


JOURNEY THROUGH A WINTER WONDERLAND

Christchurch to Queenstown
9 day self-drive itinerary

 Lake Tekapo/Takapō
Canterbury

Snow-capped mountains, ice-blue glaciers, star-strewn skies... Aotearoa New Zealand turns into a winter playground during the cooler months of the year. On and off the slopes, discover unmissable experiences from skiing and snowboarding to adventure activities, leisurely soaks in hot tubs and world-class food and wine.



Skiing



Food & Wine



Hot Pools



Stargazing

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pair local flavours with Māori storytelling on a cultural food tour in Ōtautahi Christchurch
- Look up at the dazzling night's sky during a stargazing tour in Lake Tekapo/Takapō
- Hit the slopes as the sun goes down with Night Skiing at Coronet Peak near Tāhuna Queenstown

DAY 1:

Arrive Ōtautahi Christchurch

On your client's first day in Ōtautahi Christchurch, suggest taking things easy by exploring the sights of this revitalised city filled with culture, heritage and wide-open spaces.

Encourage your clients to stretch their legs with a walk along the banks of the Ōtākaro Avon River which runs through the heart of the city, meandering through Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.

Jumping on board the iconic **Christchurch Tram** is an excellent way to get orientated. Discover the best of the central city with an all-day hop on/hop off pass complemented by live commentary from the knowledgeable drivers. For a unique experience, combine evening sightseeing with fine dining on the **Tramway Restaurant** – the only dining tramcar in New Zealand!



Christchurch Tram

DAY 2:

Ōtautahi Christchurch City Activities

Your client's second day in Christchurch is all about relaxation and indulgence. A short drive from Christchurch city centre, He Puna Taimoana has five separate hot pools overlooking the ocean. Elevate your client's experience with a two-hour **Sunrise Soak** – these sessions must be pre-booked and are available three days a week.

Back in the inner city, **Āmiki Tours** pairs Māori storytelling with kai (food) on their walking cultural food tours. Experience the flavours of Christchurch while listening to local heritage stories and learning a few popular Māori kupu (words) during a lunchtime or evening tour.

One of Christchurch's most popular dining venues, **Riverside Market** is an indoor farmers' market with 30 independent food outlets as well as a butchers, delicatessen, bakery and fishmongers. Upstairs, **Riverside Kitchen** offers cooking classes where participants create dishes from around the globe.

Expert Tip: **Little High Eatery** is Christchurch's lesser-known dining marketplace with nine locally and whānau (family) owned food options.



He Puna Taimoana, Christchurch



Riverside Market, Christchurch

DAY 3:

Ski Mt Hutt

Christchurch to Mt Hutt 🚗 91km | 1 hour 15 mins

West of Christchurch, **Mt Hutt** is one of the largest ski fields in Te Waipounamu the South Island. This award-winning ski field offers First Track passes on Saturdays and Sundays and plenty of activities for non-skiers like the alpine spa, tobogganing and yooners, a fun, lightweight snow experience that combines skiing and sledding.

Getting to the maunga (mountain) is easy with a scheduled pick-up service from most major accommodation providers in Methven – the closest town to Mt Hutt – while travellers who are self-driving can take advantage of complimentary parking at the bottom of the lifts.

If your clients are planning on skiing at multiple ski fields in the South Island, consider purchasing them a multi-day lift pass for access to three excellent ski areas – Mt Hutt, Coronet Peak and The Remarkables. Best of all, the passes do not have to be used on consecutive days.

What's the perfect way to wind down after a day's skiing? How about a dip in Methven's **Ōpuke Thermal Pools and Spa** while soaking up views of the Southern Alps. The Tranquillity Pools are exclusively adults-only, while the family-friendly Discovery Pools feature an Aqua Play Zone and a "crazy river".



Mt Hutt, Canterbury



Ōpuke Thermal Pools and Spa, Methven



DAYS 4 & 5:

Mackenzie

Methven to Lake Tekapo/Takapō 🚗 157km | 2 hours

After spending the night in Methven carry on south-west to Lake Tekapo/Takapō in Mackenzie Country, a region bursting with iconic landscapes including New Zealand's tallest mountain, longest glacier and vivid turquoise lakes.

Take in the dramatic scenery on a 4WD tour with **Tekapo Adventures**, journeying into private high country. Or view the snow-capped mountains and ice-blue glaciers from above on a scenic flight with Mackenzie Helicopters. Premium experiences include enjoying a dram at the highest **whisky hut** in the country and **private picnics** in the alps.

When darkness falls, be sure to look up! Lake Tekapo/Takapō sits within an International Dark Sky Reserve and is one of the best places in the country to view the glittering southern skies. Owned by the South Island iwi (tribe) Ngāi Tahu, **Dark Sky Project** combines science, storytelling and tātai aroraki (Māori astronomy).

For a luxury stargazing experience, book your clients in for **Billion Star Dining** at Moraine Lodge, Mt Cook Lakeside Retreat. A seasonal four course tasting menu is following by an intimate stargazing session at the purpose-built Pukaki Wine Cellar Observatory.



Mackenzie Helicopters, Lake Tekapo/Takapō



Dark Sky Project, Lake Tekapo/Takapō



Coronet Peak, Queenstown



Shotover River, Queenstown

DAYS 6-9:

Tāhuna Queenstown

Lake Tekapo/Takapō to Queenstown 🚗 256km | 3 hours 10 mins

The final destination on this winter itinerary is Tāhuna Queenstown where time can be spent equally on and off the slopes.

A short 20-minute drive away is **Coronet Peak**, the closest ski field to Queenstown famed for its Night Skiing sessions on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Getting here is easy with a regular bus service running from the centre of town and plenty of parking for manuhiri (visitors) who wish to self-drive.

Sitting high above Lake Whakatipu, **The Remarkables Ski Field** is just 40 minutes from the centre of Queenstown with stunning views, packages for first-time skiers and snowboarders and guided snowshoe tours. Transport options include The Remarkables Ski Bus and on-mountain car parking for self-drivers.

Off the mountain, wine connoisseurs will be in their element with over one hundred wineries within a 40-minute drive – **join a tour** and taste some of the world's best pinot noir. Thrill seekers have an abundance of adventure activities to choose from including **jet boating** and **bungy jumping**. And at the end of your client's day, they can relax with an indulgent soak in a cedar hot tub at **Onsen Hot Pools**.

Expert Tip: If your clients are looking to ski in/ski out, **Cardrona** offers 15 self-catering **on-mountain apartments** sleeping between 2-10 guests. These are extremely popular so book your client's stay early.