

SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS

HOME – CHRISTCHURCH – RUBICON STATION -EREWHON STATION - METHVEN –
LAKE HERON STATION - CHRISTCHURCH – AKAROA – HOME

21 March 2023



7 Day Fully Hosted Tour

Pickups from Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti and Wellington



SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS

Spend 7 glorious days exploring the back roads of the Canterbury region, as we visit five historic High Country Stations situated in the heart of the South island.

This exhilarating and majestic tour gives you a true feel for the high-country lifestyle. With sweeping tussock lands the High Country is known for, enjoy tales of life on the stations and take a glimpse into a life lived far away from it all. Revel in the wild beauty, while relaxing and soaking up the clean and clear air of these unspoiled pieces of South Island paradise, as you journey across unique and expansive rugged terrain.

Travelling back to Christchurch we experience a leisurely end to the tour as we relax and enjoy, a visit to the beautiful Riccarton House Homestead and the not to be missed, historic Giants House in Akaroa.

This 7-day adventure has the perfect ending, as we relish in our farewell dinner on the Christchurch Tramway Restaurant, before leaving these iconic landscapes behind and head home.



SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS

21st to 27th March 2023

TUE 21 Home – Christchurch (D)

Upon arrival at Christchurch Airport, we are met by our driver and coach and will take a **sightseeing tour of central Christchurch** including Cathedral Square; the River Avon; the Cardboard Cathedral and Hagley Park. After checking in to our centrally located hotel, there is time for a rest and refresh before we re-gather and dine together this evening at a local restaurant.

WED 22 Christchurch – Mt Torlesse Station & Rubicon Station – Methven (B)(L)(D)

Our adventures exploring more of the South Island's High-Country Station commences today when we meet our local driver/guide and board their 4x4 vehicle.

The first part of our journey takes us to some incredible viewing locations which offer stunning views over the Waimakariri Gorge, the Canterbury Plains and on a clear day all the way back to Christchurch and the Port Hills. We stop at the Rubicon Valley Tourist Centre to experience the **world-famous jet spin** as our jet boat takes us deep into the mighty **Waimak Canyon** through the foothills of the Southern Alps, the ultimate Christchurch jet boat experience! Travel through the crystal-clear waters and enjoy the views of the great Southern Alps from where waterfalls drop to join the river, this jetboat experience offers a great combination of scenery and excitement. Enjoy the breathtaking alpine scenery surrounding the Waimak River and hold on as the jetboat takes off on an exciting journey passing through low water and rapids, passing cliff faces and shingle banks.

After the thrills of our jetboat excursion we will have time to look around the jetboats on display at Jetboat World which is highlighting the fascinating history of jetboating in New Zealand, afterwards enjoy lunch on the banks of the Waimak River, next we make our way up Porters Pass and into the high country, travelling the little used Lindon Road and down to the shores of Lake Coleridge a stunning Alpine lake, before driving to the end of Algidus Road and look across to Mt Algidus Station. We then make our way back to Lake Coleridge Village and have a look at the Lake Coleridge Power Station the oldest New Zealand built power station, before heading down the scenic Rakaia River and into Methven.

This small Canterbury town is a snow sports town in winter and in every other season, it offers warm hospitality and a base for outdoor adventures. Maori called the place Piwakawaka, or fantail, while Methven was named by an early colonial pioneer, a Mr Patton, who named it for his home in Scotland. We dine at our accommodation this evening

THU 23 Methven – Erewhon Station-Methven (B)(L)(D)

Ahead of us today, we have an unforgettable journey travelling by 4x4 vehicle into the Canterbury high country to visit one of New Zealand's most famous and stunning high-country stations, Erewhon Station.

Erewhon Station is a 35,000-acre property situated at the foothills of the Southern Alps at the top of the Rangitata River. The property and Erewhon name was originally made famous by the book Erewhon written by Samuel Butler. Erewhon is a play on the word "nowhere" spelled backwards.

From Methven we head into the stunning Canterbury high country with its rugged mountain ranges, crystal blue lakes and fresh crisp mountain air. Our first stop is Rangiatea Station for morning tea, here we will get to meet the owners, have a look around the gardens, Rangitea is home to Peridale Stud and also the property has agate which the owners make jewellery from. After leaving Rangitea our next stop is Lake Clearwater for beautiful views looking across Lake Clearwater to the mountains in the distance before continuing on towards the mountains and past the site of the 'Lord of the Rings' filming location of 'Edoras' on Mt Sunday where we stop for a photo opportunity before continuing on to the end of the road and onto Erewhon Station itself.

During our time at Erewhon we will see aspects of how this working high country station farms Merino sheep, Hereford Cattle, deer and learn about the large Clydesdale Horse Stud. A lot of the work on the property is still undertaken using Clydesdale horses such as towing wagons and working the fields by towing plows. Our time here will be spent enjoying picnic lunch in a spectacular setting while soaking in the amazing views. In the afternoon we return to Methven for the overnight and dine at our hotel this evening.



Trip Highlights

- SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF CENTRAL CHRISTCHURCH
- RUBICON VALLEY TOURIST CENTRE AND JETBOAT TOUR OF WAIMAK CANYON
- RUBICON STATION
- EREWHON STATION
- LAKE CLEARWATER
- 'LORD OF THE RINGS' FILMING LOCATION OF 'EDORAS' ON MT SUNDAY
- LAKE HERON STATION
- RANGIATEA STATION
- RAKAIA GORGE
- GUIDED TOUR OF RICcarton House, A NEW ZEALAND HERITAGE SITE, INCLUDING LUNCH AT "THE QUARTERS"
- AKAROA ON BANKS PENINSULA
- THE GIANTS HOUSE - A CREATION BY ARTIST JOSIE MARTIN
- FAREWELL DINNER ON THE CHRISTCHURCH

FRI 24 Methven - Lake Heron - Christchurch (B)(L)(D)

We have another terrific day ahead of us travelling by 4x4 vehicle as we depart Methven and make our way across the Canterbury plains to the small settlement of Mt Somers where we will make our way inland into the Canterbury high country passing numerous high country stations, with our driver and guide keeping us informed en-route on all aspects of farming, geography and the history of the area, before arriving at **Lake Heron**. We will stop here for a morning tea break and this is where we will also be met by Philip who owns **Lake Heron Station** along with his wife Anne.

We will then enjoy a 4x4 tour through Lake Heron Station with Philip on board the vehicle with us. After a tour around the farm we will arrive at the woolshed for a look around and a talk before making our way to the homestead which sits on the shores of Lake Heron, the homestead has been beautifully restored over the years. Here you will enjoy lunch with Philip and Anne, after lunch we will make our way back through the high country and onwards to Christchurch. After a full day exploring, we dine together this evening at our hotel restaurant.

SAT 25 Christchurch (B)(L)

Following our high-country adventures of the previous days, we have a leisurely start this morning.

Mid-morning, we visit **Riccarton House** which is an unique New Zealand heritage site flanked by beautiful open parkland and ornate gardens, bordered by the River Avon and set against extensive native bush forest featuring Kahikatea trees up to 600 years old. The house is fully restored and is decorated and furnished in appropriate period style and here we join our guide for a private tour of the house to learn about the pioneering Dean's Family story from its origins in lowland Scotland, to the triumphs and tragedy in New Zealand. After our tour, we take time to enjoy **lunch at the on-site day cafe - The Quarters**. Their menu changes seasonally and reflects the four seasons.

The afternoon and evening are yours today at leisure and you may wish to stroll around the gardens of Riccarton House before walking back to our hotel. This is a great opportunity to sample your choice of Christchurch's excellent and wide-ranging dining establishments.

SUN 26 Christchurch - Akaroa - Christchurch (B)(L)(D)

This morning we make our way through the quaint settlements of Little River and Barry's Bay to visit the beautiful unspoilt old French whaling depot of **Akaroa on Banks Peninsula**. Akaroa was settled by the French in an early attempt to colonise New Zealand and still retains a good deal of French character in its street names, boutique shops and cafes. On arrival we visit the fabulous **Giant's House** where the sculpture mosaic garden is colourful, exuberant, interactive, fun, and full of surprises. An historic Akaroa house with original contemporary artworks, terraced gardens with sculptures, mosaics, ceramics - **The Giant's House** is a unique creation by artist **Josie Martin**. The gardens are a fully integrated and inseparable combination of art works and gardens - a contrast and balance of the hard and soft. Original, quirky, colourful, seriously playful, interactive and joyous celebration of life, complete with a highly polished stainless steel Giant sculpture, Bella Vita.

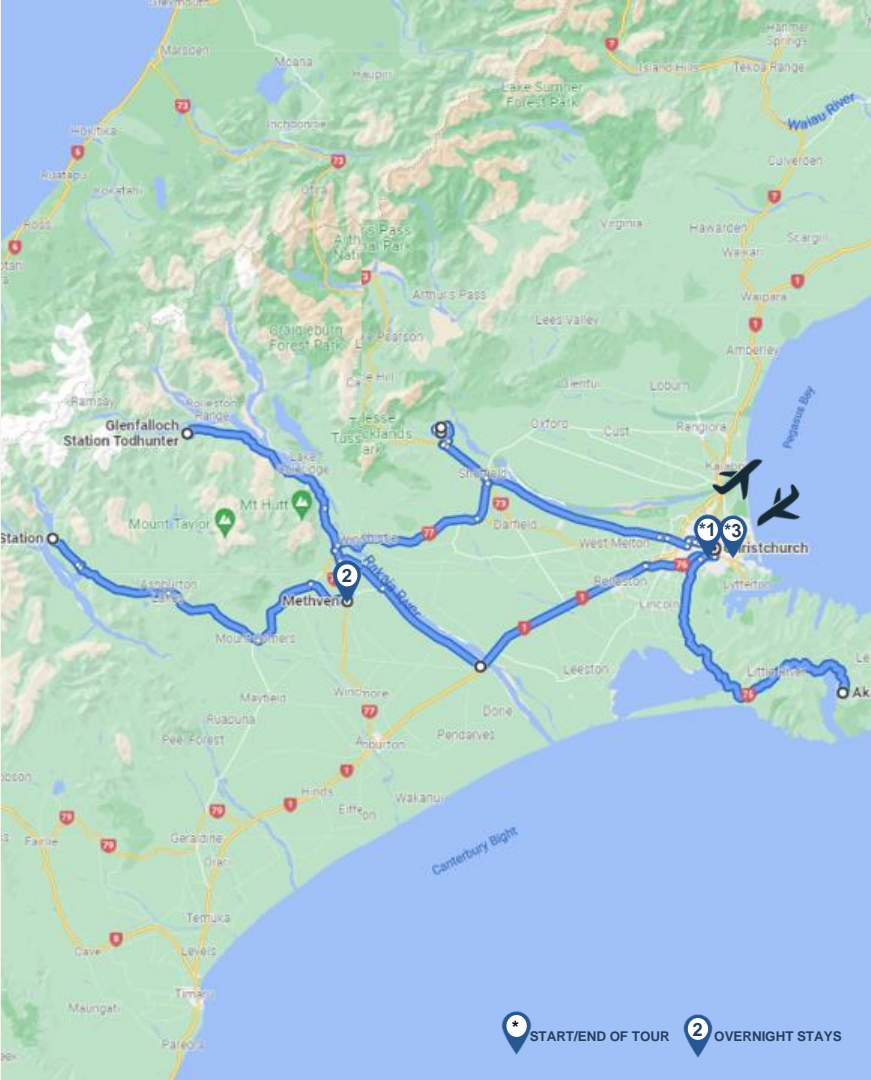
We dine for lunch at a local waterfront restaurant in Akaroa and afterwards have time to relax and enjoy the beautiful downtown area in Akaroa with its charming colonial architecture remnant of the French and British settlers who founded the area. Mid-afternoon, we retrace our journey back to Christchurch with time for a relax and refresh.

This evening we experience the luxury of the **Christchurch Tramway Restaurant** for our final night together. This 36-seater air-conditioned, colonial style dining tram offers the finest service, cuisine and beverages New Zealand has to offer. Our time aboard incorporates fabulous dining with a sightseeing tour showcasing Christchurch's inner city vibrancy and heritage - truly a mix of the old and the new.

MON 27 Christchurch - Home (B)

Following breakfast, you will have time at leisure until our transfer to Christchurch Airport to check in for our flight home.





SOUTHERN HIGH COUNTRY STATIONS

7 Day Tour Price Includes:

Fully hosted by a YOURTours Host

Quality Accommodation & Coach***

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees as indicated on itinerary

Meals as per itinerary

Domestic Flights* & Home Pick-up**

Departs 21 March 2023

Price \$4,295 pp twin share

Price \$4,995 pp single

*Air New Zealand Flights Wellington to Christchurch to Wellington – other airports on available on request

** Home pick-up T&C's apply

*** Access to the High-Country Stations on days 2, 3 and 4 is via way of a purpose built 4x4 touring vehicle.

You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

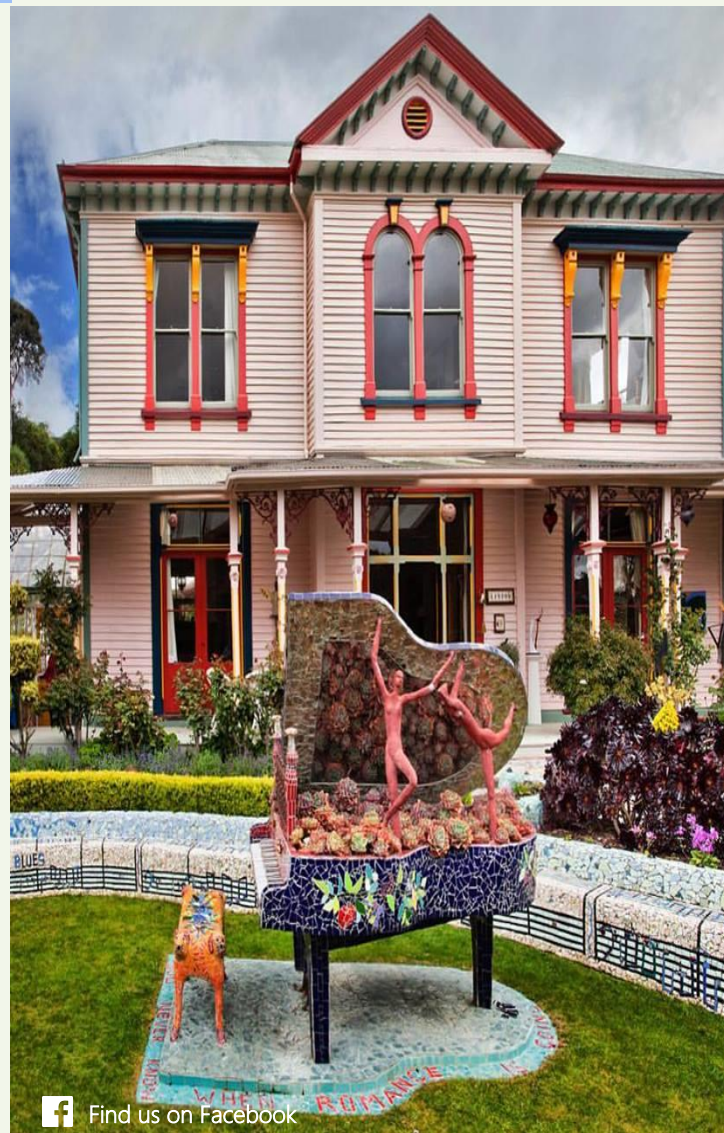
You can be reassured that your Tour Host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours team members, ensuring you can relax and enjoyed your holiday, whilst we ensure everything is looked after for you from start to finish.

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