

2018-2019

NEW ZEALAND

Inspiring Journeys

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4-7 day breaks
with your choice of
accommodation

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Mt. Cook



New Zealand Splendour

15 DAYS | AUCKLAND TO CHRISTCHURCH | ZAAC

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Waitomo's famous Glowworm Grotto
- Wellington's city sights & Mt. Victoria
- Sail the Cook Strait to Queen Charlotte Sound
- Savour a delicious BBQ at Morelea 🍷
- Marvel at the clear waters of Lake Tekapo & Lake Pukaki
- Experience Milford Sound on a cruise
- Taste Central Otago stone fruit at a local orchard
- Discover Franz Josef Glacier
- Visit a jade factory & see artists at work
- Explore Punakaiki Pancake Rocks
- Journey over the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine Train
- Included Choice experiences ✓
- Enjoy New Zealand wines with all hotel dinners
- Experienced Travel Director and Driver Guide

From the tip of the spectacular North Island to the bottom of the South Island, this journey offers a wealth of wonderful experiences. Cruise glorious Milford Sound, journey through towering pine forests and verdant pastureland, and fall asleep to the sound of waves crashing on the beach outside your hotel in rugged Punakaiki.

Day 1: Welcome to Auckland

After arrival in Auckland, the afternoon is at leisure for you to explore this vibrant, multicultural city. You might like to amble down Queen Street to the main shopping precinct, or on to Viaduct Harbour. This evening, meet your Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and Highlight Dinner at your hotel. **Hotel: The Cordis, Auckland. HD**

Day 2: Auckland – Rotorua

After a tour of Auckland this morning, you'll visit the Waitomo Caves to explore the mesmerising Glowworm Grotto. Then cross the rolling hills of King Country to Rotorua, where your orientation tour takes in spectacular views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. B**

Day 3: Rotorua Included Choice

✓ Today, choose one from a range of Included Choice sightseeing experiences. Unwind at the Polynesian Spa, tour the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, or explore Rotorua and its lakes in an amphibious WWII-era Duck. 🚰 This evening, gain an insight into Māori culture while you enjoy a traditional Māori Hangi Highlight Dinner and a concert at the Tamaki Family Village. **B HD**

Day 4: Rotorua – Wellington

Journey through pine forests and

verdant farmland to spectacular Huka Falls and serene Lake Taupo. Travel south over the Central Plateau and along the Kapiti Coast to Wellington. Enjoy an exclusive after-hours guided tour of Te Papa Museum of New Zealand. Before leaving there, top off the night with a Highlight Dinner. **Hotel: James Cook Grand Chancellor, Wellington. B BG HD**

Day 5: Wellington – Blenheim

You can discover more of Wellington this morning. Perhaps visit the Parliament buildings and the 'Beehive', home to New Zealand's politicians. Cruise the Cook Strait into tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound and travel on to the villages of Picton and sunny Blenheim. This evening enjoy a Highlight Dinner prepared from local produce and matched with fine Marlborough wines. **Hotel: Chateau Marlborough, Blenheim. B HD**

Day 6: Blenheim – Christchurch

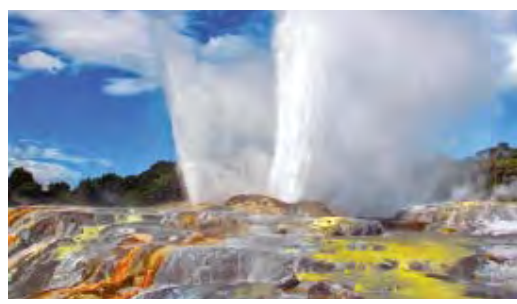
Travel to Kaikoura, where sperm whales can often be seen not far from shore (an optional whale-watching flight is available). On arrival in Christchurch see the extensive work carried out to rebuild the city after the earthquake of 2011. **Hotel: Distinction Hotel, Christchurch. B**

Day 7: Christchurch – Twizel

🍷 Visit Morelea, the home of Angie

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



and Stan Taylor, on the shores of Lake Tekapo. Enjoy a Be My Guest barbecue lunch in their garden and gain an insight into a lifetime spent farming in New Zealand. This afternoon, see Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki, and view the famed Church of the Good Shepherd on your way to Twizel. **Hotel: MacKenzie Country Inn, Twizel. B BG DW**

Day 8: Twizel – Dunedin Included Choice

View the massive Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and Benmore Dam this morning before stopping in at the harbour-side township of Oamaru with its celebrated white limestone buildings. Then you'll make your way to New Zealand's southernmost city, Dunedin. This afternoon choose one from a range of Included Choice sightseeing experiences. Tour stately Larnach Castle, ride the historic Taieri Gorge railway, take a wildlife cruise, or experience an interactive tour of famous Speight's Brewery. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Southern Cross, Dunedin. B DW**

Day 9: Dunedin – Te Anau

Today, travel through lush green sheep-grazing country on your way to the town of Te Anau on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the South Island's largest lake. **Hotel: Distinction Hotel, Te Anau. B DW**

Day 10: Te Anau – Queenstown

You'll experience the magnificence of Fiordland National Park today. Explore the length of Milford Sound on a Nature Cruise. Learn about the history of the region and benefit from the knowledge of your specialist nature guide. After disembarking, travel on to beautiful Queenstown. **Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, 2 nights. B**

Day 11: Queenstown Included Choice

Today, choose one from a range of Included Choice sightseeing experiences. Ride the heart-stopping Shotover Jet boat, take a gondola to

Bob's Peak for thrilling luge rides, visit Kiwi Birdlife Park or take a 4WD minibus excursion through Skippers Canyon. Enjoy a peaceful cruise this evening across Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. **B HD**

Day 12: Queenstown – Franz Josef

Stop to visit the faithfully-restored gold mining settlement of Arrowtown, and enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes. Enjoy the tastes of stone fruit at Cromwell, before travelling over Haast Pass and view the sheer drop of Thunder Creek Falls on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier. You may want to view the glacier on a helicopter flight (own expense). This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing), Franz Josef. B DW**

Day 13: Franz Josef – Punakaiki

Explore the glacier this morning, then spend some time amongst temperate rainforest giants on the West Coast Treetop Walkway. Travel to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, then on to Punakaiki. You'll spend the night in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki. B DW**

Day 14: Punakaiki – Christchurch

Board the iconic TranzAlpine train in the village of Arthur's Pass this afternoon and embark on one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. Back in Christchurch, join your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Distinction Hotel, Christchurch. B FD**

Day 15: Farewell from Christchurch

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. **B**

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