

# Southern Sights Tour

Have you ever dreamed of visiting South Island iconic spots such as, Invercargill's Bill Richardson Transport World, Bluff, Milford Sound, Cromwell's Highlands Motorsport park, Dunedin's Speights Brewery and more? Our Southern sights tour is the ultimate journey which will tick off much of your bucket list!

As well as our world famous South Island scenery, you'll get to meet the locals and hear their stories, see our unique native wildlife up close, get out on the water, enjoy fresh food & wine, make new friends and at the end of each unforgettable day relax in comfort.

This package has it all with 7 nights in quality accommodation, meals and experiences you will forever regret if you miss!

## ITINERARY

### *Arrive into Invercargill*

Kia ora and welcome to Invercargill. We will organise your airport transfers to the hotel for your first nights accommodation at the Ascot Park Hotel. If arriving earlier in the day take the opportunity to explore the cities heritage or relax before the tour begins in the Hotels heated indoor pool or Emberz bar.

**Meals Included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

### *Day 1: Invercargill-Bluff-Te Anau*

Your first day you will meet your tour peers and tour leader over breakfast at 8.00am. Here you will get to know your tour leader and be introduced to your new road trip friends.

After breakfast we head out on a short tour of New Zealand's Southernmost City, Invercargill. It has an old-world charm with its heritage buildings and beautifully groomed parks, witness the changes with construction taking place in the city centre before enjoying the world-famous Bill Richardson Transport world. Spread over 15,000 sqm you will be amazed by the restoration journey that has taken place with a mixture of trucks, rare classic vehicles, farm machinery, themed bathrooms and wearable art collection. From here your next stop will be Bluff, the bottom of New Zealand. Stand at the beginning of State Highway 1, and get your photo taken at the world-famous signpost at Stirling Point. At the top of Bluff Hill you will see panoramic views from the sea, to the mountains in the distance and on a good day Stewart Island. If in season and available, you maybe able to tickle your taste buds and try out the famous Bluff Oyster! From bluff we will travel the southern scenic route to Te Anau were you will stay for the evening.

That evening you could add on an extra and travel by boat to the world renowned glow worm caves, experience a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of hundreds of glow worms.

The trip begins with a cruise to the western shores of Lake Te Anau. At the entry to the caves, view the informative displays and learn about this geological wonder before you head underground. On the tour of

the caves, your friendly guide will point out the highlights and share their knowledge of the caves and its history.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Te-Anau

### ***Day 2: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown:***

After a hearty breakfast we will travel from Te-Anau to the spectacular scenes of Milford Sound, a tick off the bucket list. You will stop at Mirror Lakes where you will see the stunning mountain scenery perfectly reflected in the water of the lakes. Then onto Homer Tunnel the 1.2km long man-made Tunnel through solid rock is the only road access to Milford Sound. You will stop at the Chasm where the roaring Cleddau River and gushing waterfalls won't fail to impress. Once in Milford Sound you will cruise the waters to discover its natural wonder of sheer cliffs, massive waterfalls, glaciers and rainforests. Keen eyes may observe seals basking on the rocks or a local pod of dolphins streaking through the sound. The boat crew will ensure you don't miss the photo worthy highlights. Once your cruise ends you will then journey through the Fiordland National Park, around the Devils Staircase to Frankton, Queenstown for the night meals and accommodation.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Ramada Queenstown Remarkables Park

### **Day 3: Queenstown-Cromwell**

Leaving your accommodation, we will start our travel to the heart of Central Otago, first stop Arrowtown, you will be enchanted by Historic Arrowtown, a New Zealand treasure, with its beautiful buildings and famed nature trails. Arrowtown is charming and quirky, a delightful gold rush village nestled below the beautiful peaks that surround the sparkling Arrow River.

The heart of its history is Buckingham Street, a procession of small town heritage buildings that stretch into a tree lined avenue of tiny miners' cottages. The buildings in this lovely precinct house shops, galleries, bars, and restaurants. It is a wonderful place to browse and relax.

From Arrowtown we will travel to Cromwell via the Kawarau gorge stopping at the Kawarau gorge suspension bridge (AJ Hackett's bungy jumping bridge) for some photo shots and if your game take the leap.

Travelling through Gibbston Valley headed for Cromwell we will pass through the Gorge where you will witness rugged mountains, roaring meg and the pristine waters of Lake Dunstan – the natural beauty of the area is overwhelming.

You will visit the famous Highland's Motorsport Park Museum, because even if you're not a motorsport fan, these top of the line machines are impressive to come face to face with. Since you only ever see them in the movies or on TV, there is something about being in the same room as these rare special cars that gets everyone buzzing. The Museum is home to the some of the rarest cars in NZ motorsport history but also some hidden gems that include an authentic American sheriff's patrol car, a larger than life Transformer's Bumblebee action figure on display and even several arcade driving games. The Batak machine is always a hit with people who love the challenge of hands-on active fun.

Why not enjoy some of the other thrilling attractions Highlands has to offer while you are there, a spin in a go kart or a hot lap in a Ferrari, another tick off the bucket list!

Cromwell is where we will call home for the night, the Cromwell basin is home to a host of award-winning wineries; take in the scenery while enjoying some of the world's finest Central Otago wine at Carrick Winery Bannockburn, here you will experience an unforgettable wine tour and tasting of their organically certified, estate grown wines. Find out first hand what makes their vineyards and wines so special.

If you have time wander down to the historic Cromwell Heritage Precinct for a selection of boutique shops, art galleries, and cosy cafes.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Gate, Cromwell

#### **Day 4 Cromwell to Dunedin:**

Up and away early, from Cromwell your heading into the Maniototo, traveling through towns such as Omakau, Ophir and Poolburn through the Ida Valley, we will pass the site of the famous Brass monkey rally, then you will enjoy a guided tour through the amazing Hayes Engineering Works at Oturehua, the home of impressive farming inventions (1895-1933). The plant features equipment still used and exported today. Nearby a quick look in the Gilchrist's general store, trading since 1902 is crammed with memorabilia of its life as a general store.

From Oturehua we will visit Naseby, born out of the goldrush in 1863 and not much has changed since then, you will enjoy history, yesteryear buildings and a leisurely stroll, pop into the Information Centre and pick up the "A Walk Through History" brochure. It includes a detailed map of the village, with buildings of interest singled out for a closer look.

If you desire take a step back in time into the Early Settlers Museum. It is home to many treasures from Maniototo's past, including old photographs and newspapers, household items and mineral samples. The museum includes the much photographed watchmaker's shop and old Chronicle newspaper office.

Leaving Naseby we will then drive towards Dunedin on a road worth investing called "the pig route" learn how it got such a name and what pigs have to do with it!

The day will conclude in Dunedin.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Victoria Hotel, Dunedin

#### **Day 5 Dunedin:**

Dunedin the oldest city in New Zealand, today you will get a lie in, we will depart the hotel at 10.00am on a short tour past New Zealand's oldest university, the historic Dunedin Railway Station, and Baldwin Street, the steepest street in the world (under dispute). Then we will head around the picturesque peninsula to Larnachs Castle for a guided tour around the castle itself. After this you will have time to walk through the extensive gardens and browse the gift shop. Larnach Castle is one of New Zealand's premier visitor attractions. Lovingly restored by the Barker Family, the Castle and surrounding grounds are at the heart of the Dunedin visitor experience.

Next the Speights brewery tour! See over 141 years of brewing history as you will be guided through an interactive brewery tour. Focus on the history of this Dunedin icon, by exploring the brewery from top to bottom, with your guide along the way you will learn about all of the ingredients that go into the award winning brews. The tour ends with a tasting, where you will get to enjoy samples of the beer as

knowledgeable guides talk you through the different styles and flavours in the Speights range. No tour would be complete without sampling the fine product.

In the brand new tasting room you will be able to pour your own tastings from the Speights range.

After the tour you will pop down to the Speight's Ale House, situated within the Brewery for your evening meal, you will find generous helpings of great Southern Fare.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Victoria Hotel, Dunedin

### **Day 6 Dunedin to Invercargill via The Catlins**

Rise and Shine! Today we leave Dunedin and follow the Southern Scenic Route back to where it all started, Invercargill. We will head through Kaka Point to Nugget Point lighthouse, it is one of the oldest in New Zealand. The views of the big blue beyond are sensational and if you look below the lighthouse you may see fur seals frolicking in the surf.

As we drive further down the coastline we will stop for strolls to waterfalls and beaches. You will take in breath taking scenery and have plenty of chances to put your photography skills to good use. You will be a pro by now!

One of the main highlights of today is Curio Bay, which has a 180-million-year-old Jurassic fossil forest – one of only three such accessible fossil forests in the world. The bay is also home to a colony of rare Yellow-Eyed Penguins (Hoiho) and a resident pod of rare Hector's Dolphin (Upokohue).

Slope Point, the southernmost point of the South Island, here you will get to stretch your legs by walking through farmland to the point. Don't forget to take a photo at the famous signpost.

Waipapa Point will be another stop, this is home to New Zealand's worst-ever civilian maritime disaster where the Steamship Tararua sank and 131 lives were lost. You can walk down to the scenic sand dunes, on a good day, Sea Lions and Fur Seals can often be seen sunbathing on the beach.

Your final stop for the night is at the Ascot Park Hotel where it all began 6 days earlier.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

### ***Day 7: Farewell from Invercargill***

Today is the day we all depart ways, we will meet for our final breakfast, we will exchange photos and stories before saying our goodbyes and parting ways. For those leaving on flights from Invercargill we will organise your airport transfers.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- Accommodation: 7 Nights, Hotel 3 Star or more

- All Breakfasts
- All Dinners
- 1 Lunch (Milford Sound boat cruise)
- Entry into Bill Richardson Transport World
- Milford Sound Scenic Cruise
- Entry into Highland Motorsport Museum
- Carrick wine tour and tasting
- Entry into Hayes Engineering Works
- Guided tour of Larnachs Castle
- Speights Brewery Tour
- Entry into Tuma Toka Curioscape
- Airport transfers to and from Invercargill airport to the Ascot Park Hotel

**Extra optional activities mentioned in itinerary not covered.**

- Te Anau glow worm cave trip
- AJ Hackett Bungy jumping
- Any paid activity at the Highlands motor park

**Transport:**

Private Air-conditioned transportation.

3 Star.

**Important Info:**

**Booking Information:**

After purchase you will receive an invoice for 20% deposit. This needs to be paid to confirm your booking. Once your booking is confirmed you will receive a purchase confirmation and a link to a passenger information form. The passenger information form must be completed within 72 hours of receiving it.

Any special requests, preferences, and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your passenger information form. Any change requested after submitting your passenger information form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the schedule of fees below.

Full payment MUST be made 40 days prior to departure. Tour reservations can be made within 40 days provided full payment is made at the time of booking.

On purchasing this travel offer you are bound by our terms and conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this important information.

**Departure Dates:**

28/01/21

10/03/21

01/05/21

24/07/21

06/09/21

18/11/21

**Accommodation:**

- Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill. 4 Star – Qualmark rated (or similar)  
<https://ascotparkhotel.co.nz/>
- Distinction Luxmore Hotel, TeAnau. 4 Star – Self rated (or similar)  
<https://www.distinctionhotelsluxmore.co.nz>
- Ramada Remarkable Park Queenstown. 4 Star – Qualmark rated (or similar)  
<https://ramadaremarkables.co.nz/>
- The Gate, Cromwell. 3 Star – Qualmark rated (or similar)  
<https://thegate.nz/>
- Victoria Hotel, Dunedin. 4 Star – Self rated (or similar)  
<https://www.victoriahoteldunedin.com>

Please note rooms are subject to availability. If there is change to the place of accommodation it will be confirmed no later than two weeks prior to travel. Please advise in your passenger information form if you request special bedding configurations. We will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

**General Tour Information:**

Minimum group size 6, maximum group size 20 per vehicle.

**Exclusions:**

- Visa fees and requirements (A visa is not required if travelling on a New Zealand passport)
- Domestic flights
- Meals/beverages not stated on the itinerary
- Optional gratuities/tipping
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance

## **Other important Information:**

### TOUR GUIDE vs TOUR LEADER

#### **Tour Guide:**

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture, and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

#### **Tour Leader:**

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village and offer information on the place visited on the bus; however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history.

*Please note:* Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

### COACH TOUR

#### **Meals:**

Some meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches, the tour leader will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify Event Bus Charters and Tours of any dietary requests/requirements. Please note; we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

#### **Luggage:**

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the loading and off-loading of the luggage from the coach. Please limit luggage to 23kg per person.

### OTHER

#### **Fitness Level Required / Mobility:**

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

*Please note:* a basic level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

#### **Sightseeing:**

*Please note:* In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary where possible, will be adjusted or a similar activity will be offered in its place (subject to availability).

## **VISAS**

A tourist visa is not required if travelling on a New Zealand passport.

*Please note:* Passengers who are not New Zealand citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity

organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.

## **SCHEDULE OF FEES**

### **Post-Purchase Change**

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- \$50 NZD per change request post-purchase + any additional charges applied by the travel partners associated with the order.