

CHRISTCHURCH & SURROUNDS

5 nights / 6 days

11 - 16 May 2025



Day 1 | Sun 11 May

CHRISTCHURCH

On arrival at Christchurch Airport, you will be met and transferred to our hotel located in the centre of the **Garden City**. This afternoon we will start our sightseeing via two iconic modes of transport and see Christchurch from different angles whilst learning about the history and rebuild of this resilient city. Onboard a restored **vintage tram**, our knowledgeable driver will provide an interesting commentary on the local landmarks, and you will learn about the heritage and changing face of Christchurch. At the **Transitional Cathedral** a short, guided tour will give us an insight into the meaning and history of this unique house of prayer built with cardboard after the Canterbury earthquakes. **Art lovers** will enjoy the city's **architecture** and **Wongi Wilson's street art**. Then relax onboard a **Punt** and view this picturesque city from a different perspective as your classically attired punter poles you along the serene **Avon River**.

Welcome dinner this evening at the funky new **Manu** - a contemporary Māori, Pacifica, Asian infused cuisine in the heart of Christchurch.

Accommodation for 5 nights at the **FABLE HOTEL**

[Luxury Hotel Christchurch- Fable Christchurch \(fablehotelsandresorts.com\)](http://fablehotelsandresorts.com)

Day 2 | Mon 12 May

TRANZALPINE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY

Embark on a relaxing journey through the **Southern Alps** aboard the **TranzAlpine train**. Covering 223 kms from Christchurch to Greymouth, this iconic coast to coast route crosses the iconic Canterbury plains, and follows the winding Waimakariri River gorge into the mountains, traversing the mighty 'Great Divide' through tunnels and across viaducts, past lakes and mountains. This is one of the most spectacular rail experiences in the world - sit back and enjoy!

Departs Christchurch 8.15am - arrives Greymouth 1.10pm

Departs Greymouth 2.15pm - arrives Christchurch 7.00pm

Day 3 | Tue 13 May

HANMER SPRINGS & WAIPARA WINES

We set off early this morning for a day out in **Hurunui** (Marie's home patch 😊). Driving through small towns, across braided rivers, acres of vines, through the Weka Pass with its unusual rock formations, and into the foothills to reach **Hanmer Springs** by mid-morning. Free time in this pretty little spa village - take a soak in the **hot mineral waters**; browse the **shops**; have lunch in one of the **cafes**; or roam through the **forest** on the edge of the village.

On our return to Christchurch, we'll call into one of the many **Waipara Valley vineyards** for a wine tasting (optional).

Day 4 | Wed 14 May

WATER, SCENERY & HISTORY

After breakfast, we'll drive out to **New Brighton** beach and take a walk on the iconic wharf followed by a swim in the **hot salted pools at He Puna Taimoana**, overlooking the ocean. Morning tea in the village of **Sumner**, followed by a stroll along the **Beach Promenade**. We then drive over the Port Hills to **Lyttelton** for some free time to browse the shops and have your lunch.

This afternoon, we continue our scenic coastal drive to **Governors Bay** and back over the **Port Hills** to the **Adventure Park** where we take a ride on a chairlift, gliding up to the top where you can jump off and take a short walk to a prime vantage point, perfect for snapping photos with sweeping views of the city, the Pacific Ocean, and the majestic Southern Alps in the background. Then hop back on the chairlift and soak in breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape as you return to the bottom.

Later, visit **Kate Sheppard House** for an informative tour through the home of this inspiring woman who was an iconic leader of the suffrage movement. Immerse yourself in the inspiring history of the fight for women's right to vote which was finally signed in 1983 resulting in New Zealand becoming the first self-governing country in the world in which women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections!

Day 5 | Thu 15 May

BANKS PENINSULA

This morning, we journey across to Banks Peninsula, winding our way up the hill and down into picturesque **Akaroa**. A visit to the famous **Giant's House** is included - wander at your leisure around the unique collection of sculptures and mosaics popping with colour and a Garden of National Significance. After, **free time in Akaroa** to have a look around and get your lunch.

This afternoon, we'll board a comfortable sea vessel for a 2-hour **harbour cruise**. Our aim is to meet the **world's smallest and rarest dolphins** - the **Hector's** are a cute and playful bunch and are only found in New Zealand waters. Of course, being wild doesn't mean we are guaranteed to see them, but we do have a 98% chance! Sit back and relax with complimentary refreshments and home baking whilst cruising this particularly scenic harbour with its much-photographed dramatic ruggedness. Return to Christchurch, stopping enroute for a casual bistro dinner in a local pub.

Day 6 | Fri 16 May

ANTARCTIC CENTRE - TOUR ENDS

Check out of hotel after breakfast. We have an exciting visit to the International **Antarctic Centre** this morning – buckle up for a bumpy ride in the Hägglund – an amphibious vehicle built to conquer the rough terrain of ice. There's plenty of interactive opportunities in the Antarctic Gallery and you can even experience the feeling of being on the ice in -8°C with a -18°C teeth-chattering wind buffeting you (make sure you have brought a warm jacket!). We'll be here for feeding time of the gorgeous **Little Blue penguins** – a wonderful highlight to end our adventure in Christchurch.

Time permitting, we can have lunch at the beautiful **Untouched World Café** before transfer to airport for your flight home.

COST PER PERSON

\$3,700 per person twin share

\$4,300 single

Price is subject to change until paid in full. NZ\$500 non-refundable deposit due at confirmation. Final payment due 04 Apr 2025.

INCLUDES

- Local driver/guide – Marie Coles
- Transportation in private air-conditioned 12-seater vehicle
- Airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 6
- 5 nights accommodation at The Fable Hotel in a superior room
- Daily breakfast and 1 dinner
- Sightseeing & entry fees (Hanmer hot pools, Brighton hot pools, Adventure Park Chairlift ride, Kate Sheppard House, Giants House, Antarctic Centre)
- 2-hour Dolphin Cruise
- Christchurch Tram & Avon Punting experience
- Tranzalpine Scenic Rail Journey (return from Christchurch)
- GST
- Domestic flight allowance within NZ – check with Marie for details

EXCLUDES

- Domestic Travel Insurance (recommended)
- Optional activities not included in itinerary
- Own shopping purchases
- Meals not specified in itinerary
- Refreshments



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