

2019-2020

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

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Milford Sound

Essence of New Zealand

📅 18 DAYS 📍 CHRISTCHURCH → AUCKLAND

LCQA



Christchurch • Omarama • Dunedin • Milford Sound • Queenstown • Franz Josef Glacier • Punakaiki • Nelson • Wellington • Napier • Rotorua • Bay of Islands • Auckland

Experience a perfect New Zealand holiday that will leave you with a lifetime of golden memories. In the North Island, it may be the spirit and energy of a Māori cultural performance, or the thermal wonderland of Rotorua. In the South Island, be blown away by the breathtaking beauty of its snow-capped mountain ranges and the fiords and waterfalls of Milford Sound. Whatever your delight, there are many memories to take away and treasure.

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 and Blowholes
- Explore the World of WearableArt
- Visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand 🌐
- Guided walking tour of Art Deco Napier
- Immerse yourself in Māori culture at a Hangi Highlight Dinner and concert 🌐
- Explore the geothermal valley at Te Puia in Rotorua
- Experience farm life at the Agrodome Farm Show

Day 1 Welcome to Christchurch
Meet your Travel Director and travelling companions this evening at a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch.**

Day 2 Christchurch – Omarama
Drive over the rich alluvial farmlands of the Canterbury Plains to spectacular Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki. Pause to view the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd before revelling in the magnificent alpine landscape of Mt. Cook National Park. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama. B D**

Day 3 Omarama – Dunedin
Travel via Oamaru, with its famous white limestone buildings, to Dunedin, a region of unique landscapes and fascinating cultural history. Take an orientation tour, then enjoy quiet time to explore the city or relax at your hotel. **Hotel: Kingsgate Hotel, Dunedin. B**

Day 4 Dunedin – Milford Sound
Be awestruck today by the glories of the superb World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. Journey through rainforest, ancient glaciers and mountain ranges, and pass through the monumental Homer Tunnel. See Lake Matheson, Pop's Lookout, Cleddau Valley and the Chasm before arriving in Milford Sound for your overnight cruise (cruise may not operate on 12 Sep 2019 and 10 Sep 2020 departures. On these dates, you can enjoy 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 the majestic Lake Te Anau. Explore the famous Te Anau Glowworm Caves by boat with a local guide, before travelling to Queenstown, the adventure capital. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown, 3 nights. B D**

Day 6 Queenstown Free Time
Today is yours to explore Queenstown at your own pace. You may like to consider taking one of our optional experiences – you could ride the Shotover Jet boat, join a wine tour or take an excursion through Skippers Canyon. This evening you have the option of taking a peaceful cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner. **B**

Day 7 Queenstown Free Time
While Queenstown wears its 'Global Adventure Capital' badge proudly, it's also the perfect place to relax and explore. The town boasts great shopping with luxury brands, iconic New Zealand design stores, and boutique fashion. **B**

Day 8 Queenstown – Franz Josef
Your destination is the wild West Coast of the South Island. Stop to visit the gold mining settlement of Arrowtown, and enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes. You will then travel over Haast Pass

and view the sheer drop of Thunder Creek Falls on your way to the Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

Day 9 Franz Josef – Punakaiki
Explore this astounding glacier on foot or from the air this morning (both optional). Travel to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, then on to Punakaiki to view the intriguing Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. You'll spend the night in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

Day 10 Punakaiki – Nelson
The Heritage Highway leads you through a scenic wilderness to the plunging Buller Gorge and pristine Kahurangi National Park. This afternoon in Nelson you'll visit the quirky World of WearableArt 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 of journeying to the top of the South Island and enjoying a cruise in the Abel Tasman National Park. Or, you could take a short bush walk, or relax in sunny Nelson and explore its many art and craft galleries. **B**

Day 12 Nelson – Wellington
Visit the seaside village of Picton with free time to explore and purchase lunch. 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**

Day 13 Wellington Free Time
Wellington is celebrated as the country's creative and culinary capital and today is yours to explore the city at your own pace. You might like to take an optional experience tour of Parliament, or the Weta Workshop, creators of special effects for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films. **B D**

Day 14 Wellington – Napier

Travel through the Wairarapa region and Hawke's Bay to Napier, a city whose unique concentration of beautiful Art Deco architecture is due to its rebuilding after the 1931 earthquake. Enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier. B D**

Day 15 Napier – Rotorua

Journey to Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand, and then visit mighty Huka Falls on your way to Rotorua, where a sightseeing tour will include views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel: Ibis Hotel, Rotorua, 2 nights. B**

Day 16 Rotorua

🌐 Visit Te Puia, the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute, where talented students carry on age-old traditions of wood-carving and weaving. A tour of Rotorua's active geothermal fields follows: see bubbling mud pools, spectacular geysers and crater lakes. 🌐 Gain insight into traditional Māori culture this evening while you enjoy a Highlight Dinner at the Tamaki Māori Village. **B HD**

Day 17 Rotorua – Auckland

Experience the Agrodome Farm Show, where an entertaining performance provides insights into agriculture in New Zealand. Later, travel through the lush dairy-farming district of Waikato en route to Auckland, where you'll take a tour of the city. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B**

Day 18 Farewell from Auckland

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



Agrodome Farm Show



Tamaki Māori Village



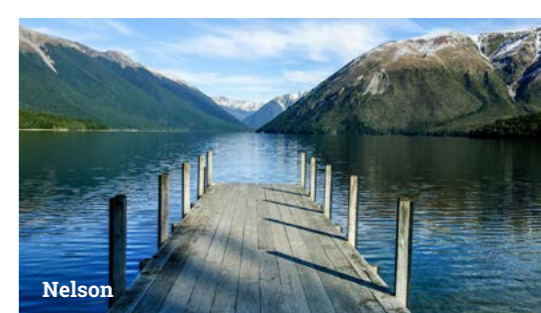
Te Anau Glowworm Caves



Milford Sound



Punakaiki



Nelson

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