

2019-2020

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



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# NEW ZEALAND

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**BEST  
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Queenstown

# New Zealand Vista

**14 DAYS** AUCKLAND → CHRISTCHURCH

LAAC



Lake Te Anau

Mt. Ruapehu

Auckland

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

Venture up one of the forty eight volcanic cones that make up the rolling landscape of Auckland for spectacular 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.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Feast on a Māori Hangi at a unique dinner experience at the Tamaki Māori Village 🍷
- Discover the arts and traditions of New Zealand's Māori culture
- Cruise through Waitomo's famous Glowworm Grotto
- Cruise tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound
- View the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Cruise on mystical Milford Sound
- Travel past ancient glaciers, spectacular mountains and magical rainforest en route to Milford Sound
- Sail across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak for a unique Highlight Dinner
- Let loose in the 'adventure capital', Queenstown
- Visit the old gold mining village of Arrowtown
- Travel through the magnificent rainforest of Haast Pass
- See awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier
- Visit a green stone (jade) factory
- Journey over the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine Train

### 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 the 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

Relax or explore Rotorua at your own pace. Perhaps visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park, where you can observe many species of the native fauna of New Zealand, including the country's iconic kiwi. Another option is Te Puia thermal reserve. Later, experience the multi-awarding-winning Agrodome Farm Show. 🍷 Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter and gain 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. Next, 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: Picton Beachcomber Inn. 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 – Oamaru

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

### Day 8 Oamaru – Dunedin

Visit 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 Oamaru en route 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, why not consider an optional experience and take a boat tour of the mysterious Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **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. B**

### 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 experience. 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, Graham Wing, Franz Josef. 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 new-found friends 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**

Waitomo Caves

Picton

Te Anau

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