

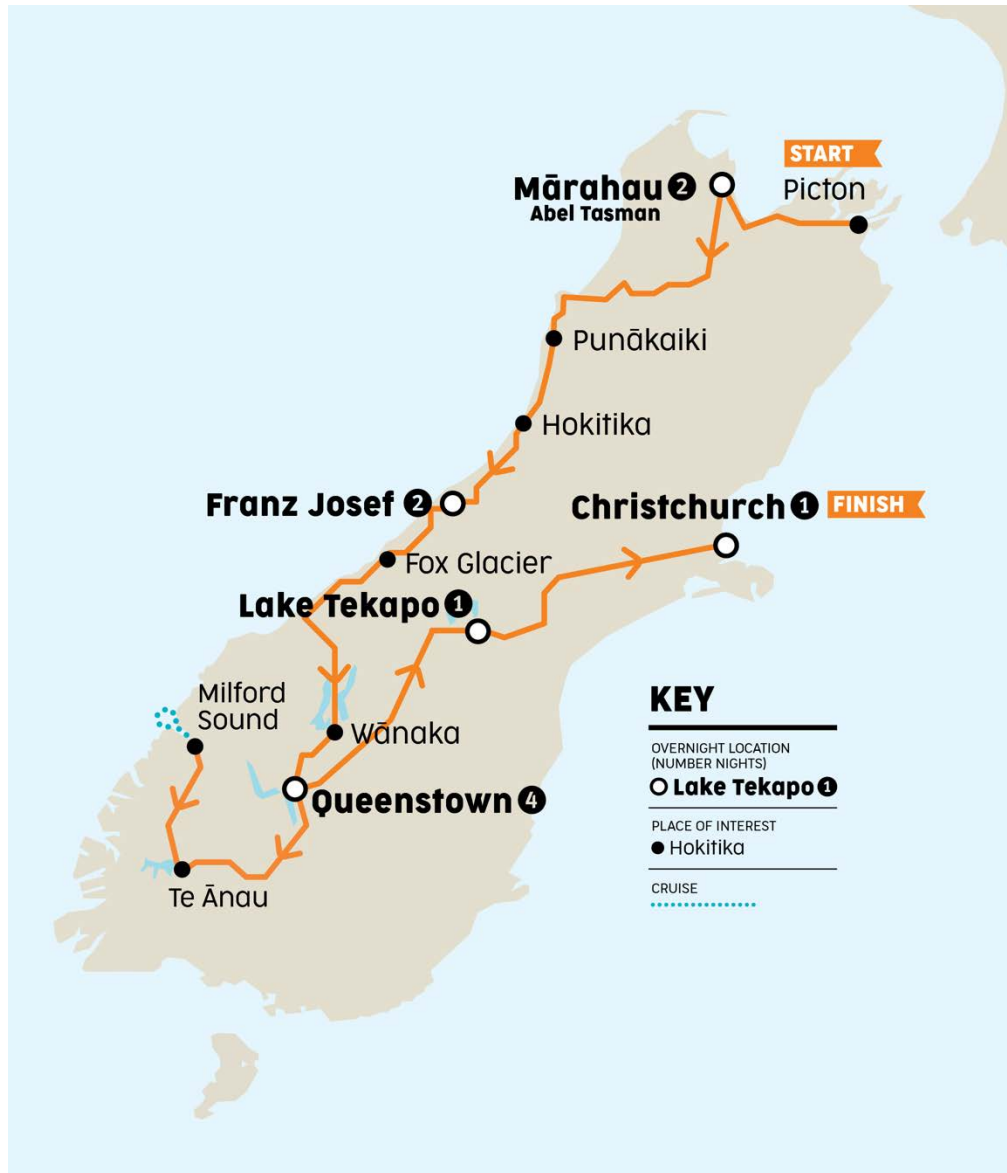


# Weka Adventure 2024/25

## 11 DAY SOUTH ISLAND JOURNEY

**Duration:** 11 days, 10 nights

**Starts/Finishes:** Picton/Christchurch



## Overview

The 11 Day Weka Adventure tour is the best way to explore the South Island. Travel from Picton down the wild west coast on our small group tour, meeting the friendly locals and ticking off those bucket list highlights as you go. Our fully guided Adventure tours include some meals and activities but we leave plenty of room for optional extras so you can make the adventure your own!

## Day 1: Picton to Marahau (Abel Tasman)

Kia ora (hello)! Your Stray Adventure Journey kicks off from the picturesque harbour town, Picton - the Heart of the Marlborough Sounds. We will then set off through the Marlborough Region to Marahau, our accommodation is situated right on the edge of the spectacular Abel Tasman National Park - perfect for exploring arguably the best National Park in NZ.

**Accommodation:** The Barn Marahau

**Optional paid activities:** Wine tasting (\$15pp)

**Meal options:** We'll stop at a supermarket to stock up on supplies - Self-cater or join the optional group dinner

**Free activities:** Stargazing

## Day 2: Marahau (Abel Tasman)

Count yourself lucky because you have a full day to explore New Zealand's most popular national park today. From our accommodation we'll be picked up and taken by water taxi to Anchorage Bay, admiring the park's natural golden sand beaches and brilliant blue waters along the way. Enjoy a picnic on the beach before checking out Cleopatra's Pools, moss lined freshwater pools with a natural water slide and then, we'll walk approximately 4 hours back to our accommodation, stopping along the way to take amazing photos and swim in the secluded bays.

**Accommodation:** The Barn Marahau

**Included activity:** Water taxi into Anchorage Bay

**Optional paid activities:** Kayaking, skydiving, canyoning - (PM)

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Pack a picnic lunch and lots of snacks for your hike, Self-cater in the kitchen or use the BBQs

**Free activities:** Hike in the national park, relax on the golden sand beaches, see Cleopatra's Pools

## Day 3: Marahau (Abel Tasman) to Franz Josef

Buckle up for an awesome day driving down the incredibly scenic 'wild' West Coast, an area known for its untamed beaches and spectacular rainforest. Through Buller Gorge and down a stretch of road named one of the top drives in the world by Lonely Planet, there's not much phone reception but you are NOT going to need it - we dare you to peel your eyes away from the window for even just a second. We'll stop at the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and blowholes to explore this unique part of coastline before continuing on to the quaint township of Franz Josef, set amongst the rainforest. Tonight, we'll have a group dinner together at our accommodation.

**Accommodation:** Rainforest Retreat

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Meal options:** Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

**Free activities:** Buller Gorge, Pancake Rocks and blowholes, Hokitika

## Day 4: Franz Josef

Ice, ice baby! Get ready to experience the Franz Josef Glacier, an iconic highlight of the West Coast. Take a short drive to the beginning of the track. Hike through native bush and across glacial streams to the

terminal face of the glacier for spectacular photos or just hang out at the Retreat and relax in one of NZ's largest spa pools.

**Accommodation:** Rainforest Retreat

**Optional paid activities:** Shuttle to the track

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

**Free activities:** Glacier hike, bush tracks, soak in the spa

## Day 5: Franz Josef to Queenstown

It's another scenic journey today with plenty of photo stops. First up is the amazing Lake Matheson, known as the mirror-lake, for a short walk. We travel inland through the mountainous Haast Pass and alongside beautiful Lake Hawea and into Queenstown. Once settled, put on your dancing shoes and head out to explore this lakeside resort, there are over 100 clubs and bars to choose from in Queenstown!

**Accommodation:** Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

## Day 6 & 7: Queenstown (2 Free Days)

Yaaaasssss Queen(stown)! You've got 3 full days in the adventure capital. With an awesome night life, beautiful mountain scenery and plenty of outdoor activities, it's easy to understand why so many backpackers refuse to leave this place.

**Accommodation:** Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

**Optional paid activities:** Any adventure activity that we Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jet boating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...)

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

**Free activities:** Hike Ben Lomond, the Queenstown Hill, or Bob's Peak

## Day 8: Milford Sound Day Trip

Today you'll hop aboard the Coach and we'll take you to the stunning and world famous Milford Sound. After a super scenic drive, you'll board the boat and cruise across the Sound. Look out for the impressive Mitre Peak, lush rainforests and (if it's been raining) thundering waterfalls. You'll also have the opportunity to spot lots of amazing wildlife like Fur Seals, Penguins and Dolphins. Once you've snapped as many pics as you possibly can, it's back to Queenstown where you can check out some one of the many restaurants Queenstown has to offer - or try the famous Fergburger!

**Accommodation:** Haka House Queenstown Lakefront

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Included activity:** Day trip to Milford Sound

## Day 9: Queenstown to Lake Tekapo

It's a short drive to Lake Tekapo this morning where we'll see an electric blue lake framed by the Southern alps. Walk over to the famous Church of the Good Shepherd, a quaint stone church right on the edge of the lake for some awesome photo opportunities. In the afternoon, take a hike up to the Mount John Observatory to see the incredible views, or if you'd rather just have a 'self-care' afternoon, then the Tekapo Hot Springs are the perfect place to relax.

Tonight, we'll head to the team at Dark Sky for their Crater Experience where you'll have the chance to stargaze at one of the best stargazing spots in the country.

**Accommodation:** Haka House Lake Tekapo

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Included activity:** Dark Sky Crater Experience

**Optional paid activities:** Tekapo Hot Springs, Ice Skating, Snow tubing

**Meal options:** Self-catering in the hostel kitchen or local bars and restaurants

**Free activities:** Mount John Observatory Hike, Church of the Good Shepherd, stargazing

## Day 10: Lake Tekapo to Christchurch

Our final destination is Christchurch, a super cool city with the Avon River running through it, full of lush parks and cool laneway bars! Spend your afternoon wandering the city streets to discover creative street art and hidden eateries, visit the Botanic Gardens, do some shopping or hop on the tourist tram and see the sights!

**Accommodation:** Bealey Quarter

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Local restaurants or self-cater in the hostel kitchen

**Free activities:** Explore Christchurch by foot, check out the new Riverside Market, Botanic Gardens

## Day 11: Depart Christchurch

Today your adventure comes to an end. Say goodbye to your guide and your new Stray mates, we hope you had a great time and we look forward to adventuring with you again in the future!

**Meal inclusions:** Breakfast

## What's Included:

- Experienced tour guide
- Private coach transport
- 11 days of once in a lifetime experience
- 10 nights' accommodation (dorm-style)
- 10 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner
- Abel Tasman National Park tracks and water taxi
- Trip to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks
- Franz Josef Glacier

- Day trip and Cruise to the Milford Sound
- Stargazing Experience in Lake Tekapo

## What to Bring:

- Camera
- Sturdy walking shoes/boots
- Warm clothing
- Waterproof jacket
- Hat & sunscreen
- Bathers/towel
- Water bottle
- Motion sickness tablets
- Insect repellent

*This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.*