

2018-2019

NEW ZEALAND

Inspiring Journeys

Small group
boutique
journeys

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Guided Holidays

Our signature
fully-guided holiday
experiences

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Short Breaks

4-7 day breaks
with your choice of
accommodation

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Milford Sound



The Long White Cloud

22 DAYS | CHRISTCHURCH TO AUCKLAND | NZIJ

HIGHLIGHTS

Discover

- Stunning Milford Sound in the heart of Fiordland National Park
- New Zealand's capital Wellington
- Experience Franz Josef Glacier

Explore

- Journey on the iconic TranzAlpine Train
- Historic goldrush Arrowtown

Immerse

- Visit a jade factory and see artists at work
- Experience the Redwoods Treewalk
- Gain an insight into Māori life at Whakarewarewa Living Village 🇳🇿

Relax

- Cruise in the Bay of Islands
- Stay in chalets and cruise on sparkling Milford Sound

Taste

- A Māori Hangi with the Tamaki family 🇳🇿
- 20 Full buffet breakfasts B
- 1 Continental breakfast CB
- 1 Lunch L
- 12 Dinners with wine DW
- 2 Highlight Dinners HD
- 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Embark on an enchanting expedition through New Zealand's North and South. This Inspiring Journey provides the perfect balance of relaxation and adventure, from the hot pools of Franz Josef to the brave depths of Queenstown, the adventure capital. Explore extraordinary landscapes and the age-old legends of the Māori as you come face to face with exhilarating New Zealand as few have seen it before.

Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch

Your New Zealand adventure begins in Christchurch, whose lush green surrounds have earned it the nickname, the Garden City. Spend the afternoon at leisure discovering the city's strong colonial heritage and wildlife experiences before joining your Travel Director and travel companions for a welcome drink and dinner to kick-off your holiday of a lifetime. Hotel: Crowne Plaza, Christchurch. DW

Day 2: Christchurch – Punakaiki

Traverse the fertile chequerboard of the Canterbury Plains and glorious snow-capped Southern Alps on board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. The gentle chug-chug in extraordinary surrounds gives way to more epic scenery as you board your coach at stunning Arthur's Pass and travel to Punakaiki to see the limestone Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Your home tonight is in an eco-friendly resort on the waterfront surrounded by the beautiful Paparoa National Park. Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B DW

Day 3: Punakaiki – Franz Josef

Admire the vivid hues of greenstone (jade) this morning on a visit to Hokitika for an exclusive jewellery carving demonstration, with the

opportunity to purchase beautiful handcrafted jade jewellery and artefacts. Continue to the self-proclaimed wonderfully wacky gold mining town of Ross before arriving at the luminous blue-white Franz Josef Glacier. You'll overnight at an eco-friendly accommodation surrounded by nature. Your only priority this evening – relaxing in Franz Josef's geothermal hot pools. Hotel: Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef. B DW

Day 4: Franz Josef – Queenstown

Spend the morning contemplating the exquisite surrounds of Westland Tai Poutini National Park or take to the air on a scenic flight over this spectacular temperate glacier that flows into the Tasman Sea (own expense). Later, meander through the rugged and isolated Haast Pass and along the pebble-laden shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, stopping in Makarora at lunchtime and the historic and wonderfully preserved old gold-mining village of Arrowtown. New Zealand's adventure capital of Queenstown awaits and you'll have an opportunity to explore it during an orientation tour before settling in at your hotel. Hotel: Crowne Plaza, Queenstown, 3 nights. B DW

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Day 5: Queenstown Free Time

Calling all thrill seekers! Today's the day to earn your adventurer stripes braving some of Queenstown's most daring activities. This means bungy jumping off bridges, abseiling down cliffs and jumping into waterfall pools. This evening, enjoy a memorable Highlight Dinner at one of Queenstown's fine dining restaurants, against the backdrop of the beautiful snow-capped Remarkables and Lake Wakatipu. B HD

Day 6: Queenstown Free Time

Another daring day awaits in New Zealand's adrenalin capital. Consider a day indulging in the region's vintages and local cheeses at the Gibbston Valley Winery, or board a jet boat for an exhilarating ride down the mighty Shotover River. The evening is yours to experience the vibrant local restaurant scene or simply relax at your hotel. B

Day 7: Queenstown – Milford Sound

Your epic discovery of New Zealand's natural wonders continues south along the tranquil shores of Lake Wakatipu, overlooked by the mighty range of the Remarkables, to Te Anau and deep into the World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. Drive through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel and emerge into a photographer's paradise, surrounded by Pop's Lookout, Cleddau Valley and the scenic Mirror Lakes. Don't forget to charge your phone or camera! Continue towards Milford Sound, stepping off the beaten track and on the Chasm Walk for dramatic views of waterfalls and water-sculpted shapes in the rock, before arriving for a highlight stay at Milford Sound Lodge, with its unparalleled and exquisite views of the pristine Cleddau Valley. Hotel: Milford Sound Lodge, 2 nights. B DW

Day 8: Milford Sound

Wake up to the startling beauty of Milford Sound. Board the Southern Discoveries vessel for a half day exploration of Milford Sound, often called the 'eighth natural wonder of the world'. Sail out to the Tasman Sea, looking for wildlife along the way, for a visit to the Underwater Observatory and the opportunity to go sea kayaking in Harrison Cove. This afternoon learn more about breathtaking Fiordland National Park with an informative talk by a local expert. B L DW

Day 9: Milford Sound – Wedderburn

This morning, embark on a journey from the rainforests of pristine Fiordland National Park, through Te Anau and the rolling hill country of Southland to the dry and arid region of Central Otago. Arrive in Wedderburn and head out to a high-country farm to learn about life on the alpine plains. Finish the day with dinner at the local pub. Hotel: Wedderburn Cottages. CB DW

Day 10: Wedderburn – Mt. Cook

Travel to the town of Naseby to learn the history of this old gold mining region. Maybe you'll try your hand at the ancient sport of curling! From here it's on towards the spectacular scenery of the Southern Alps and then along the shores of majestic Lake Pukaki, before arriving in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, a breathtaking environment of glaciers, terminal lakes and turbulent rivers. Enjoy dinner in your hotel, situated in the Te Wahipounamu UNESCO World Heritage Area, and set against the spectacular backdrop of the mighty Aoraki (Mt. Cook), soaring above at 3,724 metres – the highest mountain in Australasia. Hotel: The Hermitage, Mt. Cook. B DW





Wine tasting

The Long White Cloud

CONTINUED



Day 11: Mt. Cook – Christchurch

Your epic encounter with New Zealand's scenic beauty continues this morning as you see the splendour of Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, where you'll stop to view the famous and iconic Church of the Good Shepherd, built as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie region, with its altar window framing stunning views of the lake and surrounding mountains. Later, begin your return journey to Christchurch, the City of Churches, and the largest city in the South Island. Crossing the Canterbury Plains, arrive in Christchurch this afternoon and embark on a sightseeing tour of the city to learn about its rebirth after the devastating 2011 earthquake. Hotel: Crowne Plaza, Christchurch. B

Day 12: Christchurch – Wellington

This morning, follow the rugged Pacific coastline north in search of irresistible natural treasures. Against the backdrop of the snow-capped Seaward Kaikoura peaks that appear to tumble into the bay, arrive in the whale-watching capital of Kaikoura. Continue to the picturesque port town of Picton, the launch pad for a serene sailing along the drowned river valley of Queen Charlotte Sound, before crossing the Cook Strait to the North Island and trendy Wellington, the up and coming capital of New Zealand, where you'll enjoy a city sightseeing tour. Hotel: Sofitel, Wellington, 2 nights B DW

Day 13: Wellington Free Time

Spend the day at leisure exploring the 'Capital of Cool' on your terms. Visit Mount Victoria Lookout and Te Papa Museum of New Zealand. Take a ride on Wellington's famous Cable Car or go behind the scenes and experience a world of imagination at Weta Cave – the special effect geniuses behind Peter Jackson's fantasy trilogies of

The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit and King Kong. Your Travel Director will help you book all your chosen optional experiences. This evening is yours to indulge in the culinary delights of cosmopolitan Wellington, from boho chic in Cuba Street to the quirky cafés of Courtenay Place. B

Day 14: Wellington – Taupo

Follow the spectacular Kapiti Coast, traversing the dramatic landscapes of Manawatu to Tongariro National Park, home to remarkable volcanic peaks and the serene expanse of Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. Departing the caldera, stop to admire raging Huka Falls and pass the spectacular Wairakei Geothermal Power Station before arriving at your hotel in Taupo. Hotel: Hilton Hotel, Taupo. B DW

Day 15: Taupo – Rotorua

A leisurely morning sees you soaking up the extraordinary beauty of Taupo before you continue to the nearby thermal wonderland of Rotorua to gain insights into the fascinating rituals and traditions of the Māori people. 🚫 Tonight, get up close and personal to the locals, touching your forehead and the tip of your nose in their Hongi greeting, and indulge in a Highlight Dinner featuring the mouthwatering flavours of a traditional Hangi, cooked in the ground using geothermal steam. Hotel: Princes Gate Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. B HD

Day 16: Rotorua

Ascending to the breathtaking Redwoods Treewalk, enjoy an elevated bird's eye view of the 115-year-old redwood giants and view the beautiful surrounds of the forest from a unique perspective. Next up is Rotorua's natural splendour – revealed in the crystal clear mineral springs and native flora of Rainbow Springs Nature Park. You may even spot a Kiwi bird! Explore this wildlife sanctuary

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before visiting 🍷 Whakarewarewa Living Village for insights into the lives of the Māori community and their special bond with the ancient 'land of the long white cloud' – or Aotearoa in the Māori language. B

Day 17: Rotorua – Coromandel

Begin your day with a dazzling show by the Waitomo glow worms, whose iridescent grottos are yours to explore during an exclusive five-star Eco Glowworm experience. Admire the magical subterranean world of Footwhistle Cave before embarking on a visit to Matamata, of The Lord of the Rings fame, where the gardens and town of Hobbiton were lovingly crafted over two years for the movie. Indulge your inner Baggins, before your epic journey continues to the coastal town of Coromandel and Puka Park Resort – your accommodation tonight is in Tree Hut Chalets. Hotel: Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort, Coromandel. B DW

Day 18: Coromandel – Auckland

Enjoy a relaxed start this morning before you head to cosmopolitan Auckland, the City of Sails, New Zealand's largest city. Get your bearings during a city sightseeing tour, then spend the rest of the day discovering why this sprawling harbour city is deemed one of the world's most liveable. Hotel: Sofitel, Auckland. B

Day 19: Auckland – Bay of Islands

The golden sands of Orewa seem to stretch endlessly as you head north along the Hibiscus Coast to the native forest of Waipoua, home to Tane Mahuta. The venerable giant is the largest Kauri tree in existence, estimated to be between 1,250 and 2,500 years and towers an impressive 51.2 metres into the surrounding dense woodlands. Join a local Māori guide and head deep

into the forest, immersing yourself in the fascinating legends behind these 'lords of the forest'. Finally, journey to your waterfront resort in the glorious Bay of Islands, with its seemingly endless shores, bays, islands and harbours. Hotel: Cophthorne Resort, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. B DW

Day 20: Bay of Islands

Leave the subtropical paradise of islands behind, and set off by ferry across the harbour to Russell, New Zealand's first permanent European settlement, and its first capital. Embark on a guided walking tour of the historic town and explore its centuries-old seafaring heritage, then spend the rest of the day at leisure. B

Day 21: Bay of Islands – Auckland

This morning, set forth across the picturesque Bay of Islands, cruising to the Māori's sacred Hole in the Rock to witness how this famous monolith resists the power of the surging sea that surrounds it. See historic Cape Brett, along your exploration of some of the 165 islands in the bay, before arriving in the pretty tourist hotspot of Paihia for a peaceful walk along the beachfront or a spot of curio shopping. Your Inspiring Journey nearing its end, return to Auckland for a memorable Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. Hotel: Sofitel, Auckland. B FD

Day 22: Farewell from Auckland

Bid a fond farewell to newfound friends as your epic New Zealand Inspiring Journey comes to an end this morning after breakfast. B



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