

2018-2019

# NEW ZEALAND

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Lake Te Anau

# New Zealand Vista

14 DAYS | AUCKLAND TO CHRISTCHURCH | LAAC

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey over the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine Train
- Visit a greenstone factory & see a demonstration by master carvers
- See awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier
- Travel through the magnificent rainforest of Haast Pass
- Visit the old gold mining village of Arrowtown
- Let loose in the adventure capital Queenstown
- Sail across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak for a unique Highlight Dinner
- Travel past ancient glaciers, spectacular mountains & magical rainforest en route to Milford Sound
- Cruise on mystical Milford Sound
- View the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Cruise tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound
- Cruise through Waitomo's famous Glowworm Grotto
- Discover the arts & traditions of New Zealand's Māori culture
- Immerse yourself in Māori culture at the Tamaki Māori Village 🇳🇵
- Experienced Travel Director and Driver Guide

Wander up one of the forty eight volcanic cones that make up the rolling landscape of Auckland for panoramic city views. Relax at Oriental Bay, Wellington's golden-sand inner city beach. Amble alongside the Avon River, as it runs through the heart of Christchurch. Each of New Zealand's major cities offers something unique and charming.

### Day 1: Welcome to Auckland

After settling into your hotel, you'll have time to explore Auckland independently. This evening, a Welcome Reception is followed by dinner with your Travel Director. **Hotel:** VR Queen Street, Auckland. **D**

### Day 2: Auckland – Rotorua

Begin your day with a city tour, then trace the path of the Waikato River to the Waitomo Caves to explore their amazing Glowworm Grotto. Travel on to Rotorua and take an orientation tour of the city, where you'll enjoy spectacular views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel:** Ibis Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. **B**

### Day 3: Rotorua

Experience the multi-awarding-winning Agrodome Farm Show. Later relax or explore Rotorua at your own pace. Perhaps visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park, to observe many species of the native fauna of New Zealand including the country's iconic kiwi. Another option is Te Puia thermal reserve. 🇳🇵 Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter and gain an insight into traditional Māori culture followed by a delicious Hangi Highlight Dinner at the Tamaki Māori Village. **B HD**

### Day 4: Rotorua – Wellington

Journey through tall pine forests and verdant farmland to spectacular Huka

Falls and serene Lake Taupo. Drive along the shores of New Zealand's biggest lake through the alpine scenery of Mt. Ruapehu, Tongariro National Park and the dairy farms of Manawatu. Then follow the Kapiti Coast to Wellington for a city orientation tour. **Hotel:** Travelodge, Wellington. **B D**

### Day 5: Wellington – Picton

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Wellington, and then visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, where you'll have time to explore its nature, art, history and cultural heritage. Cruise across the Cook Strait and explore the maze of inlets of Queen Charlotte Sound. Later you'll travel to the seaside village of Picton and take a tour of the city before dinner. **Hotel:** Beachcomber, Picton. **B D**

### Day 6: Picton – Christchurch

Travel to Kaikoura, where sperm whales can often be seen not far from shore (an optional whale-watching flight is available). Continue along the Pacific Ocean coast, then across fertile farmlands to Christchurch. **Hotel:** Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. **B**

### Day 7: Christchurch – Omarama

After a morning at leisure, travel through verdant countryside to serene Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, and view the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd before continuing to the awe-inspiring



# FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



Aoraki/Mt. Cook National Park. **Hotel:** Heritage Gateway, Omarama. **B D**

## Day 8: Omarama – Dunedin

Visit to the Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme, an intricate series of interconnected lakes and canals, and the monumental spillway of the nearby Benmore Dam. Then travel to the historic town of Omarama, with its elegant tree-lined streets and celebrated white limestone buildings. Continue to Dunedin, New Zealand's southernmost city, where your afternoon is at leisure. You may like to take a wildlife cruise, or ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway. **Hotel:** Scenic Hotel Dunedin City. **B D**

## Day 9: Dunedin – Te Anau

This morning you're free to explore Dunedin at your own pace: you might like to visit stately Larnach Castle. This afternoon, travel through lush green sheep-grazing country on your way to Fiordland National Park and the town of Te Anau. Tonight there's the option of travelling by boat through the fascinating Te Anau Glowworm Caves (own expense). **Hotel:** Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. **B D**

## Day 10: Te Anau – Queenstown

Your experience in magnificent Milford Sound is sure to be one of the highlights of your trip. Travel through tall native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park, then cruise the serene waters of this natural wonder. On the way to Queenstown see Mirror Lake, Cleddau Valley, the Chasm, Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls, then travel along the Devil's Staircase and the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy an informative orientation tour on arrival. **Hotel:** Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown, 2 nights.

## Day 11: Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital at your own pace today. There are jet boat rides, white water rafting and 4WD safaris for the thrill-seekers,

and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely rhythm. Later this afternoon, enjoy a cruise across peaceful 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

Your first destination today is the faithfully-restored gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown. Sample luscious stone fruit in Cromwell, and enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes. Drive over spectacular Haast Pass, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls and stopping for a tranquil rainforest walk on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier (an optional scenic flight is available). **Hotel:** Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. **B D**

## Day 13: Franz Josef – Christchurch

Travel on this morning to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone. Pounamu (its Māori name) is of great cultural significance in Māori culture and was prized for its strength, durability and beauty. It was used for weapons, tools and personal ornaments, and also denoted great status. Continue to Arthur's Pass to board the iconic TranzAlpine train and embark on one of the world's most renowned rail journeys. Pass through magnificent landscapes ranging from the rugged gorges and pristine ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps to the lush pastureland of the Canterbury Plains. This evening in Christchurch, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel:** Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. **B FD**

## Day 14: Farewell from Christchurch

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



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