

# WEST COAST ADVENTURE

HOME – NELSON – CHARLESTON – PUNAKAIKI – WESTPORT - HOKITIKA – HAAST –  
FRANZ JOSEF – LAKE TEKAPO – HOME

4 April 2023

9 Day Hosted Tour

Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti and Wellington



## WEST COAST ADVENTURE

4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### TUE 4 Home – Nelson (D)

Today we arrive in sunny Nelson. With a sunny maritime climate in the Nelson regions, there's an unmistakable freshness to the land and the ocean. Local producers and an artisan culture combine to create confident and uncluttered cuisine, matched with wonderfully crafted wines. Upon arrival, we have something a little different planned, with a visit to **Pic's Peanut Butter World** and hear Pic's story, learning about the peanuts and watch what happens on the factory floor before finishing with a tasting of the product itself – a delicious highlight!

Following all things Peanuts, we take an **orientation tour of the city** including Tahunanui, Moncrief Rise for panoramic views across Tasman Bay, Nelson Cathedral and the heritage precinct of South Street. For those wanting to stretch their legs, perhaps take a walk later in the day to the Centre of NZ (approx. 20-40 mins steep walk). This evening we enjoy a Welcome Dinner in the hotel restaurant.

### WED 5 Nelson – Charleston - Punakaiki (B D)

This morning we start our adventure, driving south through the lovely Waimea Valley once well known for the growing of tobacco and continuing south through rugged and remote bush covered mountains. The road follows the Buller River towards the coast where we enjoy the spectacular scenery of the **Buller Gorge** before reaching the West Coast.

We arrive at the small settlement of Charleston, completed in December 2002, it is here we take a journey on **'The Nile River Rainforest Train'** recreated a bygone era where bush trams once prevailed. Departing from the 'Festival Site' station at the entry to the water sculptured limestone Nile River Canyon we enjoy the 'Untamed Natural Wilderness' landscape and the interpretation as the train meanders its way through the Rainforest beside the Nile River. Arriving at "Softrock Station", nestled beneath the towering limestone bluffs we take a short walk from the station through the rainforest to the Nile River Suspension Bridge before returning to the festival station. Continuing on we travel south to Punakaiki on the edge of the Paparoa National Park and our stop for today. Punakaiki is renowned for its wild, rugged coastline and the famous **'Pancake Rocks' and blowholes**. These stratified limestone stacks are an extraordinary monument of nature. There are various scenic walks and photographic opportunities in this beautiful, isolated area. Dinner is together tonight at our hotel restaurant.

### THU 6 Punakaiki - Hokitika (B L D)

This morning we back track north to Westport and meet the team at **Outwest Adventures** and board their specially built Unimog 4WD vehicle. After a short drive north from Westport we arrive at Conns Creek located in the spectacular Waimangaroa River gorge. Here coal wagons that came down the famous Denniston Incline arrived at the rail line. Then it's onto the winding road up the coastal escarpment with great views to the coast below. Arriving at Denniston, 600 metres above sea level, we take time to view the coal mining relics and excellent information panels at the top of the Denniston Incline. Look down the incline to Conns Creek and be amazed at the steep grade. A short walk through lush forest leads to a clearing where the Banbury Arch, a man-made arch on the old rope road, comes into view. We then drive through the remnants of the once thriving town of Denniston. Not much is left here but 100 years ago Denniston and the adjacent settlements of Burnetts Face and Coalbrookdale had a population of 2,000, however only a few people live on the plateau now.

The Friends of the Hill Museum is our next stop and our lunch stop for today with time to inspect more information about life at Denniston in its heyday. From the museum we travel across the rocky sandstone plateau and above the extensive underground mines. The Unimog then climbs up to Mt Rochfort (1040 metres above sea level) from where superb panoramic scenery to the coast below and the rugged mountain to the east is viewed. Departing Mt Rochfort, we travel back across the plateau and then down the escarpment back to Westport. After our day of adventures, we travel South again to Hokitika, where we will spend the next two nights at our beachfront hotel and dine together tonight in the hotel restaurant.



Meals included.

(B) Breakfast

(L) Lunch

(D) Dinner

## Trip Highlights

- PIC'S PEANUT BUTTER WORLD
- NILE RIVER RAINFOREST TRAIN EXPERIENCE
- DENNISTON COALMINE 4WD EXPERIENCE
- PUNAKAIKI "PANCAKE ROCKS"
- GUIDED HOKITIKA SCENIC TOUR
- SCENIC HOKITIKA GORGE
- ECO BOAT CRUISE ON LAKE MAPOURIKA
- WEST COAST TREETOP WALK
- HAAST RIVER JET BOAT SAFARI
- JACKSON BAY
- LAKE MATHESON
- FRANZ JOSEPH HELICOPTER FLIGHT *(optional)*
- GLACIER HOT POOLS, FRANZ JOSEF
- LAKE TEKAPO
- MOUNT JOHN OBSERVATORY (Optional)

### FRI 7 Hokitika (B D)

Today we have a full day in Hokitika, exploring this lovely region. Sometimes you see photos of a tourist spot and think it can't look as good as that in real life, however the **Hokitika Gorge** is truly one of those places.

For those who wish to stretch their legs, a short 2-km walk takes you along the stunning Hokitika Gorge and through the pristine mature podocarp forest of the Hokitika Scenic Reserve. Enjoy the spectacular drive to Sandy Bight and Hans Bay at pretty **Lake Kaniere**, renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in New Zealand.

A visit to the **West Coast Treetop Walk** will give us an exhilarating treetop adventure among temperate rainforest giants. With easy access for all to enjoy along a steel platform 20 metres high and over 450 metres long, we'll experience life with the birds high in the ancient Rimu and Kamahi tree canopy. Our walk will be a leisurely 45 minute to one hour stroll through the beautiful West Coast rainforest treetops.

The rest of the afternoon is yours at leisure to explore this delightful town before we reconvene tonight for dinner together.



## West Coast Adventure

Journey with us this autumn down to the West Coast, considered by many to be the best time to explore this fabulous region. The Wild West Coast, isolated from the rest of the country by the Southern Alps, with its untamed natural wilderness of rivers and rainforests, glaciers, and geological treasures is sure to delight.

After viewing the dramatic Buller Gorge, our arrival in the small settlement of Charleston we take a journey on 'The Nile River Rainforest Train' through the magnificent Nile River canyon of The Paparoa National Park before travelling south to Punakaiki, home of the Pancake Rocks and blowhole formations.

Heading to Westport sees us step back in time as we travel up to the original 1880's Denniston coal mine, before discovering everything the "Cool Little Town" of Hokitika has to offer. Our time in the World Heritage region of South Westland has us enjoying an award winning jet boat safari into the heart of the World Heritage area, before re-joining our coach and heading down to the remote Jackson Bay, with spectacular beaches, dunes, lakes and wetlands.

We discover and explore everything from the visiting the exhilarating Treetops Walk, cruising Lake Mapourika, with its surreal scenery as the forest and the wetlands remain untouched is sure to be a highlight during our time in Franz Josef. Our West Coast Adventure showcases everything the West Coast has to offer and so much more.

### SAT 8 Hokitika – Franz Joseph (B D)

Today we travel south past bush-fringed lakes to the region known as Glacier Country.

On arrival at Lake Mapourika we take a **2-hour scenic cruise** on the dark waters of this lake where on a clear day, the reflections can be amazing. The Jurassic rainforest fringed bays which reflect the surrounding Alps and Glaciers will leave you in awe of its beauty. Our knowledgeable skipper (owner & operator) has been guiding passionately in the region from the mighty Franz Josef Glacier to Lake Mapourika for the last 15 years! Taking us on a scenic journey, through the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary & much more. Enjoy a great cup of tea or coffee while you watch curious native birdlife in the surrounding rainforest shoreline. Lake Mapourika is a landscape photographers dream!

*As an optional extra (own cost) you may wish to take a helicopter flight high onto the snow and ice of Franz Josef Glacier – wow! A **20-minute helicopter flight** is the perfect opportunity to get up close to a glacier and touch snow. You'll be captivated as you lift off and fly up and over the dramatic expanse of the Franz Josef and experience the solitude of a snow landing in this wonderful natural alpine environment.*

Afterwards we head a short journey south to the village of Franz Josef, with dinner together tonight in our hotel.

### SUN 9 Franz Joseph - Haast (B D)

This morning we journey to Lake Matheson "The Mirror Lake". For those that would like to stretch their legs, there are two walks at **Lake Matheson** – one around the lake and a shorter one to a viewing point. Here nature has combined exactly the right ingredients to create stunning reflections of New Zealand's tallest peak (Aoraki) Mt Cook and Mt Tasman. The waters of Lake Matheson are dark brown so on a clear day they create the ideal reflective surface. From here we travel past wild beaches, over mountain streams, through native rainforest onwards to Haast our home for the next two nights with dinner together tonight at our hotel.

## MON 10 Haast

(B D)

Today we join the award winning **Haast River Safari** on a jet-boat experience with a difference. With front loading access Haast River Safaris offer a unique river experience while remaining warm and dry. Our scenic and educational river cruise, with a highly experienced local guide takes us through the Haast River Valley into the heart of Te Wahipounamu, the South-West World Heritage Area.

Following our jetboat safari, this afternoon we drive out to the remote village of Jacksons Bay marking the farthest extent of the West Coast's road network. Here we take our time out with the lovely walk Wharekai-Te Kou Walk, an interesting walk from sheltered Jackson Bay to the rocky shore of Ocean Beach. If we are lucky the local Crayfish Shop may be open, allowing us to indulge in the local delicacy.

After what will surely be an invigorating day out, we return to Haast and dine together.

## TUE 11 Haast – Lake Tekapo

(B D)

After our time in Haast we now head in-land over the Haast Past, the lowest of the South Island Mountain passes crossing through the Southern Alps. Once over the alps we arrive at **Lake Hawea** where we will stop for lunch (own cost). After lunch we continue our journey through the **Lindis Pass** then alongside the shores of **Lake Pukaki**, which owes its vibrant colour to the minerals suspended in the waters as they melt off the glaciers. On arrival into Lake Tekapo we visit the **Church of Good Shepard** before arriving at our overnight accommodation. There will be time here to visit Tekapo Springs should you wish (own cost). Dinner tonight at the hotel.

**Lake Tekapo/Mount John Observatory.** *As an optional extra this evening you may wish to see more, see further with New Zealand's ultimate mountaintop stargazing experience at the world-renowned astronomical centre, UC Mt John Observatory. Travel to the University of Canterbury Observatory at Mount John to enjoy the wonders of the southern night sky and experience the thrill of peering through powerful telescopes. Weather permitting, you will be able to view distant objects such as planets, star-clusters, nebulae and distant galaxies.*

## WED 12 Lake Tekapo - Christchurch

(B)

This morning we travel over Burkes Pass and across the patchwork plains of Canterbury before arriving in Christchurch in time for our afternoon flight departure from Christchurch.



# WEST COAST ADVENTURE

## 9 Day Tour Includes

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

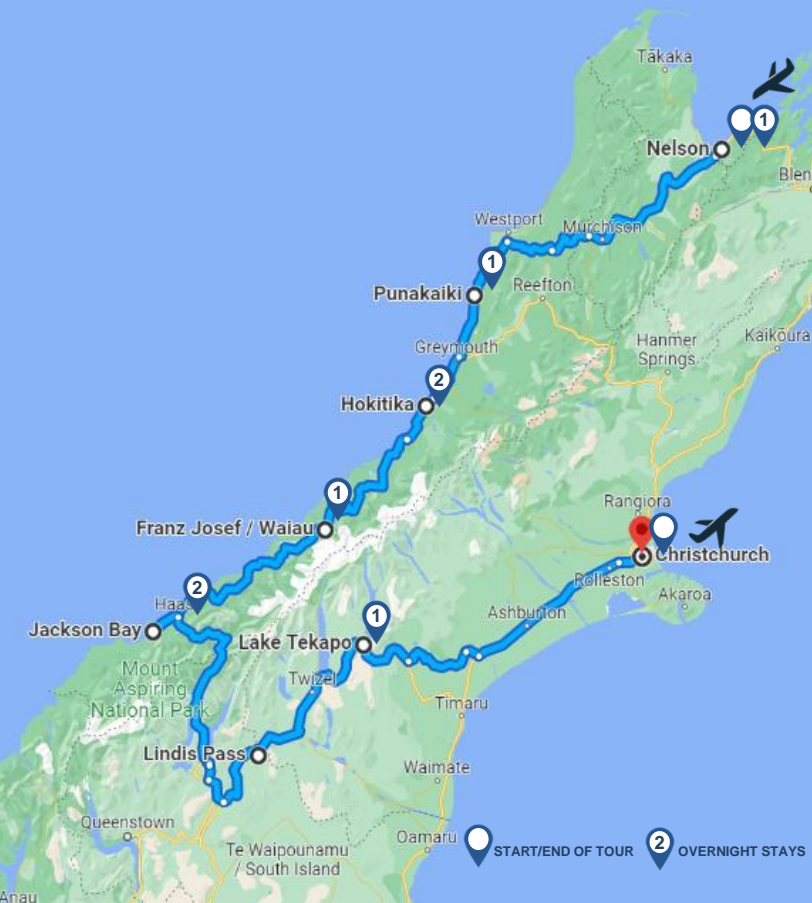
Domestic Flights and Home Pick-up\*

Meals as per itinerary

Departs 4 April 2023

Price \$5,355 pp twin share

Price \$6,255 single



You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.


You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.

**YOURTours**<sup>®</sup>

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