

Punakaiki, West Coast



**100% PURE  
NEW ZEALAND**

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# MĀORI CULTURE & NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

DUNEDIN, OAMARU,  
CHRISTCHURCH, WEST COAST



Spend time in New Zealand's first city, visit heritage towns and experience New Zealand's Māori culture.



Culture



Scenery

## AT A GLANCE

- 7 days/6 nights (self-drive with some transfers)
- Explore Victorian-style architecture in Oamaru
- Live like a royal in Larnach Castle
- See Māori rock art where it was conceived



Dunedin

## DAY 1 | DUNEDIN

Arrive in Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington. Transfer on a domestic flight to Dunedin. Upon arrival in the city, take a guided tour around the oldest, the newest and the steepest – see the city from the look-outs and up close, with plenty of photo stops along the way.

**Top Tip:** Toitū Otago Settlers Museum tells a comprehensive story of the people of Dunedin, whose culture, technology, art, fashion and transport shaped New Zealand’s first great city.



Dunedin

## DAY 2 | DUNEDIN

This morning, collect your rental car. Then learn about Dunedin’s unique wildlife, coastal character, Māori and European history through stories that bring the natural landscapes alive. Spectacular Larnach Castle sits atop the Otago Peninsula with panoramic views of the harbour and beyond. Enjoy a tour, followed by a delicious dinner served in the castle.

**Top Tip:** For the full royal treatment, stay the night at Larnach Castle. Three themed styles of accommodation are on offer in the castle grounds.



Dunedin

## DAY 3 | DUNEDIN – OAMARU

**Dunedin – Oamaru** 🚗 113km / 70mi / 1hr 30mins

Journey north towards Oamaru, a town with a rich history and a proud heritage. Explore this heritage in the Victorian Precinct, where you will find shops, galleries and traditional crafts within some of the Southern Hemisphere’s most complete Victorian streetscapes and 19th century architecture. On the way, stop off at the otherworldly Moeraki Boulders and Totora Estate – a heritage building and historic farm built by early settlers.

**Top Tip:** Stop off at Fleur’s Place for lunch, known to foodies around the world for its fresh fish and waterfront setting.



Moeraki Boulders

## DAY 4 | OAMARU – TIMARU – CHRISTCHURCH

**Oamaru – Timaru** 🚗 85km / 53mi / 1hr 5mins

**Timaru – Christchurch** 🚗 165km / 102mi / 2hrs 15mins

Follow the coast a short way north to Timaru, before visiting the region’s Māori rock art in the place where it was conceived. Dating back to the arrival of Māori in the South Island between 700 to 1000 years ago, the drawings provide a rare glimpse into the lives and culture of the region’s first inhabitants. This afternoon, continue to Christchurch.

**Top Tip:** The Christchurch Tramway restaurant is a unique way to combine dinner and exploring the sights, in a colonial-style dining tram.



Oamaru



Timaru





Devils Punchbowl, Arthur's Pass

## DAY 5 | CHRISTCHURCH – ARTHURS PASS – GREYMOUTH – PUNAKAIKI

Christchurch – Greymouth 🚗 85km / 53mi / 1hr 5mins

Greymouth – Punakaiki 🚗 45km / 28mi / 40mins

Travel west across the expansive Canterbury Plains, before slowly winding your way up to the highest and most spectacular pass across the Southern Alps. Stop for a coffee at New Zealand's highest settlement, before descending towards the West Coast – a region of dramatic wilderness. In the late 1860s, gold attracted settlers to this wild coast. Stop off at Shantytown Heritage Park for a fascinating glimpse into the era. Fall asleep to the sound of waves at Punakaiki Beach Resort.

**Top Tip:** Don't miss the ancient monolithic limestone rock formations at Castle Hill, just a short walk from the road before Arthur's Pass.



Punakaiki



TranzAlpine

## DAY 6 | PUNAKAIKI – GREYMOUTH – TRANZALPINE TRAIN – CHRISTCHURCH

Punakaiki – Greymouth 🚗 45km / 28mi / 40mins

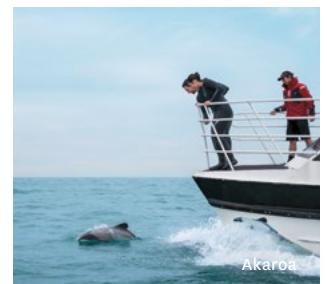
Greymouth – Christchurch 🚆 223km / 138mi / 5 hrs

Explore a limestone landscape of pancake-shaped rock formations, blowholes and surge pools on a short walk. Then head towards Greymouth with a stop at the Denniston Plateau, the dramatic location of a historic mining township. Drop off your car in Greymouth and board the TranzAlpine for one of the world's most scenic train journeys back to Christchurch.

**Top Tip:** Spend the night in luxury at the George Hotel, overlooking the picturesque Hagley Park and river Avon.



Christchurch



Akaroa

## DAY 7 | CHRISTCHURCH – AKAROA – CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch – Akaroa 🚗 82km / 51mi / 1hr 30mins

Today you will visit Akaroa, originally a French settlement nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano. Experience majestic scenery and rare marine wildlife on a harbour cruise – these waters are home to the endangered Hector's Dolphin, the world's rarest and smallest oceanic dolphin. This afternoon, explore Akaroa's rich history on a guided walk.

**Top Tip:** Finish your trip back in Christchurch with a traditional hāngī (earth oven) dinner, accompanied by an immersive cultural experience at the only official national marae (Māori meeting house) in New Zealand.



Christchurch