

SOUTH NEW ZEALAND

Otago Region | Southland Region | Canterbury Region | West Coast Region

Flights:

Jetstar NZ flight from Auckland to Dunedin:

- 2 Adult fare NZ\$ 148 (**RM472**). Infant is free.
- Baggage 25 kg NZ\$ 17 (**RM54**)

Air New Zealand flight from Christchurch to Auckland:

- 2 Adult fare NZ\$ 146 (**RM466**). Infant is free.
- Baggage 23 kg NZ\$ 10 (**RM32**)

Total: RM1024

Car Rental:

- Toyota Rav4 with Ezi Car rental for 12 days, £397.54 (**RM2282**)
- Childseat rental NZ\$ 40 (**RM116**)
- Fuel Consumption NZ\$534.48 (**RM1603**) for total KM

Total: RM4001



Introduction

Journey to South Island, NZ start from Dunedin Airport and finish at Christchurch. Total 12 days including travel days. Cost for 2 adult & 1 infant is on the left table. Most of the cost we shared 2 adult coz our little girl's expenses mostly free or little portion. So an average all-in per person was about **RM6.5k**. If you're wondering about the international flight cost from KL to Auckland, we got a cheap airfare from AirAsia per person **RM1080** return tickets and we shared 25 kg baggage cost **RM340** for 3 of us (These cost I put separately in North New Zealand itineraries).

We went to 4 regions and these are the cities we actually done;

Otago Region: Balclutha - Kaka Point - The Catlins Forest Park - Queenstown, Arrowtown & Cromwell - Cadrona, Wanaka & Lindis Pass.

Canterbury Region: Lake Tekapo - Burkess Pass, Fairlie & Geraldine - Ashburton - Hanmer Spring - Kaikoura - Waipara & Waikuku - Christchurch

Southland Region: Bluff - Te Anau - Milford Sound

West Coast Region: Arthur's Pass - Moana - Greymouth - Punakaiki - Westport - Victoria Forest Park

Accommodation:

- **The Catlins:** Mike & Jenny's Kaka Point accommodation NZ\$100 (**RM291**) for 1 night
- **Te Anau:** Te Anau Top 10 Holiday Park **RM446** for 1 night
- **Queenstown:** Manata Lodge Luxury Serviced Apartment **RM934** for 2 nights
- **Mt Cook:** Mt Cook Lodge & Motel NZ\$138 (**RM402**) for 1 night
- **Lake Tekapo:** Lake Tekapo Holiday Homes NZ\$194 (**RM562**) for 1 night
- **Ashburton:** Staveley Heights B&B NZ\$155 (**RM450**) for 1 night
- **West Coast:** Te Nikau Retreat Punakaiki NZ\$85 (**RM247**) for 1 night
- **Hanmer Spring:** Greenacres Alpine Chalets & Villas NZ\$122 (**RM352**) for 1 night
- **Hawarden:** Bentleys Country Stay NZ\$140 (**RM406**) for 1 night
- **Christchurch:** At The Right Place NZ\$129 (**RM374**) for 1 night

Total: RM4464

We get enough daylight time since we went in November, average per day was about 15 hours. To be precise, at 6am in the morning the sun already up and about 9pm the sun is setting. About weather, it can be hot during the day and a little bit cold at night time. Bring your warm jacket is must, you'll need it when you go out at night.



Day 1 - 15 November 2017

Sunrise: 05:58 ↑ (118°) Sunset: 20:53 ↑ (242°)

Destination: Dunedin - Balclutha - Kaka Point - The Nugget Point Lighthouse.

Earlier, we flew with Jetstar from Auckland to Dunedin at 1:55pm.

03:45pm: Arrive Dunedin Airport, then we quickly walk to Ezi Car rental counter just outside of the arrival hall.

04:30pm: Pick up car rental with Ezi Car rental. We rented Toyota Rav4 for 12 days. Start driving to Balclutha town.

05:40pm: Sightseeing at the Balclutha bridge and had takeaway subway sandwich. After that continue drive to Kaka Point for about 20 km.

07:00pm: Checked in to our guesthouse's room, Mike & Jenny's Accommodation Kaka Point. Then continue drive to The Nugget Point lighthouse for about 10 km.

07:40pm: Start walk from carpark to the lighthouse. We arrived after half hour (30min) walk. We catch sunset here at The Nugget Point Lighthouse. This Department of Conservation Wildlife Reserve at Nugget Point has dramatic views of "The Nuggets." These wave-eroded rocks, which are likened to the shape of gold nuggets, can be seen from the viewing platform at the Nugget Point Lighthouse. The

Other Expenses:

- Meals: NZ\$655.55
(RM1966.65)
- Misc: NZ\$309.5 **(RM928.5)**.
This cost is for shopping,
souvenir & cigarettes.

Total: RM2895

Tour & Entrances:

- Cathedral Caves: NZ\$10 for
2 adult, Infant is free.
- Milford Sound Cruise:
NZ\$100 for 2 adult, Infant is
free.
- Skyline Gondola
Queenstown: NZ\$70 for 2
adult, Infant is free.
- The Point Sheep Show:
NZ\$24 for 2 adult, Infant is
NZ\$5.

Total: NZ\$209 (RM608)

**Total cost for 2
adult + 1 infant in
12 days:**

RM12,992.

lighthouse was built in 1869-70, is 9.5 meter high and situated 76 meter above sea level.

09:00pm: We drive to Roaring Bay to checkout some penguins. Roaring Bay, which is on the road to Nugget Point, is only a short walk (15 minutes one way) from the car park to a bird-viewing hide. We only saw 1 penguin from far. There's an observatory room for us to observe the penguin.

09:30pm: Drive back to guesthouse, freshen up and prepare dinner. Eat, Rest & sleep.

Day 2 - 16 November 2017 - Total 543 km

Sunrise: 05:57 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:54 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Purakaunui Falls - Florence Hill Lookout - Bluff - Stirling Point - Cathedral Caves - Te Anau

09:00am: Heading to Owaka for breakfast. Since the cafe here offered very high price, we decided to buy some bread and milk at FourSquare supermarket.

10:15am: Arrived Purakaunui Falls car park. 10 minutes walk from carpark to the waterfall. Here, we spent about more than 1 hour.

The Purakaunui Falls is one of Otago's iconic, most-photographed sights. The track through mature beech forest, is suitable for anyone to the top viewing platform. From there the track descends to give the view of the three-tiered falls that's often seen on calendars and postcards.

Facilities such as carpark, toilets and picnic area are available on site.



11:30am: Heading to Florence Hill Lookout for 20 minute drive.

12:30pm: Arrived at the outer entrance of Cathedral Caves, but Unfortunately, opening hour (low tide time) is at 6pm. Since the low tide time is late evening, we put this on our last visit of the day. Then we decided to come back later at 6pm. We continue drive to Bluff.

02:00pm: Arrived The Stirling Point near Bluff. Very unfortunate too when the bluff oyster isn't in season.

03:00pm: Late lunch at local Chinese restaurant in Bluff town. We did take away some food for dinner later.

04:00pm: We drive back to Cathedral Caves. We planned to go Curio Bay using the coastal route which is unsealed road for 10 km starting from Haldane. Another unfortunate event, we were almost reach to Curio Bay but the road was closed. So, we turned back and continue straight to Cathedral Caves.

06:30pm: We reached at the car park. After paying the entrance fee of NZ\$ 10 for 2 adult, we quickly walk to the caves. Bush walk to beach is 15 minutes (one-way). Along beach to cave is 10 minutes (one-way). Always check low tide time before the visit. Visiting hour is strictly 2 - 3 hour only. Click [here](#) to check the time.

Cathedral Caves are a highlight for visitors to The Catlins. Located in cliffs at the northern end of pristine Waipati Beach, they have attracted international interest for their length – the two sea-formed passages together measure just on 200 metres – and their impressive height, up to 30 metres.

08:45pm: We start to tracked back to the carpark. This time, I feel a little bit harder to climb up to the cliff. Ascending is lot more tiring than a descending.

09:30pm: Continue driving to Te Anau, about 251 km, thats mean it was about 3 hours driving time.

01:00am: Arrived at Te Anau Top 10 Holiday Park. The hotel reception was closed but we already informed them that we are late, so he left the note sticked on the reception's door and the key was in the room. Good job!

Day 3 - 17 November 2017 - Total 404 km

Sunrise: 06:06 ↑ (118°) Sunset: 21:01 ↑ (241°)

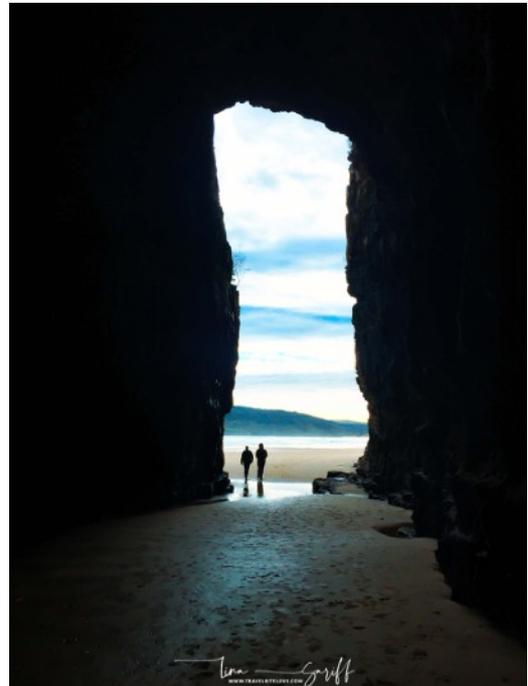


Destination: Mirror Lake - Milford Sound Cruise - Lake Gunn - Te Anau - Queenstown

06:45am: Wake up early and enjoy the Lake Te Anau with my little girl

07:30am: Prepare own breakfast

09:30am: Checkout from the lodge and we drive up to Milford Sound. We made few stop for taking picture, such as Knobs Flat, Mirror Lake and roadsides.



12:00pm: Finally arrive Milford Sound. We took Milford Sound Cruise NZ\$50 pp. We booked best deal 12:30pm cruise time with Go Orange! But when we arrived at the jetty, they were not sailing today. They put us at Real Journey Cruise. What a wonderful opportunity they upgraded us to Real Journey Scenic Cruise (normal price NZD76 pp). Cruise duration was 2 hour and we get free picnic lunch box.

02:30pm: Cruise finished. We continue drive and make few stop along the journey. There are plenty of viewing point and scenery not to be missed.



04:20pm: We stop at Lake Gunn. A small lake between Lake Te Anau and Milford Sound, it lies close to the New Zealand State Highway 94 (the Milford Sound Road) and the Divide of the Southern Alps.

04:55pm: Stop at Mackay creek doc campground for taking pictures of lupins.

07:00pm: Arrive Te Anau and had dinner. After that, we continue drive to Queenstown, distance about 168 km - 2 hours driving time.

11:00pm: Arrived at our lodging in Queenstown., Manata Lodge for 2 nights stay

Day 4 - 18 November 2017 - Total 158.7 km

Sunrise: 06:03 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:57 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Lake Hayes - Arrowtown - Queenstown - Kawarau Gorge - Cromwell

09:00am: Do some laundry and had self-prepared breakfast.

12:00pm: Visit Lake Hayes

12:40pm: Visit Arrowtown. Arrowtown is charming and quirky - a delightful gold rush village nestled below the beautiful peaks that surround the sparkling Arrow River. You'll be enchanted by Historic Arrowtown, a New Zealand treasure.

01:30pm: Visit Shotover Jet viewing point.

02:30pm: Lunch at Queenstown, Erik's Fish & Chips

04:00pm: Visit Kawarau Gorge suspended bridge

04:45pm: Visit Pillars of the king

05:30pm: Visit Jones Family Fruits stall in Cromwell for Tea & Ice cream. Enjoy their roses garden just beside the shop. After that, we drive back to our house for shower.

08:00pm: Take Queenstown Skyline Gondola ride. Return tickets for gondola ride was NZD35 pp, infant is free. We aimed for sunset and night view of Queenstown skyline. We had drink at the **Stratosfare Skyline** restaurant while enjoying the sunset.

10:00pm: We descending and look for late dinner at Queenstown. Takeaway dinner, Fergburger Queenstown

Day 5 - 19 November 2017 - Total 273 km

Sunrise: 06:02 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:59 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Arrow Junction - Cadrona - Wanaka - Lindis Pass - Ahuriri - Twizel - Mt Cook/Aoraki

08:00am: Wake up, packing and prepare breakfast.

11:17am: Visit Arrow Junction Lookout Point

12:00pm: Visit Cardrona Bra Fence

01:00pm: Visit The Wanaka Lonely tree, then had lunch at Snack Shack Turkish Kebabs in Wanaka Town.

03:30pm: Visit Wanaka Lavender Farm. Not full bloom yet, recommended to visit early December.

04:50pm: Visit Lindis Pass Lookout Point. Great quick stop to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

05:45pm: Visit Ahurihi Campsite Bridge in Omarama for Lupins hunting. The best Lupin experience, must spend your time here instead in overrated place at Lake Tekapo.

08:00pm: Had dinner at Ministry of Works Bar & Eatery Twizel town, then continue driving to Mt Cook.

10:00pm: We arrived at our hotel in Mt Cook, Mt Cook Lodge & Motel. Checked-in, rest & Sleep.



Day 6 - 20 November 2017 - Total 109 km

Sunrise: 06:00 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:50 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Mt Cook/Aoraki - Hooker Lake - Tasman Lake - Lake Pukaki - Tekapo

Today's activities are trekking at Hooker Valley to Hooker Lake and Hiking up to Tasman Lake.

08:15am: Woke up & prepare breakfast. We checked out from the lodging at 10:30am.

11:00am: We start trekking at Hooker Valley.

01:00pm: Finally we reached to Hooker Lake after 2 hour trekking with few stops.

02:00pm: We trekked back to carpark. Then drive to Tasman Lake parking area.

04:30pm: I climbed up to Tasman Lake alone since my husband & my little girl are tired. Only take about 15 minutes to reach to the top but going down is more challenging, take about 30 minutes to reach to the ground.

06:25pm: Visit Lake Pukaki, then drive to Lake Tekapo.

07:15pm: Checked in to Lake Tekapo Holiday homes.

08:30pm: Visit Tekapo town and do some shopping grocery, ready-cook dinner and snacks at Four Square supermarket.

09:00pm: Had dinner at home and rest.

12:00am: We went out for Stargazing at The Church of the Good Shepherd. Back to the house around 04:30am and Sleep.

Day 7 - 21 November 2017 - Total 201 km

Sunrise: 05:56 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:51 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Burkes Pass - Fairlie - Geraldine - Staveley - Methven

08:00am: Early morning prepare own breakfast.

10:30am: Checkout from the house and went to visit The Church of the Good Shepherd and Lake Tekapo.

12:30pm: Visit Farm Barn Cafe near Fairlie town for tea & snacks. We spent time feed the sheeps.

02:00pm: Stop at Geraldine town, do some shopping & late lunch at Verde Cafe Deli.

05:00pm: We arrived to our B&B at Staveley in late afternoon. Distance from Geraldine is about 60 km (45 minutes). The host welcomed us at the front door once we reached to their place. The place called Staveley Heights Bed & Breakfast. We have very nice room facing the farm. This is one of the finest B&B's we have ever stayed, the couple who run this place keep it the place very comfortable and clean. Location, views and the measure of comfort is of the highest quality. Unfortunately we only had the one night. Could have easily stayed longer!

08:00pm: We drive to nearest town, Methven and had dinner at Thai Chili. Nothing to do at night here in Ashburton, so we spent more time eating dinner and had chat with the owner restaurant and some other patrons there until the restaurant close.

10:00pm: Back to the B&B, rest & sleep.



Day 8 - 22 November 2017 - Total 406 km

Sunrise: 05:51 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:47 ↑ (240°)

Destination: Lake Clearwater - Rakaia Gorge - Darfield - Castle Hill - Lake Pearson - Arthur's Pass - Greymouth



06:00am: Woke up and drive to Lake Clearwater. Journey approximately 45 km from my B&B. The journey consists 10 km gravel road to reach the lake. The journey somehow was fun and we stunned once arrived at the lake.

07:00am: We arrived at Lake Clearwater, spent about an hour here.

09:00am: Back to B&B and had breakfast.

10:30am: Packing & leave the B&B and continue drive to Rakaia Gorge.

11:15am: Stop at Rakaia Gorge for some pictures.

12:00pm: Arrived Darfield town, filling up petrol and takeaway lunch and snacks at FourSquare supermarket.

1:45pm: Visit Castle Hill after drive about 40 minutes away from Darfield. The grand limestone rock battlements of Kura Tawhiti led early European travellers to name this unique area Castle Hill. The area is rich in Maori history.

04:00pm: Visit Lake Pearson

05:00pm: Visit Otira Viaduct Lookout, Arthur's pass national park.

07:00pm: Visit Greymouth. Shopping at The Warehouse Greymouth and had dinner at KFC.

10:00pm: Finally reached at our accommodation at Punakaiki. Rest & sleep.

Day 9 - 23 November 2017 - Total 298 km

Sunrise: 05:57 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:44 ↑ (241°)



Destination: Punakaiki - Fox River - Charleston - Westport - Victoria Forest Park - Hanmer Spring

08:00am: Prepare breakfast.

10:30am: Visit Pancake Rocks & Blowholes at Punakaiki. This is an all weather walk around the famous Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Looking like giant pancakes the curious limestone formations are especially spectacular at high tide in a westerly sea. The blowholes are at their best around high tide when there is a westerly swell.

11:45am: Done visiting Punakaiki, we had our packed lunch then we continue drive up to the north.

12:15pm: Visit Woodpecker Bay, Fox river.

01:00pm: Visit Charleston beachside. Charleston is a village in the South Island of New Zealand located 30 km south of Westport.

03:00pm: Visit Tauranga Bay Seal Colony. Walk from Tauranga Bay carpark to Tauranga Bay Seal Colony viewpoint (30 min return) overlooking the New Zealand fur seal/kekeno breeding colony. Kekenos can be seen here all year round, numbers changing depending on the season. The busiest time of year is the breeding season from November to January. There are picnic facilities, interpretive displays and public toilets here.

04:15pm: Visit Cape Foulwind lighthouse. Walk from the carpark to Lighthouse (15 min return).

04:45pm: Had takeaway Subway sandwiches in Westport town.

06:00pm: Filling up petrol at Reefton town.

07:00pm: Stop at Maruia River along after the Victoria Forest Park, stop at Poplars Range near Lewis Pass when we encountered a rainbow then take a few shots along the highway before we turn to Hammer Spring Junction.

09:00pm: Finally we arrived Hanmer Spring town, we check-in to our lodging at Hanmer Spring. Its a chalet located at the end of town. Quiet area but safe.

10:00pm: Went out for supper & drinks at O'flynns Bar, luckily this one is open until midnight. After that back to our chalet and rest.

03:00am: Went out for Stargazing. Back to chalet after 2 hours later.

Day 10 - 24 November 2017 - Total 286 km

Sunrise: 05:50 ↑ (119°) Sunset: 20:41 ↑ (241°)

Destination: Hanmer Spring - Kaikoura - Hawarden



10:00am: Checked-out from the chalet. Walk around Hanmer Spring town and had breakfast at local cafe. I met a Malaysian lady who is on WHV.

11:30am: We start our long journey to Kaikoura town. There are a number of ways to get to Kaikoura from Hanmer Springs. The most scenic route is via the Inland Road which takes you past the entrance to the ski village of Mount Lyford, or you can take the Leader Road. The Leader Road incorporates coastal and rural farming views which start from the Waiiau Township.

02:10pm: Finally we reached Kaikoura after 2 hours drive and several stops. Kaikoura is a base for wildlife

experiences of all kinds – it's also a great place to eat crayfish/lobster. So, our first stop was **World famous Seafood BBQ**. Here, we ordered half of crayfish for NZ\$ 52.

03:45pm: Join The Point Sheep Shearing show at 4pm. Ticket price adult was NZ\$12 and children was NZ\$5. Such a great experience for us to watch the sheep shearing and feeding milk to the lamb.

04:30pm: Visit **Peninsula Seal Colony & Walkway** near the Point Kean Viewpoint. Seals laze around on the rocks lapping up all the attention. Give them a wide berth (10 m), and never get between them and the sea – they will attack if they feel cornered and can move surprisingly fast. Since the uplift of the coastline during the 2016 earthquake, the seals have moved further from the road and car park, so keep a close eye on tides. The best moment I ever had here I can watch seals very close.

08:00pm: After 2 hours drive, we reached to **Bentleys Country Stay** in Hawarden town. Very nice farm country stay. We prepared our own dinner and we had a hot bath at Jacuzzi provided by the host. Rest and sleep.

Day 11 - 25 November 2017 - Total 109 km

Sunrise: 05:46 ↑ (120°) Sunset: 20:46 ↑ (240°)

Destination: Glenmark Station - Waipara - Waikuku - Christchurch



10:00am: Checked out from the house and heading to Waipara. We made few stop along the journey for some taking pictures.

10:45am: Visit Glenmark Station

11:15am: Visit Waipara Hills Winery for lunch. Then we visit the winery just beside the restaurant building. Farmland, vineyards and olive groves characterise the Waipara region, which is known for its wine and food – an excellent place to pause for refreshment.

01:00pm: Visit Lavender Fields at Waikuku Town

03:00pm: Finally we reached Christchurch. We stay at "At the right place" motel located at Bealey Ave. After quick bath, we straight going to the city and visit Christchurch Cathedral Square, New Regent Street, Cashel Street for shopping, Antigua Boatsheds and Christchurch Botanic Garden.

08:30pm: Had dinner then back to hotel, rest & sleep.

Day 12 - 26 November 2017 - Total 16 km

Last day in Christchurch, we visit some shopping outlet such as Glassons ANZ Centre - City Mall and H&M at Cashel Street before heading to airport.

12:00noon: Arrived airport and returned car rental and proceed to Air New Zealand counter. Here, Air NZ counter is self-service from check-in, printing boarding passes and tag bag until drop bag.

02:00pm: Depart to Auckland.

03:20pm: Arrive and South NZ trip end. Our next flight back to KL with Air Asia was at 08:20pm at night, which we have plenty of time and not rush.

Trip End.