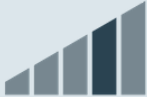






# South Island School Itinerary



Trip Style	Duration					
Education	8 Days	Active 4	Hiking	Conservation	Maori Culture	Community Service

## Christchurch to Christchurch

This 8 day adventure will take your students around New Zealand's South Island with a strong focus on conservation, climate change and native wildlife. It includes elements of a challenging overnight hiking expedition and conservation initiatives. Learning outcomes have a focus on geography through landscape changes due to earthquakes, glacier movements and retreats, limestone rock formations and coastal erosion.

## Highlights

- Explore Kaikoura marine life.
- Experience a challenge with an overnight hike Nelson Lakes National Park, stay in a back country hut. 2 or 3 day options.
- Learn about Earthquakes and their effect on cities and coastal geography
- Explore Punakaiki pancake rock limestone formations
- Night hike for the endangered kiwi and glowworms
- Explore Arthurs Pass National Park, learning navigation and shelter building
- Learn about endangered native Kea birds from the expert
- Hike Craigieburn conservation area

## Day 1: Arrive in Christchurch

We'll meet around 5pm for our first group dinner and briefing about the adventures ahead.

Stay: Christchurch Lodgings (D)

Note: If you're not travelling far, we can arrange to start the trip the following morning if it suits better.



## Day 2: Hike Kaikoura peninsular to a Seal Colony. Learn about earthquake uplift

We'll travel north out of Christchurch to the seaside town of Kaikoura - which in Te Reo Maori literally translates to "Seafood", so it's no wonder this is a fantastic place to explore coastal marine life. We'll head out on a hike on the Kaikoura peninsular, passing weathered limestone cliffs we'll watch a colony of fur seals basking on the rocks and playing in the eddies, all on a stretch of rugged coastline that was uplifted in the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake. This is a fascinating lesson about how the geology of the land impacted the ecology of the local area.

Stay: Lazy Shag backpackers, Kaikoura (All meals)

Hikes: 6.5 kilometres, 1-2 hours



## Day 3-5: Overnight Option A, or more strenuous Option B.



### Option A: Overnight Hike in Nelson Lakes National Park

#### A: Day 3: Hike Rotoiti Circuit: Saint Arnaud to Lakehead Hut.

We travel north from Kaikoura along the dramatically changed coastline from the 2016 Earthquake - a great opportunity to discuss the change in geography and marine floor uplift! We drive to the village of Saint Arnaud, on the edge of Nelson Lakes National Park. This is serious wilderness country, with incredible views and marvelous solitude. The park straddles the upper Southern Alps, an area composed of beech forests, big lakes and even bigger mountains. We'll hike the relatively gentle trail through the forest alongside Lake Rotoiti to Lakehead Hut, a small mountain cabin at the head of the lake and our home for the night. It'll be a great challenge for the students with full hiking packs with their clothes, sleeping bags and a share of the food.

Stay: Lakehead Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 11 kilometres, 3-4 hours. +/- 20m

#### A: Day 4: Hike Rotoiti Circuit: Lakehead Hut to Saint Arnaud

If weather permits, we'll start the morning with an exciting stream crossing over the Travers River, learning how to cross safely, a great survival skill. In times of high flow, we follow the Travers Valley through beech forest until we get to a swing-bridge, a quintessential New Zealand hiking experience. Once on the other side of the river, we'll head back along the valley until we get to Coldwater Hut for a picnic lunch before we re-join the lake, and follow the trail as it gently winds its way around Lake Rotoiti to Whiskey Creek, and the beautiful Whiskey Falls, and back along to the road end, all the while through native beech forest, providing a great backdrop to discuss native species conservation. At the trail end we get a short lift back to the town of St Arnaud for the evening.

Stay: St Arnaud lodgings, St Arnaud (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 15 kilometres, 3-4 hours. +150m/-250m

## A: Day 5: Hike Bushline loop via Roberts Ridge.

After breakfast we'll clamber back into our hiking boots to set out for this morning's walk up the aptly named "Pinchgut Track". This trail gives access to Mt Robert, and Robert's Ridge, with amazing views back to Lake Rotoiti from the top! We'll wind our way up the trail through the native beech trees and manuka scrub to alpine tussocks and scree at the top! We'll make our way to a DOC hut called Bushline hut for a lunch stop, before winding back down to the trailhead. This day has a lot of elevation gain and exposed terrain, so can be a great challenge for the students, and a lighter one with just a day pack! Afterwards we'll grab our bags and travel towards the West Coast to our home for the night at Carters Beach.

Stay: Carters Beach Holiday Park (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 11 kilometres, 5-6 hours. +/- 1050m



## Option B: Three day hike on Angelus Loop

### B: Day 3: Hike Angelus Circuit: St Arnaud to Lakehead Hut

We travel north from Kaikoura along the dramatically changed coastline from the 2016 Earthquake - a great opportunity to discuss the change in geography and marine floor uplift! We drive to the village of Saint Arnaud, on the edge of Nelson Lakes National Park. This is serious wilderness country, with incredible views and marvelous solitude. The park straddles the upper Southern Alps, an area composed of beech forests, big lakes and even bigger mountains. We'll hike the relatively gentle trail through the forest alongside Lake Rotoiti to Lakehead Hut, a small mountain cabin at the head of the lake and our home for the night. It'll be a great challenge for the students with full hiking packs with their clothes, sleeping bags and a share of the food.

Stay: Lakehead Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 11 kilometres, 3-4 hours. +/- 20m



## B: Day 4: Hike Angelus Circuit: Lakehead Hut to Angelus Hut

Today is an unforgettable day – the scenery gets better with each step! We follow the Travers River through beech forest, before heading up the Hukere Stream towards the ridgeline. This is a challenging hike, with an elevation gain of 1000 metres (3280 feet), but it's absolutely worth it. The Angelus Circuit has exceptional scenic diversity, so it provides a great reward for the efforts you put in. There's no rush and we'll be there to encourage your students the whole way. It's a tremendously rewarding feeling for them when they reach Angelus Hut after a hard days hike, learning the satisfying lesson of overcoming a challenge. The alpine scenery here is stunning, and many people tell us this hidden gem was the highlight of their New Zealand adventure.

Angelus Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 10 kilometres, 6-8 hours, +/-1050m



## B: Day 5: Hike Angelus Circuit: Angelus Hut to Lake Rotoiti

Wake up on top of the world! After breakfast, we'll hike out along the barren Robert Ridge with dramatic views of Tasman Bay and the mountainous Kahurangi National Park in the distance. This arid alpine landscape is a great talking point about the ecology of the plants that live there and how they've evolved to manage living in such difficult environments. We'll descend below the treeline again into native beech forest completing our hike on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. Afterwards we'll grab our bags and travel towards the West Coast to our home for the night at Carters Beach.

Carters Beach Holiday Park (All meals)

Hiking Distance: 11 kilometres, 4-6 hours, +70m/-840m

## Day 6: Pancake rocks, Point Elizabeth Walkway

Today we travel south to the Pancake rocks - amazing limestone rock formations on the coastline that resemble a stack of layered pancakes! These have been eroded away by the pounding waves over thousands of years to create blowholes that the incoming waves shoot through - it can be very dramatic at high tide! Afterwards we'll continue south to hike the Point Elizabeth Walkway where we'll have more opportunities to explore coastal geography and erosion. In the afternoon we'll head inland to the Arthurs Pass Outdoor Centre, nestled into the depths of the Southern Alps. As we will be staying inside the national park, we'll have a good chance of seeing endangered wildlife. We'll head out tonight on a night walk in search of the nocturnal kiwi bird and native glow worms.

Arthurs Pass Outdoor Centre

Hiking: Pancake rocks: 1.1km, 45 mins, Point Elizabeth: 2.5km, 1hr



## Day 7: Adventure learning in Arthurs Pass

We can construct today's adventures with an exciting selection of hikes and wildlife! We could organise the experts from the Kea Conservation Trust to come and talk to the students about this mischievous bird and why it's currently endangered, and then follow it up with a hike to spot some Kea ourselves and input sightings into the database to help with their wild population monitoring. Alternatively we could take a more strenuous and challenging hike and incorporate geography elements, or go bush and learn navigation, survival and shelter building skills! Either way, we'll have an amazing time in this stunning national park.

Arthurs Pass Outdoor Centre (All meals)

Hikes: variable, from an easy 2km through to 15km.

## Day 8: Hike Craigieburn, depart

Today we head back to our starting point of Christchurch, via Craigieburn conservation area. We'll hike to the vantage point of Helicopter Hill to take in the dramatic surrounding scenery, a great spot for discussing the geography of the surrounding mountains. After lunch we'll drive back to Christchurch in time for flights out after 4pm.

(Breakfast, Lunch)

# Useful Info

## Group Size

This trip can accommodate as few as 10 students, or up to 25. Talk to us about your group size and number of teachers involved, as this may affect our trail permit numbers.

## Trip Start

On the first day of the trip you'll meet our guides at 5pm at the joining hotel for dinner and a trip briefing.

## Trip End

On the last day of the trip we can drop you off at the Christchurch airport in time for International flights after 4pm, or anywhere in central Christchurch about 2pm.

## Fitness

As an Activity Level 4 trip, your guests will need a good level of fitness for this itinerary. If they've chosen Option B, they'll be hiking uneven terrain, having to navigate rocks, tree roots and small streams. There will be a major river crossing and they'll need to do all of this carrying an overnight pack with 3 days of food and clothing. They must be comfortable hiking for 6 hours and elevation gains of 1,000 metre. We recommend that guests prepare and do some training so they get the most out of this adventure.

## Accommodation

This wilderness trip gets you to stay in back country Department of Conservation huts for 1 or 2 nights (depending on the option chosen), which are like a basic mountain cabin. They have shared dormitory style bunks, a basic shared kitchen area, and long-drop style toilet facilities. These huts are truly in the wilderness so there is no reception, electricity or wifi. On the other nights, students will be in dormitory style backpackers and lodge accommodation.

## Included:

- All guiding services - two guides per trip.
- All accommodations
- All meals as noted.
- All activities as described above.
- All transportation from trip start to trip end.