



SCOTTSDALE TOURS

SOUTH OF THE SOUTH 2008

Well, what a logistical nightmare this one turned out to be. We had people coming from as far north as Mangonui, as far south as Christchurch and Timaru and all points in between, to meet us at Dunedin. There were people flying in from all over the place on different airlines at different times and even on different days. Susy couldn't get parking at the airport in Auckland so missed her flight but managed to catch up with us later in the day. However, by dinner time on the first night we were all safely ensconced at the dinner table enjoying a sumptuous buffet feast and talking about the days events.



We left Dunedin after a day's sightseeing and headed off down around the Caitlins and the bottom of the south island. The wee penguins looked so cute but what a forlorn sight they are when they are moulting. At one point just out of Invercargill we drove through an horrendous hail storm and wondered if we would lose our windscreen but fortunately it was relatively short lived. The trip to Stewart Island was a pearler, ideal weather conditions for flying both days and the sunset and sunrise photo opportunities were gladly snapped up by our photographers.



The Doubtful Sound trip was also done in ideal conditions and we were able to get right out to the open sea to take even more stunning photographs. Coming home, the reflections on the water were also picture perfect.

The back road to Walter Peak was another stunner. The reflections on the South Mavora Lake were a sight to behold and then the views coming in to Lake Wakatipu just took our breath away.



Queenstown was where our luck ran out for a short time but it only added to the adventure. The bus blew a fan belt in Arrowtown where, luckily, we attracted the attention of a very helpful mechanic who got us up and running to Queenstown where repairs took place during our lunch break. The heavy rain put a dampener on our trip to Glenorchy but the following day made up for all of that when we headed up over the Dunstan mountains.

Many of us on the bus went down at one time or another with a dreadful bout of flu but I think we all forgot our aches and pains when we got to the top of the Dunstan's on our second to last day. The skies were typical Otago clear blue, it was warm and sunny and no wind.

It was absolutely breathtaking. Before we climbed the mountains we stopped at several lovely places along the way and enjoyed lunch in the sun beside the well known St Bathans lakes.



The flights home were uneventful fortunately and we all arrived home safe and sound at a reasonable hour. Once again, a lovely group to have on board, thank you everyone. We hope you are all getting over the flu now.

*Regards to all
Ross & Susy*

