

# Year 10 Geography Tour - South Island, New Zealand



*Explore the natural wonders of the South Island with NZET!*

## Day 1 – Christchurch

Kia Ora and Welcome to 'Te Wai Pounamu' - New Zealand's South Island. The tour kicks off with a fun evening of team building activities and discussion about the exciting days ahead!

## Day 2 - Christchurch to Kaikoura



The morning begins with a tour of Christchurch City to see the devastation from the 2011 earthquake and learn of the effects it had on the land, business and community. You will also learn about the incredible efforts to rebuild the city. Then drive north to Kaikoura which was also rocked by a devastating earthquake in 2016. On the drive up you will learn about the impacts of the earthquake on the infrastructure and coastline. Later you will also learn about the economic impacts on this tourist town and its recovery.

## Day 3 - Kaikoura to Motueka

This morning you get on the water in search of the whales and learn all about these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. You will also learn about the variety of marine life found in the Kaikoura waters and around the coastline, and how the marine ecosystem has been impacted by the 2016 earthquake. This afternoon you head to Motueka - the gateway to the famous Abel Tasman National Park. You stop on the way at the Ngarua Caves to learn about the geological events which created its extensive stalagmites and stalactites and see an impressive skeletal display of the extinct Moa.



## Day 4 – Motueka



Rise bright and early to take advantage of this paradise. You will spend the day kayaking and hiking through the stunning National Park with a professional guide sharing their knowledge and passion of the Abel Tasman and its native forest, wildlife and coastline, as well as the rich seafaring history of our early explorers to the region.

## Day 5 - Motueka to Franz Josef



This morning you drive through the Buller Gorge and the spectacular West Coast. Visit the famous Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and learn about how this incredible limestone landscape was shaped over time. Then drive to Hokitika and visit a Greenstone Factory to learn about the history and heritage of Greenstone on the West Coast. You will watch the carvers at work and discover the different tools and techniques used and the meaning behind their Greenstone carvings. This evening you can relax and unwind at the Rainforest Retreat which boasts NZ's largest outdoor Hot Tub, surrounded by lush rainforest.

## Day 6 - Franz Josef to Wanaka

This morning you walk to the base of the world-famous Franz Joseph Glacier. Learn about how these incredible rivers of ice formed over thousands of years and the effects the changing climate is having. Westland has one of the world's most unique ecosystems where glaciers are in such close proximity to the coast, surrounded by a subtropical rainforest. Then drive on to Wanaka for some mind-boggling fun at Puzzling World. Later that day you will learn about the geology of both Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea, glacial lakes which were carved by advances of great glacial systems.



## Day 7 - Wanaka to Doubtful Sound

Leaving Wanaka we pass through the stunning Kawarau Gorge where we learn about the soil and atmospheric conditions which allowed this area to become one of the most successful viticulture centres of the South Island. We then drive into the mystical wilderness of Fiordland National Park. Take a cruise



across Lake Manapouri where we can visit a display on the Manapouri power station and the history and ecology of this unique area, before boarding the Fiordland Navigator for an overnight experience in the magical Doubtful Sound. You will learn about this vast and untouched wilderness - the rugged peaks, deep fiords, lush rainforest, and abundant wildlife on a guided cruise of the Sound. You can even kayak or swim in the fiord before the boat anchors for the night. After dinner you can attend an in-depth presentation on the flora, fauna, and geology of this unique World Heritage Site.

## Day 7 – Doubtful Sound to Queenstown

This morning you make your way to Queenstown via scenery and landscapes which spawned a huge movie industry for New Zealand. We head to the historic gold mining town of Arrowtown. Here you will learn all about Arrowtown during the gold rush and visit the partially restored 1880s village of Chinese goldminers.



## Day 8 – Queenstown



This morning you take the Skyline Gondola to the top of Bob's Peak for spectacular views of Queenstown, Coronet Peak and the Remarkables, followed by some thrilling luge rides down. This afternoon is filled with fun team building activities in the "Adventure Capital of New Zealand".

## Day 10 - Queenstown to Tekapo

This morning the first stop is the AJ Hackett base - the "World Home of Bungy" to learn the history of the pioneers of bungy who put the New Zealand adventure tourism industry on the map. We can watch others bungy off the Kawarau Bridge. We then head into the Kawarau Gorge for a thrilling jet boat ride, followed by gold panning at Goldfields Mining Centre! We then continue on past Lake Dunstan which is the reservoir for the Clyde Dam. Here we will discuss the 'Think Big' projects of the 1980's and hydroelectric power generation. We then pass through the stunning Mackenzie Country to beautiful Lake Tekapo and learn how it gets its intense milky-turquoise colour. Tekapo is also known for its clear nights and lack of light pollution making it a perfect place to star gaze and tonight, you experience the "Southern Lights" - the Southern hemispheres equivalent to the Northern Lights.



## Day 11 - Depart for home

Drive back to Christchurch Airport for your departure home, via the rich Canterbury Plains where we learn about the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture and the Central Plains Water enhancement scheme which provides the irrigation for the dairy farms. We return home enriched with knowledge and special memories of the incredible natural wonders of the South Island.

### Transport

- Luxury 5-star coach
- Air conditioning, seat belts, wifi
- Professional driver

### Accommodation

- Comfortable, clean and well-equipped Youth Hostels and Holiday Parks
- Students in single gender quad-share rooms
- Teachers in private rooms with ensembles
- All bedding included

### Meals

- Buffet style continental breakfast provided daily
- Two course dinner provided daily
- 2 packed lunches provided, otherwise individually purchased on route

### Flights to and from Christchurch

- Can be included at extra cost

