

9 Days Kiwi Chocolate, food & Wine

Daily Departure & can be extended at any city

DAY01 Singapore – New Zealand

DAY02 Arrival in Canterbury Christchurch

On arrival in Christchurch - The South Island's largest city, Christchurch is an entertaining mixture of refined lifestyle and cultural excitement, you will be transferred to your hotel. The tranquil Avon River meanders through the city and adjacent Hagley Park, historic buildings house a lively arts community and restored trams make it easy for visitors to get around. Heritage sites, museums and art galleries, Tram & Botanic Garden and enjoy the highly developed restaurant scene you may like to visit after check in.



In pre-European times, Maori lived in a hunter-gatherer society, living on the provisions they could glean from the sea and forests. Unlike other Pacific islands, New Zealand had no large land mammals. The Otago (Christchurch) area in those times was a low-lying swampy area, a rich hunting ground for eels, inanga (whitebait), fish, native pigeons and swamp birds such as the pukeko and weka. The trees which grew in the area had edible shoots, and many other plants could be used for food and medicinal purposes. Kiwi and other feathers were useful in providing clothing, along with native flax which was abundant in this marshy area.

Maori lived in family groups in small villages (kaika) like Ko Tane, except in times of war, when they would retreat to a fortified Pa for safety. They were a warlike people, frequently clashing over territory and food supply, but tribes would also meet to discuss important matters, to grieve for the dead, or to celebrate.

Song and dance are a powerful way for individuals to express themselves, and through sharing this experience, people from all cultures are able to come together to express their common humanity. At Ko Tane we encourage members of the audience to take part in our performances.

Willowbank prides itself on its conservation and rehabilitation of rare & endangered New Zealand species. We invite you to watch, touch and feed our unique native wildlife, become friends with our farm animals and learn about the introduced pests that have influenced New Zealand's bio-diversity.

Your trip to New Zealand will not be complete without seeing the New Zealand kiwi bird - at Willowbank, our kiwis are housed in an open and natural enclosure allowing you incredible viewing. After dark the breeding pairs can be viewed outside under the stars (a world first). "Your Kiwi Guarantee" is our guarantee that all visitors will enjoy a kiwi experience. Kiwi viewing, kiwi hospitality and kiwi cuisine.

Hotel: Camelot or similar



DAY03 Canterbury Chocolate & Garden

After being greeted with a remarkable real hot chocolate, we spend two hours with the most amazing chocolatier who has a terrific sense of humour and who will guide you through learning about the history of high quality chocolate - tasting and rating as we go. You will also taste the most pure and expensive chocolate on the planet (she is NZ's only seller) - a rare and special treat!

Next she will teach you and give you hands on experience (lots of it) on how to work with chocolate and you will get to make your own chocolate treats to take away with you.

Once we are all cleaned up, we finish with a pure chocolate fondue which introduces a whole lot of new chocolate taste sensations - think blue cheese amongst others..!

You will have the opportunity to purchase the tools and chocolate used on your tour as our chocolatier has put together an attractive take away kit which includes fine chocolate, tools, moulds and small recipe and tips booklet - a great souvenir or gift for others.

After the chocolate overload (or heaven) we will drive to Hagley Park, one of New Zealand most beautiful, for a refreshing walk before sitting down to coffee and a light lunch before moving off to a fudge factory.

Here we watch the creation of one of the world's favourite confections made the good old fashioned way with condensed milk and real flavours. We get to taste the fudge hot and ask plenty of questions about the process unfolding before us.

Afternoon - Hop onto a Caterpillar Garden Self Guided Tours offers informative and fully guided electric shuttle tours through Christchurch's spectacular city centre Botanic Gardens. Established in 1863, the gardens span an area of 21 hectares hosting without doubt the finest collection of exotic and indigenous plants to be found anywhere in New Zealand.

Operating a continuous daily service, Caterpillar Garden Tours allows visitors to discover the natural beauty, history and culture of this central city oasis while at the same time being taken around the gardens in all weather, comfort and style.

The professionally-guided tours have been designed to allow visitors the flexibility of staying on the shuttles for the full circuit to embrace the flora and fauna of the gardens at their leisure. Alternatively visitors can choose to "hop on or hop off" at any of the clearly-identified stops around the Gardens.



DAY04 Canterbury Christchurch – Mt Cook National Park – Queenstown

Travel by road to Mount Cook, Australasia's highest mountain, through the spectacular scenery of the Canterbury Plains, the foothills of the Southern Alps from Geraldine to Fairlie and through the MacKenzie Basin, with its brown snowgrass-covered landscape which has an almost desert like aspect, to Lake Tekapo.

Obtain an idyllic photograph of the Church of the Good Shepherd on Lake Tekapo with its backdrop of magnificent alpine scenery.

Next to Lake Pukaki where the Tasman Valley opens into the MacKenzie Basin with Mount Cook and the surrounding snow covered peaks in the background.

Follow journey to Queenstown - is an internationally recognised four seasons alpine and lake resort. With a wide variety of things to see and do, it is perfect for adventurers and leisure seekers alike.

Make your way to Skyline Skyride - Enjoy a sumptuous dinner in the Skyline Restaurant, serving up a Taste of New Zealand buffet of legendary proportions.

Hotel: Kingsgate or similar

DAY05 Milford Sound

Milford Sound is simply stunning. It is a natural wonder of world fame. In Maori legend, the fiords were created not by rivers of ice, but by Tu Te Raki Whanoa, a godly figure who came wielding a magical adze and uttering incantations. Milford Sound (Piopiotahi) is without doubt his finest sculpture.

Whatever the fiord's mood - teeming with rain or with sun glistening on deep water - it will inspire you. Nowhere else in Fiordland do the mountains stand as tall, straight out of the sea. In the foreground of the fiord stands the legendary Mitre Peak, a remarkable presence dominating the skyline.

The Milford Road (between Te Anau and Milford) travels through some of the world's most impressive alpine scenery. Our experienced drivers love sharing some of the breathtaking highlights and there is plenty of time for photo opportunities.

DAY06 Arrowtown, Bungy Bridge, LOTR site + Kawarau Jet & Underwater Observatory

We depart and head to Queenstown Hill for the first of several photo stops. The view point offers panoramic vistas over town, Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Mountain Range. (10 minute stop) The most spectacular photo opportunity in Queenstown. Spectacular panoramic views over the town centre, Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Mountain Range.

Remember to bring your camera for picture postcard photo opportunities.

The tour then follows a route along the Frankton Arm and into the Wakatipu Basin, past stunning Lake Hayes, home of several protected bird species. Then on into the mouth of the Kawarau Gorge, one of many filming locations for The Lord of The Rings – Pillars of the Kings: Be transported to Peter Jackson's Middle Earth at the Kawarau Gorge, film location for the Pillars of the Kings. Beautiful views of river & mountains, Great for photo.

On crossing the Kawarau river there are great views of our next stop, the world famous AJ Hackett Bungy Bridge, the birthplace of bungy jumping as we know it. Here we join the "Secrets of Bungy Tour" a 20 minute tour that gives a behind the scenes look at how bungy jumping started, the technology used and it allows access to restricted viewing areas to watch live bungy jumping action. The photo op. is up close and very personal. Get a behind the scenes look at how bungy jumping started, how bungy cords are made and privileged access to restricted viewing platforms. Fantastic photos of the Kawarau Suspension Bridge, the bungy jumping platform and all the live bungy action.

A short drive up the road takes us to Gibbston Valley Winery, one of the pioneering vineyards in the region which has gone on to win world acclaim for the fine wines it produces. The Pinot Noir Reserve 2000 was voted the World's Best Pinot Noir in the 2001 International Wine Challenge held in London. There is the opportunity to taste a selection of 4 wines, browse around the wine shop delicatessen

Next stop is the historic gold mining settlement of Arrowtown, one of the "Must-Do" activities for those visiting the area. The picturesque town retains its old world charm through careful preservation of its colourful history and colonial style architecture. The Lakes District Museum located in the old Bank of New Zealand building is well worth a visit. It has fine exhibits of early European settlement and the gold-rush era of the mid 1800's. Ample time to wander around the shops and cafes in the main street or follow the marked trail through the Chinese Settlement. The picturesque town retains its old world charm through careful preservation of its colourful history and colonial style architecture. Highlights are the Lakes District Museum, Remarkables Sweet Shop and the great shops and cafes in the high street. .

Afternoon make your way to Main Town Pier in the centre of Queenstown. Across the pristine waters of Lake Wakatipu and through the tranquil beauty of the willow lined Kawarau River, the Jet boat then speeds into the shallow, fast moving braids of the Shotover River. The 43 kilometre, hour long adventure highlights the magnificent diversity of Queenstown's waterways. Unique glimpses of local life are afforded as the homes lining the lakeshore flash by, before passengers take in stunning views of the Remarkables mountain range and natural land formations. But it's not just the views and river gardens – the excitement begins on the Shotover River, where your driver's skills are challenged as he navigates the shallow, braided channels of this world-renowned river. At speeds of up to 85 kilometres per hour, in water often less than 10cm deep – this is where the Jet boat comes into its own.

When you return to the Main Town Pier you'll descend beneath the lakes surface to view the Underwater Observatory where you can feed the fish that thrive close to the shore. Photos from your trip can be purchased here as mementos of your unique Jet boat adventure.

In an unforgettable Jet boat experience you'll be transported from the sophisticated downtown area into the channels of two of New Zealand's most scenic rivers.

DAY07 Queenstown – Dunedin / Taieri Gorge Train

A coach from Queenstown connects with The Taieri Gorge Limited train via the Maniototo and Strath Taieri Plains. Taieri Gorge Railway can take you from Queenstown to Dunedin, on a special train'n'coach tour. It takes you on a journey through the rugged and spectacular Taieri River Gorge, across wrought iron viaducts and through tunnels carved by hand more than 100 years ago.

With full commentary, photographic stops, comfortable heating in winter and on board refreshments the train offers year round, all-weather entertainment.

Dunedin's dramatic hills surround a long, natural harbour, which attracted Maori settlers to the site over four centuries ago. More recently the area was settled by whalers, gold miners and migrants from Scotland and China. Memorable for its historical architecture, Dunedin is one of the best preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. On the doorstep of the city, you can find incredible wildlife - the world's rarest penguins, a mainland albatross colony, fur seals and sea lions.

Hotel: City Hotel or similar

DAY08 Dunedin – Christchurch

A sensation in sight, smell and sound. Experience the mystique of a working chocolate factory, sample and purchase Cadbury products and much more.



Cadbury World is located in the centre of Dunedin city at the Cadbury Factory site. The Visitors Centre is a colourful and educational environment with chocolate themed displays where you can learn about the history of Cadbury and chocolate through the ages.

Then take a fun filled and fascinating guided tour around the Cadbury Dunedin chocolate factory and sample Cadbury product along the way! Included is a visit to the unique chocolate fall housed in a five storey high, decommissioned crumb silo

At the end of your Factory Tour, you'll be invited to browse through the Cadbury World Store. Here you can choose from a wide range of special products including chocolates, clothing, hats, bags, toys, novelty items and many souvenirs. Take away delicious Cadbury chocolates and something special along with a lasting memory of your experience at Cadbury World.

Today you will travel up North into The Waitaki district is a place of haunting natural beauty, complemented by Oamaru's historic whitestone architecture. In the two cities of the region, Christchurch and Timaru, great care has been taken to preserve Canterbury's colonial heritage. Grand architecture, historic homesteads and immaculate parks intermingle with the technology and style of modern life. Then come to Canterbury plains then to Christchurch.

DAY09 Christchurch – Singapore

You will be transferred to airport for your home sweet home.

Inclusive:

- *Detail itinerary and comprehensive tour wallet.
- *Seven nights accommodation – room only basis.
- *Chocolate tours
- *Garden Caterpillar
- *Skyline Gondola with buffet dinner
- *Milford Sound day trip
- *Arrowtown, Bungy Jump Bridge + LOTR site
- *Jet Boat & Underwater Observatory
- *Taieri Gorge Train
- *Cadbury World
- *All coach travel. All transfers.

9D7N Kiwi Chocolate, food & Wine	01APR10 – 30SEP10			01OCT09 – 31MAR10 01OCT10 – 31MAR11			01APR11 – 30SEP11		
	TWN	TRP	SGL	TWN	TRP	SGL	TWN	TRP	SGL
Room only	2489	2439	3239	2639	2599	3379	2539	2499	3269
With Breakfast	2758	2728	3498	3158	3118	3638	2798	2758	3528

Note: Rates is in NZD and Subject to our In-House Ex-change Rates. Are rates are subject to changes without prior notice.

For reservation, **please call for appointment**. – Depart Nov to Mar please book early (less than one month is **Urgent Booking** – Admin Charge may apply!!)