

2019-2020

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



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# NEW ZEALAND

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**BEST SELLER**

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Rainbow Springs Nature Park

# New Zealand Marvel

**14 DAYS** CHRISTCHURCH → AUCKLAND

LCCA



TranzAlpine Train



Tamaki Māori Village



Christchurch

Christchurch • Franz Josef Glacier • Queenstown • Fiordland National Park • Te Anau • Dunedin • Oamaru • Picton • Wellington • Huka Falls • Rotorua • Auckland

This classic New Zealand itinerary spans both the North and South Islands, leading you through majestic panoramas. Witness the glaciers of the West Coast, the sensational alpine landscapes of Lake Tekapo and Mt. Cook National Park, and the extraordinary geothermal fields of Rotorua. Glimpses of traditional Māori history and culture deepen your experience as you explore the marvellous land of The Long White Cloud.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey over the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine Train
- Visit a green stone (jade) factory
- 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 and 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 on tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound
- Cruise through Waitomo's famous Glowworm Grotto
- Discover the arts and traditions of New Zealand's Māori culture 🇳🇿

### Day 1 Welcome to Christchurch

On arrival in Christchurch there's time for relaxing or exploring. Perhaps you might take a leisurely stroll along the banks of the picturesque Avon River. This evening, your holiday begins at a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch.**

### Day 2 Christchurch – Franz Josef

Board the iconic TranzAlpine train for one of the world's great rail journeys. Pass through the lush pastureland of the Canterbury Plains to the rugged gorges and ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps. Arrive at Arthur's Pass and continue to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone. Continue to Franz Josef Glacier (an optional scenic flight is available). **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing, Franz Josef. B D**

### Day 3 Franz Josef – Queenstown

Drive over the spectacular Haast Pass, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls, and serene Lakes Wanaka, Hawea and Dunstan. Stop at the town of Cromwell and enjoy delicious stone fruit. Next, you'll visit the historic gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown, where over seventy buildings from the gold-rush era are still beautifully preserved. You'll arrive in Queenstown in time for an orientation tour of the town, which sits on the shore of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown, 2 nights. B**

### Day 4 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital today. There are jet-boat rides for thrill-seekers, and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely pace. 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 and an entertaining after-dinner show offering glimpses of high-country farm life. **B HD**

### Day 5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Travel the highway known as the Devil's Staircase and along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to the town of Te Anau. On your journey to Milford Sound you'll be awestruck by the native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park. Your cruise on the Sound provides views of cascading waterfalls, hanging glacial valleys, and towering Mitre Peak. Return to lakeside Te Anau, where this evening you can consider an optional experience visiting the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. B D**

### Day 6 Te Anau – Dunedin

Journey through lush green sheep-grazing country on your way to Dunedin this morning. The afternoon is yours to enjoy as you please. Sit back and relax, or consider an optional experience. Perhaps ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway, or take a wildlife cruise to spot penguins and Royal Albatross. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City. B D**

### Day 7 Dunedin – Oamaru

Consider an optional experience to visit Larnach Castle this morning. Then set out for the historic town of Oamaru, with its elegant tree-lined streets and celebrated white limestone buildings. Later, follow the course of the mighty Waitaki River, passing monumental Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and the Benmore Dam on your way to Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Oamaru. B D**

### Day 8 Oamaru – Christchurch

Journey through the awe-inspiring Aoraki/Mt. Cook National Park this morning (an optional scenic flight is available). See majestic Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, and stop to view the famous Church of the Good Shepherd. Later, traverse the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch, a vibrant city known for its English heritage. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. B D**

### Day 9 Christchurch – Picton

Travel along the rugged Pacific Ocean coast this morning to Kaikoura, where sperm whales can often be seen not far from shore (an optional whale-watching flight is available). Pass the pink-tinged crystallisation ponds of the Lake Grassmere Salt Works, then travel on to the pretty seaside village of Picton. **Hotel: Picton Beachcomber Inn. B D**

### Day 10 Picton – Wellington

Cruise tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound, then cross the Cook Strait to Wellington on the North Island. Take a city tour before enjoying some free time. Later, visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, where you'll have time to explore the many fascinating exhibits. **Hotel: Travelodge, Wellington. B D**

### Day 11 Wellington – Rotorua

Travel along the scenic Kapiti Coast through lush dairy-farming country to Tongariro National Park and snow-capped Mt. Ruapehu. Panoramic views of Lake Taupo, the largest lake in Australasia, will unfold around every corner. View mighty Huka Falls and pass the Wairakei Geothermal Power Station. Later relax or explore Rotorua independently. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. B**

### Day 12 Rotorua

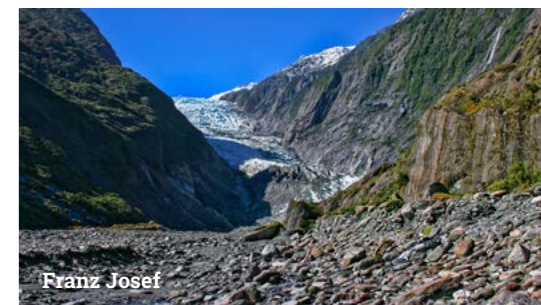
Relax or explore Rotorua at your own pace. Perhaps you might visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park to observe the native fauna of New Zealand, including the country's iconic kiwi. Another option is the Te Puia thermal reserve. This afternoon, experience the multi-awarding-winning Agrodome Farm Show. 🎪 Enjoy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

### Day 13 Rotorua – Auckland

This morning, explore the Waitomo Glowworm Grotto by boat, and walk through towering limestone caverns. Later, you'll follow the noble Waikato, New Zealand's longest river, into Auckland. Take an orientation tour of the city before joining your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B FD**

### Day 14 Farewell from Auckland

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



Franz Josef



Queenstown



Te Anau

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