



Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park.

GRAND EXPLORER

14
days

South
Island



Activity Level: 2-4

Style

You'll be treated to wonderful accommodation in stunning locations, restaurants serving the best Kiwi fare and unique experiences reserved for the lucky few.



Start
Queenstown



Finish
Queenstown

The Grand Explorer

The ultimate way to explore New Zealand's South Island.

Day 1 – Arrive Queenstown & walk on the Kepler Track

After meeting your guide and fellow travellers, we'll head for Fiordland National Park and your first Great Walk. The Kepler Track is renowned for its vivid green moss, native beech forest, and stunning mountain ranges. We'll follow the Waiau River through beech forest and wetlands until the spectacular viewpoint at the lakeside Moturau Hut unfolds before us.

Stay: Te Anau

Day 2 – Milford Sound

We'll spend the morning cruising the iconic Milford Sound. Get ready to see magnificent glacier-carved granite cliffs rising sharply from the valley floor and crashing waterfalls cascading through dense rainforest. This afternoon we'll explore the Milford Sound Foreshore, Mirror Lakes, and stop at Homer Tunnel to meet the cheeky Kea birds!

Stay: Te Anau

Day 3 – Explore Arrowtown

Arrowtown is a quaint gold mining town bursting with history. We'll enjoy a walk along the Arrow River Trail and the Chinese Goldmining Settlement. This afternoon we'll journey to the heart of the Southern Alps, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, an area of vast snow-covered mountains and glacier-fed lakes.

Stay: Aoraki/Mt Cook Region

Day 4 – Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

Some of New Zealand's most spectacular hikes are in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. This morning you'll have the choice of hiking the Hooker Valley Track, exploring the village at your leisure or upgrading to an optional heli-hike. This afternoon a scenic glacier boat cruise takes us across the terminal lake to the ancient ice face of the Tasman Glacier.

Stay: Aoraki/Mt Cook Region



Mt Aspiring National Park.

Day 5 – Tekapo & Chirstchurch

Today's journey takes us from mountain to ocean. This morning we'll explore the lakeside town of Tekapo. The unreal colour of Lake Tekapo contrasts brilliantly against our highest peaks in the distance, creating the perfect backdrop for photos.

Stay: Christchurch

Day 6 – Whale watch in Kaikoura

The Kaikoura Peninsula is a striking area set on the edge of a deep continental shelf where towering cliffs meet an ocean floor that plunges even further in the other direction. The nutrient-rich water has created a unique mecca for an abundance of marine life. This afternoon we'll board a purpose-built catamaran and head out on the water in search of whales.

Stay: Kaikoura

Day 7 – Wine tasting in Marlborough

After a night spent in the backcountry, it's time to visit one of the iconic vineyards of Marlborough. The region is most renowned for its zesty Sauvignon Blanc, so ready your taste buds to sample some of the finest wines in the country. This afternoon we will make our way to Nelson

Stay: Nelson



Mou Waho Island, Wanaka



Westland Tai Poutini National Park



Awaroa Homestead, Abel Tasman National Park



Kepler Track



Routeburn Track



Milford Sound, Fiordland

Day 8 – Nelson

Today is yours to spend as you please. Nelson is famous for its arts scene, award-winning wines, craft beers and fruit orchards. Later in the day, you'll board a water taxi to the exclusive Torrent Bay Lodge, which is only accessible by boat or foot. Here you can relax on the beachfront sundeck, enjoy a lovely meal and stargaze before bed!

Stay: Abel Tasman National Park

Day 9 – Day walk in Abel Tasman National Park

Today we'll explore another Great Walk, the Abel Tasman. We'll follow the coastal track through lush native forest, before reaching more of the region's much-loved golden sand beaches. This evening you'll stay beachfront again at Awaroa Meadowbank Homestead.

Stay: Abel Tasman National Park

Day 10 – West Coast beaches

Leaving Awaroa by foot, you'll spend the morning passing through secluded beaches and native forest on your way to the clear waters of Tataranui. From here, a water taxi will whisk you back to Kaiteriteri. This afternoon we'll head southwest to the seaside village of Punakaiki in the heart of Paparoa National Park.

Stay: Punakaiki

Day 11 – Paparoa National Park & Franz Josef

We'll hike the Porarari Loop Track this morning through Paparoa National Park, a visually rich area made up of dense

subtropical forest. With its towering limestone cliffs and lush vegetation, this area feels like something straight out of Jurassic Park. This afternoon we'll head through to Glacier Country.

Stay: Franz Josef

Day 12 – Siberia Valley helicopter, walk & jetboat

We'll begin the day with a scenic helicopter ride deep into the heart of Mt Aspiring National Park. After a tasty picnic lunch, we'll walk along a well-marked track through the thick forest linking the Siberia Valley to the Wilkin Valley where a jet boat will be waiting to take us back to civilisation.

Stay: Wanaka

Day 13 – Lake Wanaka & Mou Waho Island

This morning you'll have free time to explore the peaceful lakeside town of Wanaka before we take an afternoon cruise across Lake Wanaka to the tiny island wildlife sanctuary of Mou Waho. Guided by an experienced ecologist, we'll explore one of the most magical spots on the South Island.

Stay: Wanaka

Day 14 – Routeburn Track & finish in Queenstown

You'll be greeted by mountain peaks and endless impressive vistas before we reach the last of our Great Walks, the Routeburn Track. Your guide will fill you in on the local history and special flora and fauna of the area as you walk through beautiful native beech forest alongside a crystal-clear glacial



CALL US NOW TO PLAN
YOUR ADVENTURE!

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