



Blue Bird 19/20 7-Day South Island Mandarin Guided Tour

South Island, New Zealand

Blue Bird Itinerary

Start: Christchurch

Finish: Christchurch

Duration: 7 days/6 nights

2019 Departures: October 1st & 27th; November 10th & 24th; December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd;

2020 Departures: January 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th; February 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd; March 8th & 22nd;
April 5th & 19th; May 3rd

Standard Twin Pricing: \$1595 NZD

Single Room Upgrade: +\$750 NZD

Pick Up Locations¹:

9:00am, ibis Christchurch Hotel (107 Hereford St, Christchurch Central)

9:30am, Christchurch Airport Bus/Coach Parking

¹ The pick-up time above will be changed into 8:00am & 8:30am for all the departures on and after 5th April 2020 during New Zealand Standard Time (NZST).

Day 1: Christchurch to Mount Cook (via Lake Tekapo)

Haere mai (welcome)! Your Stray tour kicks off in the South Island's largest city, Christchurch. Pickups start in the city centre first, followed by pickups from the Christchurch International Airport at 9:30am.

We'll head south across the Canterbury Plains and venture deep into the beautiful Mackenzie Region, known for its unbelievably blue lakes and snow-capped mountain landscape. At the iconic township of Lake Tekapo, famous for its turquoise glacial waters, we'll stop to explore the local historic sites, including the Church of the Good Shepherd.



From Tekapo, we continue past picturesque Lake Pukaki on route to our destination at the base of New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mt Cook. You'll have the option to take a scenic flight and enjoy spectacular alpine scenery when we arrive in Mt Cook. In the summer, when time permits, you can opt to walk the Hooker Valley track - a 4-hour self-guided walk that offers incredible views of NZ's highest peak. Alternatively, the shorter Kea Point Track will also give you a great view of the summit and its glacier lakes.



As one of the few designated 'International Dark Sky Reserves' in the world, Mt Cook is one of the very best places in New Zealand to join a stargazing tour and be mesmerized by the night sky above.

Accommodation included: Mt Cook Lodge & Motels or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Visit Lake Tekapo, the Church of Good Shepherd & Lake Pukaki

Optional paid activities: Mt Cook scenic flight, Big Sky Stargazing tour (must be pre-paid by passengers)

Optional free activities: Hooker Valley Track (4 hours return) & Kea Point Track (2 hours return)

Day 2: Mount Cook to Wanaka

Start your morning early with an invigorating hike through the Tasman Valley surrounded by the native alpine bush and the dramatic Southern Alps mountain range. We'll then visit a local salmon farm, where you can buy some of the finest freshwater salmon before we leave Mt Cook Village to continue south. Later on, we'll stop in Omarama for lunch.



From here it's over the Lindis Pass, and into the popular lakeside holiday township, Wanaka. You'll have the remainder of the afternoon to sign up for one of the many activities on offer, whether it's nearby walks, mountain biking around the lake, exploring the weird and wonderful Puzzling World,

skydiving, or learning to fly your very own stunt plane.

Accommodation included: Wanaka Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Tasman Glaciers viewpoint walk & High Country Salmon farm visit

Optional paid activities: Scenic biking alongside the lakeshore (minimum number required), Skydiving, Learn to Fly & Puzzling World

Optional free activities: Visit the famous Wanaka Tree

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 3: Wanaka to Queenstown

We have a big day planned with lots of activities to look forward to as we make our way towards Queenstown. On route, we'll stop in Cromwell, famous for its fresh fruit produce and you can sample a delicious sweet treat. Next up is a visit to AJ Hackett's Bungy Bridge, where this sporting phenomenon originally began. If there was ever a time to try a bungy, today is the day!



After all that excitement, we'll continue to the historical township of Arrowtown, where you can experience first-hand a settlement of gold mining huts built by Chinese immigrants during the Otago Gold Rush of the 1860s.

At the end of the day we will arrive into Queenstown, known as the 'Adventure Capital of the World'! Your guide will drive you around the city centre, pointing out all the important places you need to know to ensure you make the most of your free day tomorrow. Queenstown has a lively nightlife with plenty of excellent restaurants, pubs and live music to check out.



Accommodation included: Rydges Lakeland Resort or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Visit the world home of the bungy jump, Walk around historic Arrowtown & Chinese migrant settlement

Optional paid activities: Bungy jump & Zipride at Kawarau Valley

Meal included: Breakfast, Sweet treat in Cromwell

Day 4: Free Day in Queenstown

You have a full free day to explore everything Queenstown has to offer. No matter what your pasttime of choice is, there is an activity for you! Options include bungy jumping, canyon swing, Shotover River jet boating, skydiving, a walk up Queenstown Hill for unbeatable views, stroll the city gardens or simple soak up the stunning scenery and quality eateries in town.



Accommodation included: Rydges Lakeland Resort or equivalent (3-4 star)

Optional paid activities: Shotover Jet, AJ Hackett extreme activity options, Skyline Gondola (Walk-in or pre-booking recommended), Skydiving, TSS Earnslaw Steamship & Walter Peak Farm tours & Cardrona Ski packages (winter only)

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 5: Queenstown via Milford Sound to Te Anau

It's another early start as we depart for the natural wonder of Fiordland National Park. Sit back and take in one of the most spectacular drives on the South Island as we travel around the edge of Lake Wakatipu and watch the landscape morph from rolling farmland to mountains and dramatic fiords.



Our destination is New Zealand's most famous attraction, Milford Sound, sometimes called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. This afternoon we will board a scenic boat cruise and navigate through the deep green waters, surrounded by sheer mountains, dewy rainforest and tumbling waterfalls.



Keep your eyes open for the fur seals, dolphins and penguins that are often spotted in the fiord. After our Milford cruise, we will return to our accommodation situated right on Lake Te Anau, the South Island's largest lake.

Accommodation included: Kingsgate Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Milford Sound scenic cruise

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 6: Te Anau to Dunedin

We depart Te Anau this morning to make our way back to the east coast. Today's destination is Dunedin, a prominent university city known for its Scottish heritage, Victorian architecture, breweries and white sand beaches that are home to fur seals, sea lions, penguins and the only mainland breeding colony of royal albatross in the world.



We will arrive in time for those who want to join an afternoon Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour. Alternatively, you have free time to explore the city on foot, marvel at the classical architecture, stroll through the Botanic Garden, take a guided tour of the Speight's Brewery or visit the historic Larnach Castle.



Accommodation included: Kingsgate Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Stray bus drive around Dunedin city centre

Optional paid activities: ELM wildlife tour (recommended from October to March), Speight's Brewery tour, Larnach Castle

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 7: Dunedin to Christchurch

On our way out of town this morning we'll stop to visit Dunedin's Baldwin Street, one of the steepest streets in the world. From here, we drive north up the coast to the Moeraki Boulders, one of the South Island's most fascinating attractions. These naturally occurring giant spherical stones are embedded on a sandy beach. Each weigh several tonnes and range up to 3m in diameter in size.

Next stop along the coast is the old-world town of Oamaru. You'll walk through the Victorian Precinct with the option to check out Steampunk HQ, an intriguing museum dedicated to retro-futuristic sci-fi art.



After lunch in Oamaru, we express back to Christchurch, arriving in the afternoon at approximately 3 to 4pm. You will be dropped off at either the Christchurch International Airport or in the city centre. Sadly, this is where your Stray journey comes to an end, but we hope you had a blast!



Activities included: Dunedin Baldwin Street, Moeraki Boulders & Oamaru Victorian Heritage Precinct

Optional paid activities: Steampunk HQ Sci-Fi Museum

Meal included: Breakfast

What's Included:

- + Experienced Stray Mandarin-speaking driver guide
- + 6 nights' 3-4 star twin-shared accommodations
- + 6 x cooked breakfast, 1 x special dessert
- + Touring as indicated
- + Mackenzie District: Visit Lake Tekapo, the Church of Good Shepherd and Lake Pukaki
- + Mt Cook: Tasman Galciers viewpoint walk, High Country Salmon farm
- + Queenstown: Visit the world home of the bungy jump, Walk around historic Arrowtown & Chinese migrant settlement, Point out the town centre highlights on the bus
- + Fiordland: Milford Sound day trip (including scenic cruise)
- + Dunedin: City centre Stray bus cruise, Walk up Baldwin Street
- + Otago Region: Visit Moeraki Boulders
- + Oamaru: Victorian Heritage Precinct & Historic town centre walk

Optional Paid Activities:

- + Mt Cook: Scenic flight, Big Sky Stargazing tour (must be pre-paid by passengers)
- + Wanaka: Scenic biking alongside the lakeshore (minimum number required), Skydive, Learn to Fly & Puzzling World
- + Queenstown: Shotover Jet, AJ Hackett Queenstown extreme activities, Skyline Gondola (Walk-in or pre-booking recommended), Skydiving, TSS Earnslaw Steamship & Walters Peak Farm tours, Cardrona Ski packages (winter only)
- + Dunedin: ELM Wildlife tour (recommended from October to March), Speight's Brewery tour, Larnach Castle
- + Oamaru: Steampunk HQ Sci-Fi Museum

What to Bring:

- + Camera
- + Water bottle
- + Sturdy walking shoes
- + Bathers/towel
- + Hat & sunscreen
- + Warm layered clothing
- + Waterproof jacket
- + Toiletries
- + Insect repellent
- + Motion sickness tablets