

New Zealand Rail Tours

South Island Springtime Rail Tour

Experience the scenic south in style, travelling aboard our exclusive charter train- the refurbished 'Silver Fern.' This tour will be a wonderful New Zealand experience. We resume the scenic rail section from Picton and along the Kaikoura coastline to Christchurch after the 2016 earthquake- a credit to the outstanding work that has gone on since.

We traverse the Southern alps in both directions, plus ride the historic Taieri Gorge Train through spectacular Central Otago hinterland. No South Island tour would be complete without including Central Otago, Queenstown, Te Anau and Milford Sound and we take you to these special places. Our tour escorts and hosts ensure your tour is relaxing, fun and memorable.

Note on Health and Fitness:

At times, entering and exiting the train can be very demanding for those with limited mobility. To ensure the tour is enjoyable for the whole group, a good standard of fitness is required, the ability to be able to walk 400 meters is necessary and mobility frames are NOT practical or permitted.

Tour Details:

- **\$6995.00-person** twin share
- **Friday 18 October to Friday 1 November 2019**
- 15 Days / 14 Nights
- Minimum 10 Passengers
- \$1300.00 Single Supplement
- \$500 deposit required (non-refundable)

Tour Price Includes:

- Fully Guided Tour with professional hosts
- Economy Flight Launceston to Auckland and return from Christchurch
- Travel on chartered train
- 14 nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner as per itinerary
- All entry fees & guides as per Itinerary

Tour Highlights

Exclusive chartered train
Raurimu Spiral- Central Plateau
Cruise Queen Charlotte Sound
Coastal Pacific rail to Christchurch
Tranz Alpine rail traverse of the Southern Alps
West Coast Highlights including Hokitika
Taieri Gorge Train
Milford Sound lunch cruise
Dunedin City Sights

Exclusions:

- Travel Insurance
- Alcoholic and aerated beverage



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Detailed Itinerary:

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice

Day 1 Fri 18 Oct

Meals: Dinner

Home to New Zealand

Today we collect you from your home and then fly from Launceston to Auckland via Melbourne. We overnight in Auckland. We enjoy a welcome dinner together at a local restaurant

Overnight: Auckland hotel

Day 2 Sat 19 Oct

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Auckland to Wellington

Your adventure begins from downtown Auckland on the main trunk line to Wellington. Board your carriage on the new Northern Explorer train for the daylight journey and travel through lush rolling hills to Hamilton, Otorohanga and Te Kuiti. Among today's highlights is the circular climb up the famous engineering feat – the Raurimu Spiral to the Central Plateau and Tongariro National Park with spectacular views of Mt Ruapehu. Continuing to Ohakune, Waiouru and alongside the Rangitikei River to Palmerston North, before the scenic Kapiti coast and the run into the capital for an overnight stay. Welcome dinner tonight

Overnight: Hotel Wellington

Day 3 Sun 20 Oct

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Wellington – Picton – Blenheim

After breakfast transfer to the Inter-islander ferry for a morning Cook Strait crossing to the picturesque Marlborough Sounds. On arrival in Picton, transfer to Blenheim. Afternoon free before dinner in the hotel.

Overnight: Picton

Day 4 Mon 21 Oct

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Blenheim – Christchurch

This morning visit the impressive Omaka Museum followed by a light lunch at a local vineyard. Transfer to the Blenheim railway station for an early afternoon departure on the Coastal Pacific train. Our leisurely journey travels along the picturesque Kaikoura Coastline and rolling hill country of North Canterbury to Christchurch.

Day 5 Tues 22 Oct

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Christchurch – Greymouth B LD

After a leisurely morning board the Silver Fern rail car to traverse the spectacular Southern Alps to the rugged West Coast on the route known as the Tranz Alpine Railway. Cross the Canterbury Plains through Darfield and after a short stop in Springfield, climb the mountain range with scenic stops along the way including Arthurs Pass famous for its Weka population. Our descent by coach takes us to Otira where we re-join the train travel through the renowned rainforests and wetlands to arrive in Greymouth late afternoon for a two-night stay.

Overnight: Greymouth Hotel

Day 6 Wed 23 Oct

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Greymouth

A sightseeing day to this unique part of New Zealand, passing through typical west coast bush and rain forests to Hokitika (famous for its greenstone) and Shanty Town (a replica of an old gold mining town). Return to Greymouth for dinner and a relaxing evening.

Overnight: Greymouth



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Day 7 Thurs 24 Oct

Greymouth – Oamaru

We re-trace our steps through the Southern Alps passing through Rolleston near Christchurch, Timaru and on to Oamaru, renowned for its white stone buildings, for an overnight stay. An optional evening tour to see the blue penguins is available.

Overnight: Oamaru

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Fri 25 Oct

Oamaru – Dunedin

A leisurely start to the day passing through rolling farmland and coastal inlets to arrive in Dunedin around midday. An afternoon sightseeing tour of the 'Edinburgh of the South' includes Signal Hill, the world's steepest street, the Botanical Gardens, University and the new sports stadium.

Overnight: Dunedin

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 9 Sat 26 Oct

Dunedin – Queenstown

After breakfast board the Taieri Gorge Railway for the spectacular scenic journey over viaducts and through narrow tunnels to Pukerangi. Lunch onboard the train. Join our coaches and continue by road through vast, timeless, tundra landscapes and ancient mountains of Central Otago, stopping at Middlemarch, the rural art deco town of Ranfurly and continuing through other iconic towns to Clyde to view the impressive hydro power station. Later pass Lake Dunstan Cromwell and along the Kawerau Valley before arriving in Queenstown for a two-night stay.

(Optional Lake Wakatipu Cruise and Helicopter flight - not included in tour cost)

Overnight: Queenstown

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10 Sun 27 Oct

Queenstown

Today is at leisure to enjoy 'The Jewel of the South' with an optional lake cruise on the historic steamship TSS Earnslaw. Maybe take the gondola to admire the panoramic views of Lake Wakatipu or for the more adventurous, a jet boat trip on the Shotover River or even a helicopter ride above Lake Wakatipu. The choices are extensive.

(Optional Te Anau Glow Worm Caves tour – not included in tour cost)

Overnight: Queenstown

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 Mon 28 Oct

Queenstown – Te Anau

After breakfast we head for the colourful former gold mining town of Arrow town before following the Lake Wakatipu shoreline and through farmland to the beautiful Lake Te Anau for a two-night stay. An afternoon optional tour is available to the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves.

Overnight: Lake Te Anau

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12 Tues 29 Oct

Te Anau – Milford Sound Cruise

Drive through mountain beech forests framed by spectacular snow-capped mountains and the Homer Tunnel before emerging at Milford Sound. As you cruise alongside massive rock faces rising hundreds of metres out of the sea and cascading waterfalls, you will be captivated by the closeness and beauty of this World Heritage region. Enjoy lunch along the way before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Milford Sound

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



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Day 13 Wed 30 Oct

Te Anau – Bluff – Dunedin

An early morning start as we drive along the scenic southern route and rich Southland countryside to Bluff with a stop in Invercargill for lunch. Bluff is one of the oldest settlements in New Zealand, home of the famous Bluff Oysters and deep-water port. Return to Invercargill to board our train and head north through Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin.

Overnight: Dunedin

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 14 Thurs 31 Oct

Dunedin – Christchurch

After breakfast we head north by coach to Palmerston where we re-join our train to Oamaru, Timaru and the plains via Ashburton to Christchurch where we leave our charter train. Farewell Dinner tonight to end our wonderful southern rail experience.

Overnight: Christchurch

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 15 Fri 1 Nov

Christchurch – Sydney- Home

Morning transfer to the airport for return flights Auckland , Melbourne, Launceston and to your home.

Meals: Breakfast

Why travel with McDermotts Travel Club

McDermott's Travel Club offers a unique door to door, fully inclusive service. Our Travel Club has been operating successfully for 35 years. A local family business, we deliver our services in the best quality coaches with professional caring drivers and tour guides. Providing a personal touch, when you book with McDermott's, you travel with McDermott's. Our Drivers, Guides and staff ensure you have the very best experience – understanding your needs and wants for each tour allows us to make the necessary arrangements ahead of time, and then adjust as we go to ensure you have the most comfortable care free experience while we work hard to go above and beyond your expectations. We plan each tour with the consideration of our client's needs, we make the tour accessible, interesting and educational for our demographic. Based on duration of tour and capacity of coach we can restrict how many passengers we book on to a tour, so everyone is comfortable in the space provided and the Driver and Guide are not overwhelmed.

We, at McDermott's, pride ourselves in securing the best itinerary to provide the most appropriate meals, attractions and accommodation throughout and mindful that you are getting the best value for money.

Expectations on the tour

We establish an open channel of communication with you from the first stage of enquiry, so you come to know what to expect when you travel with us. We mail out a travel pack to you - or host an information session - in the lead up to departure so you can familiarize yourself with your upcoming tour and we can clarify any concerns prior to travel. Our tours are not just about visiting sights or driving you to and from attractions – we want you to remember the places we go for the unique things you learnt about them or experienced while you were there, the food you ate, the people you were with and the care and attention provided by our Driver and Guide with all aspects of your time away. While we plan the tours to run smoothly, on time and without hiccups – we cannot prepare for everything and in the event of a less than fulfilling experience, whether it be some attractions that don't run to schedule or just bad luck for the weather we will amend the itinerary to what we feel will provide you with a comparable experience.

Accommodation Standard

We aim to secure 3 & 4-star accommodation or higher, in some instances the standards may be less, particularly when travelling through areas with limited options. We try to ensure that each room has an ensuite bathroom with a walk-in



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shower (occasionally showers are over a bath or spa on rare occasions) – or in some remote areas there may be the need to share. All accommodation rates are based on twin share with 2 beds in a room. Single supplements are normally allowed and will be described in the pricing detail subject to cost and availability. Doubles can be made up as required.

We select the accommodation with you in mind. Location is important to the activities or travel time on adjacent days, with a preference for onsite restaurant for meal purposes. We are mindful of accommodation that is accessible, for guests and coach parking when possible, with room availability and relevant configurations – so the whole group can stay in one location, in the same standard of room.

If you would prefer to travel twin share, but do not have someone to travel with we will endeavor to match you with a likeminded traveler and encourage you to meet up prior to departure to determine you are suitable roommates.

Meals

Breakfast is normally included with accommodation with buffet style and a variation of continental or cooked breakfast, from time to time there may be off the menu breakfasts.

Where lunch is included it will be as part of an attraction, across select cafes, convenient locations or a picnic style with fulfilling spreads. Often, lunch will be at your own expense, where the itinerary will allow enough time in a location with as much variety as possible or during a free period where you may opt for something dine in or take away. Dinner will often provide you with 2 courses at restaurants selected for their service and menu.

Dinner may not always be included, so that you can select a restaurant of your choice and explore some varied cuisine of the region you are visiting.

Morning or Afternoon Tea & bottles of water are generally provided on coach travel days for your comfort and convenience.

Health and Safety

Your health is of the utmost importance so please provide us with any details that you think we should need to know prior to joining the tour. We may ask for you to complete a Confidential Medical form and provide it to us in a sealed envelope, should you become unwell during travel with us we will access this document deemed appropriate and use it to ensure you receive the suitable treatment. If we do not require access to it during the tour, we will return your envelope to you at the end of the tour.

During a tour you should disclose any issues that you are concerned about or which may arise to the Driver or Guide. Therefore, we may assist you in seeking out a pharmacist or GP as is required and available in a discreet manner.

If you have any concerns about any aspects of the tour, coach or any sights we visit which you feel may present a hazard or risk to other travelers or staff please alert your Driver and Guide at your earliest convenience.

Guide and Driver

We want you to feel like you are getting the most out of your tour. We encourage you to communicate with your Driver and Guide throughout the tour – ask questions or raise concerns - so that they may troubleshoot, enhance or amend the itinerary or other arrangements.

Our staff are experts in their field and will do everything they can do ensure the tour operates smoothly and with as little impact to you. You should feel relaxed in knowing that our crew are well organized and ready to go for you each day. They will assist you with your luggage, organize and communicate about meal times, daily schedules and any relevant changes, all the while making the tour the best experience possible.

Bookings

1. Please read our terms and conditions
2. Complete a booking form and return to our sales office with the deposit required for the tour, we cannot



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accept your booking until a deposit has been paid

3. We will contact you to confirm booking and send through any further necessary documents and information required for the tour

You can book

1. Online at www.mcdermotts.com.au
2. Email through a booking form and payment details to travelclub@mcdermotts.com.au
3. In person at 35 Legana Park Drive, Legana, please call in advance to ensure we are available.
4. Call on 03 6330 3717 with details and credit card

