

# CHRISTCHURCH & SURROUNDS

5 nights / 6 days

11- 16 May 2025



Note tour includes flights ex Hamilton, but this can be changed for another domestic airport within NZ. Overseas travellers, please contact us for options.

## Day 1 HAMILTON - CHRISTCHURCH

Morning flight from Hamilton to the **South Island Te Waipounamu**. On arrival at Christchurch Airport, you will be met and transferred to our hotel located in the centre of the **Garden City**. This afternoon we will start our sightseeing via two iconic modes of transport and see Christchurch from different angles whilst learning about the history and rebuild of this resilient city. Onboard a restored **vintage tram**, our knowledgeable driver will provide an interesting commentary on the local landmarks, and you will learn about the heritage and changing face of Christchurch. At the **Transitional Cathedral** a short, guided tour will give us an insight into the meaning and history of this unique house of prayer built with cardboard after the Canterbury earthquakes. **Art lovers** will enjoy the city's **architecture** and **Wongi Wilson's street art**. Then relax onboard a **Punt** and view this picturesque city from a different perspective as your classically attired punter poles you along the serene **Avon River**.

### Accommodation for 5 nights at the FABLE HOTEL

[Luxury Hotel Christchurch- Fable Christchurch \(fablehotelsandresorts.com\)](http://fablehotelsandresorts.com)

## Day 2 BANKS PENINSULA

This morning, we journey across to Banks Peninsula, winding our way up the hill and down into picturesque **Akaroa**. We'll be met by a local guide descended from the French settlers who arrived in Akaroa in 1840. Our **historic walk** of Akaroa takes in both the English and French ends of town and will be fun and informative. Included is a visit to an early pioneering family cottage and garden which has retained most of its early fabric from the mid-1800s.

A visit to the famous **Giant's House** is included - free time to wander around the unique collection of sculptures and mosaics popping with colour and a Garden of National Significance.

Later this afternoon, we'll board a comfortable sea vessel for a 2-hour **harbour cruise**. Our aim is to meet the **world's smallest and rarest dolphins** - the **Hector's** are a cute and playful bunch and are only found in New Zealand waters. Of course, being wild doesn't mean we are guaranteed to see them, but we do have a 98% chance! Sit back and relax with complimentary refreshments and home baking whilst cruising this particularly scenic harbour with its much-photographed dramatic ruggedness. Return to Christchurch, stopping enroute for a casual bistro dinner in a **pub with fabulous views**.

### Day 3 **BAYS & BEYOND**

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll drive up the Port Hills and over to **Governors Bay** where we visit **Ōhinetahi**. 1.25 hectares of magnificent gardens, displays of art, architectural works and sculptures - these gardens have a special significance, dating back to 1865 when keen botanist Thomas H Potts began planting them. Enjoy an informative tour of the grounds and house followed by morning tea.

Later we'll take a scenic drive to **Lyttelton** for some free time to browse the shops, and on to **Sumner Beach** where we'll take a stroll along the beach promenade. We return to the city via **The Tannery** for a look through this interesting architectural shopping destination, followed by an early dinner at **Cassels Brewery**.

### Day 4 **HANMER SPRINGS & WAIPARA WINES**

We set off early this morning for a day out in **Hurunui** (Marie's home patch 😊). Driving through small towns, across braided rivers, acres of vines, through the Weka Pass with its unusual rock formations, and into the foothills to reach **Hanmer Springs** by mid-morning. Free time in this pretty little spa village - take a soak in the **hot mineral waters**; browse the **shops**; have lunch in one of the **cafes**; or roam through the **forest** on the edge of the village.

On our return to Christchurch, we'll call into one of the many **Waipara Valley vineyards** for a wine tasting (optional).

### Day 5 **CHRISTCHURCH FREE DAY**

**Today is free** for you to explore at your leisure. Maybe visit the Botanical Gardens, Quake City, the museum, do some shopping etc. Early risers might like to join us for a visit to **New Brighton** beach to watch the sunrise, take a walk on the iconic wharf and a swim in the **hot salted pools at He Puna Taimoana**.

### Day 6 **ANTARCTIC CENTRE - HAMILTON**

Check out of hotel after breakfast. We have an exciting visit to the International **Antarctic Centre** this morning - buckle up for a bumpy ride in the Hägglund - an amphibious vehicle built to conquer the rough terrain of ice. There's plenty of interactive opportunities in the Antarctic Gallery and you can even experience the feeling of being on the ice in -8°C with a -18°C teeth-chattering wind buffeting you (make sure you have brought a warm jacket!). We'll be here for feeding time of the gorgeous **Little Blue penguins** - a wonderful highlight to end our adventure in Christchurch.

Flight departs for Hamilton mid-afternoon.

**DATE**

Departs 11 May 2025

Ends 16 May 2025

**COST PER PERSON**

\$2,960 per person twin share

\$3,600 single

Price is subject to change until paid in full. NZ\$400 non-refundable deposit due at confirmation. Final payment due 04 Apr 2025.

**INCLUDES**

- Return flights Hamilton/Christchurch/Hamilton with 23kg luggage allowance
- Local driver/guide - Marie Coles
- Transportation in private air-conditioned 12-seater vehicle
- Airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 6
- 5 nights accommodation at The Fable Hotel in a superior room
- Daily breakfast and 4 dinners
- Sightseeing & entry fees (Akaroa Historic Walking Tour, Giants House, Ohinetahi Guided Tour, Hanmer Springs Hot Pools, Antarctic Centre)
- 2-hour Dolphin Cruise
- Christchurch Tram & Avon Punting experience
- GST

**EXCLUDES**

- Domestic Travel Insurance (recommended)
- Optional activities not included in itinerary
- Own shopping purchases
- Meals not specified in itinerary
- Refreshments



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