



Hidden Gold of the South

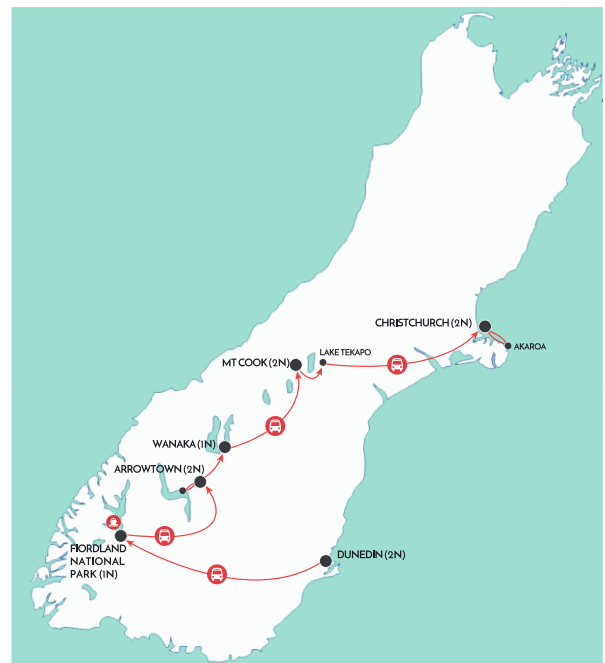
11 DAY TOUR EXPLORING HIDDEN GOLD IN THE SOUTH ISLAND

Discover the hidden gold of New Zealand's South Island on an exciting new Wendy Wu 'NZ Edition' tours. Our New Zealand staff have carefully selected their idea of 'gold' in the South Island, but always with a traditional Wendy Wu asian flair! Journey from the spectacular Otago Peninsula to Fiordland National Park for a breath-taking overnight cruise. Explore charming Arrowtown with its gold rush history, and tranquil Lake Wanaka. Head up to Mt Cook for a Big Sky Experience and a visit to the glacier terminus, and finish the tour with Hector's dolphins and eclectic art in Akaroa.

Everything's included — transport, accommodation, meals and a fun sociable group of like-minded Australian's, all keen to experience the hidden gold of New Zealand's South Island.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome dinner at Larnach Castle
- Blue Penguins at Dusk, Otago Peninsula
- Fiordland National Park overnight cruise
- Arrowtown's Gold Rush History
- Skippers Canyon 4WD safari
- Mt Difficulty Vineyard wine tasting and lunch
- Wanaka's Mou Waho Island Cruise and Nature Walk
- Mt Cook's Hermitage Hotel & Big Sky Stargazing Experience
- Glacier Lake to Terminus Cruise



- Lake Tekapo Hot springs
- Akaroa Dolphin Cruise
- Mosaic Gardens at the Giant's House

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrive in Dunedin

Depart Australia for historical Dunedin. 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.

Hotel - Distinction or similar

Meals – Dinner



Day 2 – Dunedin: 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 a casual Dinner along the dramatic waterfront of St Clair Beach

Hotel – Distinction or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3 – Dunedin – 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 onboard the Navigator or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



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.

Hotel – Millbrook Resort or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 5 – Arrowtown: 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! Lunch will be at Provisions of Arrowtown, a pretty café set in an historic miner's cottage, and then there's some free time to relax or explore Arrowtown's quaint shops and scenic walking trails. This evening drive to



Queenstown for a stroll along the stunning waterfront, and enjoy an Asian-fusion style dinner at Blue Kanu, before returning to Arrowtown for the night.



Hotel – Millbrook Resort or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6 – Arrowtown - 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.

Hotel – Edgewater Hotel or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 7 – Wanaka – 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.

Hotel – Hermitage Hotel or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 8 – Mount Cook: Glacier Tour

& Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre

Join the Glacier Explorers tour to Mt Cook terminal lake - a lovely forty minute alpine walk through the National Park plus a short boat ride amongst icebergs of all shapes and sizes, to view the glacier ice face. Enjoy back at the Hermitage. After lunch visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, Museum and Digital Dome Planetarium. Dinner will again be at the Hermitage.

Hotel – Hermitage Hotel or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 – Mt 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 city tour of the CBD and its iconic places both pre and post earthquake. Dinner will be on trendy Victoria Street this evening.

Hotel – Novotel Hotel or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



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.

Hotel – Novotel Hotel or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 – Depart Christchurch

After breakfast, your tour ends. Transfer to Christchurch Airport for onward flight to Australia.

Meals – Breakfast

Hidden Gold of the South – Travel Information

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- International Flights
- All meals and accommodation (3.5-4+ star)
- All transportation and transfers
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- National Escort

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, and early check in or late check out.

PHYSICAL FITNESS – LEVEL 3

To travel on any of our tours requires a reasonable level of fitness, 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 steps. Our National Escort 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 the tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

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 local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

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 3 to 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.

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 Tours Local Edition tours will be no more 22 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.

LUGGAGE

All travelers 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 7 kilograms. It is advisable that your luggage is lockable.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Any optional activities offered on tour will be at additional cost, to be paid locally.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation. Your final payment will be due 45 days before departure. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Last updated 16/06/2020