



# South Island Walking Tour

April 2021 | 17 nights

A guided adventure for active travellers

## Fri 23 April NELSON

Arrival Day and overnight in Nelson City. We will collect you from the airport and settle you in. If you arrive in the morning, there will be time for an afternoon walk along the Maitai River and to the Centre of New Zealand via Nelson's picturesque gardens, galleries and pathways.

## Sat 24 April NELSON - NELSON LAKES

Depart Nelson for a morning Walk at Rabbit Island, a diverse recreational area and feature of the Nelson landscape. Finish with a 5 minute ferry ride over the channel into Mapua. After Lunch we drive the beautiful Motueka Valley where Hop growing, apples, currents, cherries, blueberries and dairy farming are found en route. A classic afternoon tea stop before arriving into the Alpine town of St Arnaud in Nelson lakes National Park. We'll have time for a later afternoon walk.

## Sun 25 April NELSON LAKES

We enjoy a variety of walks in the Lakes area, and we will cater for all levels of walker today. It can be a particularly good time of year to photograph a stunning variety of mushrooms emerging. The dense beech forest is a wondrous place of colour and smells at the end of summer.

## Mon 26 April NELSON LAKES – KARAMEA

Heading for the coast today we follow the mighty Buller River from its source (Nelson Lakes) to the Sea at Westport. Along the way there are some historic walks to be investigated including the famous Lyall cemetery. The afternoon drive is following the wild coastal road north to Karamea for two nights.

## Tue 27 April KARAMEA

Several fabulous walks to experience in this remote neck of the South Island – including the Oparara Arches and the stunning Charming Creek walkway.

## Wed 28 April KARAMEA- CHARLESTON

Our Drive south today takes in visits to Coal mines, old pioneer settlements and secret fishing spots. We break our journey with several short walks as we make our way into historic Gold Country of the people known as 'Coasters'.

## **Thu 29 April            CHARLESTON – KUMARA**

Not a long drive today but plenty to pack in. A number of short walks at locations to really WOW you. Late afternoon we'll introduce to the quaint little township of Hokitika and its rugged beach before checking in at our historic hotel for 2 nights.

## **Fri 30 April            KUMARA**

Our day is filled with wooden water races, waterfalls and boardwalks in the stunning back country around Lake Kaniere. If it rains, you get to experience the quiet mystery and ambience of our rich West Coast Rain forest at its best.

## **Sat 01 May            KUMARA - MT SOMMERS**

We leave Kumara via a spectacular scenic drive through Arthurs Pass National Park and take a lovely walk and a lunch stop near the village before emerging out onto the Canterbury Plains, driving the back roads to Mt Sommers where some good old fashion hospitality awaits.

## **Sun 02 May            MT SOMMERS – WEDDERBURN**

Edging toward the East Coast today our destination is Oamaru and an art inspiring Urban walk. Moreraki is on offer early afternoon, before we head inland through the striking Maniatoto plain via the scenic ' Pig Route' drive. Dinner at the local Tavern.

## **Mon 03 May            WEDDERBURN - ARROWTOWN**

Several Gold sluicing areas today between Wedderburn and Crowell are both scenic and remote in their bygone states and our wanderings give us a peek into the scale of engineering and human endurance from this time. It is a short drive to beautiful Arrowtown, the most colourful town in Central Otago and at this time of year it won't disappoint. There are some gorgeous river walks to be taken here and we all have a free day here to explore further at your leisure.

## **Tue 04 May            ARROWTOWN**

Free day to explore at your leisure.

## **Wed 05 May            ARROWTOWN – TEKAPO**

We depart Arrowtown for a glorious journey over the Crown range and into Wanaka for a short lakefront walk. We continue our drive via Luggate to the Lindis highway and into the spectacular surrounds of the mighty McKenzie Country. If the weather holds – this day will be a scenically stunning. A coffee stop at Omarama before we drive into Lake Tekapo and enjoy an afternoon downhill walk from Mt John through the larch trees to the lakeside and settle for 2 nights.

## **Thu 06 May            TEKAPO**

Today a trip into Mt Cook National Park, enjoying Lake Pukaki, a visit to the Hermitage, Mt Cook Visitor Centre and a Hooker River Valley walk. All in the heart of the spectacular Southern Alps, flanked by Mt Cook.

## **Fri 07 May            TEKAPO – HANMER**

Today we farewell the southern mountains and take a drive north to the Alpine Village of Hanmer. The drive will be fairly direct so we can enjoy a late afternoon walk at Conical hill and into the Heritage forest. Natural Hot Pools and a home cooked meal tonight!

## **Sat 08 May            HANMER – KAIKOURA**

Continuing with our 'small town' New Zealand visits, we have a short drive to Kaikoura which allows us a free afternoon to enjoy a coastal walk and appreciate the geological changes which have reshaped the area. Local seafood will be a treat for those dining out.

## Sun 09 May      KAIKOURA – PICTON

Snaking along the famous cliff road and rail links toward Picton, our travels will include views of the saltworks of Lake Grassmere and the expanse of the Marlborough wine industry. Our motel rooms look over the marina in Picton, and an evening walk along the 'snout' will do us good after today's drive. A farewell dinner this evening in Picton, another opportunity to sample the local seafood from the days catch.

## Mon 10 May      PICTON – NELSON

Today is a wonder of Top-of-the-South gems starting at Picton, Queen Charlotte, the Link Trail, Anakiwa, Havelock and Pelorous river and picnic stops. Trail walking, scenic fiord's, salmon farming and NZ's famous Green lip mussel. The day will be packed with treats before we say goodbye in Nelson late afternoon.

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### Price

NZ\$5550 per person twin share\*

NZ\$1250 single supplement

\*if you would like to twin share, let us know and we'll endeavour to find you a room-mate

### Tour Inclusions

- 17 nights accommodation (hotels, motels, lodges)
- Daily breakfast, 17 lunches, 3 dinners
- Tour leader / walking guide
- Transportation in modern air-conditioned mini-coach
- All Entry Fees/Permits: To Parks or any featured attractions or activities specific to the tour
- Arrival/departure transfers in Nelson on first and last day of tour

### Excludes

- Meals and refreshments (unless specified in inclusions)
- Items of a personal nature
- Optional tours

### Group size

Maximum 12

### Your Tour Leader

**Andrea Livingston** is the founder of Wildside Travel and is based in the beautiful town of Motueka in Tasman Bay. Andrea has guided many walking and cycling tours over the years including South East Asia, Africa, USA and Pacific Islands. The South Island is Andrea's backyard and her favourite playground. Her tour has been honed to perfection over the years of operation and is timed to coincide with the Spring colours of the south so walkers can enjoy settled weather and moderate temperatures at a quieter time of the year. When you travel with Andrea your experience will be far from ordinary!

