

# Wilderness Itinerary Mountains to Sea



## 10 Days: Christchurch – Christchurch 1,978km

Head towards the west coast of the South Island over the Southern Alps via Arthur's Pass. Go south down the coast taking in Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers and back over the Haast Pass to Wanaka. Next stop is Queenstown, the South Island's tourist mecca. Head north east through the wine growing region of Cromwell to Mount Cook and Lake Tekapo.

### Highlights/Top Things to Do

- Hiking in Arthur's Pass
- A scenic flight over the Glaciers
- The splendour of Milford Sound
- Central Otago wineries
- Soaking in the hot pools at Lake Tekapo
- Witness the rebuilding of Christchurch

#### Pick Up Destination

Christchurch

#### Drop Off Destination

Christchurch



1.

## CHRISTCHURCH – ARTHUR'S PASS - GREYMOUTH

📍 244 km

🕒 3 hours, 30 min

🏠 Overnight Stay

Today depart Christchurch for the spectacular journey to the West Coast via Arthur's Pass. The road is a feat of engineering with bridges, viaducts, rock shelters and redirected waterfalls. Enjoy the scenic views and perhaps stop for lunch and a hike in Arthur's Pass. Descend through dense rainforest and alongside deeply gorged rivers to Greymouth. Spend the rest of the day exploring the largest township on the West Coast. [Things to see and do in Greymouth](#). Overnight in Greymouth.

2.

## GREYMOUTH – GLACIER COUNTRY

📍 177 km

🕒 2 hours, 30 minutes

🏠 Overnight Stay

Depart Greymouth for the incredible Franz Josef Glacier. You'll travel along the rugged coast with pounamu boulders nestled among seals and stop off at some or all of the small towns along the coast including Hokitika, Ross and Whataroa.

Continue south to Fox Glacier, New Zealand's largest commercially guided glacier, and spend the afternoon exploring. [Things to do in Glacier Country](#). We highly recommend a scenic flight over the glaciers to truly appreciate the remarkable landscape. Overnight Fox Glacier.



3.

## GLACIER COUNTRY – WANAKA

📍 264 km

🕒 3 hours, 45 minutes

🏠 Overnight Stay

Depart the glaciers this morning for the journey to Haast. The drive from Fox Glacier to Haast Junction takes approximately one hour 45 minutes. The journey through Haast Pass is very rugged and scenic, so it is recommended visitors stop along the way.

The journey to Wanaka winds around Lakes Hawea and Wanaka. Lake Hawea is worth stopping for a coffee lakeside if you have a spare 30 minutes or so. The Department of Conservation has set up various short walkways along this route that offer visitors an opportunity to get away from the road and visit the beautiful scenery of New Zealand's Southern Alps and river valleys. We encourage you to get out and about and enjoy every minute of it. Spend the rest of the day and evening in beautiful Wanaka. There is always something to do in Wanaka, no matter what the season. [Things to see and do in Wanaka](#). Overnight in Wanaka.



4.

## WANAKA – QUEENSTOWN

📍 117 km

🕒 1 hour, 40 minutes

🏠 Overnight Stay

Drive the short distance on State Highway 6 detouring to the old gold mining village of Arrowtown. Spend the rest of the day and evening in the wonderful resort town of Queenstown. Overnight in Queenstown.

5.

## QUEENSTOWN

🏠 Overnight Stay

Spend today in Queenstown. There's so much to see and do here! Overnight in Queenstown.

6.

## QUEENSTOWN - MILFORD SOUND

📍 291 km

🕒 4 hours, 10 minutes

🏠 Overnight Stay

Leave Queenstown as early as possible - 7am is recommended as the day's journey, although scenic, is long. The drive to Te Anau takes around 2 hours 45 minutes. Te Anau is the gateway to Fiordland National Park, a World Heritage Area and the largest national park in New Zealand. The Park covers 1.2 million hectares (2.9 million acres) and has natural wilderness on a grand scale, where waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres into pristine, forested valleys, and glacier-carved fiords indent its coastal boundaries. [About the Fiordland National Park](#).

From Te Anau, commence the spectacular drive to Milford Sound. The road to Milford is a wonderful alpine drive. From Te Anau the road winds down the Eglington and Hollyford Valleys, then through the Homer Tunnel before being greeted by Mitre Peak towering from the glassy waters of Milford Sound. Arrive around midday or early afternoon. [Things to see and do at Milford Sound](#). Overnight in Milford Sound.

7.

## MILFORD SOUND - QUEENSTOWN

📍 291 km    ⌚ 4 hours, 10 minutes    🏠 Overnight Stay

Take your time travelling through mountains and alongside lakes on State Highways 94 and 6, arriving in Queenstown late morning. Spend the afternoon in Queenstown enjoying the many activities and attractions in the area. [What to see and do in Queenstown](#). Overnight in Queenstown.



8.

## QUEENSTOWN - MT COOK

📍 263 km    ⌚ 3 hours, 45 minutes    🏠 Overnight Stay

Leave Queenstown in the morning and head along State Highway 6, all the way to Cromwell in Central Otago. Based on the edge of Lake Dunstan, this area of Central Otago is known for its fruit orchards and a growing wine centre. Perhaps stop and enjoy wine tasting at one of the region's excellent vineyards. The settlement of Clyde provides an insight into the gold mining heritage of this region. From here, join State Highway 8 for the journey through Lindis Pass to the Mt Cook area. [Things to see and do in the Mt Cook area](#). Overnight in the Mt Cook area.

9.

## MT COOK – CHRISTCHURCH

📍 331 km    ⌚ 4 hours, 45 minutes    🏠 Overnight Stay

Make your way from Mt Cook to Christchurch. Be sure to stop to admire the beautiful alpine lakes of Pukaki and Tekapo, and take time for a soak in the hot pools at Lake Tekapo before stopping for lunch in Geraldine, a farming township. You may wish to take a walk around town following the Historic Town Trail or, head to Verde for lunch. Continue to Christchurch via State Highway 1 through Ashburton, the commercial centre of one of New Zealand's richest agricultural and pastoral regions.

If you are looking for an alternative route and you are in New Zealand during the winter months, you could drive back to Christchurch via Methven, a base for Mt Hutt's ski field and other ski areas (a short detour off the Inland Scenic Route 72). Overnight in Christchurch.

10.

## DEPART

If time permits, spend the day enjoying Christchurch before heading to the airport for your departure.

