



Dunedin

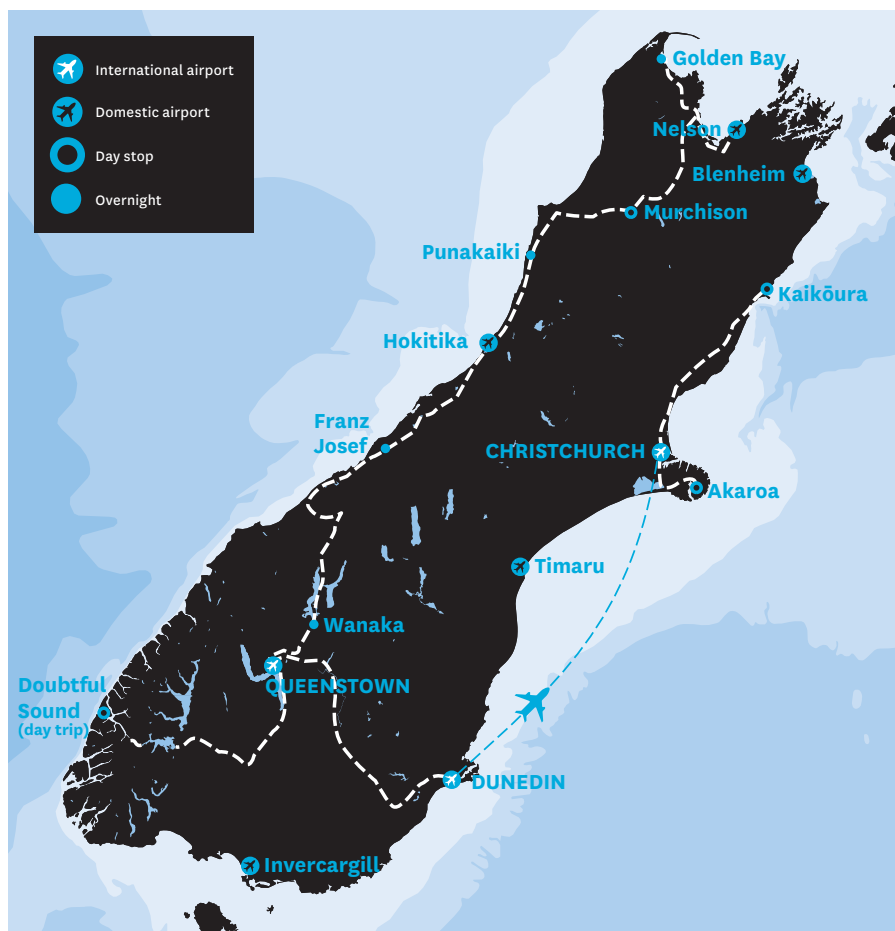
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NEW ZEALAND**

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# NATURE & WILDLIFE

NELSON, WEST COAST, WANAKA,  
QUEENSTOWN, FIORDLAND,  
DUNEDIN, CHRISTCHURCH, KAIKŌURA

Get up close to rare wildlife and be awed by the natural beauty of New Zealand's rugged South Island.



Wildlife



Scenery

## AT A GLANCE

- 12 days/11 nights
- Spot whales, seals and penguins in the wild
- Walk on a glacier
- Swim with the world's smallest dolphins
- Cruise majestic fiords
- Enjoy stunning scenery in two UNESCO World Heritage areas
- Experience a working New Zealand farm





Nelson Lakes Regional Park, Nelson

## DAY 1 | NELSON

Arrive into Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington international airports. Transfer to a domestic flight to Nelson. Have a relaxing afternoon with a personalised tour – choose from exploring mountains, lakes or coastline with an experienced local guide.

## DAY 2 | NELSON – GOLDEN BAY

**Nelson – Golden Bay** 🚗 129km / 2 hours 15 min

Visit Farewell Spit, a wetland of international importance, and a bird sanctuary since the 1930s. It's home to more than 90 bird species. Bar tailed godwits, knots, curlews, whimbrels and turnstones fly around 12,000 kilometres every northern hemisphere autumn to spend the summer here. Stay the night in Golden Bay.

**Top Tip:** If it's too wet for bird spotting, there's plenty to do in Nelson. Check out the World of Wearable Arts Museum and Nelson Classic Car Gallery.



Collingwood, Golden Bay



Murchison

## DAY 3 | GOLDEN BAY – MURCHISON – PUNAKAIKI

**Golden Bay – Murchison** 🚗 181km / 2hrs 45min

**Murchison – Punakaiki** 🚗 139km / 2 hours

Today you will drive south through some incredible, rugged scenery. Hang on tight as you jet boat into the Buller Canyon, past thundering waterfalls and pink granite rock canyons. Once you reach the coast, stretch your legs on a short walk to Cape Foulwind, where you can spot a breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals in their natural habitat. After a big day of travel, nod off to the sound of pounding waves at beachfront Punakaiki Resort.

**Top Tip:** Leave plenty of time for today's long drive, the scenery is incredible so allow for regular stops.



Punakaiki



Punakaiki

## DAY 4 | PUNAKAIKI – HOKITIKA – FRANZ JOSEF

**Punakaiki – Hokitika** 🚗 84km / 1 hour 10 min

**Hokitika – Franz Josef** 🚗 134km / 1 hour 45 min

Explore a limestone landscape of pancake-shaped rock formations, blowholes and surge pools on a short walk. Stop off en route to Franz Josef for a treetop adventure, where you can walk in the canopy of a temperate rainforest of ancient giants. After a day of travel, enjoy a soak in a hot pool amongst lush vegetation, before spending the night in a rainforest retreat.



Hokitika Gorge





Roys Peak, Lake Wanaka

## DAY 5 | FRANZ JOSEF – WANAKA

**Franz Josef – Wanaka** 🚗 284km / 3 hours 50 min

Combine a breath-taking scenic flight with a jaw-dropping walk on the ice or admire the everchanging icescape from the river valley with a dedicated guide. See kiwi chicks up close and learn about New Zealand’s conservation efforts at the West Coast Wildlife Centre in Franz Josef.



Franz Josef Glacier

**Top Tip:** There are lots of scenic short walks to break up the drives over the last two days, such as the Hokitika Gorge and the Blue Pools.

## DAY 6 | WANAKA

Begin your morning with a lake cruise and guided nature walk on Mou Waho island, where you can spot the rare flightless Buff Weka. After lunch, go jet boating amongst the ancient river valleys and snow-capped mountains of the Mt Aspiring National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Area.



Mt Aspiring National Park

**Top Tip:** For something unique, stay with a local farming family to experience authentic Kiwi hospitality.

## DAY 7 | WANAKA – ARROWTOWN – QUEENSTOWN

**Wanaka – Arrowtown** 🚗 55km / 1 hour

**Arrowtown – Queenstown** 🚗 48km / 50 min

Explore the private high-country farm stations around Wanaka for a hands-on introduction to deer farming, beekeeping and authentic Kiwi farm life. This afternoon explore Arrowtown on a walking tour, a charming gold rush village nestled below craggy peaks. Then head to Queenstown and enjoy a tour of the local award-winning wineries, tasting as you go.



Deer farm, Wanaka

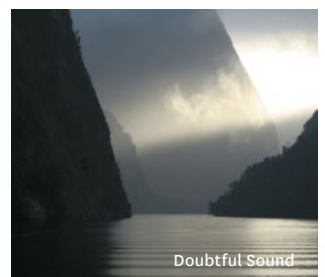
## DAY 8 | QUEENSTOWN – DOUBTFUL SOUND – QUEENSTOWN

**Queenstown – Doubtful Sound – Queenstown** 🚌🚢 Full Day Trip (13 hours)

Also known as the “Sound of Silence”, Doubtful Sound is the deepest of the South Island’s fiords. There’s no direct road access, so your adventure includes a cruise across crystal clear Lake Manapouri, followed by a bus trip over the majestic Wilmot Pass. Then board a spacious catamaran and cruise this pristine fiord, keeping your eyes peeled for bottlenose dolphins, New Zealand fur seals and the Fiordland crested penguin.



Queenstown



Doubtful Sound

**Top Tip:** If you have more time, escape to the peace and tranquillity of Doubtful Sound on a magical overnight cruise, or spend time in Te Anau to explore more of Fiordland.

## DAY 9 | QUEENSTOWN – DUNEDIN

Queenstown – Dunedin 🚗 279km / 3hrs 40 min

Spend the morning exploring Queenstown, before driving to Dunedin through the dramatic landscapes of Central Otago. Stop off for lunch in historic Clyde, a pretty little town at the head of the Otago Central Rail Trail.

## DAY 10 | DUNEDIN

Dunedin is home to magnificent and rare wildlife. Spot the endangered yellow-eyed penguin on the Otago Peninsula before visiting the world's only mainland breeding colony of Northern Royal Albatross.

**Top Tip:** Stay the night at New Zealand's only castle – Larnach Castle sits atop the Otago Peninsula with panoramic views of the harbour and beyond.

## DAY 11 | DUNEDIN – CHRISTCHURCH

Dunedin – Christchurch ✈️ Flight time 1 hour 5 min

Christchurch – Akaroa 🚗 82km / 1hr 30mins

Drop your rental car off and take a short flight to Christchurch. This afternoon, explore Akaroa, originally a French settlement and home to fine food and colonial-style architecture. Swim with the endangered Hector's Dolphin, the world's rarest and smallest oceanic dolphin.

## DAY 12 | CHRISTCHURCH – KAIKŌURA – CHRISTCHURCH

Enjoy a full day scenic guided tour from Christchurch to Kaikōura. Experience spectacular views of the seaside and majestic mountains, visit a fur seal colony, and get up close to the marine wildlife on a tour of your choosing. Whales, fur seals and dolphins live permanently in these deep coastal waters. Tonight you'll be returned to Christchurch and tomorrow you fly home, either via Auckland International Airport or direct from Christchurch.

