

Christchurch Optional Extension – Sample Itinerary

Day One

Christchurch is New Zealand's 'Garden City'. One hectare in every three is devoted to public parks and reserves which grace the city. Among the most elegant flora are those in the 180 hectare Hagley Park. Christchurch was planned as a Church of England settlement, and today the city retains a very English feel with a distinctive stamp of English architecture which has survived in its beautiful buildings, statues, parks and squares.

Upon arrival at Christchurch airport, our group will be escorted to an awaiting coach for a short journey to the Mona Vale Botanical Gardens for a light lunch, which will be followed by a guided tour of the beautiful gardens and grounds.

A city sights tour will follow, stopping at the Antigua Boat Sheds for an authentic Edwardian punting experience. While our group are punting, their luggage will be delivered to the hotel and delivered to guests rooms.

Tonight guests will take a short minute walk to a nearby tram stop to board a beautifully restored tram for pre dinner drinks, whilst experiencing the inner city as they trundle the tree-lined streets of Christchurch. The tram will stop outside Annie's Restaurant and Bar, which is a fabulous setting for this evenings dinner. This is a beautiful solid stone building built in the mid to late 1800's in a Gothic style, set amongst the Christchurch Art Centre.

Day Two

This morning we take a short transfer to Christchurch Railway Station for an unforgettable journey. The world famous TranzAlpine™ train is rated as one of the world's top six train journeys. The train departs Christchurch on the east coach and travels across the fertile farmland of the Canterbury Plains, winding through the spectacular Waimakariri Gorge, crossing over massive viaducts and through the lush forests of the Arthur's Pass National Park.

The group will take a one and a half hour train journey to Arthur's Pass, where they will board a coach and travel down the Otira Gorge. On the return journey, we stop at a private farm to enjoy sheep dog demonstrations and sheep shearing.



When the group return from their day of touring, they will find a great surprise in their hotel room! A medieval costume will be laid out on their bed, with a personal invitation to join in a

night of medieval festivities. The group, in costume, will be transferred to the Sign of the Takahe venue for an fabulous medieval themed dinner. This gothic style, historic building is a perfect setting for our themed feast. Trumpeters will welcome the group and court jesters will entertain the group throughout the evening.

Day Three

Departure from Christchurch.