



## Hidden Gold of the South

Classic Tour | 11 Days | Physical Level 2

Dunedin – Fiordland National Park – Arrowtown – Wanaka –  
Mount Cook - Christchurch

Discover the hidden gold of New Zealand's spectacular South Island. Journey from the Otago Peninsula where wildlife abounds, to moody Fiordland National Park for a breathtaking cruise. Explore adrenaline seeking Queenstown, charming Arrowtown with its gold rush history, and picturesque Lake Wanaka. Head to Aoraki Mt Cook National Park for a visit to the Tasman Glacier terminus, and finish the tour near Christchurch with Hector's dolphins and eclectic art in French-inspired Akaroa...plus so much more!

- Larnach Castle & the Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens in Dunedin
- Blue Penguins at dusk, Otago Peninsula
- Fiordland National Park overnight cruise
- Arrowtown's Gold Rush history
- Skippers Canyon 4WD safari
- Central Otago wine tasting & lunch
- Wanaka's Mou Waho Island cruise & nature walk
- Mt Cook's Hermitage Hotel & surrounds
- Tasman Glacial Lake to terminus exploration
- Lake Tekapo & Christchurch site-seeing
- A dolphin & wildlife experience in Akaroa Harbour



#### Hidden Gold of the South tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals (From dinner on day 1 to breakfast on the last day)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

#### Classic Tour:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of New Zealand on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

#### Physical Level 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Hidden Gold of the South' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

### Country Profile: New Zealand

New Zealand located just 3 hours by air from the east coast of Australia and home to magnificent landscapes, towering mountain ranges, stunning beaches, unique wildlife and friendly laid-back locals. Comprising of two islands – North and South with both offering unique and different experiences.

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 11 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Dunedin and end the tour on Day 11 in Christchurch. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## Itinerary – Hidden Gold of the South

### Day 1: Arrive Dunedin

Fly to Dunedin, located in the South Island of New Zealand. On arrival at Dunedin Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After checking in, take the time to wander around the city visiting its iconic train station, numerous museums and art galleries, or perhaps you are keen for some shopping! Later, a Welcome briefing will be held prior to Dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



#### Destination Information

**Dunedin** – Famous for being one of the best-preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. Also known as the Edinburgh of New Zealand due to its Sottish heritage. Dunedin is also home to rare wildlife – yellow-eyed penguins, fur seals, sea lions, little blue penguins, and the Northern Royal Albatross.

### Day 2: Otago Peninsula



This morning walk to the Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens for a guided tour of this culturally unique facility. Afterwards, we head out to Larnach Castle for a guided tour followed by lunch in the castle's Ballroom Cafe. Tonight, on the Peninsula at dusk, we will bear witness to the brave little blue penguins coming ashore to find their nests - but not before an early dinner in a Dunedin favourite!

#### Destination Information

**Otago Peninsula** – Renowned for its spectacular views, the peninsula is part of the crater wall of a large, long-extinct volcano.

**Dunedin Chinse Garden** – Located in the heart of the city and using Chinese materials crafted by a team of artisans/craftsmen from Dunedin's Sister City – Shanghai.

**Larnach Castle** – Much loved by the locals, it was built in 1871 by William Larnach, a merchant and politician of Scottish heritage. Boasting a 3,000 square foot ballroom and a tower offering sweeping views of the Otago Peninsula.



### Day 3: Fiordland National Park

Rise early, pack your overnight bag and drive towards Fiordland National Park, stopping briefly in Gore along the way. Depending on availability, our overnight cruise will either be in Doubtful Sound or Milford Sound. Both just as magnificent as the other!

If Doubtful Sound, we will grab our picnic lunches before boarding a smaller boat which crosses the waters of Lake Manapouri. A coach will then take us up and over the Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove where we will board The Navigator.



If Milford Sound, we will lunch in the small lakeside village of Te Anau before driving further into the National Park to meet our overnight vessel, the Milford Mariner. This evening after our activities on-board, a buffet dinner will be served.

#### *Overnight cruise in Fiordland National Park*

##### **Destination Information**

**The Navigator** – Blending old world charm with modern comforts, The Navigator has spacious viewing deck, dining saloon with fully licensed bar and observation lounge. The vessel sleeps 72 passengers in private cabins with ensuite bathrooms.

**Fiordland National Park** – Considered to be one of New Zealand's most remarkable, dramatic, and beautiful national parks. Home to stunning fjords, spectacular waterfalls and snow-capped peaks. Covering an area of over 1.2 million hectares and established as a National Park in 1952.

### Day 4: Fiordland National Park – Arrowtown

After breakfast, enjoy the rest of the morning exploring other parts of either Doubtful Sound or Milford Sound before returning to our respective starting point and driving to our lunch spot at the Five Rivers Café & Art Gallery. Later, we will continue the scenic journey along Lake Wakatipu to our luxurious accommodation for the next two nights. This evening, we will enjoy a dinner and a glass of wine produced from the area.



##### **Destination Information**

**Gibbston Valley** – located 25-minute drive from Queenstown, Gibbston Valley is known as the Valley of the Vines and is home to some of the region's oldest vineyards nestled between ruggedly beautiful schist mountains

### Day 5: Skippers Canyon & Queenstown

This morning, take an exciting 4WD safari tour through Skippers Canyon, visiting the famous suspension bridge, the original Skippers Township and a chance to try your luck panning for gold. No doubt this will be a huge highlight! Lunch today will be in Arrowtown at a café set in historic stables on the Village Green. You will also enjoy some free time to relax or explore Arrowtown's quaint shops and scenic walking trails. This evening, we drive to Queenstown for a stroll along the stunning waterfront and have dinner in our favourite Asian-fusion restaurant.



#### Destination Information

**Skippers Canyon** – Offering stunning scenery and gold mining history, the canyon was carved out by the infamous Shot River, made famous in the 1860's gold rush. The single-lane suspension bridge is one of the highest and most spectacular in New Zealand and is suspended on 14 wire cables.

**Queenstown** – Gateway to adventure and considered one of New Zealand's most exciting destinations. Positioned on the edge of a lake and surrounded by towering mountains.

### Day 6: Bannockburn – Wanaka

After breakfast this morning, re-live the Gold Rush and take a fascinating guided tour of the Lakes District Museum & Chinese Settlement in Arrowtown. We will then drive the scenic country roads, passing many vineyards along the way, to Bannockburn for a platter style lunch and wine tastings at dramatic Mt Difficulty. Later, we will continue driving to Lake Wanaka in time to check-in to our hotel.



Enjoy dinner tonight in the Township and consider walking back to the hotel afterward along the serene lakefront.

#### Destination Information

**Wanaka** – A year round destination located in the Southern Alps of New Zealand and renowned not only for its outdoor adventures but its vibrant mix of restaurants, cafes, shops and plenty of areas to relax and take in the amazing scenery.

### Day 7: Mount Cook

This morning we will meet our vessel on the Wanaka waterfront and cruise to Mou Waho Island for a challenging and guided nature walk. Here you can see first-hand results of conservation efforts including the rare flightless Buff Weka (extinct on the mainland since 1920) and the Mountain Stone Weta. After lunch back in Wanaka, we will drive to Mount Cook with a brief stop en-route at Omarama. Check-in to the famous Hermitage Hotel, located within the National Park itself, and enjoy dinner in one of their exclusive restaurants tonight.



#### Destination Information

**Mount Cook** – New Zealand's highest mountain reaching 3,754 metres and home to the largest glacier – the mighty Tasman Glacier. It is also home to the darkest skies in the world and the region was recently recognised as an International Dark Sky Reserve, the largest of its type in the world.

### Day 8: Glacier Tour & Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre

After a hearty breakfast, join the Glacier Explorers tour which includes a moderate 40 minute alpine walk through the National Park, plus a boat ride amongst icebergs of all shapes and sizes, to view the Tasman Glacier ice face. Enjoy lunch back at the Hermitage, and afterward use your free time to visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre Museum and Digital Dome Planetarium within the hotel's complex. Dinner tonight will again be at the Hermitage.



#### Destination Information

**Mount Cook National Park** – An awe-inspiring expanse of untouched alpine landscape covering an area of more 700km. Established as a National Park in 1953 with 19 peaks over 3,000 metres.

### Day 9: Mount Cook –Lake Tekapo – Christchurch

After breakfast and a last glimpse of Mt Cook, drive to Lake Tekapo for a stop at the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd, Sheep Dog Memorial and the new suspension bridge over the glacier fed turquoise waters. Lunch will be a bit further down the road in Geraldine. Once arriving in our final destination of the tour, Christchurch, we will have a short whip around the CBD and its iconic places both pre and post earthquake. Dinner will be on trendy Victoria Street this evening.



#### Destination Information

**Lake Tekapo** – Located in the heart of the Mackenzie Region and famous for its crystal-clear lake and dramatic mountain backdrop. It is also part of the International Dark Sky Reserve and home to one of the most photographed buildings in New Zealand, the Church of the Good Shepherd which was built in 1935 for the pioneer families of the Mackenzie district.

### Day 10: Christchurch – Akaroa – Christchurch

Enjoy an early breakfast before driving along picturesque Banks Peninsula to the French colonial township of Akaroa, stopping briefly at Little River Café & Gallery on the way. In Akaroa, we will embark on a Dolphin & Nature Cruise like no other and hopefully see the world's smallest (and friendliest) Hector's dolphins. Lunch is on the waterfront, followed by a walk through the quirky mosaic gardens at The Giant's House before returning to Christchurch. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner.



#### Destination Information

**Christchurch** – the largest city of the South Island and known for its English heritage. Renowned for its botanic gardens, microbreweries, street art and charming cafes, it is a city of exploration. The central city is a combination of cutting-edge architecture alongside some of the oldest buildings in New Zealand.

### Day 11: Depart Christchurch

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to Christchurch Airport for your return flight home.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included in our Hidden Gold of the South tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Christchurch, please contact our reservations department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



## Hidden Gold of the South Travel Information

### Visas

Passports must be valid for six months beyond the length of stay. Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into New Zealand.

### Insurance

We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents with them while on tour. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Accommodation

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. Hotels are generally rated as local 4 star standards. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in New Zealand. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation.

### Transport

Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Please note that it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner.

### Group Size

The group size for our Wendy Wu New Zealand tours will be no more 20 travellers in each group. All of our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 14 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

### Packing list and Climate

Weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### Exchanging Cash

New Zealand's unit of currency is the dollar (NZ\$). All major credit cards can be used in New Zealand, with Visa and Mastercard accepted most widely. Australian Dollars can be exchanged prior to departure from Australia or on arrival at Wellington Airport at banks, some hotels and Bureau de Change kiosks. ATMs are widely available at banks, along main shopping streets and in malls. International credit cards and ATM cards will work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit [wendywutours.com.au](http://wendywutours.com.au)

### Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

**Personal Expense** - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

**Optional Tours** - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion

### Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

### COVID Safe

Wendy Wu Tours is committed to always providing a safe and healthy environment for all passengers. We work closely with our airline partners to take effective measures to protect you from contracting and spreading COVID-19, in accordance with legal requirements and government guidelines. Please follow the below link for more details on our COVID vaccination policy: <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-visas/covid-vaccination-policy/>

Your safety and well-being will always be our Number 1 priority which is why we've instituted the most stringent COVID health and safety protocols on all of tours. As we continue to monitor current restrictions and operational impacts, these protocols will evolve, and we will provide detailed guidelines for your particular tour prior to departure. For further details please go to the following link <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/about-us/travel-with-confidence/>

### Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

### After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

**Last updated: February 2022**

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**Visit [wendywutours.com.au](http://wendywutours.com.au)**