

# CULTURAL WONDERS & LOCAL CUISINE

Christchurch to Dunedin  
10 days self-drive



Lake Tekapo/Takapō  
Canterbury

For dramatic landscapes and the spirit of manaakitanga (a deep expression of hospitality) look no further than Aotearoa New Zealand. Your clients will feel a stronger sense of connection with the land, culture and people after 10 days of discovery in the South Island.



Landscapes



Cycling



Stargazing



Food and Wine

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Paddle a waka (canoe) through Christchurch's city centre
- Experience a '5 billion star' stay
- Become a winemaker for a day
- Follow the gold trail in Central Otago

## DAYS 1 & 2:

### Ōtautahi Christchurch & Akaroa

As the gateway to the Canterbury region, Ōtautahi Christchurch combines urban regeneration and innovation with heritage, culture and adventure. Drop by one of the theatres for a live show, or visit **Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu** where the building itself is a piece of art. Gain a new perspective on the city and book a waka paddling tour on the Ōtākaro Avon River, while learning the early stories of Canterbury's Ngāi Tahu iwi iwi (tribe). For dining with a difference, check out the **Christchurch Tramway Restaurant**. See the sights of central Christchurch while experiencing quality New Zealand cuisine.

An easy hour and a half drive from Christchurch lies the coastal French inspired town of Akaroa. Take a harbour cruise to spot fur seals, dolphins and penguins. For a closer encounter with the largest colony of kororā (little penguins) on mainland New Zealand, arrange a tour with **Pohatu Penguins**.

**Expert tip:** **Āmiki Tours** epitomise the meaning of manaakitanga (hospitality) and offer a local's view of Ōtautahi. An Āmiki Tour combines Māori storytelling, history and city sights with kai (food) and whanaungatanga (connection).



## DAYS 3 & 4:

### Mackenzie Country

**Christchurch to Lake Tekapo** 🚗 226km / 140mi | 3 hours

Mackenzie Country in the heart of Te Waipounamu (the South Island) is a region of wonder. Home to the largest dark sky reserve, the highest mountain (Aoraki Mt Cook) and the largest glacier (Haupapa Tasman Glacier) in Aotearoa.

Take a scenic flight over some of New Zealand's most breath-taking scenery. For those wanting more adventure, opt for a guided heli-hike. There are a variety of operators to choose from, some granting exclusive access to private land on a family-owned high country farm, others offering champagne picnics and high-altitude gin tastings.

Lake Tekapo is well-known for the much photographed Church of the Good Shepherd on the lakefront, as well as **Tekapo Springs**, a facility providing hot pools, a day spa and even a seasonal ice skating rink. And for a '5 billion star' stay in back country Twizel, book a night in one of **SkyScape's** glass eco-domes. This luxury all-season operator provides a star gazing experience in comfort and solitude.

## DAYS 5, 6 & 7

### Tāhuna Queenstown & surrounds

**Lake Tekapo to Queenstown** 🚗 256km / 159mi | 3 hours 15 min

Tāhuna Queenstown sits on the shores of Te Waipounamu's Lake Wakatipu, nestled against the imposing Southern Alps. The scenery is awe-inspiring, whatever the season or weather, so a scenic cruise is a must do while in the region, whether it be by vintage steamship or luxury vessel. Explore the historic landmarks and remote coves of Lake Wakatipu with a glass of local wine in hand.

Speaking of wine, this southernmost wine region in the world delights manuhiri (visitors) with an abundance of excellent cellar doors and wine-tourism activities in both Queenstown, Wānaka and surrounding towns. Book a private wine tour, be a winemaker for a day or look into taking to the trails by bike (maybe with a little electronic help). The Gibbston River Wine Trail runs along Kawarau Gorge and cycling is one of the nicest ways to discover the local pinot noir. Collection from bike tour operators can be arranged if legs get tired.

For the ultimate indulgence, and recommended by Conde Naste Traveller, book a treatment at **The Spa at Millbrook**. Located in Arrowtown, the idyllic Millbrook Resort is well-known around the globe for its luxury accommodation and an unforgettable golfing experience.

**Expert Tip:** Head deep into Middle-earth with **Pure Glenorchy** and explore breath-taking landscapes and Lord of the Rings filming locations with access to privately owned high country farms.





Glenorchy, Queenstown

## DAY 8:

### Cromwell, Clyde & Alexandra

Queenstown to Cromwell 🚗 59km / 36mi | 50 min

**Highlands Motorsport Park** in Cromwell is a world class facility inviting manuhiri to get out on the tarmac. Experience a hot lap with a professional race car driver, or partake in a go-kart race. If getting behind the wheel doesn't appeal, pay a visit to the onsite museum and view some of the rarest cars in New Zealand motorsport history.

Just 20 minutes down the road, Clyde heads New Zealand's original cycling route, **The Otago Central Rail Trail**. The track follows an old railway line through big-sky country, passing many charming and welcoming towns. There are a number of companies which offer bike hire and tours, ranging from budget, to all-inclusive packages (think renowned chefs, luxury accommodation and luggage portage).

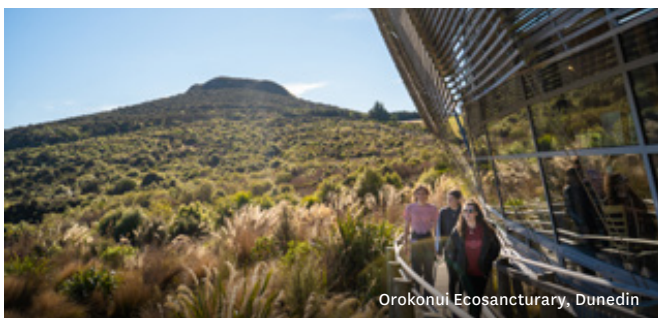
A quick five minute drive south-east lies a town with strong roots to the 1800's gold era. To transport back in time, follow gold miner's trails into the hills of Alexandra. Today, Alex (as it is affectionately called by locals) is home to bountiful orchards and award-winning vineyards. In winter, visitors can even go ice skating on Manorburn dam.



Highlands Motorsport Park, Cromwell



The Otago Central Rail Trail, Clyde



Orokonui Ecosanctuary, Dunedin



Kororā (little penguins)

## DAYS 9 & 10:

### Ōtepoti Dunedin

Alexandra to Dunedin 🚗 190km / 118mi | 2 hours 30 min

Ōtepoti Dunedin is known for its beautiful gothic architecture and unique biodiversity. Visit **Orokonui Ecosanctuary** to spot some of the world's rarest forest birds, reptiles and plants. For more wildlife, **Blue Penguins Pukekura** offer a 'behind the scenes' regenerative tour, with tales of the site's significance to Māori. As well as a purpose-built observation deck to view the kororā scurrying up the beach to reach their burrows. To explore the city, there are a number of walking, cycling and craft beer or gin tours on offer. Visit the historic 1900's **Olverston** house and enquire about booking a private dining experience amongst original décor. Tours in French, German, Japanese and Mandarin are also available for group bookings.

**Expert Tip:** The **Southern Skies Star Gazing** tour is a premium offering, taking manuhiri on a journey of discovery, learning about the unique celestial features of the Southern sky, while also sharing stories and waiata (songs) about how early Māori viewed the night sky.

In need of more inspiration? Visit our **Travel Trade website** for additional itineraries and downloadable resources.