



FIORDLAND & STEWART ISLAND TOUR

Tour Departs: 22 November 2020
Tour Length: 8 Days

We are very excited to bring to you a new and exciting adventure, discovering some of the best sights the Deep South has to offer! Begin the tour with 2-nights in beautiful Arrowtown, enjoy a leisurely cruise on Lake Wakatipu onboard the famous TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm, along with Chantecler Gardens. We then head to Te Anau in the heart of Fiordland to and witness the majestic Mitre Peak.

A special highlight will be our 2 nights at Stewart Island, enjoy a Kiwi experience there as well as Ulva Island.

To finish the tour, we have a lovely drive from Bluff through the Catlins and on to Dunedin before heading home.

For those that would like more time in Queenstown prior to the tour commencing, please let us know so we can make those arrangements.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2-nights Arrowtown at Millbrook Resort.
- Arrowtown, Chantecler Gardens & TSS Earnslaw
- Te Anau and Mitre Peak
- Stewart Island Visit
- Catlins



TOUR COSTS

Twin/Double per person
NZD\$4,375

Single Supplement
NZD\$1,500

NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 112 Wanaka 9305
P: 0800 500 518
E: info@mahertours.co.nz
www.mahertours.co.nz



AUSTRALIA

PO Box 6163, Yatala QLD, 4207
P: 1800 358 741
E: info@mahertours.com.au
www.mahertours.com.au

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY:

Sunday 22 November **Home – Arrowtown** **(D)**
This morning we meet our tour group at Queenstown Airport. Depart the airport at 12pm. Individual transfers can be arranged if required to the resort.

Our home for the next two nights is the stunningly beautiful Millbrook resort. This afternoon is at leisure with plenty of options available. There is golf of course, wine tasting, spa options or just relax and enjoy the view up to Coronet Peak. Or make use of the complimentary shuttle into Arrowtown for a wander around the shops.

Tonight, we will all meet for our first dinner together at the resort.

Monday 23 November **Queenstown – Arrowtown** **(B.L)**
Departing Millbrook this morning, we make a visit to the Chantecler Gardens, a 40-acre property that includes 12 acres of mature gardens and nestled in the heart of the Wakitipu Basin.

At midday today, we set off on a cruise aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw across to Walter Peak High Country Farm (approx. 45-minutes) for lunch. Once at the lakeside Colonel's Homestead Restaurant, savour the delicious aromas as the chef has the best of local produce sizzling away on the grill.

Overlooking Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown's alpine scenery, the Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak High Country Farm is the perfect place to spend a few hours. Its colonial architecture and sweeping grounds evoke the elegance of a bygone era. An entertaining farm demonstration is also included, or you can explore the beautiful lakeside gardens.

Before returning to our accommodation, we make a brief visit to Arrowtown (time permitting), a historic New Zealand treasure. Quaint and charming, the town gained a name for itself in the 1860s following the discovery of gold in the Arrow River. The heart of its history is Buckingham Street, a succession of more than 60 small-town heritage buildings and miners' cottages stretching across the tree lined avenue.

Remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

Tuesday 24 November **Millbrook – Te Anau** **(B.D)**
We depart Millbrook this morning with a leisurely drive through to Te Anau, the gateway to the Fiordland National Park – it is 1,250,000 uninhabited hectares of stunning wilderness. Fiordland has a primeval rugged landscape, largely untouched by humans apart from incursions by tourists at Milford and Doubtful Sounds and a few fishermen in other fiords. It was declared a World Heritage Area on account of the outstanding geological features and exceptional beauty, the jewel in the crown being Mitre Peak in Milford Sound. We arrive early afternoon where we join a tour of the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. The tour begins with a cruise to the western shores of Lake Te Anau - at the entry to the caves at Cavern House, view the informative displays and learn about this geological wonder before we join our guide underground. On the tour of the caves, our friendly guides will point out the highlights and share their knowledge of the caves and its history. Deep inside the caves, beyond the roar of the water, you will be taken by small boat into a silent hidden grotto inhabited by hundreds of glowworms, unique to New Zealand. In the subterranean darkness, they produce a glittering display that is nothing short of extraordinary.

(NB: Some bending is required at the caves entrance and steps are involved)

Before dinner at a lovely local restaurant we see the Ata Whenua – Shadowland movie at the Fiordland Cinema. A 30-minute film show casing the unique beauty and remote wilderness of Fiordland from the air to the screen for all to enjoy!

Our accommodation for our overnight stay is Distinction Luxmore Te Anau Hotel.

Wednesday 25 November **Te Anau - Milford Sound – Te Anau** **(B)**
Milford Sound is the most famous and accessible of the grand glacier-carved fiords scattered along New Zealand's south-western coast. The road to Milford is one of the world's finest alpine drives and is an easy drive from Te Anau. The road follows the Eglinton and Hollyford valleys, then through the Homer Tunnel where you will meet Mitre Peak, towering from the glassy waters of Milford Sound. We join our cruise at 1pm and relax as we soak in the close-up views of awe-inspiring scenery. These cruises are often accompanied by playful dolphins and seals basking on rocks are a common sight.

Thursday 26 November**Te Anau – Stewart Island****(B.D)**

After a hearty cooked breakfast, spend the morning exploring before we depart Te Anau and re-join our coach continuing our drive along the Southern Scenic Route. Enjoy stops at Riverton Paua shop, Tuatapere and more before arriving in Bluff in time for our one-hour ferry crossing over to Stewart Island.

Tonight, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Friday 27 November**Stewart Island****(B.D)**

We have a full day to enjoy this natural wonderland. Over 85% of the island is National Park and it is a prime destination for birdwatchers and those wishing to catch a glimpse of the famous Aurora Australis which often appears in these southern skies.

We enjoy a day tour of the island, encompassing the history and beauty of the area. Don't forget to try the world-famous fish and chips for lunch! In the afternoon we will enjoy a leisurely cruise of beautiful Paterson Inlet and visit Ulva Island, a renowned wildlife sanctuary, for a guided walk.

Tonight, after an early dinner in town, for something special we join the Wild Kiwi Encounter for cruise and then walk to a wide sandy beach where Southern brown kiwi (Rakiura Tokoeka) are often found feeding among the grasses and seaweed.

Saturday 28 November**Stewart Island – Catlins – Dunedin****(B.D)**

We depart Stewart Island this morning on a short 20-minute flight. On arrival in Invercargill we rejoin our coach and travel the route through the Catlins, and onto Dunedin. See Curio Bay, Fossilised Forest, the Lost Gypsy Caravan (if open), Purakaunui Falls, Nugget Point Lighthouse and more.

We arrive in Dunedin early evening and are transferred to our accommodation for our final night and dinner together.

Sunday 29 November**Dunedin****(B)**

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. We will visit Larnach Castle this morning for a taste of history before we head to Dunedin airport by 1pm.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**BOOKING CONDITIONS:**

Deposit of NZD\$1,000.00 per person is due upon confirmation of the booking.

Final payment date: Thursday 8 October 2020.

COSTS INCLUDE:

Superior accommodation throughout
Meals as indicated in the itinerary
First-Class air-conditioned coach transportation for all touring
Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
Baggage handling of one suitcase per person
Gratuities and tips to local guides, coach drivers and cruise staff
Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

COSTS EXCLUDE:

Any meals and sightseeing tours not specifically mentioned
Travel Insurance (assistance and advice will be offered)
Items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service etc

***Flights are additional – the best available airfare will be quoted at the time of reservation to combine with this land package.**

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