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South Island Escorted Tour – Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 Christchurch & Queenstown – 8 Days

### PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- 4 rounds of golf (Clearwater Resort, Terrace Downs, Millbrook Resort and Jacks Point) with shared electric carts.
- 7 night's in 4 & 5 star hotel accommodation with breakfast.
- Option of golf at The Hills or Milford Sound "coach/cruise/fly" day trip.
- Welcome drinks in Christchurch on night of arrival.
- Lunch and wine tasting on day 4, during the trip between Christchurch and Queenstown.
- Farewell dinner at one of Queenstown's top restaurants.
- Ground transfers and touring in a late model air-conditioned Mercedes minivan with local guide.
- Golf competitions with prizes and golfing merchandise.
- 24 hour on-call assistance from your Playing Around New Zealand tour office.
- New Zealand goods & services tax (GST) at 15%

### **OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

- Caddies and rental clubs.
- Golf and activity bookings on leisure days.
- Sightseeing and activity program for non-golfers.
- Hotel room upgrades.
- Pre and post tour accommodation including North Island locations.
- Christchurch to Queenstown flight on day 4.
- Milford Sound helicopter upgrade.

#### **COSTS**

• NZ\$3750 per person based on twin share. NZ\$4800 per person based on single occupancy.

### **Schedule**

#### Day 1: Christchurch (Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2021)

Morning / Afternoon: Our staff member will meet you at your Christchurch arrival point and transfer you to the centrally located Rendezvous Hotel. Evening: Welcome drinks in Central Christchurch. Accommodation: Rendezvous Hotel, Guest Room x 3 nights

#### Day 2: Christchurch (Monday March 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Morning:** Golf at Christchurch GC (Shirley). **Tee time: 10:00am** Your transport will depart the hotel at 9am. **Evening:** At leisure in Christchurch.

#### Day 3: Christchurch (Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup>)

**Morning:** Golf at Clearwater Resort. **Tee time: 10:00am** Your transport will depart the hotel at 9am. **Evening:** At leisure in Christchurch.

#### Day 4: Christchurch to Queenstown (Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Morning:** Following breakfast the group will depart Christchurch and enjoy the scenic road trip south to Queenstown. During the trip we will enjoy lunch overlooking Lake Tekapo and wine tasting in Bannockburn and Gibbston Valley. **Evening:** At leisure in central Queenstown. **Accommodation:** Crown Plaza Hotel, Balcony Room x 4 nights

#### Day 5: Queenstown (Thursday March 18th)

Morning: Golf at Millbrook Resort. Tee time: 10:30am Your transport will depart your hotel at 9.15am. Evening: At leisure.

#### Day 6: Queenstown (Friday March 19th)

Morning: Option day! 1: Play golf at The Hills. Tee time: 10.30am (Your transport will depart the hotel at 9:15am) 2: Milford Sound Coach / Cruise / Fly trip (7am - 3pm) Evening: At leisure.

#### Day 7: Queenstown (Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>)

Morning: Golf at Jacks Point. Tee time: 10:30am
Your transport will depart your hotel at 9:00am.
Evening: Enjoy a farewell dinner at one of Queenstown's top restaurants.
Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Balcony Room

#### Day 8: Queenstown (Sunday March 21st)

**Departure Day**: Your guide will provide the airport road transfer arrangements in order to meet your departing flight. If a domestic flight is required, we can provide a quote for Air NZ's best fare rate.

### **Highlights of the Itinerary**

- Play golf at the best golf courses that the South Island of New Zealand has to offer including Millbrook Resort and Jack's Point along with the option of playing The Hills, one of the most exclusive golfing experiences in New Zealand.
- Scenic touring through some of the most picturesque parts of New Zealand in a luxury airconditioned Mercedes mini-coach with experienced driver / guide.
- Quality accommodation, conveniently located to golf courses and attractions.
- Friendly golf competition with daily prizes.
- Welcome drinks and a farewell dinner at top local establishments.

### **Special Notes**

- This tour is open to a maximum of twenty guests.
- These tours have guaranteed departures.
- Golfers of all abilities and ages are welcome.
- Additional sightseeing trips and rounds of golf are available on each day.
- Scenic touring is broken up with numerous photo and refreshment stops.

# Your Transport and Escort



#### **Mercedes Sprinter**

You will be transported in our own luxury Mercedes Sprinter vehicles. They are all late model, air conditioned and very spacious. There will be complimentary refreshments on board and drive times will not exceed 90 minutes without a break.

#### **Tolan Henderson**

Tolan is the company's leading Tour Director and will be the friendly face that guides you around New Zealand. After spending 18 years in the IT industry with Intel and Microsoft the lure of the golf course was too strong! Beginning with a 2-year stint as a club maker, the fire was lit and with a desire to combine the love of golf, people and travel, it was only a matter of time before Tolan joined the Playing Around New Zealand team. With a cheerful and humorous personality and a local golfing knowledge that is second to none, Tolan is the perfect tour director and host. To say Tolan is an avid golfer is an understatement – when not touring you can almost guarantee that you will find Tolan on a golf course somewhere! Not only has he played just under 300 of New Zealand's 407 golf courses he claims to have ticked off most of the courses in the South Pacific Islands and Hawaii and has made a start on mainland America.



### The Golf Courses

#### **Christchurch GC (Shirley)**

Christchurch Golf Club is rated as one of the best courses (known as Shirley) in New Zealand. Excellent fairways, strategically placed bunkers, water hazards and beautiful greens. Course remodelled by the great Peter Thomson. The club has a fully stocked Pro Shop with hire clubs and motorised carts along with extensive practice facilities including permanent mats and undercover bays.





#### **Clearwater Resort (Christchurch)**

Clearwater Golf Club is located 20 minutes' drive from Christchurch city centre. Designed by Sir Bob Charles the course has played host to 8 NZ PGA Championships, 2 NZ Opens and 4 NZ Women's Opens. This course combines elements of links golf inspired by the great Scottish golf courses, with parklands golf, more reminiscent of Florida. Despite water coming into play on no less than 14 holes, this is a golf course that golfers of all abilities will enjoy. The onsite hotel, currently managed by Peppers, provides superb lakeside accommodation and fine dining options.

#### Millbrook Resort (Queenstown)

Designed by Sir Bob Charles and surrounded by the alpine backdrop of the Remarkables mountain range, the impeccably groomed fairways and greens of Millbrook provide an exhilarating experience. Situated 25 minutes' drive from Queenstown the course provides a challenge for golfers of all abilities and is considered to be one of the most impressive international golf arenas in the world. Millbrook is about to add 9 new holes, making 36 holes in total. These holes will boost Millbrook's reputation as one of New Zealand's best resort courses.





#### Jacks Point (Queenstown)

With a backdrop of 2300 vertical metres of the Remarkables mountain range and an armchair view of an outstanding lake panoramas, Jack's Point Golf course is one of the most visually spectacular in the world. As an 18 hole par 72 championship course it offers golfers an exciting challenge with five tee positions to choose from, providing all golfers an unforgettable golf experience. The course has been designed around the natural landscape, with minimal excavation. The course is built on the most spectacular of Jack's Point terrain. Designed in harmony with the natural environment, the course weaves through native

tussock grasslands, dramatic rock outcrops, steep bluffs and swathes of native bush to the edge of Lake Wakatipu. The presentation of the course is second to none, which makes Jack's Point one of the world's great golfing experiences.

### **Option:**

#### The Hills

The Hills, opened in 2007, is set over 101 hectares (250 acres) of former deer farm on the outskirts of Arrowtown in Central Otago. The Mill race winds its way through the property and feeds the ten lakes and various ponds and waterways on the golf course. Trees, both native and exotic, are a feature of the course. The wetland area have been expanded, planted out with varieties of New Zealand flax, toetoe, the ubiquitous cabbage tree and wetland grasses and reeds. More than 50,000 red and silver tussock plants create a spectacular visual statement.



Winter snow and frost conditions provide the ideal climate to grow fine grasses preferred for modern day golf. The course is the current co-host of the New Zealand Open.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Rendezvous Hotel, Christchurch**

Rendezvous Hotel Christchurch is located a short drive from the Christchurch International Airport, and close to major attractions including Cathedral Square, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch Arts Centre, Canterbury Museum, Victoria Square and the famous Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The revitalised shopping precinct and a flurry of buzzing bars & restaurants such as Strangers Lane.

#### **Terrace Downs Resort, Canterbury**

Perched on the edge of the spectacular Rakaia River boasting stunning views up to Mt Hutt, Terrace Downs offers a year-round NZ resort experience within an easy hour's drive of Christchurch International Airport. Winner of the 2010 World Travel Awards as NZ's leading golf resort, Terrace Downs caters to guests of all ages and offers two on-site dining options and a wide selection of leisure and adventure activities to choose from, activities include, but are not limited to, an 18-hole championship golf course, spa treatments, jet boating, horse treks, walking trails, mountain biking, clay pigeon shooting and archery through to salmon and trout fishing off the resort's beautiful river shores.

At Terrace Downs you can do as much as you want or as little as you want. The ever-changing landscape acts as the perfect playground for everyone and makes for an exciting and memorable day trip in to Canterbury's High Country; an all-seasons leisure retreat.

#### **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown**

Welcome to Crowne Plaza Queenstown where you will find yourself re-connecting with the powerful landscapes and views from our hotel, while also experiencing the pleasure of being in the heart of town. Regardless of the season, Queenstown has always been known as the adventure capital of the world - be it outdoor sports or indoor activities, you'll never run out of things to do. And what better way to experience them all by being in close proximity to them, just opposite the historic Steamer Wharf and Queenstown's premium lakeside eating, drinking and entertainment destination. At Crowne Plaza Queenstown hotel, our 139 hotel rooms have been designed to make the most of the beautiful scenery surrounding the hotel.

# **Christchurch & Canterbury**

Canterbury stretches from ocean to the Alps, a land of plains and peaks. It is a place of variety and innumerable attractions where, within two hours of an international airport, you can ski, play golf, bungy jump, go white-water rafting, mountain biking, wind surfing, whale watching, and visit world-class vineyards and gardens. Where else in the world can you do that?

A must-see is New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook. Go hiking in Arthur's Pass National Park or just wander around the picturesque bays and villages of Banks Peninsula. And then there's New Zealand's second-largest city, Christchurch known as 'The Garden City'. In February 2011, Christchurch was hit by a huge earthquake. Much of the central city with its classic neo-gothic architecture was destroyed. But it remains a beautiful city, a city where you can cycle alongside the river, stay in good hotels and indulge in fine sophisticated dining, and a city where, just 15 minutes from the centre you can scramble up mountain bike tracks or ride a wave at a surf beach. The buildings may have been damaged but the soul of the city and the welcoming spirit of the people remains very much intact. Don't miss visiting Christchurch.

#### **Christchurch Highlights:**

- Take a day trip to Kaikoura and go whale watching.
- Visit the seaside village of Akaroa and take a cruise on the harbour.
- Punt on the Avon River.
- Take a walk in the Botanic Gardens.
- Visit the Antarctic Centre.

# Queenstown

Queenstown is the New Zealand destination for international visitors. Its natural beauty changes with the seasons, the lake gleams in the summer sun, and snow clad mountains tower above the township in winter. Queenstown is a great place to visit all year round. Nestled in beside the mysterious Lake Wakatipu, in the Southern Lakes district of New Zealand, Queenstown is a cosmopolitan haven, offering a limitless adventure, southern wine and cuisine, and breath-taking alpine scenery.

#### **Queenstown Highlights**:

- Take the gondola to the Bobs Peak and enjoy panoramic views of the region.
- Tour the Central Otago wineries where Pinot Noir is a speciality.
- Visit Arrowtown, a quaint village with a gold mining history.
- Partake in one of the several adrenalin adventures including bungee jumping, white water rafting, skydiving or jet boating.
- Trust the chef at Amisfield Winery.
- Take a scenic flight to Milford Sound or a nature cruise on Doubtful Sound.
- Visit Walter Peak Farm via the TSS Earnslaw.

#### **Play Golf New Zealand**

In the summer of 2003, a passion for golf and travel prompted Will Owen to buy a small minibus and begin offering a daily golf service for visitors to Christchurch, New Zealand under the company name of Playing Around New Zealand Ltd. Through hotel and online marketing this service became popular and he expanded the tours to include other destinations on the South Island. In 2004, he conducted his first multi-day tour for a golf group from Australia along with several self-drive itineraries for visiting golfers from across the globe. By the summer of 2005, Plaving Around New Zealand was firmly established and Will began employing the services of first-class guides to assist him in making his tour service truly nationwide. Fast forward to 2020 and following a rebranding and a name change to Play Golf New Zealand, thousands of golfers from across the world have enjoyed the first-class itinerary planning and tour services from the team, lifelong friendships have been formed and several visitors have returned to New Zealand for their second, third and even fourth golf trip! Will now leads a small team of dedicated professionals from his Auckland office. During the past fifteen years, they have built superb relationships with the best New Zealand golf courses and accommodation providers to ensure that golf visitors who use their services have the best possible travel experience. The company also owns several Mercedes vehicles that are exclusively available for self-drive and guided golf tours. As members of Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) and the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) you are assured of the highest standards of service and integrity. The team were also the proud recipients of the World Golf Awards "Best New Zealand Inbound Golf Tour Operator" in 2015, 2017 and 2018. You can also read reviews on TripAdvisor at https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/Attraction Review-g255106-d5111714-Reviews-Playing Around New Zealand-Auckland North Island.html