



WEKA ADVENTURE

11 Day Christchurch to Christchurch Tour

Stray Journey - Complete New Zealand

STARTS: Christchurch / Picton or Wellington

FINISHES: Christchurch

DURATION: 11 Days / 10 Nights

START DAY: Thursday

FINISH DAY: Sunday

MIN. / MAX. NUMBERS: 6 / 24 passengers



START INFORMATION

CHRISTCHURCH INTERCITY BUS DEPARTURE INFO: 7:30AM, outside Bus Interchange on Lichfield Street, near Colombo Street

**Subject to change. Please be ready at the pickup 15 minutes prior to the departure.*

Please Note: Your first leg unguided public bus journey ends in Blenheim at approx. 12:40PM. You will meet your Stray Guide outside Blenheim i-SITE Information Centre (The Railway Station). In the event the pickup will significantly delay due to the ferry arrival, we will notify you by email in advance.

WELLINGTON DEPARTURE INFO: Meet your Stray Guide & group outside Cambridge Hotel Wellington (28 Cambridge Terrace) at 6:30AM before heading to check in the Bluebridge Cook Strait Ferry together.

**Subject to change. Please arrive at the Hotel 5 minutes prior to the departure time.*

PICTON DEPARTURE INFO: 11:45AM – 12:15PM, The bus stop on Auckland Street outside i-SITE Information Centre (opposite to Picton Railway Station)

**Subject to change depending on ferry arrival time. Please be ready at the pickup 15 minutes prior to the departure.*

Overview

The 11 Day Weka Adventure tour is the best way to explore the South Island. Travel from Christchurch (or Picton) down the wild West Coast on our small group tour, meeting the friendly locals and ticking off those bucket list highlights as you go. Our fully guided Adventure tours include some meals and activities but we leave plenty of room for optional extras so you can make the adventure your own!

Day 1: Christchurch to Marahau (Abel Tasman)

Kia Ora (hello) and welcome to Christchurch, where you'll begin and end your tour. Depart early this morning aboard a public bus service (unguided) to Blenheim where you'll meet your Stray Guide and group. We'll depart from Picton i-SITE or Blenheim i-SITE (The Railway Station), and set off through the picturesque Marlborough region. We will then set off through the Marlborough Region to Marahau, our accommodation is situated right on the edge of the spectacular Abel Tasman National Park - perfect for exploring arguably the best National Park in NZ.

Accommodation: The Barn Marahau

Optional paid activities: Wine tasting

Meal options: We'll stop at a supermarket to stock up on supplies - Self-cater or join the optional group dinner

Free activities: Stargazing

Day 2: Marahau (Abel Tasman)

Count yourself lucky because you have a full day to explore New Zealand's most popular national park today. From our accommodation we'll head by water taxi to Anchorage Bay, admiring the park's natural golden sand beaches and brilliant blue waters along the way. Enjoy a picnic on the beach before checking out Cleopatra's Pools, moss lined fresh water pools with a natural water slide and then, we'll walk approximately 4 hours back to our accommodation, stopping along the way to take amazing photos and swim in the secluded bays.

Accommodation: The Barn Marahau

Included activity: Water taxi into Anchorage Bay

Optional paid activities: Kayaking, skydiving, canyoning - (PM)

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Pack a picnic lunch and lots of snacks for your hike, Self-cater in the kitchen or use the BBQs

Free activities: Hike in the national park, relax on the golden sand beaches, see Cleopatra's Pools

Day 3: Marahau (Abel Tasman) to Franz Josef

Buckle up for an awesome day driving down the incredibly scenic 'wild' West Coast, an area known for its untamed beaches and spectacular rainforest. Through Buller Gorge and down a stretch of road named one of the top drives in the world by Lonely Planet, there's not much phone reception but you are NOT going to need it – we dare you to peel your eyes away from the window for even just a second. We'll stop at the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and blowholes to explore this unique part of coastline before continuing on to the quaint township of Franz Josef, set amongst the rainforest. Tonight, we'll have a group dinner together at our accommodation.

Accommodation: Rainforest Retreat

Meal inclusions: Breakfast, Dinner

Free activities: Buller Gorge, Pancake Rocks and blowholes, Hokitika

Day 4: Franz Josef

Ice, ice baby! Get ready to experience the Franz Josef Glacier, an iconic highlight of the West Coast. Take a short drive to the beginning of the track. Hike through native bush and across glacial streams to the terminal face of the glacier for spectacular photos or just hang out at the Retreat and relax in one of NZ's largest spa pools.

Accommodation: Rainforest Retreat

Optional paid activities: Shuttle to the track

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Free activities: Glacier hike, bush tracks, soak in the spa

Day 5: Franz Josef to Queenstown

It's another scenic journey today with plenty of photo stops. First up is the amazing Lake Matheson, known as the mirror-lake, for a short walk. We travel inland through the mountainous Haast Pass and alongside beautiful Lake Hawea and into Queenstown. Once settled, put on your dancing shoes and head out to explore this lakeside resort, there are over 100 clubs and bars to choose from in Queenstown!

Accommodation: Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Day 6 & 7: Queenstown (2 Free Days)

Yaaaasssss Queen(stown)! You've got 2 full days in the adventure capital. With awesome night life, beautiful mountain scenery and plenty of outdoor activities, it's easy to understand why so many backpackers refuse to leave this place.

Accommodation: Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

Optional paid activities: Any adventure activity that we Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jet boating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...)

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Free activities: Hike Ben Lomond, the Queenstown Hill, or Bob's Peak

Day 8: Milford Sound Day Trip

Today you'll hop aboard the Coach and we'll take you to the stunning and world famous Milford Sound. After a super scenic drive, you'll board the boat and cruise across the Sound. Look out for the impressive Mitre Peak, lush rainforests and (if it's been raining) thundering waterfalls. You'll also have the opportunity to spot lots of amazing wildlife like fur seals, penguins and dolphins. Once you've snapped as many pics as you possibly can, it's back to Queenstown where you can check out some one of the many restaurants Queenstown has to offer - or try the famous Fergburger!

Accommodation: Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Included activity: Day trip to Milford Sound

Day 9: Queenstown to Lake Tekapo

It's a short drive to Lake Tekapo this morning where we'll see an electric blue lake framed by the Southern Alps. Walk over to the famous Church of the Good Shepherd, a quaint stone church right on the edge of the lake for some awesome photo opportunities. In the afternoon take part in an engaging experience that offers deep insight into tatau aroraki (Māori astronomy) and its central place in the Māori view of the universe at the Dark Sky Project centre.

Accommodation: Haka House Lake Tekapo or similar

Included activity: Dark Sky Experience

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Self-catering in the hostel kitchen or local bars and restaurants

Optional paid activities: Dark Sky Crater Experience, Tekapo Hot Springs (All seasons), Ice Skating, Snow tubing (Winter only)

Free activities: Mount John Observatory Hike, Church of the Good Shepherd, stargazing

Day 10: Lake Tekapo to Christchurch

Our next stop is Christchurch, a super cool city with the Avon River running through it, full of lush parks and cool laneway bars! Spend your afternoon wandering the city streets to discover creative street art and hidden eateries, visit the Botanic Gardens, do some shopping or hop on the tourist tram and see the sights!

Accommodation: Drifter Christchurch or similar

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

Meal options: Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

Free activities: Explore Christchurch by foot, check out the new Riverside Market, Botanic Gardens

Day 11: Depart Christchurch

Today your adventure comes to an end. Say goodbye to your guide and your new Stray mates, we hope you had a great time and we look forward to adventuring with you again in the future!

Meal inclusions: Breakfast

What's Included:

- Experienced tour guide
- Private coach transport
- 11 days of once in a lifetime experience
- 10 nights' accommodation (dorm-style)
- 10 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Abel Tasman National Park tracks and water taxi
- Trip to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks & blowholes
- Visit Franz Josef Glacier township
- Lake Matheson (Mirror Lake) visit
- Day trip and Cruise to Milford Sound
- Dark Sky Experience Tekapo

What to Bring:

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

Highlights:

- Spend two days in paradise as you explore the golden beaches of the Abel Tasman National Park.
- Visit Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and blowholes before staying in the rainforest at Franz Josef
- Enjoy at stop at the amazing Lake Matheson, known as the mirror-lake
- Look out for the impressive Mitre Peak, lush rainforests, waterfalls and wildlife during a day trip to the iconic Milford Sound
- Discover the wonders of *Tātai Aroraki* (Māori astronomy) and its central role in the Māori view of the universe at the Dark Sky Project centre.
- Explore the city and then enjoy the quality hospitality at newly renovated Drifter Christchurch complete with its own bar.
- Relax in quality accommodation at Queenstown & Lake Tekapo.
- Free time in Franz Josef, Queenstown & Lake Tekapo.

Important Notes:

- Tours start on a Thursday in either Christchurch, Wellington or Picton and end 11 days later on a Sunday in Christchurch.
- Luggage is limited to one piece per person with a maximum weight of 23kg plus a day pack
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks
- Our itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.