



South Island NZ Insights

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 23rd March 2024



Welcome to South Island NZ Insights

Travelling the South Island of New Zealand Aotearoa by private chartered train; not just any train; a unique, heritage railcar built in NZ for comfortable regional travel.

The South Island of New Zealand has so much diverse scenery in its spectacular landscape. The renown mountain scenery is rightly high on the list of experiences to include in our tour however there is so much that is special and unique to this island. The exclusive experience and comfort of travelling on our own train provides a perspective unlike any other. Our specially curated itinerary of the South Island NZ will leave you with an unforgettable experience. Let the adventure begin . . .

Day 1

Wednesday 13th March – arrive Wellington

Check-in at the Rydges Hotel in central Wellington at your leisure, from 2pm.

In the late afternoon our chartered coach will transfer us to the Blue Train private restaurant at Paraparaumu for a special railway-themed dinner. The restaurant is a unique venue consisting of former Wellington suburban train carriages converted into a dining experience. Overnight at the Rydges Wellington Hotel

Day 2

Thursday 14th March – Wellington to Picton

After breakfast our coach will transfer us to Wellington Airport where we board our flight to Blenheim flying over Cook Strait.



Our touring of the South Island commences! And first up we visit the acclaimed Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre for a guided tour of one of their special exhibitions. Our afternoon touring will include a Marlborough winery and lunch before we arrive in Picton to board our private chartered vessel for an afternoon cruising on the Marlborough Sounds. We dock at

Picton around 4.30pm for a short walk to our hotel. Overnight at the Beachcomber Inn

Day 3

Friday 15th March – Picton to Christchurch



After breakfast we board our chartered railcar and as we depart Picton our route takes us south along the east coast of the island and at the township of Kaikoura we alight for lunch. Re-boarding our train the spectacular coastal scenery continues with the line weaving along the very edge of the coast to Rangiora then across the plains to the city of Christchurch. Overnight at the Distinction Hotel

Day 4

Saturday 16th March – Christchurch to Hokitika

Our train takes us north to Waipara Jct where we have specially arranged for our railcar to traverse the scenic Weka Pass line to the small town of Waikari. Our coach will then convey us to Hanmer Springs Thermal Resort for lunch and a relaxing, restorative soak in a hot pool. Rejuvenated, we head to the wild West Coast via the Lewis Pass and the old-gold mining town of Reefton. Overnight at the Beachfront Hotel, Hokitika

Day 5

Sunday 17th March – Hokitika to Christchurch

This morning we will meet our local guide to discover the history of Hokitika. We'll view the buildings of the Goldrush era, hear how Hokitika's port was a main entry point into New Zealand and how life was from the 1860s onwards. Then we'll visit one of the workshops producing jade artefacts for which this region is renown. Our coach continues towards the hamlet of Arthurs Pass in the heart of the Alps. After lunch at Arthur's Pass we board our train and enjoy many miles of spectacular mountain scenery as we follow the Waimakariri River valley before reaching the Canterbury Plains and arriving into Christchurch in the late afternoon.

Two nights at Distinction Hotel

Day 6

Monday 18th March – Christchurch

This morning we board a private chartered tram for an informative commentary as we see the city from a unique perspective. Afterwards we travel by our coach to the Christchurch Gondola and enjoy lunch in the café at the summit with views (weather permitting) to Christchurch and Lyttelton Harbour. After lunch our coach transfers us across Christchurch to visit the International Antarctic Centre. This evening we walk a short distance from our hotel to enjoy a 3 course dinner aboard the dining car tram.



Day 7

Tuesday 19th March – Christchurch to Dunedin

We start our southward journey from Christchurch with plenty of relaxing time on our train to enjoy the verdant scenery for which the South Island is famed. We reach the white-stone town of Oamaru and visit the historic central precinct before continuing to our overnight destination of Dunedin; a city known for its Scottish ancestry and its educational facilities including the University of Otago.

Overnight at the Distinction Hotel

Day 8

Wednesday 20th March – Dunedin to Invercargill

This morning we board our train bound for Invercargill travelling through the small towns of South Otago. Our coach meets us at Invercargill for an afternoon of touring to the town of Bluff at the southern tip of the island which has a vantage point where we'll be able to look over Foveaux Strait towards Stewart Island. We then return to Invercargill for a tour of the southern most city in the New Zealand founded in the 1850's.

Overnight at Langlands Hotel



Day 9

Thursday 21st March – Invercargill to Dunedin

After breakfast we board our train which takes us to the small regional town of Gore where we alight to visit the Hokonui Moonshine Museum where our local guide will relate the history and stories surrounding the illicit moonshine liquor. This afternoon you will be able to spend relaxing on our train as we head to Dunedin arriving in the mid-afternoon. We'll have a tour of Dunedin before arriving at our hotel located in the heart of the city.

Accommodation at the Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

Day 10

Friday 22nd March – Dunedin to Christchurch

We travel on our train north to the town of Evansdale where we alight to visit the Evansdale Cheese Factory, a small family operation which will include tastings of their products. Re-boarding our train, relax and enjoy the coastal scenery as we head north through Timaru to Orari where we have another special visit; this time to the NZ Beeswax Factory. Returning to the train for our final ride as we cross the Canterbury Plains before arriving at Christchurch.

Overnight at the Fable Hotel

Day 11

Saturday 23rd March – depart Christchurch

The tour concludes after breakfast. Check out by 11am.

General Information & Booking Conditions

Cost

The cost of this tour is \$13,780 AUD.

The cost includes:

- accommodation for 10 nights on a twin-share basis in ensuite rooms in hotels specified in the itinerary
- all meals
- travel by private chartered railcar
- flight from Wellington to Blenheim
- travel by private chartered coach for all road transport and transfers as described in the itinerary
- chartered cruise on Marlborough Sounds
- services of Insights Tours' Tour Escort throughout the tour
- all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places as specified in the itinerary
- all taxes, charges and tips
- a personal complimentary reusable metal water bottle

Additional costs

The additional costs are: drinks, travel insurance and items of a personal nature and anything not specified above.

Single supplement

Single occupancy of a room is available for an additional cost of \$1,088 AUD

To make a booking

Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Places on the tour require a AUD 1000 deposit.

The balance will be due by Friday, 12th January 2024

Cancellation policy

For cancellations on or before Friday 12th January 2024 the cancellation fee will be the amount of the deposit.

For cancellations after Friday 12th January 2024 the cancellation fee will be the total tariff.

Insights Tours strongly recommends that insurance cover be obtained.

Insurance

You must have travel insurance to cover cancellation fees as well as medical emergencies, lost luggage and unforeseen delays during the tour. Insights Tours can provide information about obtaining insurance. We are an accredited agent of Covermore insurance.

Viability of tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Monday 15th January 2024 and we will refund in full any money paid.

Train

Insights Tours has arranged the exclusive charter of a one carriage railcar from the Pahiatua Railcar Society. The railcar is pictured in this brochure. It is a heritage, 56 seat railcar which was designed and operated on regional NZ services. Guest numbers will be limited to 20 to ensure a spacious and enjoyable experience. For your comfort there is a toilet on board and opening windows.

Coach

Insights Tours has chartered an air-conditioned, 46 seat coach for all road travel and transfers. Guest numbers will be limited to 20 ensuring a spacious and comfortable travelling experience.

Flight on day 2

The flight on day 2 from Wellington to Blenheim is included in the tariff and will be either in economy class on an Air New Zealand aircraft or a chartered aircraft. Checked luggage is included to a maximum of 20kgs per guest.

Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage per person. Included in the tariff is our arrangement to transport our luggage between hotels by our chartered coach - this avoids the need to take our luggage with us on the train and makes travelling much more enjoyable. The flight between Wellington and Blenheim on day 2 includes 1 piece of checked luggage weighing no more than 20kgs.

Visas

Australian passport holders do not require a visa for entry into New Zealand however **your passport must be valid until at least 23rd April 2024**

Flights to and from New Zealand

Flights to and from New Zealand are not included in the tariff. If you would like any assistance with booking or ticketing your air travel, please contact us.

Health and fitness to travel

This tour involves numerous walking sectors, excursions and changes between train and coach where guests must be able to walk un-aided for up to 2kms over various surfaces eg paved and unpaved surfaces, farm tracks and forest paths. At a few locations it will be necessary to board the train utilising secure, portable steps. If you or a travelling companion have a condition which may or does require any assistance, please contact us prior to booking as a medical questionnaire will be required to be completed and assessed before your booking can be accepted. All guests must accept responsibility for manoeuvring their luggage.

It is a condition of booking that guests agree to comply with all health and safety related practices, procedures and requirements which may be either recommended or mandatory during the tour.

Guides

Insights Tours has engaged our own proficient English speaking guides for all guided touring described in the itinerary.

Meals

All meals are included and are a set menu. We take care to ensure that the menu is varied throughout the tour and features regional specialities where possible. Please ensure that you carefully note any dietary or any other requests on your booking form so that we can oblige your requirements.

Force Majeure

Insights Tours will not be liable for any failure or delay in performing an obligation under this Agreement that is due to any of the following causes, to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy.

Limitation of liability

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Insights Tours does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by suppliers or third party providers over whom Insights Tours has no direct control. Insights Tours arranges and coordinates services provided by suppliers and Insights Tours cannot guarantee the performance of suppliers.

Changes to the itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary

however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Privacy and your data

Insights Tours provides data about you to third parties only to the absolute minimum necessary to provide you with our advertised services. For example; we provide your name to accommodation providers for the purposes of registration as a guest where this is required by regulation.

Image credits:

Cover page image: Doug Johnston

Page 2 : vessel - Beachcomber Cruises

Page 3: Kaikoura coastline - Kaikoura x Roady (Glenstrae Farm Quads),

Hokitika clocktower: Claudia Babirat Tohu Whenua

Page 4: dining tram- Christchurch Attractions

Page 5: railcar - John Tuckerman,

About Insights Tours



Insights Tours is a tour company operated by Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman.

We arrange tours which utilise chartered trains, coaches and aeroplanes and provide our guests with spacious and comfortable accommodation. Our philosophy is to provide a tour with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. Insights Tours engages our own guides to ensure that our passengers have the best insight into the location being visited.

Guest numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour will be for a maximum of 20 guests.

Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are taken care of.

If you would like details or assistance with any booking, please contact John:

Telephone: (+61) 02 4268 6581

Email: john@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: 14 Allenby Parade, Bulli (by appointment)

Booking Form
South Island NZ Insights

Wednesday 13th to Saturday 23rd March 2024

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Name		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		
Emergency contact person & telephone		
Any special requirements or requests (especially dietary)		
Room type (please indicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Twin (2 beds) <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 large bed) <input type="checkbox"/> Single supplement (Single occupancy of a room. Additional AUD \$1,088)	
<p>Deposit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed - Please make cheques payable to "Insights Tours" - or -</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer/direct deposit Account Name: Insights Tours Client Travel Account BSB: 062607 Account Number: 10131313</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I / we wish to pay by credit card. A secure link will be sent via email. Please note that a 1.5% transaction fee applies to credit card payments.</p>		

I/we acknowledge the terms and conditions of booking

Signature/s

Guest 1

Guest 2

Date _____

Please return by email or post to:

john@insightstours.com.au
or Insights Tours PO Box 180 THIRROUL NSW 2515