



[www.takeiteasytours.nz](http://www.takeiteasytours.nz)



06 344 7465



PO Box 4224, Whanganui,  
New Zealand



[info@takeiteasytours.nz](mailto:info@takeiteasytours.nz)

15th - 23rd April 2024

# Autumn In The South

**The ideal time to travel and soak up South Island New Zealand in all it's majestic beauty.**

Autumn is especially a wonderful time of year to visit the South Island with the autumn colours a true standout. This 9 day adventure includes some of our favourite destinations from Lake Tekapo, Banks Peninsula to Arrowtown we explore all the Autumn colours of the South Island. Queenstown, Christchurch and Wanaka are all included along with some special destinations off the beaten track Take it Easy is famous for locating. Jase will ensure your tour is full of unforgettable memories and experiences you will treasure forever. Read on for more information.

## DAY 1

Monday 15th April

# Home - Christchurch



Meet at the Whanganui Racecourse for a 7:45am departure and travel to Palmerston North Airport to catch our 10:10am flight to Christchurch.

### Departing from another destination

For those departing from another destination you will be given your personalised itinerary for you to join the group today. All tickets and details will be provided in your personal information pack, sent prior to travel.

We land and get straight into the Autumn colours visiting the beautiful **Monavale**. Christchurch City Council undertook a two-year, \$3.2m rebuild and strengthening project so the delightful Mona Vale Homestead could once again open its doors to the public.

Today the gracious Victorian building is once more resplendent in her heritage best In addition to the house and gardens, Autumn is especially a wonderful time of year to visit with the autumn colours in the gardens a standout.

On arrival, we will have the house tour and be given background on the property followed by a great lunch. We are then led through the wonderful gardens.

From here, it is just a short drive into the exceptional **Christchurch Botanical Gardens** where we climb aboard an electric vehicle and tour in comfort, exploring one of the



world's most historic Botanic Gardens allowing you to view some of the best examples of native and exotic flora in New Zealand.

We then head to our central accommodation where you will be given some time to refresh before heading back out for a very special dinner. This evening at 5pm, we are dining aboard the only **Tram Restaurant** in New Zealand which offers you a unique way to view the inner city of Christchurch while enjoying a delicious evening dinner.

→ **Accommodation:** Hotel 115

## DAY 2

Tuesday 16th April

### Christchurch - Banks Peninsula



Today you are in for a unique off-road adventure as we join forces with our friends at Hassle Free tours and make the most of their purpose built 4x4 vehicles and set out to



explore the back roads of **Banks Peninsula**. We start the day by heading around to the port town of Lyttleton and catch the ferry over to Diamond Harbour. From here, we are collected by the 4x4 vehicles and set out for an adventure of the peninsula. We will see some amazing views today and meet some of the great families that have called this place home since the first settlers.

After this amazing day of exploring, we head to our accommodation and then meet for a **lovely meal** to end a magical day out.

→ **Accommodation:** Hotel 115

## DAY 3

Wednesday 17th April

### Christchurch - Tekapo



This morning, we head south and stop at a renowned garden which has international acclaim. **Trott's Garden** has been home to Alan and Catherine Trott and their family for thirty-seven years. It is now in the safe hands of the new owners to ensure this beautiful garden remains accessible to people from all over the world who admire this local New Zealand paradise. We are treated to a guided tour and morning tea in this beautiful setting before carrying on our day.

We make our way out to **Longbeach Estate** and soak up the wonderful kiwi hospitality and absolutely stunning gardens. We enjoy **lunch** and a **guided tour** of this truly



remarkable property which will simply take your breath away with its abundance of trees and natural beauty.

Back on the road, we pass through the quintessential rural town of Fairlie, on the way to the heart of Mackenzie Country. After making our way over Burkes Pass, we reach the beautiful **Lake Tekapo**. We visit the **Church of the Good Shepherd** before getting into our great accommodation for some R & R before the night ahead.

We join the highly recommended **Dark Sky Experience**, where you can see the amazing southern night sky and be taken on a journey of discovery, learning and intrigue – a place where you will look, listen and learn about our incredible universe.

→ **Accommodation:** Peppers Bluewater Resort



## DAY 4

Thursday 18th April

# Tekapo - Wanaka



A relaxed start to the day as we charge our batteries and get set to see make our way through to Wanaka. On the way we'll stop at Lake Pukaki and a few other points of interest and break for morning tea at **High Country Salmon**. Following this we continue a relaxing but stunning drive through to Wanaka. We will have a delightful **lunch** then join our new friends from **Beautiful Gardens Wanaka** and spend the afternoon exploring some of the most stunning gardens in the region! The tour includes informative narrative, telling the story of the gardeners and property, sharing beauty and knowledge of plants and trees, with Q&A and photos opportunities.

After a magical afternoon we'll head into our accommodation and share some great stories of the trip so far before **dinner** and another well earned rest. This resort features outdoor **hot pools** so be sure to bring your swimmers.

→ Accommodation: Oakridge Resort Wanaka



## DAY 5

Friday 19th April

### Wanaka - Queenstown



Another relaxed start to the day and **breakfast** you'll have the chance to wander the Wanaka township or relax down by the lake then we start our journey over the incredible Crown Range Road. Soak up the incredible scenery before arriving at the famous Cardona Hotel for a delicious group **lunch**. We continue over the Crown Range and make our way into **Arrowtown** where the Autumn colours are at their peak and strolling around the town amongst the trees is a truly wonderful experience in itself. We then start making our way into Queenstown but first we visit and have a guided tour of the renowned **Chantecler Garden**. This stunning garden will blow you away with its varied themes and established trees, plants and flowers. Then its into Queenstown for some down time before **dinner**.

→ **Accommodation:** Novotel Lakeside Queenstown



## DAY 6

Saturday 20th April

# Queenstown



After **breakfast** we meet our friends at Nomad Safari's and are treated to one of the best day trips Queenstown has to offer.

The **Skippers Canyon 4WD tour** departs from Queenstown heading out towards Coronet Peak. As you head up the peak towards the entrance to this spectacular canyon there are stunning panoramic views of the Wakatipu Basin.

After entering Skippers Canyon we will travel to Lighthouse Rock, which gives a dramatic lookout over the entire canyon. Follow in the footsteps of many adventurers and discoverers as this historical winding road brings you to the historic Skippers Bridge, which provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Carefully travelling over the bridge, the road continues into the historical township of Skippers. Long since abandoned, much of the original building still remains, waiting for you to explore it.

Indulge in morning or afternoon tea at the Skippers School building. Immerse yourself in the history of this stunning place as the restored school house divulges a wealth of information through photos and artefacts from the early days of this settlement. The cemetery nearby depicts a more gloomy and dangerous life for these gold prospectors.

Returning along the road we will stop at Deep Creek where you can immerse yourself in the heritage of the local area by turning your hand to a spot of gold panning. Our trained guides will teach you techniques to successfully pan for gold on one of the richest gold-bearing rivers in the world. Some may also recognise spots along the Skippers Road as being featured in The Lord of The Rings.





We'll get back into Queenstown where you'll have time to wander the town, do a spot of shopping or simply relax and put your feet up before another **superb meal**.

→ **Accommodation:** Novotel Lakeside Queenstown

## DAY 7

Sunday 21st April

# Queenstown - Alexandra



After **breakfast** ending a great 2 night stay in Queenstown its time to pack our bags and hit the road. A real treat in-store for us this morning as we weave our way around to Kingston and board the mighty **Kingston Flyer** which has only recently returned to service.

On September the 18th 2022, the Kingston Flyer held their Grand Opening Ceremony and celebrated the return of commercially run public train rides from Kingston to Fairlight.

After this trip down memory lane we board the bus and head for the wine region of Gibbston Valley where we stop for **lunch** and we sample of the local wines.

We continue our way to the quaint little town of **Clyde** where you will be given some free time to wander the main street and visit the shops of your choice.

It is then a short drive into Alexandra for a short tour of the famous landmarks before arriving at our accommodation for the night. We'll head out to a local restaurant for **dinner** then rest our heads for the night.

→ **Accommodation:** Centennial Court



## DAY 8

Monday 22nd April

# Alexandra - Oamaru



We'll relax again this morning and get underway cruising through some stunning countryside making our way to Moeraki where you have a chance to stroll the beach and view the boulders or simply relax in the cafe. We'll make our way out to the coast and check out the Moeraki Esplanade and the Whalers lookout before heading to the local tavern for a gorgeous **lunch**.

Its back on the bus after lunch and we make our way slightly north of Oamaru where we have a guided tour through the awe inspiring **Riverstone Castle**. Complete with moat and dungeon. Standing on its own island, the 1200sq m building has everything you would expect in a castle, including gargoyles, towers and arrow-slit windows. But there are also many surprises, from the carved cows decorating the exterior and the pink flamingos floating on the surrounding lake to the tiara perched on a "throne" inside and the ceiling constellation which lights up at night in the master bedroom. Explore the gardens following the tour. This will be an afternoon to remember. We head into our accommodation for a wee rest before we making our way to the **Blue Penguin Colony** where we have premiere seating and view these little guys coming home from a day out fishing - A really wonderful experience that will give you the warm fuzzy's. Once we've seen the penguins we'll head out for our final night **dinner** and raise a glass to an incredible tour. Note: Dinner will be a little later than usual tonight but worth the wait.

→ **Accommodation:** The Mariner Suites Oamaru



## DAY 9

Tuesday 23rd April

### Oamaru - Home



No hurry at all this morning to rise and shine so have a sleep in and we'll get breakfast at our leisure. We can't leave Oamaru without a visit to the Old Town. Sixteen commercial buildings in Harbour and Tyne Streets, in what is locally known as the Historic Precinct. Each of the buildings, built during the Victorian period, has its own story, character and charm. We grab a bite to eat for **lunch** and then start making our way back to Christchurch in good time to catch our **6pm flight** back to Palmerston North. You can grab yourself an early dinner at the airport and the bus will be waiting to collect you to transfer you back home.

#### Departing from another location

For those departing from another destination you will be given your personalised itinerary for you to join the group today. All tickets and details will be provided in your personal information pack, sent prior to travel.



## Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:

**\$5,295**

\$500 deposit due by Jan 31st 2024

Final payment due by Feb 29th 2024

## Payment methods

- ✓ Cheque
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Eftpos
- ✓ Online

Send online bank deposits to:  
BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name as code and reference.

## What's included?



### Transport

- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.
- Flight Home.



### Accommodation

Great twin share accommodation  
*(single supplement available)*



### Food and drink

- Includes 2 course dinner every night except night 9
- All lunches
- Mixture of cooked and continental breakfasts.
- All morning and afternoon teas stated in the itinerary.



### Activities

All activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary.



## How to book

Be in quick to secure your seats!



Call us

06 3447465

Freephone: 0508 482269



Email us

[info@takeiteasytours.nz](mailto:info@takeiteasytours.nz)

---

Thank you,  
The Take It Easy Team

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



[www.takeiteasytours.nz](http://www.takeiteasytours.nz)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



Take it Easy Tours



Winner of the Regional Business  
Premier Tourism Award

# Terms and Conditions

## Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after Jan 31st- loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after Feb 29th – 75% of total fare will apply.
- For cancellations within 14 Days of departure – 100% of total fare will apply.

## Disclaimer

Take it easy tours will make every effort to provide on time service. It does not guarantee its departure and arrival times, which may be delayed by various factors including weather, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems and any other conditions Take it easy tours can't control. Take it easy tours are not liable for any inconvenience or expense caused as a result of such delay. Take it easy tours assumes no liability or responsibility for property, delay or expense arising from or caused by weather conditions, acts of God, accident, government restrictions or regulations, from an act or omission of any individual, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems, or any other cause or condition beyond its control. Take it easy tours reserves its right to cancel or change any tour, advertised schedule, or route without notice and assumes no liability or responsibility for any conditions beyond its control that may interrupt or cancel any tour.

## COVID - 19 cancellation policy for New Zealand travel

COVID - 19, has created uncertainty for us all, therefore for cancellations directly related to COVID - 19, we have updated our "normal cancellation" policy to the following:

If the New Zealand government imposes travel restrictions that impact our ability to deliver your booked tour before departure, our ideal preference would be to reschedule the tour when travel is permitted.

If this is not possible, passengers will receive a full credit, less any applicable airline or supplier cancellation fees that Take It Easy Tours has been charged.



If travel restrictions are imposed while on tour, we will seek credits on any unused portions on the itinerary from all suppliers. All applicable credits to be returned, will first be applied to any costs that have been incurred on our passenger's behalf. For example, if alternative accommodation or transportation has been required to repatriate the passenger to their home.

Any remaining refunds will be credited to the passenger for use for future bookings.

Passenger's personal situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.





Winner of the Regional Business  
Premier Tourism Award