Great Southern Steam Train Tour

• SOUTH ISLAND RAIL TOUR •

DEPARTING INVERCARGILL 30 APRIL - 6 MAY 2021

7-DAY TOUR OPTION

Experience the adventure, the nostalgia, the romance of Steam Train travel.

Pounamu Tourism Group invites you to take a step back in time to a bygone era for an epic steam train journey exploring the majestic South Island of Aotearoa.

GREAT SOUTHERN STEAM TRAIN TOUR

Journey with us in the deep south of New Zealand and experience the postcard perfect vistas and dramatic alpine scenery that this part of the world is renowned for. You will start your journey departing Invercargill on the star of the show, the historic WW1 memorial steam locomotive Ab608 Passchendaele, (named in honour of our fallen soldiers at The Battle of Passchendaele in 1917). Travel the entire length of the South Island visiting Dunedin, Oamaru, Christchurch and Kaikoura in steam-hauled, in the comfort of vintage carriages. Tour ends in Wellington.

TOUR OPTIONS

TOUR OPTION 3:
13-DAY TOUR Departing Christchurch *from* 24 April – 6 May 2021

TOUR OPTION 4:
7-DAY TOUR Departing Invercargill to Wellington *from* 30 April – 6 May 2021

CONTENTS

7-DAY TOUR

DEPARTING INVERCARGILL

DAY 1
Invarcargill – Dunedin
page 6

DAY 2
Dunedin
page 6

DAY 3
Dunedin – Oamaru
page 7

DAY 4
Oamaru – Christchurch
page 7

DAY 5
Christchurch – Kaikoura
page 8

DAY 6
Kaikoura – Blenheim
page 8

DAY 7
Blenheim – Wellington
page 9

7-DAY TOUR DEPARTING INVERCARGILL
30 APRIL - 6 MAY 2021

7-DAY TOUR DEPARTING INVERCARGILL

30 APRIL - 6 MAY 2021

Your journey begins with a Meet and Greet at Invercargill Railway Station and we introduce you to the star of the tour, the historic WW1 memorial steam locomotive Ab608 Passchendaele, (named in honour of our fallen soldiers at The Battle of Passchendaele in 1917) - the Marlborough Flyer steam train as she is more recently known.

The tour is escorted by a fleet of luxury coaches that provide seamless transfers from the train to your accommodation each evening. Departing Invercargill, we traverse the Southern Scenic Route northwards to Dunedin where we will explore OCHO Chocolate Factory tour and enjoy high tea at Larnach Castle. The following day, we visit Moeraki Boulders and then onwards to Oamaru, where we seek out unique places of interest such as the Blue Penguin Colony and Whitestone Cheese Factory.

Arriving in Christchurch, we interlude to explore the beautiful French historical township of Akaroa and the harbour by steam tugboat or a historical tram tour of "the garden city".

Onwards to spectacular Kaikoura, home of resident whales, where the great mountains of the Southern Alps rise from the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Our last night is spent in the famous Marlborough wine region boasting over 100 vineyards.

The final day and the port town of Picton awaits with one of the most scenic picturesque ferry crossings in the world across the Cook Strait, then weaving our way through Queen Charlotte Sound to the harbour city of Wellington - the journey of a lifetime.

7-DAY TOUR DEPARTING INVERCARGILL
30 APRIL – 6 MAY 2021

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY	HOTEL	MODE
1	Fri 30 April	**INVERCARGILL - DUNEDIN** Meet & Greet at Invercargill Railway Station	Scenic Hotel Southern Cross	Steam Train
2	Sat 1 May	**DUNEDIN** OCHO Chocolate Factory Tour High Tea & Garden Tour at Larnach Castle	Scenic Hotel Southern Cross	Coach
3	Sun 2 May	**DUNEDIN - OAMARU** Moeraki Boulders on way to Oamaru Blue Penguin viewing in Oamaru Whitestone Cheese Tour	Brydone Hotel or North Star	Steam Train
4	Mon 3 May	**OAMARU - CHRISTCHURCH** Akaroa Harbour nature cruise OR Steam Tug Boat OR City & Tram Tour	Distinction Hotel Christchurch	Steam Train / Coach / Steam Ship
5	Tue 4 May	**CHRISTCHURCH - KAIKOURA** Seal Colony Walk Whale Watching, Dolphins, Scenic flights (optional)	The White Morph Hotel and equivalent	Steam Train
6	Wed 5 May	**KAIKOURA - KEKERENGU - BLENHEIM** Lunch at Kekerengu "The Store" Yealands Estate vineyard tour The Wine Station	Scenic Hotel Marlborough	Steam Train
7	Thu 6 May	**BLENHEIM - PICTON - WELLINGTON** Coach to Picton Afternoon Interislander Ferry to Wellington Tour ends		Coach / Ferry

DAY 1 Friday 30th April 2021

Invercargill – Dunedin

Your journey begins with a Meet and Greet at Invercargill Railway Station and we introduce you to the star of the tour, the historic WW1 memorial steam locomotive Ab608 Passchendaele, (named in honour of our fallen soldiers at The Battle of Passchendaele in 1917) - the Marlborough Flyer steam train as she is more recently known.

Departing Invercargill, we traverse the Southern Scenic Route travelling past the edge of the Blue Mountains to the town of Gore, and then northwards to Dunedin.

The tour is escorted by a fleet of luxury coaches that provide seamless transfers from the train to your accommodation each evening.

Passengers will stay at Scenic Hotel Southern Cross which is Dunedin's most established hotel, nestled in the heart of the city.

DAY 2 Saturday 1st May 2021

Dunedin

The morning starts with a guided tour and tasting at the new OCHO craft chocolate factory where they turn cacao into chocolate bars. OCHO moved into the new premises in January 2019 and are eager to share the OCHO experience with chocolate lovers with every part of their production process on display.

We will then coach to historic Larnach Castle, is one of New Zealand's premier visitor attractions, which is situated on the picturesque Otago Peninsula. Lovingly restored by the Barker Family, the Castle and surrounding grounds are at the heart of the Dunedin visitor experience. Passengers arrive in time for refreshing high tea in the Ballroom Café followed by a guided garden tour.

Passengers will stay at Scenic Hotel Southern Cross which is Dunedin's most established hotel, nestled in the heart of the city.

DAY 3 Sunday, 2nd May 2021

Dunedin – Oamaru

It is "all aboard" and onward North towards Oamaru. We call in to Moeraki Boulders, a group of large spherical "stones" on Koekohe Beach near Moeraki on the Otago coast. These boulders are actually concretions that have been exposed through shoreline erosion from coastal cliffs. The boulders are one of the most fascinating and popular attractions on the South Island.

We arrive in one of New Zealand's many towns of character, Oamaru. Gourmet cheese is then on the menu as we explore the Whitestone Cheese Factory, home of some of the world's finest cheeses and you'll be treated on a guided tour which includes a cheese and wine pairing.

The Blue Penguin Colony in Oamaru is similarly not to be outdone, has specially designed nesting boxes for your convenience as well as stadium grandstand seating for your viewing pleasure, to see the penguins arrive home in the evening.

Passengers will stay at Brydone Hotel – "fine accommodation and libations since 1881"- or the North Star.

DAY 4 Monday 3rd May 2021

Oamaru – Christchurch

The morning departure from Oamaru is by steam train as we set out further towards Timaru where we stop for lunch.

Afternoon options on arrival in Christchurch include exploring the harbour on the historical steam tugboat (Tug Lyttelton Est. 1907)or a historical tram tour of "the garden city".

Passengers will stay at the luxurious and newly renovated Distinction Hotel in Cathedral Square, located in the heart of Christchurch.

DAY 5 Tuesday, 4th May 2021

Christchurch – Kaikoura

Our destination is Kaikoura, home of resident whales, where the guardians of the seas – the mountains of the Southern Alps – rise majestically from the deep trenches of the Pacific Ocean. Several different species of whale can be seen off the coast of Kaikoura at different times of the year, and most of the time, the huge resident Sperm Whales can be sighted. The ocean trench just off the coast means sperm whales are often seen close to shore. There will be a leisurely Seal Colony Walk followed by optional excursions for whale, dolphin and seal watching (by boat or plane).

Passengers will stay at The White Morph Hotel (or equivalent), taking in spectacular views of the Kaikoura Esplanade.

DAY 6 Wednesday 5th May 2021

Kaikoura – Blenheim

We continue to take in the spectacular coastal journey as we depart Kaikoura. We steam ahead for Kekerengu where we disembark for lunch overlooking the Pacific Ocean at "The Store". We also enjoy a garden tour at the beautifully manicured Winterhome formal garden. Boarding again, we stop at Seddon and disembark for a wine tour at the award winning, Yealands Estate. Then it is "all aboard" and onward North via the Dashwood Pass and Awatere Valley into Blenheim – the famous Marlborough wine region boasting over 100 vineyards. A farewell reception is appropriately held at The Wine Station where guests can taste from a selection of 80 of the region's finest wines and craft beers, barista coffee and gourmet platters of local produce.

Passengers will stay at Scenic Hotel Marlborough, a modern and stylish property located in the heart of Marlborough's wine country town of Blenheim.

DAY 7 Thursday 6th May 2021

Blenheim – Wellington

On the final day of the tour, we coach from Blenheim to Picton, where one of the most picturesque ferry crossings in the world awaits. We cruise across the Cook Strait then weave our way through Queen Charlotte Sound to the harbour city of Wellington.

Tour ends in Wellington.

INCLUSIONS: For your convenience the following has all been included in your tour price.

ACCOMMODATION

We have selected minimum 4-star standard accommodation for The Great Southern Steam Train Tour in order to ensure the comfort and quality of your experience for this journey of a lifetime.

LUXURY COACHES & TOUR OPTIONS

The fleet of luxury coaches will escort the train throughout the journey, providing seamless transfers to your accommodation and excursions. You will be accompanied by experienced Tour Captains who are there to guide and assist you throughout your journey.

PREPAID ATTRACTIONS (INCLUDED)

- OCHO Chocolate Factory Tour
- High Tea & Garden Tour at Larnach Castle
- Moeraki Boulders
- Whitestone Cheese Tour
- Blue Penguin viewing in Oamaru
- Steam Tug Boat OR City & Tram Tour
- Seal Colony Guided Walk in Kaikoura
- Visit to the Store Kekerengu and Winterhome Garden tour
- Yealands Estate winery tour
- Farewell Reception at The Wine Station, Blenheim
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry

INCLUSIONS - MEALS

- 6 cooked breakfasts
- 6 sumptuous dinners including:
  - Farewell Dinner at The Wine Station in Blenheim
  - High Tea at Larnach Castle
  - Lunch at The Store, Kekerengu

EXCLUSIONS:

Flights to and from your points of arrival/departure are not included.

7-DAY TOUR FROM INVERCARGILL

Per Person Sharing $3,450
Single Supplement $300

BOOKINGS

A 10% deposit is required to secure a booking, 40% in December 2020 and the balance in March 2021.

For all bookings and for further information:

www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz
Phone +64 (0) 3 974 1812
E: info@marlboroughflyer.co.nz

www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz