

# SOUTHERN Diesel Rail Tour 2018

## South Island Rail Only Options

October 2018

### Christchurch – Arthurs Pass – Oamaru – Dunedin – Invercargill

During October Steam Incorporated and the Railway Enthusiasts Society along with the Diesel Traction Group are running a rail tour covering much of the South Island. The South Island rail portion starts and finishes in Christchurch.

Steam Incorporated is organising the rail portions and providing the carriages, the Railway Enthusiasts Society is organizing a more extensive South Island tour (with accommodation) that incorporates travelling on these rail sectors and the Diesel Traction Group is providing the motive power.

The tour has been timed to coincide with a Labour Weekend event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dj locomotive class that is being arranged by Dunedin Railways.

The South Island travel will be using heritage diesel locomotives. Most of the travel will be with one or both of the Diesel Traction Group English Electric locos. Dg772 is confirmed and we also expect to be using Di1102 on her maiden main line excursions following a very extensive and superb rebuilt.

#### Journey Highlights

- The most extensive use of English Electric motive power since restoration.
- Featuring Dg772 and Di1102 (subject to completion of testing and certification processes).
- Travel the scenic Tranz Alpine route and the freight only lines south of Christchurch.
- Triple header run on the Taieri Gorge line
- Enjoy and experience numerous photo stops every day (subject to daily schedules)
- Consist will be a matching set of our red open platform heritage cars (all over 100 years old)
- Subject to demand, option of travel on a chartered Silver Fern railcar.

#### South Island Itinerary Summary

Wed	17 Oct:	Chch to Arthurs Pass & return
Thur	18 Oct:	Chch to Oamaru
Fri	19 Oct:	Oamaru to Dunedin
Sat	20 Oct:	Possible Silver Fern to Gore with Mandeville visit
Sun	21 Oct:	Dunedin Railways Dj celebration to Middlemarch
Mon	22 Oct:	Dunedin to Invercargill & return
Tues	23 Oct:	Dunedin to Chch

#### Conditions of Travel

- When a booking is accepted passengers are bound by the conditions of travel.
- Steam Incorporated, Railway Enthusiasts Society & KiwiRail, Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ, bus companies and venue owners accept no responsibility for loss or damage to passengers and their belongings.
- The organisers reserve the right to substitute motive power or rolling stock if operational needs require it.
- The organisers accept no responsibility for variations to any arrival or departure times. However, every attempt will be made to keep passengers fully informed of any alterations to the schedule.
- Each booking carries a non-refundable booking fee of \$20 (except in the event that the trip does not run or is over-booked).
- No refunds will be given in the event of breakdown or delay after joining the train.
- In the event of cancellation by intending passengers, refunds will be made only if a clear 30 days' notice is given before the trip runs. Between 7 and 30 days 50% refund, less than 7 days no refund. Each cancellation will incur a \$20 administration fee.

## **Booking Options**

For this tour Steam Incorporated is providing rail only travel. We have listed below some accommodation establishments in the vicinity of the Christchurch and Oamaru Stations for your assistance.

The Railway Enthusiasts Society is offering a more comprehensive South Island Tour that does include accommodation.

You have the following options when making your rail booking:

- Book rail only travel for the day(s) you want and arrange your own accommodation
- Book a special offer for five days rail travel and arrange your own accommodation
- Book a comprehensive tour with the Railway Enthusiasts Society (includes accommodation)

If you are only booking for the Arthurs Pass and/or Invercargill day trips these can be booked online. Use the link on our facebook page or website.

**Another tour being offered** is by the Association of Railway Enthusiasts from Australia. This is an extensive tour of New Zealand that also includes the option of travel on our train from Christchurch to Arthurs Pass and Invercargill and back to Christchurch.

## **Accommodation Possibilities**

### **Christchurch Accommodation Suggestions**

Some Christchurch motels located within 10 to 15 minutes walk from the Christchurch Railway Station are:

Golden Star Motel [www.goldenstar.co.nz/](http://www.goldenstar.co.nz/)

Tower Junction Motor Lodge <http://www.towerjunctionchristchurch.co.nz/>

Arena Motel [www.arenamotel.co.nz](http://www.arenamotel.co.nz)

### **Oamaru Accommodation Suggestions**

Motel accommodation in Oamaru is at a premium and we urge you to make a booking as soon as possible. In addition to our train we understand that there is also a Silver Fern railcar tour overnighing in Oamaru. We have been advised that the Brydon, Bella Vista, AAA Thames Court, Midway, And Alpine are full. The following (10 to 15 minutes walk from station) have rooms available:

Highfield Mews (03 434 3437) [www.highfield-mews.business.site/](http://www.highfield-mews.business.site/)

Empire Backpackers (03 434 3446) [www.empirebackpackersoamaru.co.nz](http://www.empirebackpackersoamaru.co.nz)

Asure Ambassador Motor Lodge (03 437 2146) [www.ambassadoroamaru.co.nz/](http://www.ambassadoroamaru.co.nz/)

If you are unsuccessful in obtaining Oamaru accommodation we may have a room or two available. Plus we will be able to assist with transfer transport.

## **Other Information**

### **Locomotives**

The intention is to use two restored English Electric locomotives belonging to the Diesel Traction Group based in Christchurch. Dg 772 built in 1955 at the Vulcan Foundry in England has been used on limited main line excursions in the South Island since restoration a few years ago. The second locomotive is Di1102 built in 1966 at the Rocklea works in Queensland. The NZ Di class is very similar to the Queensland Rail 1620 class. The restoration of Di1102 was completed in April. It is currently undergoing a testing and certification phase. We are very confident that the DTG team will have the loco ready for main line use well in advance of our October tour.

### **Carriages**

Our set of older carriages built in 1909 to 1912 will be the prime cars used on the tour. These cars have open end platforms and slide up opening windows. Seats are reversible so that you can face the direction of travel. Consist is likely to include five open platform cars. The train will not include a buffet car but refreshment stops will be made enroute on most sectors. Soft drinks and snacks will be available to purchase on the train.

Note that Dunedin Railways carriages will be used on the trip to Middlemarch.

### **Heartland Flyer Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

If you are travelling to New Zealand for the South Island tour you may like to also include travelling on our steam hauled day excursion from Paekakariki (connections available from Wellington city) to Woodville and return via the Manawatu Gorge. The locomotive will be Ja1271. Return fare only \$109.

### **Marlborough Flyer**

Over the summer months we operate this tourist train between Picton and Blenheim on behalf of Pounamu Tourism Group. On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October two round trips are scheduled. For more information and to book see: <https://www.marlboroughflyer.co.nz/>

### **Main North Line (Picton to Christchurch)**

Most of this line is still closed to passenger trains following the Kaikoura Earthquake. Indications are that it will reopen to passenger services towards the end of this year. If this happens by late October and if we were able to get sufficient notification of the resumption date for passenger service we would consider running a one way service from Christchurch to Picton on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Payment & Deposit**

Payment can be made by bank transfer, credit card or NZ cheque.

A \$250 deposit per traveler is required with your booking. Balance due by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

If the value of your booking is less than \$250 then full payment is required with your booking.

If you are paying by cheque or credit card it will not be banked until August.

### **Steam Inc Phone queries**

Can be made on +64 274 466 504.

### **Railway Enthusiast Phone Queries**

Can be made on +64 9 636 9361.

## **Itinerary (times still subject to change)**

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Christchurch to Arthurs Pass and return.  
Also picks up at Rolleston and Springfield  
Expecting Di1102 will lead outbound and Dg772 on the return leg.  
Tentative departure 9am. Arrive Christchurch 5.45pm  
Overnight Christchurch

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Christchurch to Oamaru  
An easy day travelling across the Canterbury plains via Ashburton to Timaru for a lunch stop before continuing onto Oamaru.  
Also picks up at Rolleston.  
During the afternoon time to explore the Victorian precinct including the Steampunk HQ.  
Option of a ride on the Oamaru Steam & Rail society train.  
Tentative departure 9am. Arrive Oamaru 2.30pm  
Overnight Oamaru

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

A leisurely departure time for our journey through to Dunedin. With great scenery on this sector we have scheduled several photostops.  
Afternoon free to explore Dunedin.  
Tentative departure 9.30am. Arrive Dunedin 1pm  
Overnight Dunedin

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Free day. However if there is sufficient interest we intend chartering the Dunedin Silver Fern railcar for a run to Gore to visit the nearby Waimea Plains Railway and Croydon Aviation Company at Mandeville. This is the home of Rogers K92.  
Overnight Dunedin

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Celebration for Dj loco class on the TGR.  
A special Dunedin Railways train will run from Dunedin to Middlemarch with likely motive power being a Dj, Di & Dg locos. During the afternoon two round trips will run between Middlemarch and Pukerangi. These will depart Middlemarch at 1.15pm using Dj & Di locos and 3.15pm using Dj and Dg locos.  
Departs Dunedin 9.30am. Arrives back 7.45pm  
Book with Dunedin Railways. <https://www.dunedinrailways.co.nz/>  
Overnight Dunedin

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (NZ Labour Day Holiday)**

Dunedin to Invercargill and return  
At Invercargill perhaps check out the replica broad gauge locomotive on display or take option of visit to the Bill Richardson Truck Museum (Transport World) which is the largest private collection in the world with over 210 trucks and 150 petrol bowsers on display.  
Tentative departure 8am arriving back at 7.30pm.  
Overnight Dunedin

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Dunedin to Christchurch  
Tentative departure 9.30am. Arrive 7pm  
Suggest Overnight Christchurch

