

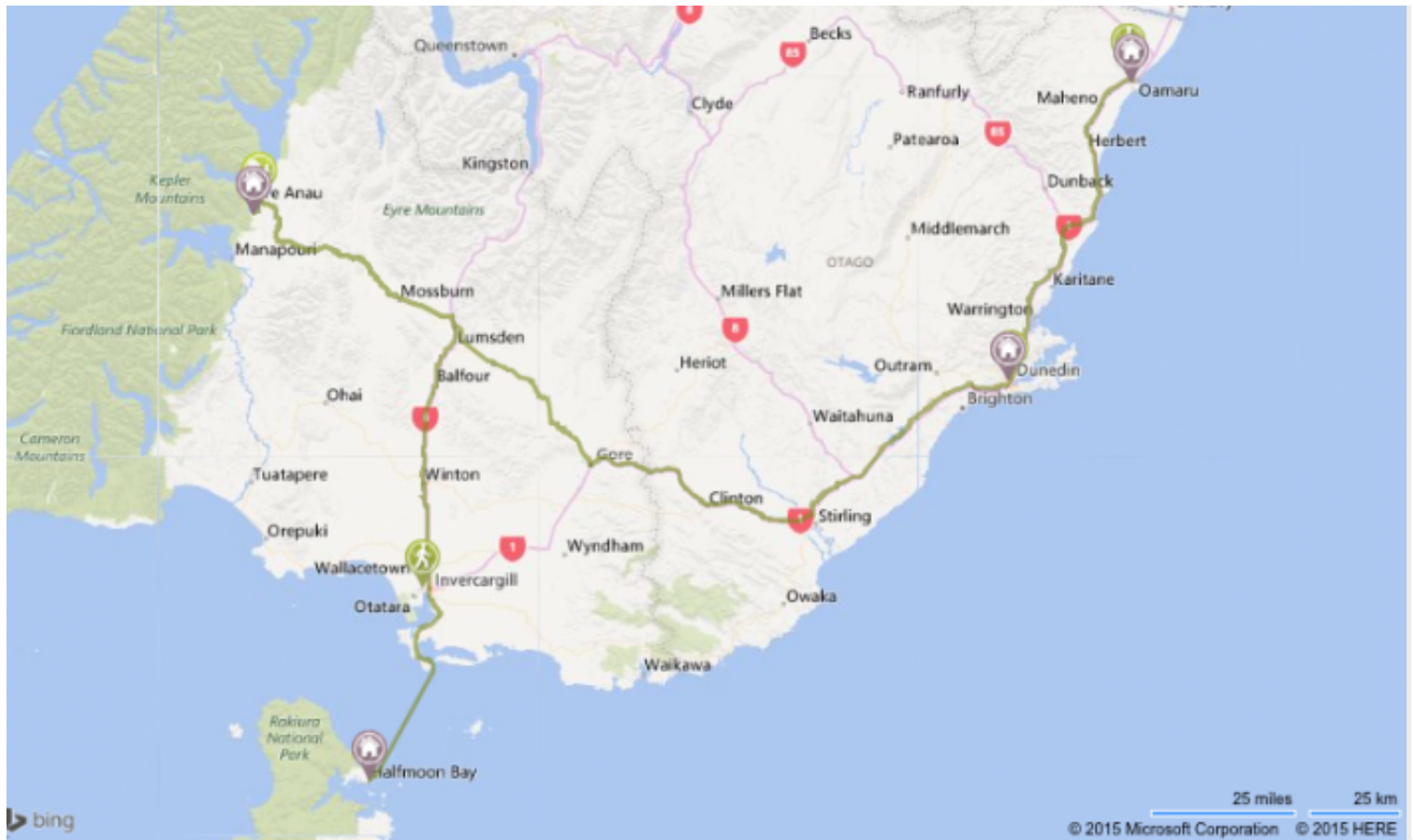
Green Outdoors

Southern Explorer



This is an active trip including mountain biking and one of New Zealand's most remote multi-day hikes. Raw countryside yet with reminders of the terrain that the Early Settlers encountered on arrival in New Zealand.

Clean air, wide open spaces and an active holiday.



At a glance

Duration: 12 days, 11 nights

Connection points:
Christchurch or Dunedin airport
Invercargill airport

Activity level: active

Best season: November-April

Indicative Price from \$8,442

Price is for accommodation only and excludes meals, ground or air transport unless stated. [Contact one of our Travel Agents](#) or use [My Holiday](#) to contact the operators and book direct.

Driving times

Christchurch - Oamaru: 3 hours
Oamaru - Dunedin: 1 1/2 hour
Dunedin - Te Anau: 3 1/2 hours
Te Anau - Invercargill: 2 hour

SOUTHERN EXPLORER

Body & soul



SOUTH ISLAND



Day 1 - Oamaru, North Otago

Stay [Pen-y-bryn Lodge](#)

Starting in either Christchurch or Dunedin, head to the historic town of Oamaru with its distinctive white stone buildings. A gourmet centre with excellent restaurants, farmers market and the home of Whitestone Cheeses.

Pen-y-bryn is a fine historic mansion with many original pieces of furniture and a grand dining room in which to enjoy James' excellent cuisine.

Day 2 - Oamaru, North Otago

Do [Vertical Ventures | Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail & Heli-Bike](#)

Stay [Pen-y-bryn Lodge](#)

The Alps to Ocean bike ride is part of New Zealand's new bike trail. Fully supported and guided adventures or rent the bikes and all the equipment you need to go exploring independently. Cruise the beaches at Kakanui or head down Dansey's pass, it's all out there to be done.

Day 3 - Dunedin, Otago

Stay [Fletcher Lodge](#)

A relaxed day today gives you time to explore the Otago Peninsula with its penguin and albatross colonies or to stop for lunch at Fleurs seafood restaurant by the Moeraki Boulders.

Fletcher Lodge is easy walking distance to the Octagon and the restaurants in Dunedin. Another beautiful historic house you will feel in touch with New Zealand's heritage.

Day 4 - Dunedin, Otago

Do [Dunedin Railways | Taieri Gorge & Seaside Trains](#)

Stay [Fletcher Lodge](#)

Take a historic train journey along the Taieri Gorge and learn about early settler history in this rugged terrain.

Day 5 - Te Anau, Fiordland

Stay [Dock Bay Lodge](#)

The drive across Central Otago takes you through the wine and fruit growing areas via Alexandra, the Kawarau Gorge and Queenstown for lunch. Te Anau is two hours further south and your accommodation has magnificent mountain views across Lake Te Anau and the golf course.

Day 6 - Te Anau, Fiordland

Do [Trips & Tramps | Milford Cruise, Walk & Coach](#)

Stay [Dock Bay Lodge](#)

Experience Milford Sound and the majesty of this steep-sided valley with a morning guided walk and an afternoon cruise.

Day 7 - Fiordland

Multi-day [Hollyford Track](#)

Have a sumptuous breakfast, and leave spare luggage at the lodge for collection at the end of the hike. Your expedition leaves at 9am. On the Hollyford Track you'll re-trace footsteps of Maori and pioneer explorers, as the track follows the Hollyford River through the Fiordland Alps. The route undulates through native beech forest and beside impressive waterfalls. At the end of your first day you'll be welcomed at Pyke Lodge by your lodge hosts, enjoy hot showers, 3 course cuisine and the opportunity to relax with a post dinner drink and savour the majesty of Mt Madeline.

Day 8 - Fiordland

Multi-day [Hollyford Track](#)

After a tasty breakfast you head off through the mystical forest to reach Lake Alabaster. A short walk later board a jet boat for a captivating scenic ride along the Hollyford River and down Lake McKerrow. You may encounter a family of Bottlenose Dolphins who are regular visitors to the lower river and lake. You'll stop to discover the history of ill-fated Jamestown before walking among ancient forest giants such as native Rimu, Totara and Kahikatea, some up to 1000 years old. The towering lowland podocarp forest transforms into a tenacious coastal garden. Thunderous surf on the rugged West Coast is a prelude to a bay of boulders where the rare Fiordland Crested Penguin is a seasonal visitor. A little farther on, Long Reef plays host to a colony of native New Zealand Fur Seals where you'll marvel at their nimble skills in the crashing surf and relax as they laze on the rocks. Martin's Bay Lodge welcomes you at the end of the track.

Day 9 - Te Anau, Fiordland

Stay [Dock Bay Lodge](#)

After another hearty breakfast you'll explore Martin's Bay Spit, a famous landmark separating the powerful Tasman Sea from the Hollyford Valley, and a coastal landscape that is a world away from the previous days. View historical sites of Maori occupation of the area where chief Tutoko and his people guarded entry into the Hollyford Valley, controlling access into and out of highly valued pounamu (greenstone) gathering areas. Your guide will also highlight the plant and wildlife of this unique environment helping you to discover the diversity of this truly remote area. You will also have the opportunity to explore in your own time the isolated beach and sand dunes or to just wander at your own pace with the Tasman Sea as your companion and reflect upon this intrepid journey.

Returning to Martins Bay Lodge for lunch, your lodge hosts bid you farewell as you board your aircraft for a scenic flight along the rugged coast and into the truly spectacular Milford Sound where you'll marvel at the grandeur of vertical granite walls rising from the sea. Once in Milford you'll be met by your return shuttle host and travel the impressive Milford Road up through the famous Homer Tunnel cutting through a divide of sheer granite rock, and stopping at the source of the Hollyford Valley and River before embarking on your journey back to Te Anau.

Day 10 - Oban, Stewart Island

Do [Stewart Island Flights | Stewart Island Flights](#)

Stay [Sails Ashore Lodge & Ulva Island Trip](#)

Two hours drive south and you reach Invercargill and your short flight over to Stewart Island. Stewart Island Air not only fly from the mainland, they also operate flights within Stewart Island and Masons Bay is one of the only places you can have a daytime kiwi encounter.

Day 11 - Oban, Stewart Island

Stay [Sails Ashore Lodge & Ulva Island Trip](#)

Join your hosts for a guided walk and water taxi ride to see some of Stewart Island's beautiful remote countryside and birds on Ulva Island.

Day 12 - Journey's End

On arriving back at Invercargill Airport you can connect to the domestic flight network.