



## SOUTHERN LIGHT – 9 DAYS (CHC-PIC)

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All transport
- Camping accommodation
- Experienced Tour Guide

### TOUR DESCRIPTION:

The South Island of New Zealand is a visual paradise filled with jaw dropping scenery and the Southern Light tour will show you the highlights in under 2 weeks! Expect the widest range of natural wonders from glaciers and mountains to beautiful beaches and dramatic Fiords. You'll get to see an amazing range of wildlife such as dolphins, whales, penguins and seals and there will be numerous opportunities for daily hikes and biking that get you closer to nature.

#### DAY 1: CHRISTCHURCH - RANGITATA

Today we'll depart Christchurch and start heading towards the mountains and across the Canterbury plains, a flat open area of farmland. Tonight we'll stay in Peel Forest, close to the Rangitata River.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Take an early walk around our coastal camp, evening walk in peel forest
<b>Bike rides:</b>	9 - 18km country road cycling
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Dolphin swimming, dolphin viewing
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### DAY 2: RANGITATA – LAKE TEKAPO

Wake up to mountain views and try white water rafting on the mighty Rangitata River! If rafting isn't for you, soak it all in with a morning cycle or walk through Peel forest. We then head through more jaw dropping landscapes (they don't stop in the South Island) to the picture postcard, Lake Tekapo. Here you will view the most spectacular turquoise waters which get their colour from the glacial flour brought down from the rivers flowing from glaciers high up in the mountains.

Relax in the nearby hot pools or enjoy star gazing at the Mt John Observatory and make the most of staying in an International Dark Sky Reserve, plus there are plenty of hike and cycle options to choose from.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & lunch
<b>Walks:</b>	Peel forest, Mt John walkway
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Peel forest cycle ride then Lake Tekapo Regional Park
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Tekapo Hotel Pools, Dark Sky Project - Dark Sky Experience, Virtual Stargazing Experience or Summit Experience
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### DAY 3: LAKE TEKAPO – MT COOK - MOERAKI

Immerse yourself in the snow-capped mountain scenery that New Zealand is famous for and explore Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Hike to the base of NZ's highest mountain following a trail up the Hooker valley where you'll cross swing bridges and get stunning views of the mountains before finishing up at a glacial lake with views of the Hooker Valley glacier. We then travel back towards the Pacific coast for a quick stop in the historic town of Oamaru before continuing onwards to the small village of Moeraki. Walk to a

great view point offering expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and try to spot a little Blue Penguin along the shore. If you have a bike it's possible to visit a colony of extremely rare Yellow-eyed Penguins near to camp.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast, lunch & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	To the base of Mount Cook & Hooker Valley, explore the Moeraki Heritage Trail
<b>Bike rides:</b>	13km Alps2Ocean trail ride, Yellow-eyed penguin colony
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 4: MOERAKI VILLAGE - DUNEDIN**

If the tide is low then we can walk along the beach to the mysterious Moeraki boulders. These perfectly round spheres of rock have formed over millions of years and have found their way onto the beach near Moeraki and make for some fun photo opportunities.

Afterwards it's onto the historic Scottish city of Dunedin, the South Island's second-largest city. This southern city is home to the world's steepest residential street and the coastline is home to some fantastic and rare wildlife. It's possible to take a tour onto the Otago Peninsula to view some of this diverse wildlife which includes Albatross and Fur Seals. For the adventurous, why not try surfing at one of Dunedin's best breaks! Our camp is a short distance from St. Kilda beach with a variety of restaurants close by to choose from.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Walks:</b>	Moeraki heritage trail, World's steepest street, explore Dunedin city
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Dunedin soldier memorial 12km, ride from the city to camp or along the waterfront
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour, Otago Early Settlers Museum
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 5: DUNEDIN – FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK**

Today is one of our longer travel days as we drive through some of New Zealand's most dramatic natural scenery on our way to Fiordland. Large parts of the landscape have been carved out over thousands of years to leave stunning paths that weave through snow-capped mountains. We stop briefly in Te Anau, the hub and gateway town for Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound and your last chance to get supplies for those doing the Routeburn Track tomorrow. Tonight's camp is on the lakeside in Te Anau.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Plenty of short walks from camp
<b>Bike rides:</b>	8km road cycle to camp
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 6: TE ANAU – MILFORD SOUND - TE ANAU**

Travel one of the world's most scenic routes into Milford Sound! Described as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. We highly recommend taking a cruise on Milford Sound where you'll see dramatic waterfalls, snow-capped peaks and have the chance to spot wildlife such as dolphins, penguins and seals! As it's just the one road in and out, we head back along the same breath-taking route to our lakeside camp in Te Anau. Along the way, we drop off those doing the 3-day Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's 9 Great Walks. This 3-day hike passes through two National Parks and is a haven for native birdlife. Charge up your camera as this hike offers everything from mountainous peaks and sheer rock faces to pristine lakes, cascading waterfalls and dense, luxuriant forest.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & lunch
<b>Walks:</b>	The awesome 3-day Routeburn Track (rejoin group in Queenstown on day 14)
<b>Bike rides:</b>	10.5km Te Anau loop, Ivan Wilson Park Mountain bike trail
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Milford Sound Cruise, Te Anau glowworm caves tour & boat ride
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 7: TE ANAU - QUEENSTOWN**

Today we journey to Queenstown along the shores of the photogenic Lake Wakatipu. Once we arrive at the adventure capital of New Zealand you have a huge selection of activities to choose from. There is everything here, from adrenalin pumping bungy, canyon swing and skydiving to a relaxing horse trek or boat cruise – this place has it all. There are great tracks around the lake ideal for bikers and hikers and all with wonderful

views of this alpine region. Camping isn't feasible in this bustling alpine village, for the next two nights we stay in dorm-share accommodation (cost included) in a centrally located hostel. Perfect for making the most of all Queenstown has to offer.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Walks:</b>	Queenstown walks, lakefront, Queenstown hill
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Lake Wakatipu trail 16km
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
<b>Private room upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 8: QUEENSTOWN**

With so much to do we spend the full day in fantastic Queenstown with the opportunity to enjoy those once in a lifetime experiences (don't forget to try the legendary and very tasty Fergburger!). Routeburn Track walkers rejoin the group here at midday with time to try some of the many exciting activities this vibrant city has to offer. Tonight, we dine out at one of Queenstown's many delicious eateries - a great chance for your group to enjoy a true kiwi feast (own cost).

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Walks:</b>	Queenstown walks, Ben Lomond
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Lake Wakatipu trail, Queenstown trail 48km
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
<b>Private room upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 9: QUEENSTOWN**

A last chance to indulge in the Queenstown action before finishing your tour with us here and saying farewell to your fellow Flying Kiwi travellers by 2:00pm.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Road cycling around town