

2018-2019

NEW ZEALAND

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FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



Milford Sound



Spirit of New Zealand

21 DAYS | CHRISTCHURCH TO AUCKLAND | LCQB

HIGHLIGHTS

- View the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Spend the night cruising on magical Milford Sound
- Let loose in the adventure capital, Queenstown
- Explore the Glowworm Caves at Te Anau by boat
- Taste Central Otago stone fruit at a local orchard
- See awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier
- Watch artisans carving native greenstone (jade) in Hokitika
- Punakaiki, home to Pancake Rocks & Blowholes
- Visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand 🇳🇿
- Immerse yourself in Māori culture at a Hangi & Concert 🇳🇿
- Explore the geothermal valley at Te Puia in Rotorua
- Relax in the Bay of Islands
- Experienced Travel Director and Driver Guide

Slumber under a star-studded sky in your private cabin on a Milford Sound cruiser, and stroll along deserted golden beaches in New Zealand's only coastal national park. This comprehensive journey takes you through both North and South Islands to a wonderland of towering snowcapped mountains, ice-blue glaciers, pristine lakes and World Heritage sites of extraordinary volcanic activity, and reveals fascinating insights into the intriguing culture of the original inhabitants, the Māori.

Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch

This evening, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and dinner. Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. D

Day 2: Christchurch – Omarama

Visit the city this morning, then travel over the Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo and view the Church of the Good Shepherd before continuing to Mt. Cook National Park. You may choose to take an optional scenic flight over Mt. Cook (weather permitting). Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama. B D

Day 3: Omarama – Dunedin

Oamaru, with its celebrated limestone buildings, is your first destination today. Continue to Dunedin. Hotel: Kingsgate Hotel, Dunedin. B D

Day 4: Dunedin – Milford Sound

Travel through spectacular Fiordland National Park. Drive through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel before arriving in Milford Sound for your overnight cruise. (Cruise does not operate 21 May-15 September. During this period there will be a day cruise on Milford Sound and accommodation in Te Anau or Queenstown.) Cruise: Overnight Milford Sound. B D

Day 5: Milford Sound – Queenstown

Depart this morning for serene, majestic Lake Te Anau. Explore the famous Te

Anau Glowworm Caves by boat with a local guide before travelling on to Queenstown, the adventure capital of the South Island. Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Queenstown, 3 nights. B D

Day 6: Queenstown Free Time

Today is free for you to explore Queenstown at your own pace. You may like to choose one of our optional experiences, including riding the Shotover Jet boat, joining a wine tour, or enjoying a 4WD minibus excursion through breathtaking Skippers Canyon. This evening, consider a peaceful cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the iconic vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw. B

Day 7: Queenstown Free Time

Today, take time to either relax or tailor your own action-packed agenda. B

Day 8: Queenstown – Franz Josef

Your first destination today is the old gold mining settlement of Arrowtown. Travel on to enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes, the most famous of which is pristine Lake Wanaka. Drive over the spectacular Haast Pass and take a rainforest walk to Thunder Creek Falls on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier. Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing), Franz Josef. B D

Day 9: Franz Josef – Punakaiki

See Franz Josef Glacier from the air

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this morning or take a glacier hike (both optional). Travel on to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, for a factory visit and demonstration. Continue to Punakaiki to view the Pancake Rocks. Spend the night in an eco-friendly waterfront resort. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

Day 10: Punakaiki – Nelson

The Heritage Highway leads you through a scenic wilderness to the Buller Gorge and pristine Kahurangi National Park. This afternoon in Nelson visit the quirky World of Wearable Arts and Classic Cars Museum. **Hotel: Grand Mercure Monaco Resort, Nelson, 2 nights. B D**

Day 11: Nelson Free Time

On this day at leisure, you'll have the option to journey to the top of the South Island and take a scenic cruise in the Abel Tasman National Park. Or perhaps take a short bushwalk, relax in sunny Nelson or explore the town's many art and craft galleries. **B**

Day 12: Nelson – Wellington

Visit the seaside village of Picton and cruise on tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound before heading across Cook Strait to the North Island and Wellington, New Zealand's capital. 🚗 Enjoy a city sights tour before a guided tour of Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, where you'll explore New Zealand's nature, art, history and cultural heritage. **Hotel: Travelodge Wellington, 2 nights. B D**

Day 13: Wellington Free Time

Explore Wellington at your own pace today. You might like to take a tour of Parliament, or take a behind-the-scenes guided tour through the Weta Workshop, creators of special effects for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films. **B**

Day 14: Wellington – Napier

Travel through the vineyards of the Wairarapa region and Hawkes Bay to Art Deco Napier, for a walking tour. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Te Pania. B D**

Day 15: Napier – Rotorua

Today, journey to Lake Taupo, and then visit Huka Falls on your way to Rotorua, where a sightseeing tour will include views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel: Ibis Rotorua Hotel, 2 nights. B**

Day 16: Rotorua

Visit Te Puia, the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute. A tour of Rotorua's geothermal fields follows, with bubbling mudpools, spectacular geysers and crater lakes.

🚗 Experience Māori culture and enjoy a Highlight Dinner this evening at the Tamaki Māori Village. **B HD**

Day 17: Rotorua – Auckland

Experience the entertaining Agrodome Farm Show. Later, travel through the lush dairy-farming district of Waikato en route to Auckland. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B**

Day 18: Auckland – Bay of Islands

Depart Auckland and travel through Northland's lush farmland. Arriving in the Bay of Islands this afternoon, you'll experience spectacular scenery as you cruise to Cape Brett and the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. **Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Garden View, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. B D**

Day 19: Bay of Islands Free Time

Today is free to explore. Ask your Travel Director about optional experiences such as a coach trip to Cape Reinga via Ninety-Mile Beach, sailing on a tall ship or a tour of historic Russell. **B**

Day 20: Bay of Islands – Auckland

After a morning at leisure, drive through lush farmland scenery as you return to Auckland. This evening, join your Travel Director and travelling companions for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B FD**

Day 21: Farewell from Auckland

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

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