

TIMARU DISTRICT & MACKENZIE REGION

A journey through the heart of the South Island

The Timaru District and Mackenzie Region have joined forces once again to bring you an exciting itinerary. From coastal heritage, Māori rock art and rural traditions to the vast high country, extraordinary dark skies and the alpine world of Aoraki/Mount Cook and Tasman Glacier.

Day 1 – Christchurch to Timaru, via Geraldine

Travel to South Canterbury and discover the boutique village of Geraldine, with a visit to Geraldine Farm Tours, lunch at Woodbury Store Café and tastings of award-winning local gin, artisan food products and craft beer. Meet a pet sheep, see sheepdogs at work and enjoy a glimpse of the village's boutique luxury accommodation. Continue to Timaru, the South Island's seaside city, for an evening of local hospitality and dining.

Day 2 – Timaru to Lake Tekapo/Takapō, via Kimbell

Discover Timaru's charming Edwardian architecture and coastal character, from Caroline Bay and Blacketts Lighthouse to the interactive Te Ana Māori Rock Art Centre, where ancient Māori rock art tells stories of the region's cultural heritage. Visit historic Holme Station Homestead before travelling inland to Kimbell for lunch and a taste of rural high-country life, then continue to Lake Tekapo/Takapō.

Take to the skies with Air Safaris on the Grand Traverse, revealing an extraordinary aerial perspective of the Southern Alps, glaciers and turquoise lakes. Finish the afternoon at Tekapo Springs, where you can soak in the alpine setting or enjoy one of its many activities.

As night falls, discover the southern skies with Dark Sky Project, exploring the stars, planets and galaxies above the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve.

Day 3 – Lake Tekapo/Takapō to Twizel, via Aoraki/Mount Cook

Spend the morning experiencing the high country with Go Tekapo, with opportunities to explore working farm life, visit a wool shed or get behind the wheel on a self-drive ATV adventure.

Journey towards Aoraki/Mount Cook, where New Zealand's highest mountain rises above an immense alpine landscape. Experience the mountains from above on a scenic flight, with the opportunity to land on a glacier.

Continue to Twizel for an overnight stay, surrounded by the open landscapes and distinctive high-country character of the Mackenzie Region.

Day 4 – Twizel to Christchurch, via Fairlie

Adventure through the high-country landscapes around Lake Ōhau with Tekapo Adventures, where golden tussock grasslands stretch towards the mountains and turquoise glacial lakes punctuate the basin.

Continue north to Fairlie, a charming pioneering town with a rich rural history, independent shops and a welcoming small-town atmosphere. Stop at the renowned Fairlie Bakehouse, famous for its handmade pies, before exploring the town's heritage museum and discovering the stories of the people who helped shape this part of the region.

Bringing together coastal character, small-town heritage and high-country and alpine experiences, this journey reveals the distinctive stories and landscapes of the Timaru District and Mackenzie Region, offering fresh inspiration for creating memorable South Island itineraries.

Minimum numbers required - Itinerary is subject to change.
Submit your Expression of Interest here.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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