

## HIGH COUNTRY SPECTACULAR

October 7 - 18, 2012 12 days – 11 nights



When we first came up with the plan for this tour we were pretty excited about it as it takes in parts of New Zealand that are some of our favourites. We think we are offering something quite unique and indeed truly spectacular by combining some of the best bits of three of our previous tours. Those of you who know us will know that this is what we really love to do, the breathtaking high country of the South Island and the barren majesty of **Central Otago** with some 'interesting' roads thrown in to add a bit of excitement. This is really a trip of 12 days of highlights but includes Queen Charlotte Sound, tours of Molesworth - The Point - Middle Rock - Peak Hill - Lake

Heron and Glenfalloch Stations, The Hermitage and Mackenzie Country, Cromwell and Central Otago, Naseby and St Bathans, 2 nights Queenstown, Skippers or Macetown, and a cruise across Lake Wakatipu with dinner at Walter Peak Station to finish.

### Day 1 Sunday, October 7 - Wellington

We start our adventure today making our way by coach to Wellington for our first nights stay.

### Day 2 Monday, October 8 - Blenheim

**BD**

An easy day to recover from your overseas travel as we explore the Blenheim and Picton area.

### Day 3 Tuesday October 9 – Hanmer

**BLD**

Today we join a local 4WD operator for a guided tour through scenic Molesworth Station. This trip seems to be on everyone's 'to-do' list and you will certainly not be disappointed. The first 100kms through the grandeur of the Awatere Valley is well worth the trip just on its own. We overnight in Hanmer Springs tonight. Anyone for a hot swim?.

### Day 4 Wednesday October 10 – Methven

**BD**

Back on the bitumen this morning as we head south through Canterbury and past the devastated city of Christchurch to our base for the next 3 nights at Methven.

### Day 5 Thursday October 11 - Methven

**BLD**

This morning we join our local tour guide (one of the station owners) and we spend the day exploring the Lake Coleridge area, Peaks Station with great views of Algidus Station, Middle Rock Station, and The Point Station with its fabulous historic homestead. I could wax lyrical for hours but the next 2 days are obviously going to be a pretty special experience. We will be travelling in our coach or comfortable, customised, 4WD vehicles and the tracks are largely in good condition so this is an experience everyone can enjoy. Lunch will be provided for you during the tours.

### Day 6 Friday October 12 – Methven

**BLD**

We continue our high country explorations today with a 4wd tour into the High Country past Lake Clearwater and through Lake Heron and Glenfalloch Stations and right around Mount Hutt. No I didn't know there was a road around there either!. Last night at Methven.

### Day 7 Saturday, October 13 – The Hermitage Mt Cook

**BD**

A leisurely journey this morning as we make our way down the Inland Scenic Route and over Burkes Pass into the barren MacKenzie Country. Travelling on through Tekapo and around Lake Pukaki we arrive at the incomparable Hermitage Resort at Mt Cook. A nice early arrival will give you plenty of time

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to explore this national treasure and there will also be some time for scenic flights (at your expense) if the weather is kind to us.

## Day 8 Sunday, October 14 – Cromwell

**BD**

Reluctantly we make our way back around the Lake this morning and past the Waitaki Hydro Lakes to our usual roadside morning tea stop in Omarama. Continuing on over the Lindis Pass there will be some time for a little local touring before we stop for the next 2 nights in Cromwell.

## Day 9 Monday, October 15 – Cromwell

**BD**

Today will be a bit of a mystery tour as the exact route will depend on road and weather conditions but I can guarantee a day of exploration around the fabulous rock strewn Central Otago ranges. The old gold settlements at St. Bathans and the national curling centre of Naseby will also be among the many sights.

## Day 10 Tuesday October 16 – Queenstown

**BD**

Another interesting little road this morning as we explore a little way up the Nevis Road before making our way through the mighty Kawerau Gorge to a mystery stop and then lunch in Arrowtown. We then take in the aerial sights of Coronet Peak on our way to Queenstown for our stop for the next 2 nights.

## Day 11 Wednesday October 17 – Queenstown

**BD**

This morning you have the choice of joining either the half day 4WD tour up the somewhat challenging and exciting Skippers Road to the old gold mining town of Skippers which has been restored to its former glory by the Dept. of Conservation. Or you could join the exciting half day 4WD tour up the Arrow River to another old mining town, Macetown. This track crosses the river many times and is a true 4WD adventure. DOC has also done a lot of restoration work in this area. Don't let the adventurous side of these trips put you off going, the vehicles are comfortable and safe and the trips are suitable for ALL age groups. A chance to recover from the morning's excitement this afternoon as we join a cruise across the lake to Walter Peak Station on the 'old lady of the lake' the Earnslaw, for dinner at the Walter Peak Homestead.

## Day 12 Thursday, October 18

**B**

As we make our way out to the airport this morning we can reflect on an exciting journey around the most spectacular landscape in the country.



**All inclusive escorted package**

**TOTAL COST \$3695**

**\$100 deposit on booking, \$1000 by July 7, 2012**

**Balance of \$2595 by August 21, 2012**

**Single Supplement \$650**