

NZ SOUTH ISLAND WALKING TOUR – 2018

INTRODUCTION

This tour information package details a uniquely designed, extended-length nature/walking tour arranged and escorted by Wildside Travel. This is an 18 day South Island tour starting and finishing in Nelson. The trip will be a comfortable sized group tour with a maximum 16 tour members – travelling and exploring from the comfort of a luxury minicoach. In keeping with tradition, this nature/walking tour includes collections of easy to moderate forest, coastal, Lake and alpine trail walks, in a wide range of areas throughout the South Island. The tour is interspaced with time to relax and leisurely explore some of the more interesting townships and regions we drive through. The itinerary includes many two and three night stays in the same place – so walkers can really settle in and enjoy the surroundings.

WILDSIDE: TOUR HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Wildside Travel is owned and operated by Andrea Livingston, who has worked in the Travel Industry since 1996 with the last 15 years in the Adventure Travel arena. Andrea has escorted over 40 tours, from South and Central America, Canada, India and Vietnam and more recently the South Pacific Islands of Niue, Samoa and Rarotonga all of which are Wildside Travel creations.

The company was founded in 2006 as a boredom-buster, for Andrea to write and escort her own itineraries. Wildside is synonymous with the development of Cycle touring in Samoa – offering the very first and very successful 15 days leisure tours over a four year period. Cycling is now a ‘must-do’ activity for visitors to Samoa. In 2010 Andrea went solo and became a Travel Broker with her own unique brand and since then has branched out into extended-length tours in the Southern hemisphere and now North America. Company policy is to offer opportunities and experiences ‘less ordinary’ to active, open age, inclusive, like minded, good humoured groups ☺

TOUR INFORMATION

NZ SOUTH ISLAND

This itinerary has huge popularity with Kiwis, spending 18 days exploring a broad range of the South Islands most iconic features from pristine waterways, wild untamed beaches, forested lakes, estuaries, river trails, mountains, gold fields, bird sanctuaries. The tour is scheduled to coincide with the autumn colours of the south so tour members can enjoy beautiful settled weather and moderate temperatures at a quieter time of the year during our explorations.

Features include: Farm-park and beach walks in Golden Bay; forest walks in Nelson Lakes National Park; coastal strolls at the Punakaiki headlands; alpine walks in Arthurs Pass; bird colonies, autumn scenic walks in Central Otago; peninsular walks in Akaroa, forest rambles in Hanmer Springs, plus feature walks at Lake Tekapo and Mount Cook.

TRAVELLING WITH US

TOUR CONTENT

The content of our nature walking tour is extensive. A well-balanced mix of easy to moderate nature walks within groomed and formed trails in a diverse range of settings. These are complemented with visits to a collection of cultural and historical sites, interpretive centres, Gardens and Museums allowing us exploration of many fascinating off-the-beaten-track spots. Expect each day to throw up new surprises!

VALUE FOR MONEY

With so many variations of forest, lake, river and coast trail experiences packed into one itinerary we strive to offer an exciting programme balanced with relaxed and well-appointed high quality motels and a comfortable luxury minicoach. We include many breakfasts, all lunches and a number of dinners over the length of the tour. Our tour price represents an incredible all-inclusive value that would be hard to beat. We aim to deliver that once-in-a-lifetime travelling experience.

TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Much time and effort has gone into researching and selecting not only good quality accommodation for our tour, but well located for our tour activities, appropriate to our style, and delivering the comfort we seek at the end of our day. We often stay in places less visited by mainstream tourism, which further adds to the rich and often unique memories tour members return home with.

TOUR GROUP SIZE

We have two Tour Leaders on this tour which enables us to split into smaller numbers to journey and explore at a relaxed and leisurely pace suitable for different abilities ensuring all members receive maximum enjoyment. We spend several nights in feature areas so we are not continually on the move and forever packing and unpacking. This also allows us to cater more to the individual desires of tour members who may wish to complement walking with a passion for photography, flora and fauna, or perhaps history and culture.

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND NO WORK ROSTERS

We nurture a warm, friendly and inclusive atmosphere while on tour. We all share the many wonderful walks, the exploring of amazing places and the sharing of exiting new experiences while on tour. We endeavour to provide some relaxing social time each evening so members can share their days experiences. There are no work rosters on tour and you may choose to help as much or as little as you wish in the way of general tour chores such as washing and tidying up after tour meals, etc. Your tour leaders are your guides, cooks, grocery shoppers, general organisers and luggage handlers.



NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND WALKING TOUR

Days 1 - 2 - 3

Arrive and overnight in Nelson. The morning of our first day begins with a lovely scenic drive through the farmland and orchards of the Waimea Plains, past the beaches of Tasman Bay and high onto Takaka Hill to enjoy the panoramic and very picturesque East-West views across the whole of the Nelson region. We descend into the farmlands of Golden Bay to stop for lunch in the rural township of Takaka, and to enjoy a leisurely browse through the local arts and craft shops. A two nights stay in comfortable motel units in the coastal village of Collingwood the beach just a minute's stroll away. **Highlights Include:** Nature walks at Te Waikoropupu Springs and nearby Pupu Hydro walkway, Milnthorpe Park Scenic Reserve and Arboretum, farmland and beach walks at Puponga Farm Park near the base of Farewell Spit with a visit to the Farewell Spit Visitor Centre to enjoy the fascinating information on migratory birdlife and the whale strandings in the area.

Days 4 – 5 - 6

Travelling once more up and over Takaka Hill, and down the picturesque Motueka River Valley, through the Golden Downs exotic pine forests to arrive by early afternoon into the tiny hamlet of St Arnaud, located in a tranquil bush-clad setting on the shores of beautiful Lake Rotoiti. We enjoy Beech Forest walks in Nelson Lakes National Park, and stay just a few minutes stroll from the lake shore. We leave St Arnaud for a picturesque scenic drive down the Buller Gorge to the upper West Coast near Punakaiki. Experience wonderful coastal walking before stepping back in time for two nights in a renovated historic Gold Mining Hotel synonymous with the West Coast Gold era.

Highlights Include: Lakeside beech forest walks and alpine walk along the flanks of Mount Robert with views out over the steel blue waters of Lake Rotoiti. Cliff walks in the upper West Coast headland walking at both Cape Foulwind and Punakaiki. Wetland wanderings at Lake Kaniere and Moana plus an amazing Treetop Walk amidst giant Podocarps.

Days 7 – 8

Travelling from West to East, Arthurs Pass presents commanding and classic back country landscapes and we stop for a nature walk to appreciate the environment of the mighty Southern Alps. We follow the Waimakariri River and emerge out onto the Canterbury plains driving south to the progressive township of Oamaru on the East Coast of North Otago for one night. Continuing south we cross into beautiful Central Otago via the spectacular high country Dansey's Pass and overnight in the tiny nook of Wedderburn flanked by the Maniototo and in the heart of the Otago Rail Trail.

Highlights Include: The Dobson alpine nature walk in Arthurs Pass and Arthurs Pass township (we have often seen Keas here); a visit to the famous Danseys Pass Hotel during our drive over high country Danseys Pass; time to try our hand at Curling in Naseby's new indoor curling stadium.

Days 9 -10 - 11

We are now in the heart of Central Otago and settle into the lovely and colourful Arrowtown for a three nights stay in lovely spacious motel units, located just a ten minutes stroll from the town centre. A full day in Wanaka exploring the beautiful lakeside walkways and the township itself. The drive between towns is spectacular, travelling over the famous Crown Range Road, home to the gorgeous Cardrona Hotel. A free day to explore the town and local walking trails amid the autumn colours that Arrowtown is so famous for.

Highlights Include: En-route to Arrowtown a visit to historic Mitchells Cottage near Alexandra plus a nature walk amid the rocky tors and high country tussock lands that Central Otago is so famous for. An opportunity to stroll the walkways along the Arrow River and up onto the high farmland terraces above Arrowtown, Cardrona Hotel plus lakeside and river outlet walks at Lake Wanaka.

Days 12 - 13

Departing Arrowtown we enjoy the rugged scenery of the Kawarau Gorge as we travel down the Kawarau River Valley, past Cromwell township and then over the Lindis Pass and into the spectacular surrounds of the McKenzie Country. A drive into Mt Cook National Park for an afternoon walk along the spectacular Hooker River Valley. Arriving early evening

for a two night stay at the lakefront in Lake Tekapo township. Stroll along the foreshore to the famous Lake Tekapo Chapel and the monument to the high-country sheepdog.

Highlights Include: Mount Cook National Park and Hermitage, the Hooker River Valley amid this breath-taking mountain scenery in the heart of the spectacular Southern Alps. The stunning turquoise colours of Lake Tekapo.

Days 14 - 15

From Lake Tekapo we journey north through Canterbury farmland via the scenic inland highway to Ashburton then on to Leeston, Lincoln and Little River to arrive in the historic maritime village of Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. This quaint French town is perfect for two nights, allowing us a glimpse of the extensive walking network available in this area.

Highlights Include: Transiting scenery from the mountains to the sea, we make stops at Geraldine and the historic Little River Hotel. Akaroa Harbour with its plethora of short walks, easy tramps exploring the surrounding hills of Akaroa offers rewarding views, pastoral scenery and native bush for all levels of walker.

Day 16 - 17

Continuing our loop north to stay in the pretty alpine spa village of Hanmer Springs. We have an afternoon plus a morning to soak in the hot pools and walk in the magnificent Hanmer forest. Lofty firs, larches and sequoias and mixed plantings of silver birch, oak and alder give the forest beautiful colour at this time of the year, and all the walking trails are a pure joy to explore.

Highlights Include: Nature walks in the Hanmer Heritage Forest, a farewell dinner cooked by your hosts.

Day 18

Our final day we wind our way up to Nelson via the magnificent Lewis Pass, Springs Junction, Murchison, Wakefield, where we can farewell members to the airport for any evening flights (after 6pm) or to Nelson accommodation for extended stays.

Highlights Include: A scenic drive through the Lewis Pass, Maruia Falls, scheduled stops in Murchison and the small hamlet of Wakefield.

Terms & Conditions: NZ SOUTH ISLAND WALKING TOUR

NZ SOUTH ISLAND: Departs Nelson Wednesday 25 April 2018 (please arrive Tuesday 24th)

TOUR PRICE: **\$4,800 per person**

TOUR COSTS INCLUDE

***All Vehicle Transportation:** Luxury minicoach transport throughout, plus any necessary airport pick-up/drop-offs

***All Tour Accommodations:** Motels, hotels, and lodges as detailed in your tour itinerary.

***All Entry Fees/Permits:** To Parks or any featured attractions or activities specific to the tour.

***Meals:** 14 breakfasts, 18 lunches, plus 5 dinners.

Wildside Travel will be happy to help arrange your travels to and from Nelson and to book any lodgings you may require in Nelson, before and/or after your tour. We recommend Trailways Lodge Nelson (\$129 per room) as the perfect start to our trip.

MEALS FOR YOUR TOUR

We will be providing many breakfasts during the tour and where we don't you may choose to self-cater in your rooms, and there will be ample warning to prepare for this.

Picnic lunches are provided for all days of travelling. We run a sandwich-making operation every morning before we leave for the days exploring.

We also aim to provide a number of dinners on tour so tour members can enjoy some healthy home-style meals as a break from dining out in the evenings while on tour.

ROOMING

Our pricing is built around Twin-share costs. If you are joining as a single person we will buddy you up with a roommate of the same gender and similar age if possible. If you would prefer your own room, you are welcome to request this and you will need to pay a 'single supplement' of **\$1250** to do so.

PACKING

One main luggage bag (ideally with wheels) plus a suitable daypack for carrying your lunch, rain jacket and walking sticks. Casual travelling and walking clothes, lightweight walking shoes and a good quality raincoat are the core ingredients! Tour members will be given a detailed Packing list at time of booking.

AGE AND CAPABILITIES

This Wildside Travel nature/walking tour is designed to appeal to, and suit mature travellers. Age is of no consideration provided you are a reasonably active person. The majority of our tour member's fall into the 60's to late 70's age range and enjoy our very peaceful, unhurried style of small-group travel.

The tour is based around a nature theme with the walking arranged as a healthy and relaxing way to further enjoy the beautiful areas we explore. Each day generally includes several two/three hour walks, and many one hour rambles with a picnic lunch. We will offer alternative activities for tour members who wish to forgo particular tour walks. We are happy to help in any way, to make your tour with us as enjoyable and as memorable as possible.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

To secure your booking on the NZ South Island Tour, please complete the enclosed form (one per couple) and forward to us a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person.

PAYMENT FOR YOUR SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

The balance of your tour cost is due 65 days before tour departure, **16 February 2018**. Payment can be made via Bank Transfer, Credit Card or Cheque.

CANCELLATION TERMS

Should **Wildside Travel** cancel the trip, for any reason beyond our control, you will receive a full refund of all monies paid. We have a minimum number of 10 to run the tour.

Should **you** need to cancel, your deposit is forfeited. If you have paid in full (after 16 February) a refund will be calculated as follows:

Any time after booking	:	Loss of Deposit
Up to full payment date	:	Loss of Deposit
65 days to 30 days	:	50% of tour price is forfeited
Inside 30 days	:	100% of tour price is forfeited

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Will be sent out 4 weeks prior to departure.

CONDITIONS

Wildside will do everything possible to ensure your tour is a wonderful travelling experience – but we do reserve the right to amend the itinerary of any tour due to weather, road and vehicle problems, or other civil circumstances beyond our control. We will also endeavour to take the utmost care of you and your personal property, but we will not be held liable for any accident, personal injury, damage or loss of property, delays or defaults in the performance of other operators whose services we employ.

Booking Form: NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

Please complete, sign and return this form, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person to:

WILDSIDE TRAVEL

PO Box 215

MOTUEKA 7120

Mr / Mrs / Miss/ Ms _____ Known as: _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Day-time or Mobile _____

Occupation _____

Any Dietary Requirements we need to know _____

Emergency contact person name and number _____

Walking Group or Club you belong to _____

I would prefer a Single Room, and are happy to pay the Single Supplement of \$1250 Yes/ No

Please add our Domestic flights to /from Nelson in conjunction with Tour arrangements

Yes / No Thank You

Frequent Flyer Number /Seating preference _____

Please book our pre or post accommodation in Nelson at Trailways Lodge suitable with Tour arrangements

Yes / No Thank You

@ \$129 per night

Extend or add other arrangements to your tour: Please email us ☺

I have read the Wildside Travel tour booking terms & conditions for the nature walking tour travelling in the South Island of New Zealand in April 2018, and accept them.

SIGNATURE (*both signatures required*)

DATE

Payment options:

Cheques – payable to 'Wildside Travel'

Bank Transfer – ASB 12-3244-0006728-00 Reference: Surname/368943

Credit Card – A 2% surcharge will apply

Visa / MasterCard _____

Expiry: _____ CSC: _____

Name on card: _____

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for travel less ordinary

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