

# New Zealand

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# 13 Day Southern Sensations

Wellington → Christchurch

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL   
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Milford Sound

## Highlights

- + 2 night stopovers in the Marlborough Sounds & Mt Cook National Park
- + 3 night stay in majestic Queenstown
- + Stunning Kenepuru Sound
- + Spectacular Kaikoura
- + World heritage Mt Cook National Park
- + Beautiful Southern Lakes region
- + Twin glaciers of Fox & Franz Josef

## Featured Experiences

- + Scenic Interislander Ferry Crossing
- + Scenic Mussel cruise to Raetihi Lodge
- + Tasman Glacier Explorer boat expedition
- + Spectacular Milford Sound Nature Cruise
- + Dine at a leading Queenstown winery
- + World famous TransAlpine train journey

## Iconic Sightseeing

- + Free use of Raetihi Lodge kayaks, mountain bikes, dinghies & fishing tackle
- + Lake Tekapo & Church of the Good Shepherd
- + Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre
- + Historic Arrowtown

## Day 1 Arrive Wellington

On arrival in Wellington, you will be met by our representative and transferred to your downtown city hotel. The rest of today is free to explore the nation's capital. Named the 'coolest little capital in the world' by Lonely Planet, the city has much to offer and a visit to Te Papa, the national museum, is highly recommended. Wellington has a great arts and crafts scene, a superb café culture and fantastic bistros and restaurants offering indoor and al fresco dining.

Stay: *The Bolton Hotel*

## Day 2 Picton & the Marlborough Sounds (B,D)

This morning, board the Interislander ferry for the cruise across Cook Strait. Travel through the sheltered waters of Queen Charlotte Sound to the picturesque fishing village of Picton. A short drive brings us to Havelock where you board your vessel for a scenic mussel cruise to your remote resort located in the stunning Kenepuru Sound. Relax and unwind as you learn about the local history, take in the fabulous scenery and enjoy freshly steamed mussels paired with a glass of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.

Stay: *Raetihi Lodge (2 nights)*

## Day 3 Enjoy Kenepuru Sound (B,D)

A free day to relax and marvel at the magic that is the Marlborough Sounds. Lodge staff will share their love of the region with you through the wide range of water and nature based experiences they put at your fingertips.

Complimentary fishing tackle, kayaks & mountain bikes are provided at the lodge and there is a number of bush walks to enjoy. Or you can simply relax with a book and soak in the spectacular scenery.

## Day 4 Blenheim, Kaikoura (B)

Return to Havelock by water taxi and reboard our coach for the journey to the small coastal town of Kaikoura nestled on a narrow strip of land with the mountains to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. Here you can enjoy an optional whale-watching adventure, swim with the dolphins or join local Maori for a unique, award winning cultural experience.

Stay: *White Morph Heritage Boutique Collection*

## Day 5 Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook (B,D)

Travel south across the Canterbury Plains and stop at beautiful Lake Tekapo to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, built of stone in 1935. Nearby is the well-known bronze statue of a New Zealand Collie Sheepdog, commissioned to recognise the indispensable role of the sheepdog in the lives of local MacKenzie Country farmers. Continue your journey up the western side of Lake Pukaki to the Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage listed site. The park covers over 70,000 hectares of breathtaking alpine scenery.

Stay: *Mt Cook Hermitage Hotel (2 nights)*

## Day 6 Tasman Glacier Expedition (B,D)

Today we experience the Tasman Glacier in the most unique way possible. An experienced guide will whisk you away in a stable MAC Boat to explore the melting ice-face of the Tasman Glacier. Get up close to touch and taste 400-year old icebergs that have been carved into the murky waters of the lake. This afternoon, there is time to enjoy one of the many bush walks and optional ski-plane and helicopter flights are available subject to weather conditions. Entry to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre & Museum is included.

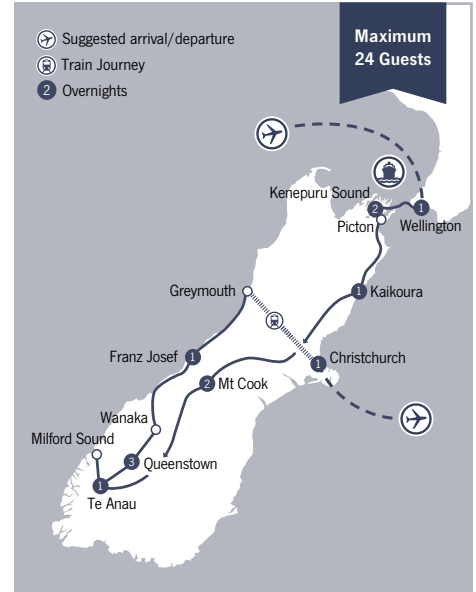


Raetihi Lodge



Tasman Glacier Explorer





**Day 7 Cromwell, Lake Te Anau (B,D)**

Begin the ascent over the Lindis Pass to the township of Cromwell, then continue on to the historic village of Clyde, nestled in a sheltered basin at the foot of an immense and crooked gorge. Stop for lunch at Alexandra, located on the banks of the mighty Clutha River, then travel across the farmlands of Central Otago to the township of Gore before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau, gateway to the Fiordland National Park.

Stay: *Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas*

**Day 8 Milford Sound, Queenstown (B,L)**

Today's highlight is a leisurely nature cruise of the breathtaking Milford Sound, cruising the full length of the fiord to the Tasman Sea. An on-board nature guide will give you detailed information of the region's history, flora & fauna and you will view spectacular waterfalls, rainforests and towering mountains, including the awesome Mitre Peak. Wildlife includes dolphins, seals, penguins & albatross when in season. Continue your journey on to Queenstown, regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination.

Stay: *Heritage Queenstown Hotel (3 nights)*

**Optional overnight cruises on Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound are also available subject to availability - ask us for details.**



Walnut Cottage Akarua Winery

**Day 11 Wanaka, Franz Josef Glacier (B,D)**

There is time to wander around the resort of Lake Wanaka before enjoying incredible scenery as we travel past the untouched native forests and pristine lakes of the World Heritage Westland National Park. On to Fox & Franz Josef Glaciers where there is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions) or enjoy a soak in the Franz Josef Thermal Pools prior to a sumptuous dinner this evening at our exclusive retreat.

Stay: *Te Waonui Forest Retreat*



**Day 9 At leisure in Queenstown (B)**

Enjoy a free day to experience this magnificent alpine resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains, Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure & leisure activities in all forms, from extreme to relaxed exploration. Your guide will be happy to advise you on all the activities and options available. You might like to experience the thrills of a jetboat ride on the famous Shotover or Dart Rivers, cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the vintage steamship 'TSS Earnslaw', visit key film locations from the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy or simply take a relaxing stroll around the tranquil shores of the lake .... your options are endless.

**Day 10 Arrowtown, Akarua Winery (B,L)**

Set beneath the rugged Crown Range is Arrowtown, a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Enjoy time to stroll through this historic village located beside the Arrow River, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's. Enjoy a relaxing lunch at the much loved Walnut Cottage, the show piece of Akarua Wines & Kitchen back dropped by the Remarkables mountain range.

**Day 12 Spectacular TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch (B,FD)**

After a leisurely breakfast, we head north along the dramatic West Coast, steeped in history dating back to the gold rush era of the 1800's. At Greymouth, board the award-winning TranzAlpine for a coast to coast rail adventure rated as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. The TranzAlpine tracks it way up and across the mighty Southern Alps via the alpine village of Arthurs Pass, then winds its way through spectacular river gorges and over massive viaducts before arriving at the 'Garden City' of Christchurch. On arrival we transfer to our hotel for a farewell dinner with our newfound friends and relive the highlights and experiences of the last two weeks.

Stay: *Rydges Latimer Hotel*



**Day 13 Depart Christchurch (B)**

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred to Christchurch airport to connect with your onward flight. Here we bid you 'Haere Ra', a fond farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay.

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