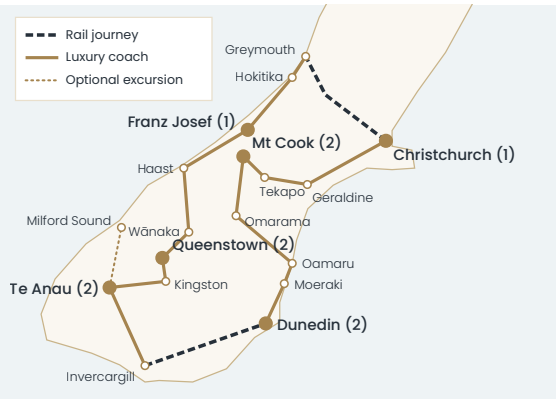
ESCORTED RAIL & LUXURY COACH JOURNEY

11 Day South Island Rail & Coach Tour

2027/2028 Season · round trip from Christchurch · four scenic rail journeys

11	10	25	4
DAYS	NIGHTS	MEALS	RAIL JOURNEYS

11-DAY TOUR DEPARTING CHRISTCHURCH



Bold = overnight stay (number of nights). Dashed line = rail journey; solid line = luxury coach; dotted line = optional Milford Sound day trip from Te Anau.

Route map · departing and returning Christchurch

Tour Includes

STAY	10 nights' 4-star+ accommodation, hand-picked for each location
MEALS	10 cooked breakfasts · 8 lunches · 7 dinners
GUIDES	Experienced Kiwi tour leaders from start to finish
TRAVEL	Four scenic rail journeys plus luxury coach transfers throughout

- ✓ TranzAlpine across the Southern Alps
- ✓ TSS Earnslaw cruise & Walter Peak Farm BBQ lunch
- ✓ Kingston Flyer heritage steam train
- ✓ Takahē Sanctuary, Fiordland
- ✓ Bill Richardson Transport World
- ✓ The Mainlander – Invercargill to Dunedin
- ✓ Taieri Gorge rail journey
- ✓ Moeraki Boulders
- ✓ Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- ✓ Hillary family guest speaker
- ✓ Welcome Dinner & tour briefing

OPTIONAL EXTRAS Franz Josef glacier helicopter flight · glowworm cave tour · jet boat · Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound cruise · Larnach Castle high tea · Fort Taiaroa · Glacier Explorer cruise · ski plane flight · Planetarium show

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive Christchurch

Arrive in Christchurch and check in to your central city hotel. Registration opens mid-afternoon, your first chance to meet your tour leaders and fellow travellers.

This evening we gather in the hotel restaurant for the **tour briefing and Welcome Dinner**. Pre-tour nights can be added if you'd like to arrive early.

OVERNIGHT Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

DAY 2

Christchurch – Greymouth – Franz Josef

This morning we board the famous **TranzAlpine** for one of the world's great rail journeys — almost five hours and 223 kilometres across the Canterbury Plains, beside the ice-fed Waimakariri River, through beech forest and over the Southern Alps.

In Greymouth our luxury coaches are waiting to take us down the wild West Coast via Hokitika to glacier country.

OVERNIGHT Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

DAY 3

Franz Josef – Haast Pass – Queenstown

Start the day with an optional **helicopter flight over the Franz Josef Glacier**. We then follow the coast south and cross the **Haast Pass**, through rainforest, past waterfalls and beneath snow-capped peaks on the edge of Mount Aspiring National Park.

Lakes Wānaka, Hāwea and Dunstan line the way before we arrive in Queenstown, with views across Lake Wakatipu to The Remarkables.

OVERNIGHT Mercure Queenstown Resort

DAY 4

Queenstown

Cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the **TSS Earnslaw**, the historic 1912 steamship, to **Walter Peak High Country Farm**, where a gourmet BBQ lunch awaits. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy Queenstown at your own pace.

OVERNIGHT Mercure Queenstown Resort

DAY 5

Queenstown – Kingston – Te Anau

Travel to Kingston at the southern tip of Lake Wakatipu to ride the heritage **Kingston Flyer** steam train to Fairlight and back.

We then follow the Southern Scenic Route into Fiordland, calling in at the **Takahē Sanctuary** to meet these rare, ancient-looking birds. Optional extras this evening include a glowworm cave tour or a jet boat ride.

OVERNIGHT Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

DAY 6

Te Anau – Fiordland at Leisure

Today is yours to enjoy Te Anau, with the hotel on the lakefront a short stroll from town.

Or add an optional full-day excursion to cruise **Milford Sound** or **Doubtful Sound**. The Milford Road through the Eglinton Valley and Homer Tunnel is one of the world's great alpine drives, and the cruise takes you past Mitre Peak with dolphins and seals often close by, returning to Te Anau in time for dinner.

OVERNIGHT Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

DAY 7

Te Anau – Invercargill – Dunedin

Coach south to Invercargill to explore **Bill Richardson Transport World**, home to more than 300 beautifully restored classic vehicles.

Then board **The Mainlander**, the recently revived rail service, for a journey through the rolling farmland of the deep south to Dunedin, our home for the next two nights.

OVERNIGHT Distinction Hotel Dunedin

DAY 8

Dunedin

This morning's rail journey takes us deep into the remote **Taieri Gorge**, through historic tunnels and over the Wingatui Viaduct — an 1880s engineering landmark and the largest wrought iron structure in New Zealand.

The afternoon is free, or join an optional high tea and garden tour at Larnach Castle, or explore the underground Fort Taiaroa beneath the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head.

OVERNIGHT Distinction Hotel Dunedin

DAY 9

Dunedin – Oamaru – Aoraki Mt Cook

Travel up the coast by coach to see the famous spherical **Moeraki Boulders** (tides permitting), with lunch in Oamaru. We then head inland through the Waitaki Valley and Omarama to Aoraki Mt Cook.

New Zealand's highest peak rises 3,724 metres above a UNESCO World Heritage landscape of glaciers, lakes and rivers — and it's where Sir Edmund Hillary sharpened the skills that took him to the top of Everest.

OVERNIGHT The Hermitage Hotel, Aoraki Mt Cook

DAY 10

Aoraki Mt Cook

A relaxed morning, with an optional Glacier Explorer cruise or ski plane flight over the Tasman Glacier — New Zealand's longest. Visit the **Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre**, then enjoy an afternoon walk to the **Mueller Lake lookout** surrounded by the Southern Alps.

Before dinner, a **representative of the Hillary family** shares stories in the Alpine Centre theatre, followed by an optional Planetarium show.

OVERNIGHT The Hermitage Hotel, Aoraki Mt Cook

DAY 11

Aoraki Mt Cook – Christchurch

Farewell the mountains and travel by coach back to Christchurch via Tekapo, Geraldine and Rakaia, where the tour comes to an end. Post-tour nights in Christchurch can be added if you'd like to stay on.

TOUR ENDS Christchurch

Please Note

Flights to and from Christchurch, travel insurance, optional excursions, personal expenses and pre- or post-tour accommodation are not included unless arranged separately.

A reasonable level of mobility is required: guests need to manage two flights of stairs, walk 500 metres unassisted over uneven ground and handle their own luggage at times. Some hotels have showers over baths, and walk-in showers are limited – please let us know at booking if you need one.

Ready to discover the South Island by rail?

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