



# south island encounter



## trip highlights

Indulge in the peacefulness and beauty of Doubtful Sound onboard a luxury overnight cruise

Explore the many nature walks and try spotting a Kiwi on the remote and pristine Stewart Island

Hike through the beautiful Catlins National Park

Get up close to the Otago Peninsula wildlife such as penguins and albatrosses

Hike beneath New Zealand's highest mountain, Mt Cook (Aorangi)

Discover the heart of the South, New Zealand's Scottish capital!

Take a boat ride to enjoy an up close encounter of the Tasman Glacier with its towering ice-cliffs and huge floating icebergs



<b>Trip Duration</b>	8 days
<b>Grade</b>	Introductory level
<b>Activities</b>	8 day multi activity tour
<b>Accommodation</b>	7 nights motel/hotel accommodation

## Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in our South Island Encounter adventure. It's a superb adventure and we hope you can join us. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. Thanks to our experience we're confident to say that we offer the very best cycling, trekking and adventure travel itineraries available in New Zealand today.

There's simply no other collection of New Zealand itineraries that can match the geographic coverage, originality and overall quality of our active New Zealand adventure holidays. An Adventure South holiday aims to take you beyond the more popular and busy trails to provide you with a truly unique New Zealand wilderness experience.

We're here to show you that there are many, many more trails and cycling routes in our great country that are the new frontiers in adventure tourism - beautiful, scenic, and without the crowds. We aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to the wide variety of natural wonders that New Zealand is famous for. Go forth, go south - join us on this amazing small group, value packed adventure!

## why travel with Adventure South?

"Small Groups, Great Guides, Superb Holidays."

This comment encapsulates an Adventure South active holiday in New Zealand. The phrase was not born from a long and tortuous strategic planning process, it came from a client review! We could not have said it any better. Our client feedback also confirms that what helps make our holidays different are the quality of our professional guides. They share their humour, compassion and wilderness experience to ensure that you have a great vacation and the right degree of personal challenge.

On an Adventure South tour you can also expect the right, proven equipment is provided for your tour; the food is delicious, plentiful and can be catered to your dietary requests; your guides are all First Aid trained; that the itinerary you have chosen has been carefully crafted from decades of personal experience in the New Zealand wilderness, not from a guide book recommendation.

# south island encounter

*This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's stunning South and Stewart Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.*



## trip dates

**2011** 28 Nov - 05 Dec

**2012** 02 Jan - 09 Jan **HS**  
06 Feb - 13 Feb **HS**  
12 Mar - 19 Mar

## trip cost

Joining Queenstown: NZD\$3890 / AUD\$3110

## options & supplements

**HS - Public Holiday Supplement:** NZD\$50 / AUD\$40

**Single Supplement:** NZD\$953 / AUD\$762

Adventure South does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

## the trip

Come with us while we take you on some awesome New Zealand activities on our Southern Encounter tour from Queenstown to Christchurch via the undiscovered secrets of the deep South of the South Island.

The 3rd in a series of 3 interconnecting 8 day itineraries that provide a slightly slower pace and some more activities.

Small groups travelling in modern, comfortable 16 seater buses for maximum enjoyment. Over the 8 days we will take you on activities such as: hiking, wildlife watching and kiwi spotting! Stay the night at quality accommodation in great and unique locations. Our friendly, supportive and qualified guides will make this an experience never to forget.

## about your leader

Our Guides are one of our biggest assets. We pride ourselves on the standard and quality of these great people who you will be spending your holiday with. They come from all walks of life but they all have a common desire to give you the best possible experience, heaps of fun and lots of fond memories to take home with you. We provide you with the services of two guides for many of our trips, (this may depend on the size of the group). All are certified in first aid and CPR and many are very experienced hiking guides. To check out more about our guides see our 'Who are we' page on our website ([www.advsouth.com](http://www.advsouth.com)).

## at a glance

DAY 1	QUEENSTOWN TO DOUBTFUL SOUND
DAY 2	DOUBTFUL SOUND TO STEWART ISLAND
DAY 3	STEWART ISLAND
DAY 4	STEWART ISLAND TO THE CATLINS
DAY 5	CATLINS TO DUNEDIN
DAY 6	DUNEDIN TO AORAKI MT COOK
DAY 7	MT COOK TO CHRISTCHURCH
DAY 8	TOUR FINISHES AFTER BREAKFAST

## what's included

- All breakfasts (excluding day 1), 6 lunches, and 1 evening meal
- Experienced Adventure South driver/guide
- Transport using comfortable modern vehicle
- 7 nights accommodation as detailed based on a twin share basis with private bathroom facilities
- All hikes as indicated including National Park fees
- Overnight cruise in Doubtful Sound
- Ferry to/from Stewart Island
- Visit to albatross colony on Otago Peninsula
- Tasman Glacier Explorer boat trip
- Specialist guides for non-walking activities
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)



# south island encounter

*This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's stunning South and Stewart Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.*



## detailed itinerary

### DAY 1 Queenstown to Doubtful Sound

Important: The night before your tour is to depart your guide will call your pre tour accommodation to advise what time they will collect you the following morning. (Please make sure you have given us information as to where you are staying). If you are not around when your guide calls they will leave a message at reception – its really important that you check with reception if you have not heard from your guide directly. If for any reason you have not heard from your guide by the morning of the tour please call us in the NZ office on 0800 00 11 66 (from within NZ).

Starting with a pick up after breakfast at Queenstown, our trip travels down the lake and into rural Southland. Across the rolling plains, the trip arrives at Te Anau and the chance for a quick break, before continuing the short drive down to Lake Manapouri. Here we leave the vehicle and start the trip into Doubtful Sound, firstly by launch across the lake, and then by coach over the spectacular Wilmot Pass and finally down into the Sound. Here we board our floating hotel and locate your cabin to begin the magic overnight cruise into this zone of natural quiet.

**meals: L,D**

### DAY 2 Doubtful Sound to Stewart Island

The evening spent among the beech covered sound is followed by the morning spent nosing around various parts of the sound, often experiencing dolphins and seals on the shore. By midday we are back on the coach and retrace our path via Wilmot Pass and the launch. Then by coach we drive through to the southern most town of Bluff in time to catch the ferry across to Stewart Island and our most recent National Park: Rakiura NP.

**meals: B,L**

### DAY 3 Stewart Island

With only 29kms of road, Stewart Island is special and rapidly developing the reputation for the new frontier. There is a wealth of things to do, from a visit to the wildlife on Ulva Island, hiking the local tracks, or trying your hand at sea kayaking. The day is completely unstructured and yours to pursue as you wish - challenging, relaxing or even getting up close to our little native kiwi!

**meals: B**

### DAY 4 Stewart Island to the Catlins

Having experienced our free day on the Island, we depart this morning again by ferry to regain the coach. Heading up the east coast we enter the Catlins conservation park with its many magical locations and experiences. The fossilised forest on the beach, beautiful hidden waterfalls and/or remote lighthouses make this a day of discovery before locating our accommodation on the beach front for the night.

**meals: B,L**

### DAY 5 Catlins to Dunedin

Today we are Dunedin and the Otago Peninsula bound which takes us through the remainder of the Catlins and onto the rural plains leading into Dunedin, student capital of NZ! Sheltering the harbour is the Otago Peninsula and at the headlands is a wildlife treat with NZ's only mainland Albatross colony. On the way back we get to visit NZ's only historic castle on the hillside above the city before settling in and enjoying the local shopping.

**meals: B,L**

### DAY 6 Dunedin to Aoraki Mt Cook

Mount Cook is spectacular and rises above the hermitage and the village nestled beneath the peaks and glaciers of the area. The 3.5 hour drive to get there is a delight as we track up the coast and then inland to the vastness of the tussock covered Mackenzie Basin and the huge glacial lakes.

# south island encounter



*This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's stunning South and Stewart Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.*

## fast facts

### Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip\*

### Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip\*

### Leader:

Expert local leader

\*Ask our staff for more information

Once at the village we have a three hour easy hike on well formed tracks to the Hooker Glacier lake with superb mountain views. For further exploration – or as a less active alternative, the new Sir Edmund Hillary museum provides endless entertainment, - before an evening meal beneath the peaks of the Southern Alps.

**meals: B,L**

### DAY 7 Mt Cook to Christchurch

Few people get the chance to get up close and personal with a glacier and this morning we join a boat trip on the rapidly expanding terminal lake of the Tasman Glacier. The rigid hulled inflatables get us well up into the glacier and we receive a great interpretation understanding of the time we are 'in the ice'. Back in our coach, we drive via Lake Tekapo and onto a farm lunch and a final kiwi family experience. A last sector back over the Canterbury Plains has us in Christchurch by early evening.

**meals: B,L**

### DAY 8 Tour finishes after breakfast

The trip finishes after your breakfast and check out leaving you free to travel on to further destinations.

**meals: B**

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

## suggested extensions

→ This tour is the third in our Encounter Series and can be tagged on to the end of the West Coast Encounter tour ( [http://www.advsouth.co.nz/remarkable\\_adventures/West\\_Coast\\_Encounter.tour](http://www.advsouth.co.nz/remarkable_adventures/West_Coast_Encounter.tour) ).

## country information

Stretching North to South for over 2000 km, and split into two main islands - the North and the South Islands - New Zealand is a country of diverse landforms. From the Pacific Island beaches and rolling farmlands in the north, to the volcanic plateau and then onto the soaring mountains within view of the sea in the south, and the sub-Antarctic islands that dot the South Island coastline, the contrasts are many.

The South Island is the 12th largest island in the world. The west coast is dominated by the Southern Alps, which contain more mountains than the European Alps altogether, and home to New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3754m / 12,316 ft). The Main Divide, the chain of peaks that forms the backbone of the Alps from Arthur's Pass to Fiordland, splits the South Island into east and west. Several ice ages, and the fact that two continental plates are sliding past each other forming the Southern Alps, means that the scenery is as rugged as the New Zealand fauna and flora is unique. The largest city in the South Island is Christchurch.

The North Island is the smaller of the two main islands of New Zealand. Its northern location means it enjoys a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and is much more vastly populated. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes. The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Auckland, also known as the 'City of Sails', is the largest city of New Zealand and found on the North Island.

With a population of 4.0 million people, the wilderness areas of New Zealand are many as most 'Kiwis' now live in an urban situation near the coast. The Maori are the indigenous people of the land and they named it Aotearoa 'Land of the Long White Cloud' upon their arrival 1000 years ago. Europeans settled in the early 1800s and the country is alive today



# south island encounter



*This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's stunning South and Stewart Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.*

## responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel.

Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. The New Zealand travel industry has become a world leader in developing an external audit process to identify quality, and that process has been extended to now include a 3 level Enviro Mark based on company processes. We're very proud that we've received a Gold rating, the highest category; each year since this initiative began.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing.

We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

## trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip. The Southern Encounter is graded introductory. You will need a reasonable level of fitness and we suggest 30 minutes of aerobic type exercise, (either cycling or jogging) twice a week for the three months leading up to your trip. The tour is fully supported and a number of the activities are optional.

## adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

with a market driven economy and a blend of European and Asia/Pacific influences to create a buoyant South Pacific culture.

## climate

As a general rule, November to April are the most ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors. One of the most important things travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger landmasses.

Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity. Because the weather can change so unexpectedly you should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions. This basically means having a good waterproof jacket and some warm clothing. You don't need to bring your winter wardrobe but a good fleece/jumper and good thermals are a must.

The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a drier climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to 30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C. Weather is an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will make you more prepared for your tour – any questions about what to expect on your tour talk to one of our sales team.

## accommodation on the trip

The accommodation for this trip has been carefully selected to provide comfort and value in the best locations possible. The accommodation is on a twin share or double room basis with private facilities. If you wish to reserve a room to yourself a single supplement is available at extra cost. Please note: although every endeavour is made to stay at the accommodation detailed in the itinerary, occasionally, due to seasonal shortages, we need to use other accommodation of a similar standard.

## pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation speak to our staff as they can help with different suggestions.

## what's not included

- 6 evening meals and 1 lunch
- Alcoholic and soft drinks with included meals
- Optional activities on Stewart Island
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

## private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Planning and providing special group departures is something we do exceptionally well. Over the past 18 years we have developed some exceptional itineraries, from cycling to hiking or combination multi-adventure trips. School groups, charities, work colleagues and cycling

# south island encounter



*This 'active' 8 day – 7 nights holiday of New Zealand's stunning South and Stewart Island is aimed at those adventurers who seek a challenge, yet require a degree of comfort at the end of the day. The tour is designed for you to see and actively participate in a number of activities pitched at the beginner / intermediate level.*

## important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

buddies have all been part of our experience. Our team can assist you with all aspects of your private group to ensure the trip is tailored just right for your group. Contact our team today.

## subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at [www.advsouth.com](http://www.advsouth.com)

Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ>

## trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. A popular reason to travel with Adventure South is because of our small group sizes. These can fill quickly so it is important to check your availability well in advance. We always need to ensure other services, like train tickets or accommodations, are also available before we can confirm your place on our tours. To ensure we can assist you onto your New Zealand adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

## how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online ( <http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx> ) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from [www.advsouth.com](http://www.advsouth.com) . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South or your nearest World Expeditions office, along with your non-refundable deposit. If you're coming from outside New Zealand call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on [guide@advsouth.co.nz](mailto:guide@advsouth.co.nz)