

The Long White Cloud - Full NZ

22 days

Delve into the scenic delights of New Zealand with a small group of explorers. Combine natural beauty with a touch of luxury as you overnight in the rainforests of Franz Josef at the foothills of Mt. Cook, sleep among the treetops in the Coromandel Ranges and journey into the deep south to the wild and pristine landscapes of Stewart Island.

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL
Your South-Pacific Travel Specialists



Mt. Cook



Milford Sound Lodge

BEST BUYS

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Waitomo caves



Bay of Islands

Highlights

Discover

- Exciting Wellington city
- Franz Josef Glacier
- Wonders of Milford Sound

Explore

- The TranzAlpine Train journey
- Wildlife Sanctuary on Stewart Island
- Walk amongst lush rainforest

Learn/Do

- Maori cultural experience
- Jade factory demonstration
- Guided walk in Waipoua Forest

Relax

- Kayak on Milford Sound
- Cruise in the Bay of Islands
- Untouched Stewart Island

Taste

- 1 Highlight Dinner in Queenstown & 1 in Rotorua **HD**
- 21 full buffet breakfasts **B**
- 2 lunches **L**
- 10 dinners with wine **DW**
- 1 Farewell dinner **FD**

Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch
On arrival at Christchurch Airport you'll be transferred by private car to your hotel. Spend some time at leisure to relax or explore on your own. Perhaps visit the International Antarctic Centre or Orana Wildlife Park, New Zealand's only open-range zoo. This evening meet your Travel Director for dinner and a welcome drink. **Hotel: The George, Christchurch. DW**

Day 2: Christchurch – Punakaiki
All aboard the famous TranzAlpine train! Rated as one of the world's great scenic railway journeys, you'll travel across the Canterbury Plains through the Southern Alps. Then re-join your coach at Arthur's Pass and travel to Punakaiki to view the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. You'll stay in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront. Enjoy dinner while watching the thundering surf at your door step! **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B DW**

Day 3: Punakaiki – Franz Josef
Today visit Hokitika, the heritage and cultural centre of the West Coast, for a greenstone (jade)

jewellery demonstration by a local carver. Then visit the West Coast Treetop Walkway, where you may take a stroll through the canopy of this lush rainforest. Stop at the gold-mining town of Ross en route to Franz Josef, where you'll take a guided tour to the viewing area at the mighty Franz Josef Glacier with a local expert glacier guide. Your eco-friendly accommodation is set amid native bush, with an emphasis on relaxation and rejuvenation. This evening, why not treat yourself to Franz Josef's local geothermal hot pools or perhaps a massage. Dinner is at the retreat. **Hotel: Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef. B DW**

Day 4: Franz Josef – Queenstown
You'll have the opportunity to see the glacier from the air on an optional scenic flight. Later today, travel over the Haast Pass and along the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, stopping at Makarora at lunchtime. Also stop to explore the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown, followed by an orientation tour of Queenstown. Surrounded by majestic mountains

and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown's scenery is inspiring. Tonight you'll stay at Millbrook Resort, set amid sparkling streams and rolling hills in the Southern Alps. **Hotel: Millbrook Resort, Queenstown, 3 nights. B DW**

Day 5: Queenstown 'Free Time'
Today is free for you to explore New Zealand's adventure-capital. Perhaps play a round of golf or join a tour of the region's popular wineries. Tonight you'll ride the Skyline Gondola to Bob's Peak for dinner with a view overlooking stunning Queenstown, the awesome Remarkables and Lake Wakatipu. **B HD**

Day 6: Queenstown 'Free Time'
Make the most of your extended stay in Queenstown. Why not take a trip to the Gibbston Valley Winery or take a jet boat ride down the mighty Shotover River (both own expense). Tonight you can dine at one of the many restaurants and cafés in town, or simply relax at your resort. **B**

Day 7: Queenstown – Milford Sound
Travel south along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau on the shores of the South Island's largest lake. Later

you'll travel through the rainforest of World Heritage Fiordland National Park, sighting glaciers and mountain ranges before driving through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel to the amazing Mirror Lake. Afterwards, walk to see the Chasm on your way into Milford Sound and take some time to kayak this majestic fiord, considered by many as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Tonight stay at the magical Milford Sound Lodge, with views of the Cleddau Valley. **Hotel: Milford Sound Lodge. B DW**

Day 8: Milford Sound – Stewart Island
This morning board your Southern Discoveries breakfast cruise out to the spectacular Tasman Sea. Later, it's on to the southern-most city in New Zealand, Invercargill. Board a ferry at Bluff and cruise to wild Stewart Island. With its clear, clean waters, lush rainforest, flora and fauna and unspoilt natural beauty, you'll get a glimpse of an enviable slower lifestyle. Dine at one of the cafés or meet the locals at the hotel. **Hotel: Bay Motel, Stewart Island, 2 nights. B**

Day 9: Stewart Island
This morning you're off on a Village and Bays tour before taking a lunch cruise on Paterson Inlet, where you'll see many remote sandy beaches and wildlife. You'll stop at Ulva Island and tour with the Department of Conservation on Ulva Island's wildlife sanctuary. Learn about native birds like the Weka and spend time up close to native flora and fauna. Tonight, try your hand at a bit of kiwi-spotting in the native bush near your accommodation. **B L**

Day 10: Stewart Island – Mt. Cook
This morning you'll board a ferry and journey across Foveaux Strait, making your way back to the New Zealand mainland. Admire the rural farming views of Southland and the spectacular alpine scenery of the Southern Alps as you travel towards Queenstown. Venture over the Lindis Pass and along the shores of Lake Pukaki into the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. Mt. Cook, the highest mountain in the southern hemisphere, helped Sir Edmund Hillary hone his climbing skills in preparation for his conquest of Everest. Tonight enjoy dinner with a

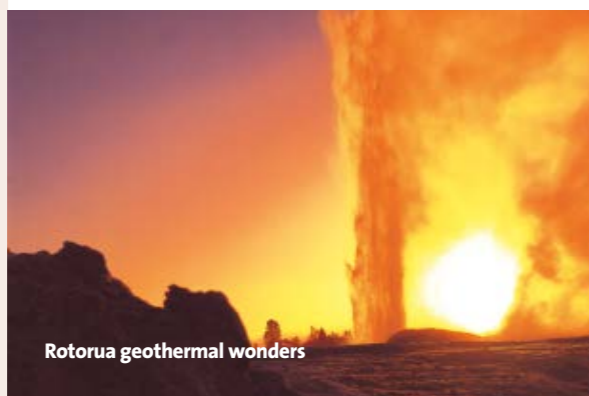
brehtaking mountain view. **Hotel: The Hermitage, Mt. Cook. B DW**

Day 11: Mt. Cook – Christchurch
Travel to Lake Tekapo, where you'll stop to view the Church of the Good Shepherd. Later, join us at the home of Angie and Stan Taylor to enjoy a barbecue lunch in their 240 hectare garden. Then travel along the Canterbury Plains to the Garden City of Christchurch. On a sightseeing tour see how the city is being rebuilt after the devastating 2011 earthquake. **Hotel: The George, Christchurch. B L**

Day 12: Christchurch – Wellington
Travel along the rugged Pacific Ocean coast to Kaikoura, famous for its whales (optional whale-watching flight is available). See New Zealand's fur seals at Ohau Point, then travel to the seaside town of Picton. Cruise on Queen Charlotte Sound and across Cook Strait to Wellington for a city sightseeing tour. **Hotel: Sofitel, Wellington, 2 nights. B DW**

Day 13: Wellington 'Free Time'
Today is at leisure. Perhaps join an

Continued over page >



Rotorua geothermal wonders



Franz Josef Glacier



Optional Experience Day 16: Rotorua Duck lake explorer

Discover Rotorua's spectacular lakes area from the comfort of a fully restored World War II amphibious vehicle, able to travel on land and water. A 90 minute fun-filled and scenic journey that ventures onto the three Rotorua lakes, and is accompanied by entertaining and informative commentary. Ask your Travel Director for details.



Koru Silver Fern



Cathedral Cove, Coromandel Peninsula

> **From previous page**

optional Lord of the Rings movie tour, or even a cruise to Somes Island. **B**

Day 14: Wellington – Taupo

Travel the Kapiti Coast, past the dairy farms of Manawatu to Tongariro National Park to the alpine scenery of Mt. Ruapehu. Visit Taupo and drive along the shores of New Zealand's largest lake. View Huka Falls and pass Wairakei Geothermal Power Station. **Hotel: Hilton Hotel, Taupo. B DW**

Day 15: Taupo – Rotorua

There's time to explore the township of Taupo, or try your hand at trout fishing before continuing to nearby Rotorua. Now it's time to gain an insight into local Maori culture and history with your special Maori show, where you'll experience the local customs like the Hongi greeting as well as learn some traditional words. Feast on succulent meats and vegetables cooked in a hangi, the traditional Maori method of cooking in the earth

using geothermal steam. **Hotel: Regent of Rotorua, 2 nights. B HD**

Day 16: Rotorua

You're off to the highly entertaining Agrodome Farm Show. Witness the art of sheep shearing, sheepdog trials, cow milking, bottle feeding of lambs and even a sheep auction. Your next stop is Rainbow Springs Nature Park. Discover native flora that grows around the crystal clear mineral water springs and you might even spot a kiwi or two! To complete your day you'll visit the Whakarewarewa Living Village for an insight into Maori life and how they interact with geothermal activity. **B**

Day 17: Rotorua – Coromandel

Make your way to the famous Waitomo Caves for an exclusive 5 star Eco Glowworm experience. Your guide sets the scene for a cave experience where you will see glowworms, cave formations and appreciate the beauty of Footwhistle Cave. Later, travel through the dairy farming district of Waikato, and now

you're off to the Coromandel to Puka Park Resort, where you'll stay in Tree Hut Chalets, set among the native bush. **Hotel: Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort, Coromandel Ranges. B DW**

Day 18: Coromandel – Auckland

After breakfast travel to Auckland, where your city sightseeing tour takes in Bastion Point, Viaduct Harbour and the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Now you're free to explore the town and try out the Auckland restaurant scene. **Hotel: Sofitel, Auckland. B**

Day 19: Auckland – Bay of Islands

Travel to Orewa and the scenic Hibiscus Coast. Then continue to the Waipoua Forest, home to the largest Kauri tree in existence, Tane Mahuta (over 2,000 years old). You'll take a break before a Maori guide walks you through the native bush and explains the history and legend behind the mighty Kauri. Then head to your waterfront resort in the heart of the Bay of Islands and tonight it's dinner at the resort. **Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. B DW**

Day 20: Bay of Islands

This morning you'll take a ferry across the harbour to historic Russell and enjoy a guided tour of the first European settlement in New Zealand. A local guide will also take you on a walking tour of the town. The rest of the day is at your leisure. **B**

Day 21: Bay of Islands – Auckland

You're off to the Bay of Islands, where you'll take a cruise to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'; see historic Cape Brett as you explore some of the 165 islands in the bay. Later, you'll have some time in Paihia for you to check out the local craft shops, go for a walk along the beachfront or just relax over a coffee with friends. Celebrate tonight at a farewell dinner in Auckland. **Hotel: Sofitel, Auckland. B FD**

Day 22: Farewell from Auckland

Say farewell to your fellow travellers as your Inspiring Journey comes to an end and we transfer you to Auckland Airport for your onward flight. **B**



Queenstown



Gourmet food