Get ready for the journey of a lifetime - this driving route will introduce you to the very best of the South Island from top to bottom and from coast to sparkling coast.

Day 1
Chirstchurch – Finish Christchurch.
Distance: Approximately 2666 km.

Day 2
Chirstchurch – Methven (112 km; 1 hr, 30 min).
Your journey begins in Chirstchurch. Once you’ve taken time to explore what this city has to offer, head up on your journey from one of the many excellent local cafés and hit the road. Drive west along SH 73 to SH 72. The high alpine peaks along SH 72, including Mt Cook, are a wild western area that begins 20 minutes’ drive south of Balclutha or SH 90. Back on SH 1, drive west to Gore (73 km; 1 hr), a small towns famous for its Brown Trout. Visit the Hokonu Moonshine Museum to learn about local history. Afterwards, continue to Invercargill (65 km; 1 hr) and explore this hospitable southern town with its excellent museum and restaurants. Drive a further 25 minutes south to Bluff and spectacular views of the Southern Ocean.

Day 3
Invercargill – Te Anau – Milford Sound.
Start your day with a flightseeing tour over Milford Sound (245 km; 4 hr). Make sure your camera is charged (or loaded with film!) because Day 6 is a visual treat. Drive north from Invercargill along SH 6 through Southland’s countryside. At Lumsden, take SH 94 west to the lakeside town of Te Anau (105 km; 2 hr, 20 min). Visit the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre for an insight into the region of a natural treasure, before setting out for Milford Sound (135 km; 1 hr, 40 min). A guided tour is an excellent option that allows you to focus on the scenery. At Milford Sound, join a kayaking tour or escursion to see the fiord upclose.

Day 4
Te Anau – Milford Sound.
The drive on Day 6 is truly amazing, hugging the shoreline of Lake Hawea and then Lake Wakatipu before climbing to Haast Pass – the pass is only 160 km long but packs more than 30 minutes in and out of the stuck. Luck rainfastest marks your arrival on the West Coa as the road winds down to (117 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop here before heading north to Fox Glacier (137 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Here you can join a guided glacier tour or flightseeing tour to gain an entirely new perspective. Afterwards, take your time and enjoy the winding drive north to Hokitika (116 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop for lunch and visit local craft gatley to see Pavarnu carving being made. In the afternoon, continue sailing and much more. Finish your day with dinner and drinks at a local restaurant.

Day 5
Milford Sound – Queenstown.
Have a leisurely start and drive south (210 km; 3 hr) to Gort (73 km; 1 hr). Drive west to Gore (73 km; 1 hr), a small towns famous for its Brown Trout. Visit the Hokonu Moonshine Museum to learn about local history. Afterwards, continue to Invercargill (65 km; 1 hr) and explore this hospitable southern town with its excellent museum and restaurants. Drive a further 25 minutes south to Bluff and spectacular views of the Southern Ocean.

Day 6
Invercargill – Te Anau – Milford Sound.
Start your day with a flightseeing tour over Milford Sound (245 km; 4 hr). Make sure your camera is charged (or loaded with film!) because Day 6 is a visual treat. Drive north from Invercargill along SH 6 through Southland’s countryside. At Lumsden, take SH 94 west to the lakeside town of Te Anau (105 km; 2 hr, 20 min). Visit the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre for an insight into the region of a natural treasure, before setting out for Milford Sound (135 km; 1 hr, 40 min). A guided tour is an excellent option that allows you to focus on the scenery. At Milford Sound, join a kayaking tour or escursion to see the fiord upclose.

Day 7
Milford Sound – Queenstown.
Have a leisurely start and drive south (210 km; 3 hr) to Gort (73 km; 1 hr). Drive west to Gore (73 km; 1 hr), a small towns famous for its Brown Trout. Visit the Hokonu Moonshine Museum to learn about local history. Afterwards, continue to Invercargill (65 km; 1 hr) and explore this hospitable southern town with its excellent museum and restaurants. Drive a further 25 minutes south to Bluff and spectacular views of the Southern Ocean.

Day 8
Queenstown – Wanaka.
Start your day with a round of golf or spa treatment. Catch the Skyline Gondola to a peak or the airflow, which offers unobstructed views of Wanaka (196 km; 4 hr, 15 min). Here you can visit craft gatley and the seal colony at Cape Foulwind. From Westport, backtrack to the Murchison turn-off. Drive east through rainforest-clad valleys to the village of Murchison (96 km; 1 hr, 25 min). This pretty village, the gateway to Nelson, is an ideal place to stop for refreshments. Continue your journey to Nelson (112 km; 1 hr, 55 min) and spend the rest of the day enjoying this charmingly laid-back town with its great galleries and eateries.

Day 9
This morning you may choose to drive up to the glacier car-park and take a20 minute walk to Franz Josef Glacier or join a flightseeing tour to gain an entirely new perspective. Afterwards, take your time and enjoy the winding drive north to Hokitika (116 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop for lunch and visit local craft gatley to see Pavarnu carving being made. In the afternoon, continue sailing and much more. Finish your day with dinner and drinks at a local restaurant.

Day 10
Franz Josef – Greymouth.
This morning you may choose to drive up to the glacier car-park and take a20 minute walk to Franz Josef Glacier or join a flightseeing tour to gain an entirely new perspective. Afterwards, take your time and enjoy the winding drive north to Hokitika (116 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop for lunch and visit local craft gatley to see Pavarnu carving being made. In the afternoon, continue sailing and much more. Finish your day with dinner and drinks at a local restaurant.

Day 11
Greymouth – Nelson.
This morning you may choose to drive up to the glacier car-park and take a20 minute walk to Franz Josef Glacier or join a flightseeing tour to gain an entirely new perspective. Afterwards, take your time and enjoy the winding drive north to Hokitika (116 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop for lunch and visit local craft gatley to see Pavarnu carving being made. In the afternoon, continue sailing and much more. Finish your day with dinner and drinks at a local restaurant.

Day 12
Nelson – Blenheim.
The drive on Day 9 is truly amazing, hugging the shoreline of Lake Hawea and then Lake Wakatipu before climbing to Haast Pass – the pass is only 160 km long but packs more than 30 minutes in and out of the stuck. Luck rainfastest marks your arrival on the West Coa as the road winds down to (117 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop here before heading north to Fox Glacier (137 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Here you can join a guided glacier tour or flightseeing tour to gain an entirely new perspective. Afterwards, take your time and enjoy the winding drive north to Hokitika (116 km; 1 hr, 40 min). Stop for lunch and visit local craft gatley to see Pavarnu carving being made. In the afternoon, continue sailing and much more. Finish your day with dinner and drinks at a local restaurant.

Day 13
Blenheim – Kaikoura – Hamner Springs.
Get your adrenaline pumping with an outdoor adventure such as jet boating or bungy jumping, then finish the day with a relaxing soak in the thermal pools.

Day 14
Hamner Springs – Chirstchurch.
You may like to start the final day of your tour with a gentle forest stroll or an indulgent spa treatment in the tranquil alpine village of Hamner Springs before heading south along SH 7 to the Wairaw Valley (79 km; 1 hr, 9 min). Here you can visit a winery and sample local wines along with your lunch before the final leg of your drive to Chirstchurch (66 km; 1 hr).