



SOUTH ISLAND EXTENSION

March 8—13, 2018

A POST STUDY TOUR LEISURE TRIP

Extend your time in New Zealand and experience more of this enthralling country with a 5-night tour extension. Onward Travel has arranged an adventurous travel experience that you may add on to your Study Tour. Plan to stick around NZ after the Study Tour and make the most of your time in the Southern Hemisphere!

Let's explore the South Island's highlights, from Christchurch to Queenstown. This tour extension features two nights at a lodge in Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park and three nights at a charming boutique hotel in Queenstown.

Bond with fellow IFTA members and enjoy activity and adventure! Experience the Central Otago wine region, spot wildlife while cruising on Milford Sound, gaze at majestic Mt. Cook, get your adrenaline pumping in Queenstown, and enjoy a memorable vacation to round out your time "Down Under."

This tour extension is limited to 26 travelers.

IMAGINE YOURSELF

Learning about an agricultural project in Christchurch's post-quake wasteland.

Enjoying a kiwi-style BBQ in the remote Fiordland National Park.

Jet boating up dramatic river canyons.

Sipping Pinot Noir in Central Otago with IFTA friends.

Hiking in Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park, home to NZ's tallest peak.

The Mountains are Calling

DAY 1: THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Christchurch is a happening town these days, even with the devastating earthquakes of 2011 and 2012, and hopefully you experienced some of it's charm during the Study Tour. It's time to depart the city and get our adventure started, but first, let's visit Christchurch's "Red Zone," an area that is unable to be built on post-earthquake. It's a wasteland that folks are working to reclaim and the Mahinga Kai Project is working to bring agriculture to this area. The Avon River runs through this area and plantings include those to enhance both marine and birdlife... there is even orchard planting. We'll meet a representative from the Mahinga Kai Project who will tell us about their efforts and explain the project. Your tour fee includes a donation to the Mahinga Kai Project and no doubt you'll be inspired by their work.

Late morning, we're off to Mt. Cook National Park. Nosh on a boxed lunch as you soak in the beautiful views on our drive. We'll travel through the rich pastoral farm land of the Canterbury Plains and the foothills of the Southern Alps until we reach stunning glacier-fed Lake Tekapo where you can see Mt. Cook from the distance, beautifully framed by the lake. Stretch your legs and enjoy the photo op. Then we'll drive north along the western shore of Lake Pukaki to Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park.

Soak up these stunning surroundings, the national park is home to mountains and glaciers, including NZ's highest peak: Mt. Cook. The park is known for amazing stargazing and beautiful milky glacier-fed lakes. Enjoy a casual pub dinner before you retire at our lodge, located in the national park.

Included Meals: Breakfast (with the Study Tour), Lunch, Dinner

Mt. Cook National Park

DAY 2: FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Today is yours to enjoy as you please. Fabulous hiking opportunities for all levels are at your doorstep and the visitor center has maps and comprehensive advice. Or you may elect to join an excursion, such as the Glacier Explorer trip where you encounter New Zealand's largest glacier, the Tasman Glacier, during an hourlong MAC boat ride. Scenic flights, 4WD tours, horseback riding, and glacier sea kayaking are also on offer.

You may wish to make time today to visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center, to take in a captivating 3D film and visit the planetarium. Sir Edmund Hillary used Mt. Cook as a training ground before ascending Everest and the alpine center has an interesting museum showcasing him and the region.

No meals are included today.

Drinking in the Landscape

DAY 3: SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Say farewell to these beautiful mountains, we're off to Queenstown.

But first: a pitstop. En route to Queenstown we drive through Central Otago, home to a considerable amount of apple production and the world's southernmost wine region known for world-class Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The landscape is fascinating: sunny, dry and arid, with mountains and rivers. We'll experience the wine region today, with two vineyard visits and a gourmet wine pairing lunch.

From the wine region, we're just a short transfer to Queenstown. Known as one of the world's adventure capitals, you're in for a good time. Situated beside the deep blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, at the foot of the Remarkables Mountain Range, Queenstown is a year round resort, where you can be as active as you want, or just leisurely enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Our home base in Queenstown is the charming and well appointed Central Ridge Boutique Hotel. A short walk from the center of town, this 13-room property is the perfect base for our group. Get settled and enjoy town and mingle with IFTA friends at the hotel's complimentary evening wine reception.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Spend a day in the gorgeous wine region near Queenstown

Queenstown As You Like It

DAY 4: SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Enjoy a made-to-order breakfast this morning and seize the day. Queenstown offers a wide range of exciting activities including bungee jumping, biking, helicopter rides, hiking, jet boating through Shotover Canyon, and whitewater rafting. Or perhaps you'd enjoy

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golf, wine tasting, a garden visit, a walk around the beautiful glacial lake, or a day in town enjoying the shops and sites. The friendly folks at our hotel will arrange an activity that best suits you (please note that activities are not included in the tour cost).

After a great day, we'll reconvene this evening to share a glass of wine at the hotel, and then we're off to Public Kitchen for a delicious multi-course dinner featuring apples. Enjoy a wonderful gourmet experience and a great evening with friends, new and old.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Milford Sound

DAY 5: MONDAY, MARCH 12

We are off on an unforgettable adventure today! This morning we travel by coach bus to Fiordland National Park to experience Milford Sound, the "8th Wonder of the World." The drive from Queenstown is legendary. We'll pass farmland, lakes, and tussock flats, and then breathtaking glaciated valleys. Waterfalls and alpine views round it out. Finally, we get to the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km engineering feat. Once through the tunnel, the beautiful fjord comes into view.

We'll stop in the Fiordland National Park to enjoy a kiwi-style BBQ (lamb shish kebab, anyone?). Enjoy stretching your legs and taking a bush walk. Early afternoon, we'll board a nature cruise on the sound. Prepare to be in awe. Cruise along the fjord towards the Tasman Sea. Watch for dolphins, penguins, seals, whales, and albatross. Take in the gushing waterfalls and revel in a feeling of tranquility.

After a fantastic cruise, we're back en route to Queenstown, arriving around 8:30pm. Enjoy a bit of Queenstown nightlife, perhaps a craft brew, to top off a fantastic day.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Hold on tight on the Shotover Jet boatride!

One Last Hurrah

DAY 6: TUESDAY, MARCH 13

It's your last morning in this beautiful country, so let's make the most of it. Time for a scenic and fast jet boat ride through dramatic canyons! We'll hop on 14-passenger jet boats to experience an exhilarating ride in the Shotover River canyons. The boat makes 360 degree turns and gets you up close and personal with nature at its finest. After a gorgeous morning, it's back to the hotel to freshen up and depart for the airport.

Head home with wonderful memories from your time in New Zealand!

Included Meals: Breakfast



Approaching the Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park

TRIP INFORMATION south island extension

BEGINS	Christchurch, New Zealand on March 8 Trip begins with the conclusion of <i>Study Tour Week 2</i>
ENDS	Queenstown, New Zealand on March 13
MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	6 days, 5 nights
LODGING	Mt. Cook Lodge & Motels 2 Nights Comfortable modern motel unit with kitchenette, en suite bath, and patio, situated in Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park. Central Ridge Boutique Hotel 3 Nights Well located 13-room boutique hotel with well appointed rooms, daily happy hour, and made-to-order breakfast. A perfect base for our group!
TOUR DATES & PRICE	March 8–13, 2018 Double Occupancy \$1,695 per traveler Single Supplement \$750 additional For those traveling in small groups or families, a limited number of suites with King bed and two twins are available, please inquire. Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to New Zealand

AIR TRAVEL

Onward Travel is able to book your airfare as part of the group air block. The tour will end with a transfer from Queenstown Airport (ZQN). Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare.



TRIP PRICE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Five nights accommodations.
- Meals: four breakfasts, three lunches, and two dinners.
- Onward Travel guide assistance throughout the tour.
- Activities as detailed in the itinerary: Central Otago winery visits and wine lunch, Milford Sound cruise and daytrip, Shotover Canyon jet boat trip, and Christchurch Red Zone visit.
- Assistance booking optional activities (at additional cost) in Queenstown and Mt. Cook National Park.

REGISTER NOW!

Register for this South Island Tour Extension when you complete the detailed registration form for the Study Tour.

- Payment may be made by check payable to Onward Travel or credit card.
- Credit card payments require a 3% fee.
- \$500 deposit due upon booking.
- Balance due by November 1, 2017.

GET IN TOUCH

Contact Molly with questions or special requests.
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