



Golden Otago Tour

Travel through the rich history of the Otago Region, famous for its early settlers' Gold Rush and unique wildlife. The journey begins in Queenstown, where you can enjoy the rush of Luge up the Skyline Gondola, learn about Historic Arrowtown during the Gold Rush era and board the TSS Earnslaw to set sail over to Walter Peak to enjoy dinner. The trip continues through Central Otago, where you will board the Taieri Gorge Train to Dunedin, a city rich with history and wildlife. Take a trip back in time to Olverston House and explore the Peninsula where Dunedin's famous Albatross call home. Continuing North, you will stop in Oamaru, known for its Steampunk aesthetic and Blue Penguin Colony. The final stop on your travels is Christchurch. Following the historic theme of this itinerary, you can take a punt down the Avon River or catch the Tram around the city.

Starts in: Queenstown
Finishes in: Christchurch
Length: 7days / 6nights
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

plus much more...

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
Included activity: Gondola and 5 Luge Rides with Skyline Queenstown

Day 1



Welcome to Queenstown

Renowned for its adrenaline inducing activities Queenstown is synonymous with adventure. Parked on the shores of Lake Wakatipu this small alpine town is nestled below soaring vistas of The Remarkables Mountain Range. While arguably the brightest gem in New Zealand's crown, Queenstown offers far more than an action-packed getaway. Spend time on the Gibbston wine trail and end with a meal at Michelin star chef Josh Emett's restaurant, Rata. Take a trip down memory lane on a 100 year old steamship the TSS Earnslaw. Soak in the scenery on your walk around the lake, or venture further afield into Fiordland National Park. Head over the hill to resort town Wanaka, or re-live scenes from Lord Of The Rings by four wheel drive. But - if you really do want that rush - head out on the Shotover Jet, dive off the Nevis Bungy, freefall on the Canyon swing or Zip line the Gondola. Just be sure it's done on an empty stomach – don't say we didn't warn you!

Gondola and 5 Luge Rides with Skyline Queenstown

In the heart of Queenstown, located 450 metres above town in the Ben Lomond Scenic Reserve is the Skyline Complex. A gondola ride to the summit makes for awe-inspiring views of the city surround. Arrive at the complex and wander the outside viewing decks for a picture perfect outlook. Then onto the Luge! The 1600 metre luge track offers an exhilarating journey through banked corners, tunnels and dippers.

Your accommodation: Ramada Hotel & Suites Queenstown Central

Ramada Hotel & Suites offers well-appointed apartment-style rooms located in the heart of Queenstown. Experience tranquillity all year round, overlooking the shores of Lake Wakatipu and within walking distance of Queenstown's central shopping and entertainment area.



Day 2



Arrowtown and Wānaka Highlights Tour with Remarkable Scenic Tours

Discover the charm of historic Arrowtown, the serene beauty of Wānaka, and the iconic Cardrona Hotel on this guided tour. Highlights include the Chinese Village in Arrowtown, the famous Wānaka tree, Lake Wānaka's stunning views, the quirky bra fence, and breathtaking lookouts from the Crown Range and Crown Terrace.

TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner

Enjoy a quintessential Kiwi experience, a delicious gourmet BBQ buffet meal, and a farm demonstration in a stunning lakeside setting. Take in the stunning views of Lake Wakatipu and its surroundings as you cruise across the lake to the historic Walter Peak high country farm aboard the TSS Earnslaw Steamship. Enjoy the ambiance of the heart of the stately homestead while your Colonel's Homestead Restaurant chef prepares a gourmet BBQ dinner. Your seasonal menu includes an extensive selection of local New Zealand produce, including succulent meats and a selection of delicious vegetables and salads. Complete your meal with your choice of delicious desserts, or New Zealand cheeses. After dinner, watch the farm dogs in action with a sheep-herding demonstration and say hello to the other farm animals. Finally, cruise home under the southern stars and enjoy the fresh night air as the lights of Queenstown draw ever closer.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 3



Queenstown to Dunedin including Taieri Gorge Train with Cheeky Kiwi Travel

You will be collected from your Queenstown hotel, a town renowned for its stunning alpine scenery and adventure. You'll journey through Central Otago, a region rich in gold rush history and natural beauty, passing gorges, lakes, and historic towns. The tour then takes you to Pukerangi, where you'll board the iconic Taieri Gorge Railway. This spectacular train ride will carry you all the way into Dunedin.

Dunedin

Dunedin, known in Māori as Ōtepoti, is referred to as the "Edinburgh of the Southern Hemisphere". The city has a rightly deserved reputation as one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. Of particular note is Dunedin Railway Station, built 1904 - 1906, and St Paul's Cathedral in the Octagon. The Otago Museum is renowned for its Māori and Pacific Island collections and natural history displays. A visit to the Speights, New Zealand's oldest brewery, is also considered a must while in Dunedin. The Botanic Gardens is a great spot and at the right time of year, you can witness the Rhododendron Dell in bloom. The Otago Peninsula is the only home in the world to the Northern Royal Albatross. The Peninsula can be visited for the day from Dunedin and the stunning harbor landscape and wildlife are worth exploring. High among the rolling hills of the Peninsula is Larnach Castle, the grand home of an early politician. Construction of the castle began in 1871 and was completed 12 years later. From here, views out to sea and back towards the city emphasize the singular beauty of Dunedin and its jewel-like harbor.

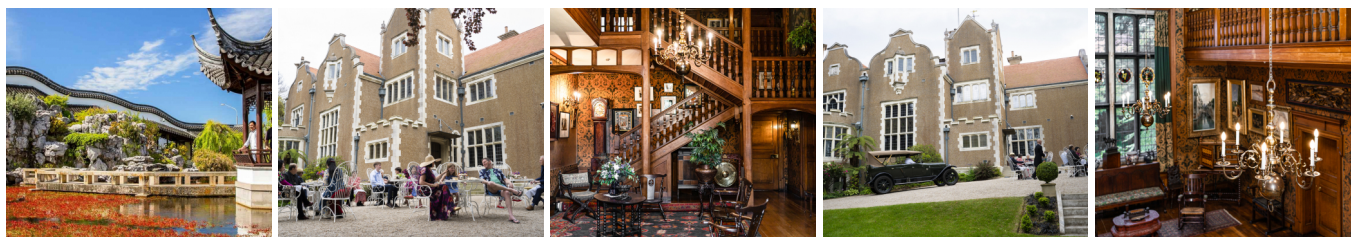
Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City

Just two blocks from the Octagon in the heart of the city, Scenic Hotel Dunedin City is close to shops, parks and the best city attractions and services. The hotel provides excellent 4-star accommodation to Dunedin's visitors.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Dunedin Chinese Garden

Dunedin's Chinese Garden is in the traditional yulin styles and its design was based on gardens of the Jiangnan area. The garden was built to lead you on a journey of understanding of culture, heritage and history. The garden also has a Tea Shop where you can sample traditional Chinese teas and food, including steamed buns and dumplings.

Historic Olveston House Guided Tour

Olveston House is a special place. It offers visitors a glimpse of a lifestyle long gone that can never be recreated. Visitors feel very much like a guest in the family home as they move through the eighteen rooms open for viewing during the course of the one hour guided tour. There are few historic houses that can offer such originality and integrity as Olveston. The house has only ever had one family in residence. Miss Dorothy Theomin, the sole surviving member of the family who built Olveston, died in 1966 and the property, complete with all its contents, was passed into the care of Dunedin City. Constructed between 1904 and 1906, the Neo-Jacobean style grace and grandeur of Olveston is distinguished by a wealth of decorative detail. The Theomin family decorated their home with irreplaceable artifacts and priceless treasures. Bronze, cloisonne and ivory from Japan and Chinese jade and ceramics reflect David Theomin's interest in decorative art from East Asia. In total, some 240 paintings and graphics grace the rooms.

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Day 5



Explore Oamaru

Oamaru, a town of distinctive charm on New Zealand's South Island, is renowned for its remarkable collection of whitestone buildings. Crafted from the locally quarried 'Oamaru Stone,' these ornate structures, many of which were originally grain and wool stores, lend a unique character to the town. The preserved Harbour/Tyne Historic Precinct is a highlight, where these magnificent buildings continue to stand, some still serving their original purpose while others now house an intriguing array of curious shops, gift stores, restaurants, and a motoring museum. Beyond its architectural grandeur, Oamaru boasts a vibrant shopping scene with numerous galleries and iconic stores. Immerse yourself in the whimsical world of Steampunk, a defining element of the town's creative spirit. As dusk falls, head to the harbor front to witness the charming spectacle of a little blue penguin colony returning to their burrows, and keep an eye out along the coastline for sightings of the rare yellow-eyed penguins.

Dunedin to Oamaru by InterCity Coach

The north drive follows the Otago coastline as you head from Dunedin to the historic town of Oamaru, famous for its buildings constructed with the locally quarried white stone and local little blue penguin colony.

Steampunk HQ

Steampunk HQ NZ's premier Steampunk experience is a museum and workshop situated in the historic Victorian precinct of Oamaru. It is crazy, quirky and unique; unlike any other visitor attraction in this universe!

Outside of the imposing free-standing Oamaru stone building, "steampunk" engine SP001 greets visitors by belching flames, smoke and eyrie sounds; whilst inside, a museum of two large darkened rooms and a basement presents a theme of a dark post-apocalyptic vision of a future "as it might have been". You can find out more about Steampunk HQ including opening hours and pricing [here](#).

Oamaru Penguins Premium Evening Viewing

Oamaru's Blue Penguins nest close to town under the cliffs along the Historic Harbour foreshore. The Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony is just beyond the Victorian Heritage Precinct and you are within walking distance of the town centre, close to shops, restaurants and accommodation. When penguins are on shore and have chosen to nest in the Blue Wing it is possible to see them within a couple of feet of you. At the appropriate times of the year you may see them incubating eggs or guarding the tiny chicks. You can watch the chicks as they wait for their daily meal to return with their parents.

You will be seated 2-3 metres from where the blue penguins arrive and cross into the colony. And be treated to an informative commentary by a trained guide. This Viewing is 1 and a half hours and includes the opportunity to enter the breeding colony on a boardwalk and walk among the blue penguin nesting burrows.

Your accommodation: Poshtel

This is not simply a place to sleep and eat before you move on to the next location. Designed by Carter Smith Architecture + Interiors, each room creates a distinct atmosphere all its own. Together they combine to create a myriad of interwoven stories, a collection of art and objects that provide guests with a truly unique NZ experience.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



Oamaru to Christchurch by Intercity Coach

From Oamaru follow the coast to the port town of Timaru, then its across the vast Canterbury Plains. Further along you'll cross New Zealand's longest bridge at Rakaia where you can view some great examples of the South Island's famous braided rivers.

Christchurch

Christchurch known in Māori as Ōtautahi, is the largest metro area in the South Island. Commonly referred to as New Zealand's "Garden City", Christchurch is home to one of the biggest public parks in the country, and beautiful botanic gardens. The city was hit with devastating earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, now the city crosses the line between its English heritage and a new modern architecture. To take in some arts and culture, pay a visit to the Canterbury Museum or the Christchurch Art Gallery. Take a step back in time with a tram around the city or punt along the Avon River. If tasting your way around the city is your means of travel, try out a cultural eating tour. A short drive from the CBD will lead you to the outskirts of the Banks Peninsula beachside suburb of Sumner or through the tunnel to Lyttleton Harbour which hosts fantastic markets on Saturday mornings.

Christchurch Triple Pass - Tram, Punting and Gondola

Experience three of Christchurch's iconic attractions in one day: the Christchurch Tram, Christchurch Gondola, and Punting on the Avon River. The historic tram is a delightful way to explore the evolving inner city, taking in the various sights with the hop-on hop-off pass and learning about the city from the live commentary. You'll also enjoy a bird's eye view of Christchurch and the Canterbury region including the distant peaks of the Southern Alps when you ride the gondola cableway to the top of the Port Hills in Heathcote Valley. Punting on the Avon River takes you through the city's green belt: a relaxing way to explore what is affectionately known as the 'Garden City'.

Your accommodation: Hotel Montreal

A true original, Hotel Montreal is a unique, luxury escape in the heart of Christchurch city. Hotel Montreal is often recognised for the five-star comfort and convenience it affords those passing through the Garden City.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Private Transfer from Accommodation to Airport with Christchurch Touring Company

Enjoy a seamless, private transfer from your Christchurch city accommodation directly to the Christchurch Airport in time for your departing flight.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Self-Guided Coach Tours
Starts:	Queenstown
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	7
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Ramada Hotel & Suites Queenstown Central
Day 2	Ramada Hotel & Suites Queenstown Central
Day 3	Scenic Hotel Dunedin City
Day 4	Scenic Hotel Dunedin City
Day 5	Poshtel
Day 6	Hotel Montreal