin - Larnach Castle & Otago Peninsula

This morning walk to the Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens for a guided tour of this culturally unique facility. Afterwards, we head out to Larnach Castle for a guided tour followed by lunch in the castle's Ballroom Cafe. Tonight, on the Peninsula at dusk, we will bear witness to the brave little blue penguins coming ashore to find their nests - but not before an early dinner in a Dunedin favourite!

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Otago Peninsula – Renowned for its spectacular views, the peninsula is part of the crater wall of a large, long-extinct volcano.

Dunedin Chinese Garden – Located in the heart of the city and using Chinese materials crafted by a team of artisans and craftsmen from Dunedin's Sister City of Shanghai.

Larnach Castle – Much loved by the locals, it was built in 1871 by William Larnach - a merchant and politician of Scottish heritage. It boasts a 3,000 square foot ballroom and a tower offering sweeping views over the Otago Peninsula.

Blue Penguins Pukekura - In 2008, the Korako Karetai Trust and the Otago Peninsula Trust established a joint venture to manage the environmental and historical values of the area known as Pilots Beach at Pukekura Taiaroa Head. Protection, conservation and enhancement of this area's flora and fauna, and in particular the kororā blue penguin colony established there, remains at their forefront.



Day 3 – Dunedin – Fiordland National Park

Rise early, pack your overnight bag and drive towards Fiordland National Park, stopping briefly in Gore along the way. Depending on availability, our overnight cruise will either be in Doubtful Sound or Milford Sound. Both just as magnificent as the other!

If Doubtful Sound, we will grab our picnic lunches before boarding a smaller boat which crosses the waters of Lake Manapouri. A coach will then take us up and over the Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove where we will board our small ship.

If Milford Sound, we will lunch in the small lakeside village of Te Anau before driving further into the National Park to meet our overnight vessel. This evening after our activities on-board, a buffet dinner will be served.



*Overnight cruise in Fiordland National Park
Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*

Destination Information

Fiordland National Park – Considered to be one of New Zealand’s most remarkable, dramatic, and beautiful national parks. Home to stunning fjords, spectacular waterfalls and snow-capped peaks. Covering an area of over 1.2 million hectares and established as a National Park in 1952.

Day 4 – Fiordland National Park – Arrowtown

After breakfast on the ship, enjoy the rest of the morning exploring other parts of either Doubtful Sound or Milford Sound before returning to our respective starting point - and then driving to our lunch spot at the Five Rivers Café & Art Gallery. Later, we will continue the scenic journey along Lake Wakatipu to our luxury accommodation for the next two nights. This evening, we will have an authentic dining experience in our hotel.

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Destination Information

Arrowtown – A picturesque settlement sitting alongside the gold-bearing Arrow River. The town was established in 1862 during the height of the Otago Gold Rush. The settlement grew quickly as pioneers constructed cottages, shops, hotels and churches - more than 60 of which can still be seen today. A special highlight is the Chinese settlement at the edge of the river. Built by Chinese miners from 1868, this area of restored shelters and buildings paints a picture of challenging earlier times.

Day 5 – Arrowtown - Skippers Canyon & Queenstown

This morning, take an exciting 4WD safari tour through Skippers Canyon, visiting the famous suspension bridge, the original Skippers Township and a chance to try your luck panning for gold. No doubt this will be a huge highlight! Lunch today will be in Arrowtown at a café set in historic stables on the Village Green. You will also enjoy some free time to relax or explore Arrowtown's quaint shops and scenic walking trails. This evening, we drive to Queenstown for a stroll along the stunning waterfront and have dinner in our favourite Asian-fusion restaurant.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Skippers Canyon – Offering stunning scenery and a long gold mining history, the canyon was carved out by the Shotover River which was made famous in the 1860's gold rush. The single-lane suspension bridge is one of the highest and most spectacular in New Zealand and is suspended by only 14 wire cables.

Queenstown - Sitting on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and set against the dramatic Southern Alps, Queenstown is renowned for all kinds of adventure! It's considered NZ's 'crown jewel' and is also a base for exploring the region's vineyards, ski slopes, bike trails and historic mining settlements.

Day 6 – Arrowtown - Bannockburn – Wanaka

After breakfast this morning, re-live the Gold Rush and take a fascinating guided tour of the Lakes District Museum & Chinese Settlement in Arrowtown. We will then drive the scenic country roads, passing many vineyards along the way, to Bannockburn for a platter style lunch and wine tastings at dramatic Mt Difficulty. Later, we will continue driving to Lake Wanaka in time to check-in to our hotel. Enjoy dinner tonight in the Township and consider walking back to the hotel afterward along the serene lakefront.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Wanaka – A year-round destination located in the Southern Alps of New Zealand and renowned not only for its outdoor adventures but its vibrant mix of restaurants, cafes, shops and plenty of areas to relax and take in the amazing scenery.

Day 7 – Wanaka – Mount Cook

This morning we will meet our vessel on the Wanaka waterfront and cruise to Mou Waho Island for a challenging and guided nature walk. Here you can see first-hand results of conservation efforts including the rare flightless Buff Weka (extinct on the mainland since 1920) and the Mountain Stone Weta. After lunch back in Wanaka, we will drive to Mount Cook with a brief stop en-route at Omarama. Check-in to the famous Hermitage Hotel, located within the National Park itself, and enjoy a buffet dinner in one of their exclusive restaurants tonight.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Aoraki Mount Cook – New Zealand’s highest mountain reaching 3,754 metres and home to the largest glacier –the mighty Tasman Glacier. It is also home to the darkest skies in the world with the region recently recognised as an International Dark Sky Reserve - the largest of its type in the world.

Day 8 – Mount Cook - Tasman Glacier Terminus & Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Museum & Planetarium

After a hearty breakfast, join the Glacier Explorers tour which includes a moderate 40 minute alpine walk through the National Park, plus a boat ride amongst icebergs of all shapes and sizes, to view the Tasman Glacier ice face. Enjoy lunch back at the Hermitage, and afterward use your free time to visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre Museum and Digital Dome Planetarium within the hotel’s complex. Dinner tonight will again be a buffet at the Hermitage.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park – An awe-inspiring expanse of untouched alpine landscape covering an area of more 700km. Established as a National Park in 1953 with the 19 peaks over 3,000 metres high.

Day 9 – Mt Cook - Lake Tekapo – Christchurch

After breakfast and a last glimpse of Mt Cook, drive to Lake Tekapo for a stop at the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd, Sheep Dog Memorial and the new suspension bridge over the glacier fed turquoise waters. Lunch will be a bit further down the road in Geraldine. Once arriving in our final destination of the tour, Christchurch, we will have a short whip around the CBD and its iconic places both pre and post earthquake. Dinner will be on trendy Victoria Street this evening.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Lake Tekapo – Located in the heart of the Mackenzie Region and famous for its crystal-clear glacier lake and dramatic mountain backdrop. It is also part of the International Dark Sky Reserve and home to one of the most photographed buildings in New Zealand, the Church of the Good Shepherd which was built in 1935 for the pioneer families of the Mackenzie Region.

Christchurch – The largest city of the South Island and known for its English heritage. Renowned for its beautiful botanic gardens, glorious Art Centre, the Riverside Markets and lively hot spots on Oxford terrace, it is a city of exploration. The central city is a combination of cutting-edge architecture alongside some of the oldest buildings in New Zealand.

Day 10 – Christchurch – Akaroa – Christchurch

Enjoy an early breakfast before driving along picturesque Banks Peninsula to the French colonial township of Akaroa, stopping briefly at Little River Café & Gallery on the way if possible. In Akaroa, we will embark on a Dolphin & Nature Cruise like no other and hopefully see the world's smallest (and friendliest) Hector's dolphins. Lunch is on the waterfront, followed by a walk through the quirky mosaic gardens at The Giant's House before returning to Christchurch. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner.



Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 – Depart Christchurch

Any time before your flight home today is free at leisure. You will be transferred from your Hotel to Christchurch Airport according to the departure time of your onward flight.

Meals – Breakfast

Hidden Gold of the South – Travel Information

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- All meals and accommodation (3.5 – 4.5 star)
- All transportation and transfers
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- National Escort

The only thing you have to pay for are personal expenditures such as drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, early check-in or late check-out, laundry and souvenirs.

Tipping is also not included for both the coach driver and national escort.

PHYSICAL FITNESS – LEVEL 3

To travel on any of our tours requires a reasonable level of fitness, but it is more about spending time on your feet, over uneven surfaces, rather than covering large distances. You will need to be agile getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing steps. Our National Escort will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of the tour in New Zealand, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

ITINERARY CHANGES

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

INSURANCE

We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents with them while on tour. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

ACCOMMODATION

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local 3.5 - 4+ star standard. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff, and partners, to ensure that standards meet your needs and our requirements.

TRANSPORT

Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Please note that it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner.

GROUP SIZE

The group size for our Wendy Wu Tours Local Edition tours will be no more than 18 travellers in each group. All of our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 14 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

**LUGGAGE**

All travelers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20 kilograms and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 7 kilograms. It is advisable that your luggage is lockable. Note, an overnight bag is required to be taken on the overnight cruise in either Doubtful Sound or Milford Sound.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Any optional activities offered on tour will be at additional cost and are to be paid locally.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation. Your final payment will be due 45 days before departure. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure.

Last updated: February 2022