

2019-2020

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

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**BEST
SELLER****FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL***Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

Māori Culture

Kia Ora New Zealand

📅 17 DAYS 📍 AUCKLAND → CHRISTCHURCH

LABC



Huka Falls

Kaikoura

Auckland

Auckland • Bay of Islands • Waitomo • Rotorua • Wellington • Picton • Christchurch • Omarama • Dunedin • Te Anau • Queenstown • Franz Josef Glacier • Arthur's Pass

This epic New Zealand holiday spans both islands of this small, proud nation, revealing majestic snow-capped mountains, rugged coastlines, ice-blue lakes and sweeping rural vistas. Stories of the history and traditions of Māori culture emerge as you travel from the stunning Bay of Islands in the north, to the vibrant, multicultural city of Queenstown and breathtaking Milford Sound in the spectacular south.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise in the stunning Bay of Islands and through 'Hole in the Rock'
- Cruise through Waitomo's famous Glowworm Grotto
- Feast on a Māori Hangi at a unique dinner experience with the Tamaki family 🍷
- Discover the arts and traditions of New Zealand's Māori culture
- Explore New Zealand's capital Wellington
- Visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand 🏛️
- Set sail on Queen Charlotte Sound
- See spectacular Lake Tekapo and Lake Te Anau
- Cruise on breathtaking Milford Sound
- Let loose in the 'adventure capital', Queenstown
- Sail across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak for a unique Highlight Dinner
- See awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier
- Visit a green stone factory and watch the jade artists at work
- Tour through Christchurch to witness the incredible rebuild of the city

Day 1 Welcome to Auckland

After settling in to your hotel, you'll have time to explore Auckland at your own pace. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland.**

Day 2 Auckland – Bay of Islands

Travel along the scenic Hibiscus Coast to the Bay of Islands. Enjoy spectacular scenery as you cruise to Cape Brett, and the 'Hole in the Rock'. As you return to Paihia, pass through picturesque islands with deserted sandy beaches and secluded bays. **Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Garden View, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. B D**

Day 3 Bay of Islands Free Time

Explore the Bay of Islands at leisure today. Consider one of the optional experiences. Perhaps sail on an historic tall ship, take the ferry to the charming town of Russell, the country's first sea-port, or explore the culturally-significant Waitangi Treaty Grounds. **B**

Day 4 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Enjoy a relaxed morning before travelling through lush farmland on your way back to Auckland. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B D**

Day 5 Auckland – Rotorua

After a tour of Auckland's city highlights, trace the Waikato River to the Waitomo Caves, where you'll explore the Waitomo Glowworm Grotto by boat. Your journey

continues to Rotorua, for an orientation tour with views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. B**

Day 6 Rotorua Free Time

Your morning is free. You might like to visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park for a glimpse of New Zealand's iconic kiwi bird, or Te Puia, the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute. Experience the multi-awarding-winning Agrodome Farm Show, for insights into agriculture in New Zealand. 🌿 This evening, enjoy a Māori Hangi feast Highlight Dinner and concert at the Tamaki Māori Village. **B HD**

Day 7 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 8 Wellington – Picton

Enjoy a tour of Wellington this morning. 🌿 See the national Parliament and the 'Beehive', home to New Zealand's politicians, and explore Te Papa Museum and Art Gallery. Then cruise the Cook Strait into tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound on the South Island, arriving in picturesque Picton. **Hotel: Picton Beachcomber Inn. B D**

Day 9 Picton – Christchurch

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

Day 10 Christchurch – Omarama

Explore Christchurch at leisure this morning, then travel over the fertile Canterbury Plains to serene Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo. Next, view the Church of the Good Shepherd and soak up the scenery of Mt. Cook National Park (an optional scenic flight is available). **Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama. B D**

Day 11 Omarama – Dunedin

Visit the Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and the monumental spillway of the nearby Benmore Dam. Then travel to the town of Oamaru, with its celebrated white limestone buildings. Continue to Dunedin, New Zealand's southernmost city. The afternoon is free for you to explore. Perhaps take a wildlife cruise or ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City. B D**

Day 12 Dunedin – Te Anau

Enjoy free time in Dunedin. You might like to visit Larnach Castle. Then travel across the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago en route to Te Anau. Tonight, you may choose an optional experience and visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. B D**

Day 13 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your experience in magnificent Milford Sound today is sure to be one of the highlights of your journey. Travel first through the 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 of the city before settling in for your two-night stay. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown, 2 nights. B**

Day 14 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital at your own pace today. Later in the afternoon, cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner and an entertaining after-dinner farm show. **B HD**

Day 15 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Visit the faithfully-restored gold mining settlement of Arrowtown and travel on to Cromwell to taste its sensational stone fruit. You will then travel over Haast Pass and view the sheer drop of Thunder Creek Falls on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier (an optional experience scenic flight is available). **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing, Franz Josef. B D**

Day 16 Franz Josef – Christchurch

This morning's destination is Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, Pounamu (its Māori name). Then continue to Arthur's Pass to board the iconic TranzAlpine train and take one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. Pass through the Southern Alps to the lush pastureland of the Canterbury Plains. This evening, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch. B FD**

Day 17 Farewell from Christchurch

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

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