



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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Southern Spectacular



Highlights

Local Connection

Angie and Stan Taylor serve up a mean afternoon tea on their estate in Tekapo. Perhaps the only thing better is cruising Milford Sound/Piopirotahi with a guide pointing out dolphins.

Cultural Immersion

Farming is a big deal in New Zealand, as you'll fast discover at Walter Peak Station. Sit down to a barbecue dinner before being immersed in a farm show

Sustainable Footprints

Pomona Island Charitable Trust works with passionate volunteers to rehabilitate the South Island's largest inland island. You get to be a part of the magic.

Wildlife & Nature

Snow-capped mountains, a mirror-like lake, white-water rivers and vine-laced fields. Queenstown is blessed with natural assets.

Queenstown

10 DAYS 11 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 10, 31	Jan 02, 16, 23, 30	Jan 07, 14, 21, 28
Nov 07, 21	Feb 06, 13, 20, 27	Feb 04, 11, 18, 25
Dec 05, 26	Mar 05, 12, 19, 26	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25
	Apr 09, 16, 23, 30	
	Jun 11	
	Jul 02	
	Sep 10, 17, 24	
	Oct 08, 15, 22, 29	
	Nov 05, 12, 19, 26	
	Dec 03, 10, 17, 24, 31	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatkings.com/zcqr or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

9 Full buffet breakfasts B 1 Highlight Dinner HD
1 Lunch L 5 Dinners with wine DW
1 Be My Guest Afternoon Tea BG 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive by 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport

Day 10 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

1 Welcome to Christchurch

At once forward-thinking and fun, Christchurch is the kind of city you could lose yourself in for a week – or more. You have this afternoon, so make the most of it. We recommend riding the rails on the vintage Christchurch Tram, a narrated hop-on, hop-off experience that loops around town, your host pointing out historic architecture and new developments that have popped up since the 2010/2011 earthquakes. Time to meet your fellow adventure-seekers over a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Distinction.**

2 Christchurch – Twizel

If you didn't get your Christchurch bearings yesterday, you certainly will on today's city tour, taking in the record-breaking Transitional Cathedral – who knew you could build a church from cardboard? The buildings of the city fade into a patchwork of farms as you ease across the Canterbury Plains toward Morelea. Here, retired farmers Angie and Stan Taylor welcome you to their home with a slap-up Be My Guest afternoon tea and tales about life on the land. And this land is truly dramatic, backdropped by powdery mountains and cut with turquoise lakes, none quite as pretty as Lake Tekapo, on its banks the stone-hewn Church of the Good Shepherd. **Hotel: Mackenzie Country. B BG DW**

3 Twizel – Dunedin

Oamaru has a rich history and proud heritage, enriched by passionate and perhaps quirky locals. Explore the shops, galleries and traditional crafts within some of the Southern Hemisphere's most complete Victorian streetscapes. You're en route to Dunedin, replete with rolling green meadows and grand stone castles. It kind of feels like you've been transported to Scotland – small wonder it's known as the 'Edinburgh of the South'. Afternoon at your leisure, we recommend a visit to Speight's Brewery – a New Zealand institution. And pretty much everything in between. There's always that castle to explore... Larnach may not have the history of Scotland's grand estates, but it's just as pretty in our humble opinion. A NZ holiday must. **Hotel: Scenic Southern Cross. B DW**

4 Dunedin – Te Anau

Leave Dunedin's pastoral sheep-farming countryside behind as you venture into World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, a place of yawning gorges and gem-like glaciers, and azure lakes so large they have their own islands. Case in point Pomona Island, where a charitable trust of passionate volunteers works to restore flora and fauna. With your help. Take a thrilling jet boat ride down the Waiau River to Lake Manapouri and if that's not enough water for one day, you may choose to cruise to the iconic Glowworm Caves. Can we tempt you? **Hotel: Distinction Te Anau. B DW**

5 Te Anau – Queenstown

Nature rules today, from the moment you depart Te Anau and begin your journey deep into the heart of Fiordland National Park. Think native rainforests, beech forests, alluvial flats and meadows; Mirror Lakes perfectly reflecting mountain scenery; and precipitous lookouts holding guard over alpine rivers. And this is just the entrée. The main course is Milford Sound/Piopirotahi, where you cruise in the company of dolphins that frolic under the torrent of mighty Bowen and Stirling Falls, and gaze at misty escarpments so sheer they appear to cleave off the edge of the Earth. You're in the company of a naturalist who knows every nook and cranny of this mighty cavern and will point out flora and fauna you would have never spotted on your own. Life in perspective. **Hotel: Millennium, 2 nights. B**

6 Queenstown Free Time

Take today at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride, perhaps. Prefer wine to get your heart started? See why Central Otago makes some of the world's most raved about cool-climate pinots on a cellar door tour. Wherever your daily wanderings take you, reunite with your companions come dusk to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw, your barbecue Highlight Dinner served on the grounds of Walter Peak High Country Farm. This is followed by a farm show. **B HD**

7 Queenstown – Franz Josef / Waiau

In the shadow of the Remarkables, Queenstown is pretty spectacular. But it has some stiff good-looks competition from neighbouring Arrowtown, with its movie-set tree-lined avenues and 19th-century buildings that once housed gold-rush fortune-seekers. Things grow well in this verdant countryside, from cherries to pinot grapes and all manner of stone fruit. View a working orchard in action and sample a ripe peach or two. Prepare for a flavour explosion. The next explosion is a visual one as you arrive in the town of Franz Josef/Waiau, home to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Get some perspective of this immense ice fall on an optional helicopter flight – you may even get to land on it. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B DW**

8 Franz Josef/Waiau – Punakaiki

Explore the small but lively Franz Josef/Waiau village before venturing to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's native jade greenstone. Then soak in the natural surroundings as you head to Punakaiki to view the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes, where waves thunder through cracks in the Earth. This is the soundtrack that lulls you to sleep at tonight's eco-resort. **Hotel: Scenic Punakaiki. B DW**

9 Punakaiki – Christchurch

Wine may steal the scene across much of New Zealand, but at legendary Monteith's Brewery, beer rules. It's a good thing lunch is included. Sip your way through a tasting paddle of XPA, IPA, lager and pale ale because, hey, you're not driving to the station where your TranzAlpine train awaits. This is one of those experiences where the journey matters just as much as the destination, as you sweep through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. What a way to end a day. **Hotel: Distinction. B L FD**

10 Farewell from Christchurch

Wait, the last 10 days flew by. Return home with new friends, a full SD card on your camera – and even more memories. **B**

