



big adventure small prices

# SOUTHERN LIGHT

## 9 or 10 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price - NZ \$2,445 (9 days)  
 Tour price - NZ \$2,610 (10 days)

includes transport, most meals,  
 shared tent accommodation,  
 2 nights Queenstown hostel & much more...

## An action-packed southern delight

taking in the stunning highlights of the remote & beautiful South



"The only NZ operator top rated in National Geographic's Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth and the World Travel Awards."

If you don't have time for the full South Island tour (Summer Blast) then this is an excellent way to see and experience some of the most beautiful and diverse scenery on the planet. This itinerary shows a 10-day trip starting in Picton. You can also start in Christchurch making it a 9-day trip.

### DAY 1: PICTON - KAIKOURA

Leaving Picton at 11am we travel the scenic Pacific coast to Kaikoura where close encounters with seals and sea birds are common. Kaikoura translates to 'meal of crayfish' (Kai - food, koura - crayfish) a reference to the abundance of seafood and sea life in the area. The town has transformed from a sleepy fishing village into a hot spot for whale watching, dolphin swimming and seal spotting. This picturesque town sits right on the ocean at the foot of the mountains – a spectacular spot. Stretch your legs with a recommended afternoon peninsula walk and build up an appetite for a tasty feast of locally caught fresh seafood.

- meals included:** dinner
- walks:** the highly recommended Kaikoura peninsula walk
- bike rides:** 9km ride from South Bay to camp
- activities (own cost):** whale watching, sea kayaking, deep sea fishing
- cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability

### DAY 2: KAIKOURA – CHRISTCHURCH - RANGITATA

For those that are keen there is the chance to rise early for a wonderful sunrise and then enjoy one of our most highly rated optional activities – dolphin swimming. The resident dusky dolphins are amongst the most interactive and entertaining in the World and it's not unusual to swim with pods of 50 or more in their natural habitat, the ocean! We then have the chance to explore this quaint seaside town before heading south to Christchurch to collect and drop off those starting or ending their tour. You'll have time to explore Christchurch city and buy your lunch from one of the many quirky container cafes at the 'Restart Mall'. At 2:30pm we travel towards the Southern Alps with fantastic views across the Canterbury Plains – real Lord of the Rings country! Tonight's unique camp is at the Shearer's Headquarters (an actual operating farm) located at the foot of the Southern Alps.

- meals included:** breakfast & dinner
- walks:** take an early walk around our coastal camp, evening walk in Peel Forest
- bike rides:** 18km country road, 9km country road cycling around camp
- activities (own cost):** highly recommended dolphin swim, dolphin viewing
- cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability

### DAY 3: RANGITATA – LAKE TEKAPO

Wake up to mountain views and try white water rafting on the mighty Rangitata River! If rafting isn't for you soak it all in with a morning cycle or walk through Peel forest. We then head through more jaw dropping landscapes (they don't stop in the South Island) to the picture postcard, Lake Tekapo. Here you will view the most spectacular turquoise waters which get their colour from the glacial flour brought down from the rivers flowing from glaciers high up in the mountains. Relax in the nearby hot pools or enjoy star gazing at the Mt John Observatory and make the most of staying in an International Dark Sky Reserve, plus there are plenty of hike and cycle options to choose from.

- meals included:** breakfast & lunch
- walks:** Peel Forest walks of varying length, Mt John Walkway
- bike rides:** Lake Tekapo Regional Park
- activities (own cost):** white water rafting (grade 5 rapids!), horse riding, Mt John Observatory tour
- cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability

### Departs:

Christchurch (9 days) or Nelson/Picton (10 days)  
 You can take extended breaks anywhere along the way

### Finishes:

Queenstown  
 but contact us if it doesn't quite fit - we are flexible!

### Groups:

Average around 18 per trip, max group size 26. You will be well looked after with 2 great guides on every trip

### Fitness Level:

Suitable for all levels

### Accommodation:

Camping in a carefully chosen selection of commercial and Department of Conservation sites by lakes, mountains & oceans. Most nights you can upgrade to a cabin or private room for a small fee (subject to availability). We also include a 2-night stay in a centrally located Queenstown hostel

### Food:

We enjoy good food and supply tasty & healthy meals suitable for most diets + hot drinks - details on itinerary

### Included:

9 x breakfasts, 3 x lunches, 4 x dinners,  
 all travel, shared tent accommodation (2 people per tent),  
 2 nights Queenstown hostel, side trips to remote areas  
 & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board,  
 & much more (see website for details)

### Activities:

Bikes are available to hire by the section or for your entire trip. We enjoy great, free walks most days (the only payable one is the 3-day Routeburn Track. Optional activities listed are not included but we do get great some group discounts + there are always free alternatives.

### Tour price & optional upgrades:

Southern Light tour (9 days) 2019-20	\$2445
Southern Light tour (10 days) 2019-20	\$2610
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$220
Bring your own bike	\$100
Single tent upgrade	\$120
Sleeping bag hire	\$65

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Due to the nature of our trips itinerary details are subject to change to meet the needs of an individual group, adapt for weather etc. Full terms and conditions can be found at <https://www.flyingkiwi.com/other-bits-and-pieces/terms/>

#### **DAY 4: LAKE TEKAPO – MOERAKI**

Immerse yourself in the snow-capped mountain scenery that New Zealand is famous for and explore Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Hike to the base of NZ's highest mountain following a trail up the Hooker valley where you'll cross swing bridges and get stunning views of the mountains before finishing up at a glacial lake with views of the Hooker Valley glacier. We then travel back towards the Pacific coast for a quick stop in the historic town of Oamaru before continuing onwards to the small village of Moeraki. Walk to a great viewpoint offering expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and try to spot a little Blue Penguin along the shore. If you have a bike it's possible to visit a colony of extremely rare Yellow-eyed Penguins near to camp.

**meals included:** breakfast, lunch & dinner  
**walks:** to the base of Mount Cook and Hooker Valley, the Moeraki heritage Trail and viewpoint  
**bike rides:** Alps2Ocean Omarama trail ride 13km, Yellow-eyed Penguin colony  
**cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability



#### **DAY 5: MOERAKI - DUNEDIN**

Before travelling south, we make a stop at the nearby Moeraki Boulders and then it's onto the historic Scottish city of Dunedin, the South Island's second-largest city. This southern city is home to the world's steepest residential street and the coastline is home to some fantastic and rare wildlife. It's possible to take a tour onto the Otago Peninsula to view some of this diverse wildlife which includes Albatross and Fur Seals. For the adventurous why not try surfing at one of Dunedin's best breaks! Our camp is a short distance from the beach with a variety of restaurants close by to choose from.

**meals included:** breakfast  
**walks:** tide permitting - walk to the Moeraki Boulders, walk the World's steepest street  
**bike rides:** Dunedin soldier memorial 12km, explore Dunedin by bike, ride to camp or along the waterfront  
**activities (own cost):** surfing, Otago Peninsula wildlife tour  
**cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability



#### **DAY 6: DUNEDIN – FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK**

Today is one of our longer travel days as we drive through some of New Zealand's most dramatic natural scenery on our way to Fiordland. Large parts of the landscape have been carved out over thousands of years to leave stunning paths that weave through snow-capped mountains. We stop briefly in Te Anau, the hub and gateway town for Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound and your last chance to get supplies for those doing the Routeburn Track tomorrow.

From Te Anau we make our way into the gigantic Fiordland National Park, encompassing some 12,500km<sup>2</sup> it is New Zealand's largest National Park. Tonight's camp is a pretty special place in the heart of the Hollyford Valley, established in the 1930s. You can learn more about the history of the camp at the onsite museum. Cyclists have the chance to cycle to camp through some great native bush and walkers can do some nice short walks from camp (ask your guide about the secret glow worm trails).

**meals included:** breakfast & dinner  
**walks:** plenty of short walks from camp  
**bike rides:** 8km road cycle to camp  
**cabin upgrades:** yes – limited options subject to availability



#### **DAY 7: FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK – TE ANAU**

Travel one of the world's most scenic routes into Milford Sound! Described as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. We highly recommend taking in the boat trip on Milford Sound with dramatic waterfalls, snow-capped peaks and possible wildlife spotting of dolphins, penguins and seals! As it's just the one road in and out, we head back along the same breath-taking route to our lakeside camp in Te Anau. Along the way, we drop off those doing the 3-day Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's 9 Great Walks. This 3-day hike passes through two National Parks and is a haven for native birdlife. Charge up your camera as this hike offers everything from mountainous peaks and sheer rock faces to pristine lakes, cascading waterfalls and dense, luxuriant forest.

**meals included:** breakfast & lunch  
**walks:** 3-day Routeburn Track (re-join group in Queenstown on day 14) – *pre-book with the Flying Kiwi office as soon as possible as this activity can book out months in advance!*  
**bike rides:** 10.5km Te Anau loop, Ivan Wilson Park mountain bike trail  
**activities (own cost):** highly recommend Milford boat cruise, Routeburn Track, Te Anau glow worm caves & boat ride  
**cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability



#### **DAY 8: TE ANAU - QUEENSTOWN**

Today we journey to Queenstown along the shores of the photogenic Lake Wakatipu. Once we arrive at the adventure capital of New Zealand you have a huge selection of activities to choose from. There is everything here, from adrenalin pumping bungee, canyon swing and skydiving to a relaxing horse trek or boat cruise – this place has it all. There are great tracks around the lake ideal for bikers and hikers and all with wonderful views of this alpine region. Camping isn't feasible in this bustling alpine village, for the next two nights we stay in dorm-share accommodation in a centrally located hostel. Perfect for making the most of all Queenstown has to offer.

**meals included:** breakfast  
**walks:** Queenstown lakefront or hill walks  
**bike rides:** Lake Wakatipu trail 16km  
**activities (own cost):** too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)  
**private room upgrades:** yes – subject to availability



#### **DAY 9: QUEENSTOWN**

With so much to do we spend the full day in fantastic Queenstown with the opportunity to enjoy those once in a lifetime experiences. Routeburn Track walkers re-join the group here at midday with time to try some of the many exciting activities this vibrant city has to offer. Tonight, we dine out at one of Queenstown's many delicious eateries - a great chance for your group to enjoy a true kiwi feast (own cost).

**meals included:** breakfast  
**walks:** Queenstown walks, Ben Lomond  
**bike rides:** Lake Wakatipu trail, Queenstown trail 48km  
**activities (own cost):** too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)  
**private room upgrades:** yes – subject to availability



## DAY 10: QUEENSTOWN

A last chance to indulge in the Queenstown action before finishing your tour with us here and saying farewell to your fellow Flying Kiwi travellers by 2:00pm.

walks:	multiple walking options
bike rides:	road cycling around town
activities (own cost):	too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
meals:	breakfast

### Have more time?

Extend your trip by a few days to continue your travels into Glacier country or connect with our 8-day Wild West tour to Nelson/Picton - contact one of our friendly team with any questions.



## Southern Light Route Map



## our trips give you.....

- ✓ **More national parks**
- ✓ **More activities, hikes & bike rides**
- ✓ **More value for money**
- ✓ **More time in the best locations**
- ✓ **More chances to get off the beaten track**
- ✓ **Guaranteed departures**

All images we use are taken by passengers – so what you see is what you get!

Photos by: Felix Kogler (main image), Jazz Mastner, Megan Simpson, Randy Law, Alan Lepofsky, Chris Reynolds, Lindsey Keith, Matthias Gudath, theplanetd bloggers, Tine Busshardt, Rob Chandler, Derek Craddock, Chrys Tremphanmor, Anita Jerayaj, Lander Azkue

## frequently asked questions

### Do I need to book my own accommodation?

No, all of your camping needs are booked for your tour.

### How do I upgrade to cabins?

Cabin upgrades can be pre-booked prior to your trip or each day on arrival into camp. If travelling during Dec, Jan, Feb we recommend pre-booking with us prior to travel as all cabin upgrades are subject to availability. To pre-book cabin upgrades there is an administration fee which is 10% of the total upgrade cost. There are 3 types of upgrades and approximate costs are:

#### Dorm bed / shared room

\$10 - \$20 per night (can only be booked on tour)

#### Private room with shared bathroom

\$45 per night (average cost for single room)

#### Private room with en-suite

\$95 per night (average cost for single room)

### Can I hop-on and off the bus?

It is possible to take extended breaks at any point – buses go past every 9 days in the summer season, so you can hop off for any increment of 9 (9, 18, 27 days etc).

### What is the average age of travellers on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi appeals to people of all ages. The majority of people are between the age of 20 and 40 but we happily welcome travellers of all ages over the age of 10yrs.

### How fit do I have to be?

You don't have to be super-fit to travel with Flying Kiwi – all walks, bike rides and activities are optional and they range from light strolls to full day hikes in Alpine terrain. Your driver or guide will discuss the level of fitness required.

### Is it ok to travel alone on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi is perfect for people travelling by themselves.

### I'm a vegetarian or have other dietary requirements – is that a problem?

No problem at all, we are used to catering for all kinds of dietary requirements. As we cook for ourselves we can easily accommodate most needs. Just let us know when you book.

### Where can I charge my camera, phone, batteries, i-pod or MP3 player?

Charging facilities are available at the commercial campgrounds (most nights) and some buses are also able to charge appliances.

### Is there mobile phone / wi-fi coverage?

Approximately ½ of the camps in the South Island have no network coverage. For many people a highlight of our trips is the remote overnight locations and escaping connectivity!

### What is a bush camp?

A bush camp is a campsite usually in a remote or wilderness location with stunning views and basic facilities.