

## Learning Journeys' Amazing South Island Tour



"...the best part of my stay (in New Zealand)"

## Welcome to Learning Journeys' AWESOME South Island Tour

"I'll have great memories about this trip and I made awesome friends"

During your trip you will see the best that the South Island has to offer. You will make new friends, see fantastic scenery, enjoy delicious food and experience some of the most exciting activities that are on offer. Each day is a new adventure as you are driven in comfort and shown around by very experienced guides who are there to make your tour the best part of your stay in New Zealand.

The trip highlights are shown below, and those **marked** are included in our amazing value price of \$1,640 (early bird rate\*) and includes most meals and activities. Your guide will also take **lots of photos of your trip** which will be **uploaded to Facebook** for you to share with your family and friends.

[So welcome aboard and book your trip now](#) or visit us at



### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April Christchurch to Oamaru



Little Blue Penguins coming ashore at Oamaru

Arrive at Christchurch airport and meet your fellow travellers, your guides and your driver. Then with no delay, you are straight into your tour with Oamaru your first stop.

Oamaru is famous for its penguins and each night the Little Blue and the Yellow Eyed penguins come ashore to rest. This is Oamaru's biggest tourist attraction. After a **delicious dinner** at a local restaurant you will have a chance to see some of the **crazy metal sculptures** (some put together with the help of Weta Workshops of Lord of the Rings fame) then it's off to the beach to look for the endangered and rare **Yellow Eyed Penguin**, then at sunset to see the **Little Blue Penguins** come ashore.

**Overnight** Oamaru

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April Oamaru to Queenstown



Moeraki Boulders

"I had a very great time..."

After **breakfast** we head off to see the amazing **Moeraki Boulders**, each weighing several tonnes and up to 3 metres in diameter. Maori legend tells us that the boulders are remains of calabashes, kumaras and eel baskets that washed ashore after the canoe, the Araiteuru, was wrecked nearby.

Next on to the **World Famous Otago Rail Trail** for some easy cycling through some of Otago's most spectacular scenery along an old railway line. You will have your own bike adjusted to your height. It's great fun and you don't need to be an experienced cyclist. Remember to bring your camera as you will not want to miss some of the most stunning shots.

Finish the day by the side of Queenstown's stunning Lake Wakatipu at sunset, enjoying a legendary **'Ferg Burger'** probably the best and biggest 'burger' in the whole world!

**Overnight** Queenstown

### Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> Free day in Queenstown



Tandem Skydive – Queenstown

"...the best thing I've ever done"

**Enjoy your breakfast** then it's your choice of activity on your free day in Queenstown.

Remember, Queenstown is the adventure capital of New Zealand. Whatever you choose, we will help you book it and make sure you get to the right place on time. Some examples of the activities you can select are:-

Jet-boating, white water rafting, tandem skydiving, bungy jumping, horse-trekking into Lord of the Rings film locations, paragliding and lots more.

Because we limit the size of our trips to a maximum of 28 students, we can be extremely flexible helping you with your choices, and if the weather is too bad for skydiving for example, we can usually rearrange it for another day on the way to Wanaka.

You and your friends are free in the evening to enjoy a meal at a café or restaurant of your choice or perhaps another 'Ferg Burger'?

**Overnight** Queenstown

**Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Queenstown to Milford**  
**Sound and on to Te Anau**



Cruising Milford Sound

An early **breakfast** is followed by a drive to Milford sound with stops along the way to enjoy and photograph the **amazing Mirror lakes** and take in breath-taking mountain views. Take a walk through the native rain forest to the 'Chasm' where rushing rivers and streams have cut their way through the rocks to form gorges and caves. You will also see kea, a New Zealand native alpine parrot and the only parrot in the world that can live above the snowline.

Then enjoy a **stunning cruise** on Milford Sound set deep in World Heritage Fiordland National Park. Nowhere else in Fiordland do the mountains stand so tall, straight out of the sea. Luxuriant rainforest clings to sheer rock walls and waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres to the sea below.

**Overnight** Te Anau. Enjoy a swim in the lake, if you want, and then a **meal at a local Italian restaurant**.

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Te Anau to Wanaka**



Puzzling World

*"I loved the trip"*

Enjoy a relaxing **breakfast** then it's onto the bus. Our first stop is historic Arrowtown, once a rich gold mining centre in the days of the Otago Gold Rush. Now you can enjoy the cafes and shops and even pan for gold.

Next it's the famous Kawarau Gorge AJ Hackett Bungy where you visit '**The Secrets of Bungy**'. This is the site of the World's very first bungy operation and it's still one of the busiest in the world.

As an optional extra you can try a bungy jump and throw yourself off the bridge diving 43 metres to the river below where you can choose to dip your head and shoulders in the crystal clear waters.

From there it's on to **Puzzling World** where seeing is not always believing. This is a world unique attraction specialising in puzzles and illusions and has amazed visitors of all ages for over 35 years.

**Overnight** Wanaka. Take a walk and perhaps a swim in the lake then enjoy a **delicious 'roast' meal** at a local restaurant.

**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wanaka to Franz Josef**



West Coast

*"That tour was AWESOME guys!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"*

**Enjoy breakfast** as you gaze out of the hostel's dining room at Lake Wanaka and the Southern Alps.

Then it's on to Franz Josef on the West Coast through the dramatic Haast Pass which is part of the Westland National Park. Along the way there'll be a number of short stops with the chance of seeing seals, penguins and even the very rare Hector's Dolphin.

You will also have the most amazing **jet-boat** ride up the Haast River, one of the most remote and spectacular rides in the world.

In the evening you will enjoy a short walk in the dark through native forest to see glow worms, then a **hot swim** in a pure hot water glacier pool.

Once again, you will enjoy a tasty **evening meal** at a local restaurant.

**Overnight** Franz Josef

**Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Franz Josef to Punakaiki**



Franz Josef glacier

*"Will miss u guys and never forget the nice time on the South Island, we spent together."*

After **breakfast** enjoy a breath taking **guided glacier walk** up to the terminal face of New Zealand's largest commercially guided glacier, the Franz Josef glacier. The glaciers stem from snowfields high in the Southern Alps, but Maori legend explains them more poetically. It is said that a beautiful girl named Hinehukatere loved the mountains in this park and encouraged her lover, Tawe, to climb them with her. He slipped and fell to his death and Hinehukatere's tears formed the glaciers.

On your way to Punakaiki you will visit a **greenstone factory**. Hokitika is the jade (or Pounamu) capital of New Zealand. There you will find many artisans carving jade into traditional Maori or modern NZ designs. This is one of the best places to buy genuine New Zealand greenstone.

Then it's on to the famous **Pancake Rocks and Blowholes** (Punakaiki Rocks) which were formed 30 million years ago from tiny fragments of dead marine creatures and plants on the seabed about 2 km below the surface. The walk around them has some great photo opportunities and if the wind and tide are right, amazing blowholes.

Your **evening meal** provided at the accommodation or a local restaurant.

**Overnight** Punakaiki or Westport

## Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> Punakaiki to Nelson



One of the Nelson Lakes

Having finished **breakfast**, we leave the West Coast with a final opportunity to see some seals and then it's through the dramatic Buller Gorge to Nelson Lakes National Park where we stop for a picnic lunch at Lake Rotoroa. The Nelson Lakes is a beautiful area with stunning mountains and clear clean lakes.

From the lakes it's onto Kaiteriteri for some **kayaking** and a chance to **hike** in the Able Tasman National Park.

**Your evening meal** will be in a local restaurant.

**Overnight** Nelson

## Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> Nelson to Kaikoura



Whale at Kaikoura

After an early **breakfast** board the coach to Picton where the interisland ferry to and from Wellington departs and arrives. This picturesque town is on Queen Charlotte's Sound right in the heart of the Marlborough Sounds. Then drive through Blenheim, the centre of New Zealand's famous Sauvignon Blanc wine producing area, to Kaikoura.

Kaikoura is one of the best places in the world to try (optional) whale watching with over seven species of whale seen on a regular basis as well as dolphins and seals. For those of you who do not want to go out on a boat to see the whales, you can enjoy a **beach walk** to Kaikoura Point to see a **seal colony** (close up).

This is our last night and a chance to exchange email addresses, Facebook page links and celebrate the time we've spent together with another tasty **restaurant meal**.

**Overnight** Kaikoura

## Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> Kaikoura to Christchurch



Great tours start and end with Learning Journeys

*"I was so sad that it was all over this morning..."*

We'll have our final **breakfast** together and a chance for last minute gifts and souvenirs before we board the coach for Christchurch. In Christchurch, we'll have a look at the city centre (as close as we can get safely) to see how the brave people of Christchurch are rebuilding their city after last year's quake. Then we head for the airport by 1400. Those of you with later flights may choose to go to the Antarctic Centre which is right next door.

Before you leave your guides will make sure you have details of the Learning Journeys' Facebook page so that you can see all the trip photos. If you supply them with your email address we will also supply you with a website link so that you can **download** the best and your favourite photos at high resolution.

Tour inclusive price is \$1,640 if paid before the February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 (early bird rate) increasing to \$1,690 after that date. If you want to pay by credit card (Visa or Mastercard) you will need to add an extra 2%.

The tour includes all breakfasts and evening meals except for the 'free day' in Queenstown, where the evening meal is at your own expense. We cater for most dietary needs such as vegetarian, gluten intolerance etc. as long as you tell us in advance.

Tour groups are small and very friendly, limited to a maximum size of 28 students meaning we can be more flexible and eat out in the evenings at nice restaurants rather than eat hostel food. Your guides are all experienced and the tour leader always has a current first aid certificate.



For more information go to [www.learningjourneys.co.nz](http://www.learningjourneys.co.nz) or to book now [click here](#)



Learning Journeys Ltd, PO Box 3102, Greerton, Tauranga, email [info@learningjourneys.co.nz](mailto:info@learningjourneys.co.nz), Ph +64 (0)7 579 1062