

WEST COAST – NEW ZEALAND

6 DAY FULLY ESCORTED SMALL GROUP TOURS

Queenstown – Greymouth or Greymouth – Queenstown
Optional Travel on Tranz-Alpine Train

TOUR OVERVIEW

This five-night six-day fully escorted tour starts at Queenstown airport and travels to all the major West Coast centres finishing at Greymouth. The tour will be led by Chris Voisin, Kiwi Travel Club's South Island driver/guide. The group size will be six to ten participants traveling in a comfortable Mercedes Mini-Bus.

TOUR STYLE Kiwi Travel Club tours feature easy paced itineraries and a mix of organised activity and free time to do your own thing. Our aim is to provide tours that are both affordable and offer good value for money. Your tour fee includes comfortable accommodation in 3 & 4 -star motels and hotels. A continental breakfast in your motel unit or a local café is included. Most motels have kitchen facilities, or you can dine out at one of the growing number of West Coast restaurants, cafes, and bistros.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lake Wanaka Happy Hour Cruise
- Haast River Safari Boat Tour
- Tree Top Walkway
- National Kiwi Centre
- Denniston Plateau

INCLUSIONS

- Twin share motel accommodation.
- Continental breakfast at your motel or local café.
- Local tours and sightseeing as listed in the itinerary (See Highlights above)
- Kiwi Travel Club driver/guide services.

ITINERARY

TOUR 1: DEPARTS 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Day 1: Queenstown/Wanaka Day 2: Fox Glacier
Day 3: Hokitika Day 4: Westport Day 5: Greymouth
Day 6: Onward Travel – Optional Tranz-Alpine train to Christchurch.

TOUR 2: DEPARTS 22 NOVEMBER 2021

Day 1: Punakaiki – Optional Tranz-Alpine train from Christchurch
Day 2: Westport Day 3: Hokitika
Day 4: Fox Glacier Day 5: Wanaka
Day 6: Queenstown - Onward Travel.

PRICING

From NZD \$2,498 per person twin share Ex Queenstown or Greymouth. See pricing page for more information.

THE WEST COAST EXPERIENCE

The South Island West Coast has always had a special place in the heart of New Zealanders. In part this stems from its liberal hotel trading hours during the six o'clock closing era. It was, and still is, a place where locals and visitors can mix, mingle, and socialise. It all started back in the 1800's with the lure of gold as immigrants from all round the world arrived to make their fortune in the West Coast rivers. These days, while mining (Coal and Gold), are still important, it is other industries like forestry and fishing attracting that special type of person to "The Coast". Nestled on what is a narrow strip of land between the ocean and mountains the South Island West Coast has that feeling of untamed natural wilderness. A great place to explore and take some time to "smell the roses".

ABOUT KIWI TRAVEL CLUB

Kiwi Travel Club Ltd (KTC) was established in 2003 by New Zealand couple Athol and Diane Greentree.

TOUR ORGANISERS

For over 10 years Athol and Diane have been making dreams come true organising escorted group and independent tours in Australia, USA Canada and New Zealand. Feel free to phone or email Athol or Diane for information on this or any other KTC Tour.

NZ 0800 895 194 or
INTERNATIONAL +64 4 9346721
Or email us at info@ktctours.com



WEST COAST ESCORTED TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1: HOMETOWN TRAVEL TO QUEENSTOWN AND ON TO WANAKA

This tour starts at Queenstown airport. Unless other arrangements have been made your Kiwi Travel Club Driver/Guide will pick up from the airport at 2:00 pm.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Historic Cardrona Hotel.

Lake Wanaka Happy Hour Cruise.

Historic Cardrona Hotel: Situated on the spectacular Crown Range Road between Queenstown and Wanaka, the Cardrona hotel is one of New Zealand's oldest and most iconic hotels. Its rustic charm, spectacular mountain setting and rich history make it a must see while in Central Otago.

WANAKA: Is a popular ski and summer resort town in the Otago region of the South Island. Situated at the southern end of Lake Wanaka, it is at the start of the Clutha River / Mata-au and is the gateway to Mount Aspiring National Park.

Lake Wanaka Happy Hour Cruise

On arrival at Wanaka, we will check into our motel before joining a happy hour cruise on Lake Wanaka. We cruise down to Eely point while discovering the history of the famous 'Wanaka Tree'. Track past Ruby Island home of the 1920's Caberet Dance Hall. We then head across to the magnificent cliffs of The Peninsula and then take in Mount Gold and the Stevenson's Arm. This one-hour luxury cruise has a local wine or beer and a NZ cheese board included and is a great way to see the lake scenery before your evening meal.

DAY 2: WANAKA TO FOX GLACIER

HIGHLIGHTS:

Fantail Falls - Haast River Safari Boat Tour

Glacier Walks - -Lake Matheson

A continental breakfast will be served at a local café.

WANAKA TO HAAST

From Wanaka we head up the turquoise Haast River on SH6 surrounded by dark green bush. Haast Pass, 564m, is named after Julius von Haast, a 19-century explorer who followed an old Maori route from Wanaka to the West Coast.



ITINERARY

DAY 2 CONTINUED :

WANAKA TO FOX GLACIER

Fantail Falls: A 23-metre waterfall, located 57 kms from Haast, Fantail Falls is in the Mt Aspiring National Park. This is a beautiful and easily accessible waterfall, which drops into the crystal clear Haast River. An easy 10-minutes' return, the walk starts from the carpark and leads to the waterfall's lookout. The track is suitable for people of all abilities.

Haast River Safari Boat Tour

The one-hour trip through the Haast River Valley takes passengers on a journey into the heart of Te Wahipounamu – the South West World Heritage area. Experience a close-up encounter with this untouched landscape and its remarkable natural features with personalised and informative commentary from a local guide. Safari boats are fully enclosed and operate in all weathers.

Fox Glacier: Named after Sir William Fox, New Zealand's Prime Minister from 1869 to 1872, Fox Glacier describes both the glacier and the nearby village. Like its twin, Franz Josef, the glacier descends from the Southern Alps down into temperate rainforest just 300 metres above sea level.

Fox and Franz Josef Glacier Walks: The Glacier area offers a range of walks suitable for most fitness levels. You can do these walks on an individual or group basis. Your Kiwi Travel Club tour leader will provide information on the various options and coordinate drop off and pickups as required.

DAY 3: FOX GLACIER TO HOKITIKA

This morning our motel will provide a continental breakfast in your unit.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Hokitika George
Tree Top Walkway

HOKITIKA – Known as the “cool little town”. Not many towns can equal its' outlook with a wild and beautiful beach, the blue-green waters of the Hokitika Gorge and superb views of the Southern Alps.



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Hokitika Gorge

This is a top-rated activity in Hokitika, overlooking a magnificent granite gorge with milky blue-green pools, backed by cliffs and a Rimu forest.

West Coast Tree Top Walk

An exhilarating treetop adventure among temperate rainforest giants. Experience life with the birds, high in the ancient Rimu and Kamahi tree canopy. Easy access for all to enjoy along a steel platform 20 metres high and over 450 metres long. Enjoy a leisurely 45 minute to one hour stroll through the beautiful West Coast rainforest treetops.



National Kiwi Centre

The centre is situated in the heart of Hokitika and provides the opportunity to get up close and personal with New Zealand's national icons – Kiwi, Tuatara and Longfin Eel. Learn more about these special animals and interact with species local to the West Coast such as Whitebait and Freshwater Crayfish (Crawly).



DAY 4: HOKITIKA TO WESTPORT VIA REEFTON

REEFTON - Is the West Coasts only inland town located among the spectacular Paparoa and Victoria ranges. The town lies alongside the wild Inangahua River and is surrounded by the Victoria Conservation Park which at 180,000ha is New Zealand's largest.

Miners Hut - Made of native cedar slabs it is right in the heart of town on Broadway. Learn how a miner lived in the 19th century when the lure of gold brought thousands of prospectors to the area.



Reefton Distilling Co - Housed in one of Reefton's historic buildings with a distillery, tasting bar and retail store it is one New Zealand's best growth stories and well worth a visit.

Historic Broadway Tea Rooms - While they serve great food and flat whites they still prefer to be called "Tea Rooms" and yes, they do serve tea.



ITINERARY

WESTPORT

Westport was established in 1861, it is the oldest European settlement on the West Coast. It sits on the right bank and at the mouth of the Buller River.

DENNISTON PLATEAU

Rich in history, unusual landforms, and outstanding scenery, Denniston is perhaps best known for the infamous historic incline railway that took coal from several mines located at the top of the Plateau to an area down a 600-metre drop to be transported for shipment at the port. Access is now by sealed road allowing the group to view a part of New Zealand history together with some great views.



DAY 5: WESTPORT TO GREYMOUTH

HIGHLIGHTS:

Nile River Forest Train

Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Blowholes

NILE RIVER FOREST TRAIN

First up today is the Nile River Forest Train located at Charleston a 30 km drive from your motel. A fantastic way to experience the spectacular wilderness landscapes of the Nile River Canyon in the Paparoa National Park. Travel is in open carriages through primeval rain forest with a stop at Softrock Station for a short walk through the forest to the Nile River suspension bridge.



PUNAKAIKI PANCAKE ROCKS AND BLOWHOLES

This is an all-weather 20 min; 1.1 km walk around the curious limestone formations of pancake rocks and blowholes. Blowholes form a mixture of compressed water and air escaping through the caverns below and being forced upwards, creating a huge wall of spray. They are at their best around high tide when there is a south-westerly swell. Spectacular views, geological oddities, coastal forest, rich birdlife, and marine mammals are highlights along this walk.



GREYMOUTH: As the largest town on the West Coast, it is considered the heart of the West Coast. It has a history of jade and gold mining and floods which all add to the many wild west coast stories.

DAY 6: ONWARD TRAVEL

Our tour ends at Greymouth – You can take the Tranz-Alpine train through to Christchurch or take a flight out of Hokitika. Today we also welcome those joining us on the reverse tour back to Queenstown.



WEST COAST ESCORTED TOUR INFORMATION

HOW TO BOOK: This is a small group tour with limited places available – Book early and take advantage of our early bird offers and flexible payment terms. You can book online or email us for a booking form. If space is available, we will email a provisional booking invoice with payment options.

EARLY BIRD BOOKING OFFERS: Kiwi Travel Club members booking before 31 August 2021 for November 2021 departures and 31 December 2021 for March/April 2022 departures receive:

- Free Scenic Class travel on the Tranz-Alpine Train (Greymouth - Christchurch or Christchurch – Greymouth) and
- Return flights from most New Zealand centres for just \$100 per person and
- Free 12-month Gold Membership

Please note for Tranz-Alpine train travel an overnight stay in Christchurch at your own cost may be required.

KIWI TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

Silver Membership is FREE – Join online.

Gold Membership offers additional benefits:

- No deposit – Flexible payment terms
- Itinerary Planning Services.
- Global Prepaid Travel Card.
- Backup Visa Card (Credit approval required)
- Crowd Funded Travel Loans repayable over 2-5 years. (Credit approval required)
- Direct access to Expedia Travel Services with commission paid on your bookings.
- For more details see our membership brochure.

SINGLES: We welcome singles on our tours. Our single supplement cost is very reasonable and provides sole use of the room. If you would prefer to share, we would put you in touch with other same gender singles on tour and if both agree to share, we will remove the single supplement cost.

EXTRA COSTS: You will need to allow for items and extras not included in the tour cost. If you eat dinner mostly at restaurant's you would need to allow \$25 - \$30 a meal (say \$100- \$150). For lunch at a café allow \$15 - \$20 (Say \$60 -\$80). Most groups also enjoy a night or two on the town at one of the nearby pubs. All up we suggest you allow \$250 - \$300 plus an extra allowance for gifts, souvenirs, and personal items.

BOOKING TERMS: Participation is subject to our and our supplier's terms and conditions. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Tour Dates:

Queenstown – Greymouth
17 – 22 November 2021
30 March – 4 April 2022

Greymouth – Queenstown
22 – 27 November 2021
4 April – 9 April 2022

Tour Price: \$2498

(Per Person - Twin Share)

Ex Queenstown or Greymouth

Single Supplement:

Room Share Option

No Charge

Sole Use of Room

\$480

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Accommodation:

Tour price includes twin share accommodation in 3 & 4- star motels with kitchen facilities.

Meals:

Continental breakfast in your motel unit or a local café is included. All other meals are at your own cost. Your tour leader will provide information on restaurants, bars, and cafes located a short distance from the hotel/motel. The Tranz-Alpine train has a café car serving a range of reasonably priced meals and snacks.

Tour Vehicle: For this tour we will be using a comfortable Mercedes Mini-Bus with 6 – 8 passengers.

Included Activities:

Day tours and other activities as listed in the itinerary:

- Lake Wanaka Happy Hour Cruise
- Haast River Safari Boat Tour
- Hokitika Tree Top Walkway
- National Kiwi Centre Entry
- Nile River Train
- Tour leader Services

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED:

Airfares are not included in the tour price, tips, personal expenditure, and meals not listed as included in the itinerary.