



The only mainland albatross colony in the world is at Tairaroa Head

Christmas in Otago: Catlins & Stewart Island

See the Royal Albatross Centre and lunch at Larnach Castle on Christmas Day. Stay at Kaka Point and visit Nugget Point/Tokata Lighthouse and Curio Bay. Fly to Stewart Island and cruise to Ulva Island bird sanctuary.

Dunedin – Kaka Point – The Catlins – Stewart Island – Invercargill – Gore – Queenstown

Tour Highlights

- Meet our guide at the Royal Albatross Centre
- Visit Dunedin's Olveston House, a time capsule of treasures
- Enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch at Larnach Castle
- Take in the breathtaking views from Nugget Point lighthouse
- Have fun winding up rustic objects at The Lost Gypsy Gallery
- Fly over to Stewart Island and return two days later
- Cruise the sheltered waters of beautiful Paterson Inlet
- Walk on Ulva Island sanctuary with a nature guide
- Check out Invercargill's wheels starting with the Indian Scout
- Grab a photo at that famous sign at Stirling Point, Bluff
- Hear about the wild old Hokonui Moonshine days in Gore
- See vintage aircraft at Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre

Tour Dates

6 nights/7 days

Sat 24 Dec - Fri 30 Dec 2022

Cost Per Person

\$4,390 Twin Share

\$4,990 Single

Day 1: Fly to Dunedin – Royal Albatross Colony – Olveston House

Arriving in Dunedin we drive out along the Peninsula to the Royal Albatross Colony and with a guide get close to these magnificent birds' nesting area. Our guided tour of Olveston House, built in 1904, reveals a house of treasures untouched by time. We stay at the Scenic Hotel Southern Cross and dine in.

Day 2: Dunedin – Christmas lunch, Larnach Castle – Signal Hill

Larnach Castle commands a spectacular position on the Peninsula. A guide shows us around the castle and there are beautiful gardens to stroll. A traditional Christmas lunch is served in the Ballroom. This afternoon we sightsee to steep Baldwin Street, Signal Hill, The Octagon and the street art murals.

Day 3: Dunedin – The Catlins – Nugget Point/Tokata Lighthouse – Kaka Point

Leaving Dunedin for The Catlins Coast we pass through Brighton and along the Taieri Mouth Road to Taieri Beach then inland to Balclutha. The views from Nugget Point/Tokata Lighthouse are a highlight and seals bask on the rocks below. We stay nearby at Nugget View Kaka Point Motel.

Day 4: Kaka Point – Curio Bay – Invercargill Airport – Stewart Island

Have fun winding up the "rustic automata" at amazing Lost Gypsy Gallery in Papatowai and lunch at Niagara Falls café. Then we call into Porpoise Bay and see Curio Bay's petrified forest. We drive out to Waipapa Point lighthouse and later take a 15 minute flight to Stewart Island to stay two nights at Bay Motel.

Day 5: Stewart Island sightseeing – Rakiura National Park – Ulva Island

Visit the Stewart Island Museum and tour Oban and the surrounding bays including the gateway to Rakiura National Park at Lee Bay. Cruise across Paterson Inlet to land at the jetty at Ulva Island bird sanctuary and with a nature guide walk the bush trails and golden sand beaches on the lookout for birdlife.

Day 6: Stewart Island – Invercargill – Stirling Point, Bluff – Oreti Beach

We fly back to Invercargill and head down to Bluff for a photo at the famous sign at Stirling Point. We visit Bill Richardson's Transport World and Classic Motorcycles. Burt Monro's Indian Scout is on show at E. Hayes & Son and we drive to Oreti Beach where his quest for speed began. We stay at Ascot Hotel and dine in.

Day 7: Invercargill – Gore – Mandeville – Queenstown – Return flight

In Gore meet our host and curator Jim at the Hokonui Moonshine Museum to hear stories of wild times in the hills, sample a dram of whisky and see the art collection at the Eastern Southland Gallery. Aircraft from the 1920s and 30s feature at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre. Your flight departs from Queenstown.

Fly over to Stewart Island



Enjoy Christmas lunch at Larnach Castle



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1B Roberta Ave, Glendowie, Auckland **E:** enquiries@cruiseconnections.co.nz

Tel: 09 972 2030 or 0800 500 180