



## WILD WEST – 7 DAYS (ZQN-PIC)

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All transport
- Camping accommodation
- Experienced Tour Guide

### TOUR DESCRIPTION:

If you're keen for Lord of the Rings style views, rugged coastlines, crystal clear lakes, striking glaciers and contrasting gold sand beaches then the Wild West Coast is for you! Voted one of the top 10 drives in the World by Lonely Planet, the drive along the West Coast of the South Island has some of the best scenery you'll ever experience! A truly special place in New Zealand where locals (affectionately known as "coasters") are welcoming and areas are not overpopulated.

### DAY 1: QUEENSTOWN – LAKE WANAKA

Our final morning in Queenstown and your last chance to indulge in the Queenstown's action before we farewell those finishing their tour and welcome new travellers joining us here. Leaving at 2:30pm, after the thrills and spills of Queenstown we travel past mountains and on towards stunning glacial lakes. On the final stretch to camp we start getting views of Mt Aspiring National Park in the distance. Lake Wanaka is just over the next ridge and it's on the edge of this glacial lake that we find our next wilderness camp. Enjoy great views of Lake Wanaka and the mountains beyond as we absorb the beauty of the area.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Multiple walking options
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Road cycling around town. Lake Wanaka lookout to Boundary Creek 10km
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	No – beautiful lakeside camp (alternatives will be found in bad weather)

### DAY 2: LAKE WANAKA – GLACIER COUNTRY

Enjoy a relaxed morning at our lakeside camp then it's northward bound through Mt Aspiring National Park. Just before we reach the West Coast, we stop for a walk to the amazing Blue Pools, and then head over the dramatic Haast Pass. As we travel towards the wild West Coast, the road follows braided rivers and huge glacier carved valleys. There are two more great walk options along the way, one through lush and ancient forests and the other through swampy vegetation, ending on the beach where it is possible to spot Hector dolphins. Tonight, we will be staying beside the beautiful Lake Paringa enjoying a true West Coast wilderness experience.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast, lunch & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Blue Pools, Ship Creek
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Knights Point lookout to Lake Paringa 25km
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

### DAY 3: GLACIER COUNTRY – OKARITO

Today is your chance to explore one of NZ's most unique and spectacular natural wonders – Franz Josef Glacier. This staggering beautiful work of nature is 12 kilometres and descends from the Southern Alps to less than 300 metres above sea level. To get on the ice you must go up by helicopter but it's possible to view the glacier with a stunning walk through the main valley up to the terminal face. Before arriving at Franz Josef, we take a highly recommended walk around Lake Matheson where crystal clear reflections of Mount

Cook and Mount Tasman make the perfect photo opportunity. Late afternoon, we have a short drive up the coast to our beautiful beachside campsite next to the Okarito lagoon – one of the very few places where there are still rare sightings of our native kiwi bird and the home to NZ's only colony of the White Heron (kotuku). Enjoy a fire down on the beach taking in the rugged coast and epic mountain views.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Hike around Lake Matheson, Te Ara a Waiau walkway
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Te Ara a Waiau cycleway, Okarito road ride 10km
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Guided Heli-Hike, guided kayak or SUP tour, West Coast Wildlife Centre, skydiving
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – selected nights only

#### **DAY 4: OKARITO - PUNAKAIKI**

Enjoy an early morning walk, with a view of the sunrise over the Southern Alps as a reward. We then continue up this spectacular coastal road to the quirky town of Hokitika, home to the Greenstone factories and a great place to pick up a traditional souvenir of your visit. Passing through Greymouth we keep following the coast to Punakaiki where you'll notice a change in the landscape and vegetation with huge limestone cliffs appearing and Nikau Palm trees becoming abundant. Our beach camp has great sunsets, a beautiful river and incredible views of Paparoa National Park. The pancake rocks and blowholes are the main attraction in Punakaiki where limestone rocks are stacked on top of each other and ocean swells are forced through gaps in the rock creating a whale's blowhole effect. In the evening, explore a cavern with some glow worms hanging out in the dark then relax at the local tavern.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Sunrise Okarito Trig Walk
<b>Bike rides:</b>	West Coast Wilderness Trail 14km, road ride to camp 37km
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Punakaiki pancake rocks & blow holes (free)
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 5: PUNAKAIKI – ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK**

Before leaving Punakaiki we take time to explore part of the Paparoa National Park with a walk along the Pororari river or cycle up Bullock creek road to visit a cave resurgence. Leaving mid-morning we travel inland through the majestic Buller gorge and onto our favourite National Park, Abel Tasman. In one of the sunniest areas of the country you will discover beautiful secluded bays and stunning golden sand beaches. We look forward to spending 2 nights at our perfectly located camp, close to the park entrance which makes it the ideal place to explore all corners of the stunning Abel Tasman.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Truman track
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Coastal ride to camp and Kaiteriteri bike park
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Skydiving
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 6: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK**

Taking time to explore arguably the best beaches and clearest waters in New Zealand - there are excellent options for everyone here. You can walk, sail or kayak around the numerous golden bays and dive into the crystal-clear waters along the way. There will be plenty of chances for wildlife spotting (dolphins, seals and even Orcas!) Explore the heart of the park on one of our most highly rated optional activities - canyoning high flow waterfalls and rapids!

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast & dinner
<b>Walks:</b>	Abel Tasman National Park track
<b>Bike rides:</b>	Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park
<b>Activities (own cost):</b>	Kayaking, canyoning, sailing, water taxi / walk
<b>Cabin upgrades:</b>	Yes – subject to availability

#### **DAY 7: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK – PICTON**

Today we head to sunny Nelson. In addition to being one of the sunniest areas of NZ its home to more than 350 working artists and craftspeople creating traditional, contemporary and Maori arts + it's a wonderful

place to live! Relax and enjoy the sunshine and café culture before we depart for wine country – Marlborough, home to some of the World's best known grapes and where we'll treat you to a free tasting in one of their best vineyards before your tour ends in Picton.

<b>Meals included:</b>	Breakfast
<b>Bike Rides:</b>	Great Taste Trail
<b>Walks:</b>	Nelson town