



# SOUTH ISLAND EXTENSION

February 11—16, 2018

## A PRE 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 arrive early and make the most of your time in the Southern Hemisphere!

Let's explore the South Island's highlights, from Queenstown to Christchurch. This tour extension features two nights in Queenstown, one night aboard the Fiordland Navigator on Doubtful Sound, and two nights at a lodge in Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park.

Bond with fellow IFTA members and enjoy activity and adventure! Visit Doubtful Sound on an overnight cruise, 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

Kayaking in a breathtaking fjord, observing waterfalls and wildlife.

Soaking in a hot pool overlooking the NZ landscape.

Sipping Pinot Noir in Central Otago with IFTA friends.

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

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

## Welcome to New Zealand!

### DAY 1: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Your first destination in New Zealand is a scenic lakeside resort town: Queenstown. Known as one of the world's adventure capitals, you're in for a good time here. 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 enjoy the magnificent scenery at your own pace.

After a long flight, you'll be collected at the airport and taken to Onsen Hot Pools to soak your weary bones in a cedar hot tub, while enjoying a great view, a typical NZ activity, and company of fellow IFTA travelers. Once revitalized, enjoy lunch at a cafe, and then arrive in the center of buzzing Queenstown.

Our home base for the next two nights 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, we'll meet for a glass of NZ wine this evening and then head into town for a casual fish and chip dinner.

*Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner*

## Queenstown As You Like It

### DAY 2: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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 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 suites 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*

## Doubtful Sound

### DAY 3: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

We are off on an unforgettable adventure today! This morning we travel by coach bus to Fiordland National Park to experience

Doubtful Sound. The drive from Queenstown is picturesque. We'll pass farmland, lakes, glaciated valleys, and waterfalls. Doubtful Sound is a remote fjord, accessible only after a short cruise across Lake Manapouri and then a drive through rainforest. After a scenic morning getting to the fjord, and a picnic lunch, we'll arrive at Deep Cove and board the 70-passenger Fiordland Navigator.

A cruise in Doubtful Sound is a special, serene experience; keep your eyes peeled for seals and dolphins. Nature guides will provide commentary to the experience as we cruise the fjord. Late afternoon, we'll drop anchor in a sheltered cove where you may choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or relax onboard. Adventurous souls may enjoy swimming in the fjord!

Tonight we'll enjoy a delicious three course buffet dinner prepared by the onboard chef and served in the dining saloon. Gaze at the stars on the upper deck and enjoy a fabulous, festive evening with IFTA friends before retiring to your private cabin.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



*The Fiordland Navigator sailing in Doubtful Sound*

## Fjord Cruise to Mountain Views

### DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Kick off the day with a hearty breakfast before we spend the rest of the morning continuing our exploration of Doubtful Sound. We then return via coach and boat to Manapouri and by mid-day we're off to our next destination: majestic Mt. Cook.

But first: a pitstop. En route to Mt. Cook 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 visit a vineyard to savor the wines and learn about the local industry.

## ITINERARY south island extension

After another scenic drive we arrive at our lodge in the 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 after a great day.

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Mt. Cook National Park DAY 5: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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*



*Hiking at the Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park*

### To Christchurch for Study Tour DAY 6: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Say farewell to these beautiful mountains, we're off to Christchurch. From Mt. Cook National Park we'll drive along the western shore of Lake Pukaki to stunning glacier-fed Lake Tekapo where you can see Mt. Cook from the distance, beautifully framed by the lake, and stretch your legs. Grab lunch and enjoy the scenery. Then, we'll travel through the foothills of the Southern Alps to the rich pastoral farm land of the Canterbury Plains until we reach Christchurch.

Christchurch is a happening town these days, even with the devastating earthquakes of 2011 and 2012. You'll have time to explore some of Christchurch in the next two days, 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 afternoon, we'll arrive at our Christchurch hotels and the Study Tour officially begins. Get settled in, connect with arriving Study Tour participants, and enjoy a festive welcome dinner with the large group tonight. Have a wonderful time continuing your NZ explorations throughout the Study Tour!

*Included Meals: Dinner included with Study Tour.*



*Approaching the Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park*

## TRIP INFORMATION south island extension

BEGINS	Queenstown, New Zealand on February 11
ENDS	Christchurch, New Zealand on February 16 — Link up with <i>Study Tour Week 1</i>
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	<p><b>Central Ridge Boutique Hotel   2 Nights</b>   Well located 13-room boutique hotel with well appointed rooms, daily happy hour, and made-to-order breakfast. A perfect base for our group!</p> <p><b>Fiordland Navigator Boat   1 Night</b>   A 70-passenger purpose built vessel designed to replicate a traditional trading scow. Accommodations are double with en suite bath or quadruple with shared bath.</p> <p><b>Mt. Cook Lodge &amp; Motels   2 Nights</b>   Comfortable modern motel unit with kitchenette, en suite bath, and patio, situated in Aoraki Mt. Cook National Park.</p>
TOUR DATES & PRICE	<p>February 11–16, 2018</p> <p>Double Occupancy    \$1,895 per traveler Single Supplement    \$400 additional</p> <p>For those traveling in small groups or families, a limited number of suites with King bed and two twins are available, please inquire. Note the Single Supplement provides private single accommodation at the hotels, and quadruple shared occupancy on the boat. A \$155 discount per person is available for those happy to elect quadruple occupancy on the Fiordland Navigator boat (but double occupancy otherwise). Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to New Zealand.</p>

### AIR TRAVEL

Onward Travel is able to book your airfare as part of the group air block. The tour will start 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: three breakfasts, three lunches, and four dinners.
- Onward Travel guide assistance throughout the tour.
- Activities as detailed in the itinerary: Onsen Hot Pools, overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound including nature guides and kayaking/swimming, Central Otago wine tasting, 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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