





NEW ZEALAND SOUTH EXPERIENCE

17 Days

Fully Hosted

30 January – 15 February 2026

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Christchurch Sightseeing including Curators House
- Coastal Pacific Train Experience
- Wine Tasting
- Furneaux Lodge Cruise
- Abel Tasman Cruise & National Park
- West Coast Treetop Walk
- Walter Peak BBQ Lunch
- Franz Josef
- Queenstown
- Milford Sound Scenic Cruise
- Dunedin
- Larnach Castle
- Lake Tekapo

INCLUDES:

- **Private Single Room** in Classic plus[^] accommodations
- Meals as per the itinerary 16 Breakfasts/ 6 Lunches/ 10 Dinners
- Sightseeing Tours and Airport Transfers as per itinerary
- **Tour Host** – depart from/ returns to Brisbane
- Local Driver/Guide

EXCLUDES:

- Flights
- Any meals, tours, excursions or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Travel Insurance

Priced from \$14,364* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at 06 June 2025. **^Classic Plus accommodation is considered 3-4 star hotels.** Tour requires minimum number of passengers to depart. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996

~ New Zealand South Experience ~



Day 1 – Friday 30 January 2026
Arrive Christchurch

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Kia Ora! Welcome to New Zealand. On arrival at Christchurch Airport, meet your Tour Host, fellow passengers and our coach driver/guide. We will be transferred to our hotel for check in and then have some time to relax.

This evening we come together for a **Welcome Dinner**

Accommodation: Rydges Latimer Christchurch or similar (2 Nights)

Please check with reservations for the Airport Transfer time, before booking your flight. There will only be one group transfer.

Day 2 – Saturday 31 January 2026
Christchurch City Sights

B-L

This morning after breakfast we will depart on a **sightseeing tour of the city**.

Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Southern Alps, Canterbury is a land of plains and peaks, small coastal, alpine and rural towns and a city rebuilding itself. Christchurch has emerged revitalized following the earthquake that devastated much of the city in February 2011. The destruction of several landmark historic buildings has led to the development of new city plans, a bold public art programme and innovative use of space.

Highlights of our tour include the Transitional Cathedral, the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery; Bridge of Remembrance; the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial the River Avon, and the beautiful Spanish Mission New Regent Street.

Enjoy lunch at Curators House, followed by a stroll through the Botanic Gardens. Curators House is a picturesque 101-year-old Christchurch heritage building in the Botanic Gardens.

Returning to the hotel the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

Day 3 – Sunday 01 February 2026
Christchurch - Kaikoura

B-D

Following breakfast we check out, board the coach and travel north over the Canterbury plains, the largest area of flat land in New Zealand before climbing the Hundalee ranges and following the Pacific Ocean coastline to the township of **Kaikoura**.

The sea here is particularly rich in nutrients, which attract a wide variety of sea life. Sperm whales, the largest of all toothed whales, can be seen off this coast for 95% of the year.

Upon arrival we will check in, freshen up and then meet for this evening's dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Sudima Kaikoura or similar (1 night)



Day 4 – Monday 02 February 2026
Kaikoura - Blenheim

B-L-D

This morning after breakfast and check out we will take the **Coastal Pacific Train** from Kaikoura to Blenheim.

With the Pacific Ocean lapping at its wheels and the Kaikoura ranges rising majestically above, the **Coastal Pacific** is undoubtedly one of the world's most picturesque train journeys. Located at the top of the South Island, Marlborough is New Zealand's largest wine producing region and internationally renowned for its distinctive, herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc.

On arrival in Blenheim we meet our coach and transfer to a local winery for a **wine tasting and lunch**.

Later we arrive at **Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum** to visit the Knights of the Sky and Dangerous Skies exhibitions. The development of aviation and the stories of the men that flew are brought to life in two distinctive exhibitions.

The first features the extensive collection of World War One aircraft and rare memorabilia belonging to Sir Peter Jackson and showcasing the talents of WingNut Films and Weta Workshop in Knights of the Sky.

The second exhibition, the story of aviation continues with Dangerous Skies in World War II. The aircraft, some exclusive to Omaka, are given the trademark theatrical treatment the museum has become famous for.

We end the day by checking into our accommodation before meeting this evening to enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Riverside Hotel Marlborough, Blenheim or similar (2 nights)

Day 5 – Tuesday 03 February 2026
Blenheim

B-L

Enjoy breakfast this morning and then travel the short distance to Picton where we will take a **water taxi cruise to Furneaux Lodge** travelling through Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.

Whilst at the lodge we will enjoy a delicious lunch. Choose from the set menu, and then relax on the sweeping lawn overlooking Endeavour Inlet, or inside the cosy restaurant in Furneaux's historic homestead.

There will be time to explore the grounds, do a short walk or simply drink in the views until it's time to meet the water taxi at the jetty for the scenic cruise back to Picton.

We arrive back at our accommodation and the evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.



Day 6 – Wednesday 04 February 2026
Blenheim - Nelson

B-D

This morning after breakfast we check out and board the coach as we travel across the top of the South Island through the Rai Valley, forestry plantations and farmland to the Nelson region.

At the top of the north-west corner of the South Island, is the sunniest region of New Zealand. **Nelson** is a truly beautiful region that should not be missed by the visitor who loves nature, adventure, art, crafts, wineries, and good food. Situated close to several national parks, including the Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi, the region offers great hiking trails, beaches and rivers for kayaking and swimming.

We arrive and check into our hotel and then have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Dinner this evening will be in the hotel.

Accommodation: Rutherford Hotel, Nelson or similar (2 nights)

Day 7 – Thursday 05 February 2026
Abel Tasman National Park

B-L

Following breakfast this morning our coach takes us to Kaiteriteri. Here we board a water taxi and **cruise (1hr) to Medlands Beach** in the heart of the national park and walk the trail to Bark Bay, approx. 30min walk, where we will spend the day.

Both Medlands Beach and Bark Bay offer you the choices to relax in the sun, find a shady picnic spot, stroll along the sand or swim in the calm waters. For those who wish to take up further bushwalking options you can choose from the following:

Bark Bay Falls: **A 1 hr return trip (4km, 2.5 miles)** exploring the forested track around Bark Bay Inlet to see Bark Bay Falls and Suspension Bridge (5 metres high).

Falls River: **A 1 hr 30 min walk (5km, 3 miles)** to the impressively high Swing Bridge over Falls River (15-20m depending on the tide), then return to Medlands Beach.

We have a packed lunch with us today so we can eat and enjoy the great outdoors.

In the afternoon we reboard the water taxi for the cruise back to Kaiteriteri and then take the coach back to Nelson. This evening will be at leisure.

You may wish to dine in or venture out to a local restaurant. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

PLEASE NOTE: *To participate in this day a high level of fitness will be required. The terrain is uneven and could present issues for anyone that is not steady on their feet. For health and safety reasons our tour host is unable to physically assist anyone.*



Day 8 – Friday 06 February 2026
Nelson - Greymouth

B-D

Departing Nelson after breakfast we travel south through Brightwater and Murchison.

Continuing south, following the Buller River, to Inangahua Junction and through the spectacular Buller Gorge, we soak up the lovely coastal views as the road follows the coast to Punakaiki - renowned for its wild rugged coastline, the famous pancake rocks, blow holes and scenic walks.

From Punakaiki we continue south along the rugged coast through to **Greymouth**.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we check in and freshen up before meeting for dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: The Ashley Hotel, Greymouth or similar (1 night)

Day 9 – Saturday 07 February 2026
Greymouth – Franz Josef

B-D

Today we have breakfast and check out before starting our day strolling amongst the rainforest canopy and enjoying panoramic views from the impressive **Treetop Walk**.

Back on the coach we travel south through the township of Ross which lies across alluvial goldfields and has an interesting mining history.

The West Coast of the South Island is a World Heritage area of magnificent snow-capped Southern Alps, high alpine snowfields, the glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef, blue walls of ice, towering rainforests, mirrored lakes, and wild windblown beaches.

Geographically isolated from the rest of New Zealand by the Southern Alps, West Coast locals have developed a distinctive culture of their own - they are renowned for their pioneering values of self-reliance, friendliness, loyalty, and down-to-earth characteristics.

On arrival at Franz Josef we will check in to our hotel and have some time at leisure. This evening we'll enjoy dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier or similar (1 night)



Day 10 – Sunday 08 February 2026
Franz Josef - Queenstown

B-D

We check out after breakfast and then travel south through the dense South Westland forests crossing fast running streams and bush fringed lakes.

At Haast the road turns inland crossing the Southern Alps via the Haast Pass and skirts glacial Lake Wanaka then Lake Hawea. On a clear day there are splendid views across the lake to Mt Aspiring.

Continuing our journey we travel through the Central Otago sheep, cattle and fruit growing area, and scene of a major gold rush last century.

When we arrive in the resort town of Queenstown we check into our accommodation and freshen up before meeting for dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Suites, Queenstown or similar (2 nights)

Day 11 – Monday 09 February 2026
Queenstown

B-L

Enjoy breakfast and a morning is at leisure.

Around midday, we **cruise aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw across to Walter Peak High Country Farm**. Once at the lakeside Colonel's Homestead Restaurant savour the delicious aromas as our chef has the best of local produce sizzling away on the grill.

Overlooking Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown's alpine scenery, the Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak High Country Farm is the perfect place to spend a few hours. Its colonial architecture and sweeping grounds evoke the elegance of a bygone era.

An entertaining farm demonstration is also included, or you can explore the beautiful lakeside gardens.

Arriving back into Queenstown this afternoon, the remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. Our tour host will be on hand for anyone that would like company or assistance.

Day 12 – Tuesday 10 February 2026
Queenstown - Milford Sound – Te Anau

B-D

After an early breakfast and check out we depart Queenstown and follow the breathtaking eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu. We travel around the dramatic curves of the Devil's Staircase, with the towering **Remarkables mountain** range rising to the left, passing picturesque rural landscapes dotted with sheep, cattle, and deer farms before travelling into the world-renowned **Fiordland National Park**.



Fiordland National Park, part of the UNESCO **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. There are clear rushing streams and leaping waterfalls set in magnificent native rainforest. Rain or shine, the journey into Milford Sound captivates even the most seasoned traveller.

At Milford Sound we will board a comfortable vessel for a **scenic cruise down Milford Sound** past towering Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of **Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls** and seals and dolphins can often be seen in the clear waters of the fiord.

Soak up this spectacular scenery and enjoy the picnic lunch which will be served on board.

At the conclusion of our cruise, we disembark and then reboard the coach. We journey back to **Te Anau** travelling via the Cledeau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and the lovely Eglinton Valley.

Upon arrival at our accommodation we will check in and a well-earned evening at leisure.

Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel Te Anau or similar (1 night)

Day 13 – Wednesday 11 February 2026
Te Anau - Dunedin

B-D

Departing Te Anau after breakfast we travel across the rolling farmland of Southland and Otago.

A striking feature of this area is the large number of deer farms that are easily seen from the road. The road travels through a number of small country towns before crossing the fast-flowing Clutha River and heading north into **Dunedin**.

On arrival we enjoy a brief **orientation tour** of Dunedin and visit **Larnach Castle** high on the hills above Otago Harbour.

Learn about the tragic and scandalous history of this superbly crafted building which was built in 1871 and see the unique collection of New Zealand antiques and furniture. Take a stroll around the beautiful gardens and climb the tower for panoramic views over Otago Harbour, Dunedin City and Taiaaroa Heads.

Later we check into our accommodation and have time to refresh before coming together for dinner.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City or similar (2 nights)



Day 14 – Thursday 12 February 2026
Dunedin

B

Following breakfast today we enjoy a morning **sightseeing tour of Dunedin**.

The city was established by settlers from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in the 1840's and is set on hills at the head of a lovely harbour. It is renowned for its educational facilities including **Otago University**, New Zealand's first university.

We'll see the iconic **Dunedin Railway Station**, renowned for its grand architecture and intricate design and visit **Baldwin Street** – if you're fit and able you may like to walk up the world's steepest residential street and capture breathtaking views of the city from the top.

Returning to our hotel we then have the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 15 – Friday 13 February 2026
Dunedin - Twizel

B-D

Departing Dunedin, after breakfast, the road climbs sharply over the hills that surround the city.

Continuing north there are some lovely views of the coast and the Pacific Ocean until the coastal town of Oamaru is reached. Just north of Oamaru the road turns inland and follows the Waitaki River passing the major hydro dams of Aviemore and Benmore a major source of power for New Zealand.

After passing through the junction town of Omarama the road continues north through the tussock covered Mackenzie Country to Lake Pukaki a classic glacial formed lake. We will travel along the shores of the lake into the Southern Alps and Mt Cook National Park.

We spend a little time at leisure before making our way to Twizel for the night. After we check in at our accommodation we come together for dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel or similar (1 night)

Day 16 – Saturday 14 February 2026
Twizel - Christchurch

B-D

An early breakfast and start this morning sees us departing Twizel approx. 7:30am and travelling to **Lake Tekapo** to see the iconic **Church of the Good Shepherd** and the famous bronze sheepdog sculpture.

Continue through the charming rural towns of Fairlie and Geraldine, journeying across the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains before arriving back in Christchurch.

We have some time to relax after check in and then meet for our **Farewell Dinner**.

Accommodation: Rydges Latimer Christchurch or similar (1 night)



Day 17 – Sunday 15 February 2026
Depart Christchurch

B

Sadly our time in New Zealand's south has come to an end.

We have a final breakfast together and then with our bags packed, we say our goodbyes and transfer to the airport for our flights home.

Please check with reservations for the Airport Transfer time, before booking your flight. There will only be one group transfer.