

Abercrombie & Kent



WILDERNESS ESCAPE

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Explore the remote landscapes of the southern part of New Zealand. An ultimate experience for nature lovers with a self-drive or chauffeured vehicle options to explore South Island.

Programme Overview

Christchurch – Dunedin – Invercargill – Stewart Island – Queenstown – Milford Sound

A&K Advantage

Enjoy an exclusive and personalised tour of Christchurch's International Antarctic Centre.

A punt on the Avon River.

Experience a close encounter with nature and the endemic species at Dunedin the 'Wildlife Capital' of New Zealand.

Drive through a series of rural settlements on the Oreti River.

Take a breathtaking scenic flight to the World Heritage listed Milford Sound.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH

On arrival at Christchurch, you will be met by a representative and privately transferred to your accommodation. Relax and unwind from the flight.

You will be met by a guide for your orientation tour of Christchurch followed by a unique Christchurch experience at the Antarctic Centre. Join an Old Antarctic Explorer on an exclusive and personalised tour of Christchurch's International Antarctic Centre discovering New Zealand's Scott Base, the Snow & Ice Experience and the Antarctic Storm where you will experience extreme Antarctic conditions. Post a light lunch at the center; enjoy a cruise to Antarctica on board an Antarctic Cruise Ship in the brand new 4D Extreme Theatre or enjoy watching the penguins being fed in the New Zealand Penguin Encounter. At the end of your 3-hour personalised Antarctic experience you leave with a signed copy of an Antarctic book which will be yours to keep.

End your day with 30minute calming punt on the Avon. Relax and admire the beautiful landscape as you float down the river - an iconic Christchurch experience not to be missed.

Overnight: The George Christchurch
Meal Plan: L

Day 2

CHRISTCHURCH – DUNEDIN

On check out, self-drive vehicle will be handed over in case you choose to self-drive; alternately depart in a private chauffeured vehicle towards Timaru; known for its extensive Edwardian and Victorian architecture, before you continue to Dunedin.

Driving Distance: 361 kms approx.
Duration: 6 hrs approx.

First settled by the Scottish, Dunedin is renowned as the "Edinburgh of the South". Relax and settle into your lodgings for the night.

Overnight: Corstorphine House
Meal Plan: B

Day 3

DUNEDIN

The Otago Peninsula within the city boundaries of Dunedin is internationally renowned for its wildlife reserves and is considered the 'Wildlife Capital' of New Zealand. It is renowned for its albatross colony, Yellow-Eyed Penguin and Little Blue Penguin colonies along with various species of seals and pelagic birds.

This day you exclusively experience a close encounter with nature and unrivalled viewing of penguins, fur seals and sea lions on your private full day guided tour. Travel past lush pastures, small bays and inlets, rugged hills and white sandy beaches. Witness the rarest penguin in the world waddle up the beach after a day feeding at sea, bedlam in a fur seal breeding colony and majestic albatross above the headland.

Overnight: Corstorphine House
Meal Plan: B

Day 4

DUNEDIN – INVERCARGILL

We recommend another memorable experience unique to this region. Board the Dunedin Silver Fern Railcar for the Taieri Gorge Railway experience. Considered to be a highlight of the rail network in New Zealand, this luxury trains operates three times daily and each 90minute tour gives you an opportunity to experience stunning views along the Otago Harbour the dazzling Blue Skin Bay.

Later, travel south through the stunning scenery and plethora of wildlife towards Invercargill.

Driving Distance: 205 kks approx.

Duration: 3 hrs approx.

On arrival at Invercargill, stop by the famed Estuary Walkway located a couple of kilometers south of Invercargill. It is a walking/cycling loop track where the New River Estuary and the Waihopai River meet. The area used to be a landfill and has now benefited from a community regeneration project. It now provides a rich habitat for wildlife and people to enjoy.

Overnight: The Lodge at Tikana

Meal Plan: B, D

Day 5

STEWART ISLAND OR FIORDLAND EXPLORATION

A day of adventure and exploration lies ahead! You could begin with a breathtaking 20 minute scenic flight from Invercargill to forested Stewart Island to learn about its life, history, places of interest and scenery followed by an in-depth walk around Ulva Island Nature Sanctuary. Enjoy close encounters with native birds and hear exquisite bird song.

Alternately, you could take a helicopter tour from the lodge and fly towards the majestic Fiordland, a world Heritage area. Soak in the wilderness experience as you fly over the breath taking scenery of amazing lakes, waterfalls, lush mountain slopes, hanging valleys and perhaps even panoramic views over the Te Anau Basin.

Overnight: The Lodge at Tikana

Meal Plan: B, D

Day 6

INVERCARGILL – QUEENSTOWN

Your journey continues as you drive through a series of rural settlements on the Oreti River. After Lumsden the scenery becomes gradually more alpine. Take a break in Kingston, the home of a remarkable vintage steam train. From here the road hugs the incredibly picturesque Lake Wakatipu nearly all the way to Queenstown.

Driving Distance: 187 kks approx.

Duration: 2 hrs 45 mins approx.

Overnight: Matakauri Lodge

Meal Plan: B, D

Day 7

QUEENSTOWN

Enjoy the vibrancy of your Queenstown base before being whisked away for an exclusive experience as you fly to Milford Sound by private helicopter. Soar over mountains, age old glaciers and prehistoric rainforests in a habitat seldom frequented by man. Stroll on an uninhabited beach and enjoy lunch at a remote alpine lake. This relaxed and unhurried expedition distills the essence of New Zealand's most dramatic landscapes with many outstandingly notable sights.

At Milford Sound you could visit the Milford Discovery Center and the Milford Deep Underwater Observatory for a guided dive allowing you access to sights rarely revealed to human visitors.

Overnight: Matakauri Lodge

Meal Plan: B, L, D

Day 8

QUEENSTOWN

Another day of memorable moments is in store, as you wake at the crack of dawn today for an experience of a lifetime. Enjoy a hot air balloon ride at sunrise. Share an incredible morning with the whole family as you rise to high altitudes and drift with the breeze, you will witness quite possibly the best panoramic views of Queenstown and its surrounds. Views of the spectacular Southern Alps, lakes, rivers, NZ's finest Golf Courses and much more! On landing, enjoy your champagne breakfast.

Later in the day, maybe you could head towards an exclusive jet boat experience on the Dart River. From the comfort of your fully equipped vessel discover the spectacular beauty that makes up this unforgettable river.

OR

You could take a ride up the skyline gondola to the Bobs Peak. You will be totally awed by the panoramic picturesque views of Queenstown.

OR

You could take the most exhilarating experience in Queensland - the NZONE Skydive! Get harnessed to an experienced qualified jumpmaster and jump out of an aircraft into thin air for an experience that will change you forever. Perhaps follow it up with a parachute jump over the spectacular Remarkables mountain range or Lake Wakatipu.

Overnight: Matakauri Lodge
Meal Plan: B, L, D

Day 9

DEPART QUEENSTOWN

At Queenstown airport, handover your self-drive vehicle in case you were self-driving. Alternately, you will be privately transferred to the airport to board your flight.

Meal Plan: B