



Franz Josef then on to the small remote village of Fox. The huge rivers of snow and ice of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers flow from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps, down almost to sea level. Weather permitting, an optional helicopter ride with a snow landing is a terrific way to experience the sheer grandeur of these West Coast glaciers (extra cost).
Distinction Hotel Fox Glacier

DAY 8 • FOX GLACIER TO WANAKA (B)

Have your camera ready for your visit to nearby Lake Matheson for a morning stroll - when conditions are right the lake perfectly mirrors beautiful Mount Cook in its still waters. Head over the Haast Pass along the river road beside the icy river and deep into Mt. Aspiring National Park. The atmosphere lightens as we reach lovely Lake Wanaka, reflecting the mountain peaks that in winter offer superb skiing, and the pretty resort town of Wanaka.
Edgewater Resort, Wanaka – 2 nights

DAY 9 • WANAKA (B) This morning you have the choice of two excursions:



a) **Today join a passionate local eco-guide as you depart Wanaka by boat** and quickly leave civilization behind as you cruise across the lake to a predator-free island. The walking track leads from the landing and climbs steadily through native vegetation filled with very vocal birdlife to the top to the "island's secret" - a lake on top of the island with small islands in it! Unique and very photogenic, the echo of birdsong here is astounding. Carrying on a little further you come to the very top of the island and have a sweeping 360-degree view of Lake Wanaka, its surrounding mountains and valleys, and the Arethusa Pool below. This is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the panorama. The flightless Buff Weka often join visitors on the island; this rare flightless bird has been extinct on Mainland NZ since 1920.

b) **Experience New Zealand's most authentic 4WD adventure** - the perfect mix of incredible scenery, history, heritage and farming life. Explore remote and seldom travelled back roads of an authentic New Zealand High Country farm overlooking sparkling Lake Wanaka. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, glaciers and wild river valleys you'll see farm animals including Red Deer, cattle and sheep up close and in their natural

environment. Visit historical sites and experience what life was like for Wanaka's first farmers. With two optional walks, through pristine alpine meadows and ancient lakeside forests, this journey offers an unique insight into Wanaka's rich history, heritage, modern-day farming life and breath-taking scenery.

This afternoon is at your leisure to relax or enjoy your own choice of activities.

DAY 10 • WANAKA TO TE ANAU (B)

Depart Wanaka with your first stop at the much photographed Cardrona Pub before traversing the Crown Range road to visit historic Arrowtown - a delightful gold rush village nestled below the beautiful peaks that surround the sparkling Arrow River. Continue your journey via the road pinned between the base of the Remarkables mountain range and spectacular Lake Wakatipu. Journey through a glacial formed valley that is now farmland, to reach Lake Te Anau, the largest (by volume) freshwater lake in the South Island and gateway to Fiordland National Park.
Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

DAY 11 • TE ANAU TO MILFORD SOUND TO QUEENSTOWN (B,L)

The journey from Te Anau to Milford Sound is one of the most scenic experiences you can have on four wheels. Fiordland National Park, part of the Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. The scenery is spectacular with lofty mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age glaciers. Described by Rudyard Kipling as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound is breath-taking in any weather. Board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past towering Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. Keep an eye peeled for seals and dolphins which are often seen in the waters of the fiord. Following the cruise, retrace your journey back to Te Anau travelling via the Cledeau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and the lovely Eglinton Valley then across the Southland farmlands and around spectacular Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown.
Scenic Suites Queenstown

DAY 12 • DEPART QUEENSTOWN (B) Haere ra - farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you are transferred to the Queenstown Airport for your return home. Alternatively, should you wish to extend your stay, we can assist with additional travel arrangements.

a) **Non - Walking Option: Full Park Scenic Cruise (3-4 hour cruise)** Enjoy a morning cruise exploration of New Zealand's smallest National Park. View world-famous Split Apple Rock, New Zealand Fur Seals, golden sands and the turquoise waters of Anchorage, Bark Bay, Tonga Quarry, Awaroa and Totaranui Beach. Return to Nelson city for some time this afternoon at leisure.

b) **Walking Option 1: Astrolabe Beaches and Bays (7km, 2.5 hour walk)** After the Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Apple Tree Bay for a self-guided walk to fabulous Anchorage Beach. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.

c) **Walking Option 2: Forest and Swing-Bridge (10.5km, 4 hour walk)** After the Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Medlands Beach for a rewarding and varied self-guided walk to Anchorage Beach including the scenic highlights of the South Head lookout, the famous Falls River swing-bridge and Cleopatra's Pool. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.

DAY 6 • NELSON TO PUNAKAIKI (B)

Driving via the Nelson Lakes National Park - an enchanting alpine landscape of

rugged peaks, forests, stunning glacial lakes and the beginning of the awe-inspiring Southern Alps make a stop at the quaint village of Saint Arnaud on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. Turn inland to follow the Buller River Gorge - one of the world's best but least-known scenic drives, carved out of the forest by 19th century prospectors, it follows the deep river gorge, often crossing it on single-track bridges. Emerging from the forest the road hugs the coastline south to the small settlement of Punakaiki - renowned for its wild, rugged coastline and the famous 'Pancake Rocks' - these stratified limestone stacks are an extraordinary monument of nature.

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

DAY 7 • PUNAKAIKI TO FOX GLACIER (B)

Journey south along the Great Coast Road which was recently voted one of the top ten coastal drives in the world by Lonely Planet. Pass through historic towns reaching Hokitika and its galleries specialising in pounamu (greenstone) jewellery and art works. Stretch your legs at the dramatic Hokitika Gorge where the blue/green waters pass through the rugged rocks. Continue south through forests and farmland, with views of the Alps to the east and the Tasman Sea to the west, to

