

2019 ... 2020

Valid from 01 Sep 19 - 31 Aug 20

New Zealand

Escorted Coach Tours



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

Luxury Small
Group Journeys

All-Inclusive
Coach Tours

18 Day *New Zealand Panorama*

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

Auckland → Christchurch



Group at Tamaki

Highlights

- + Historic Bay of Islands
- + Thermal wonderland of Rotorua
- + Napier, the Art Deco capital of the world
- + Wellington, the nation's capital
- + World Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- + Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South
- + Fiordland National Park
- + Spectacular Southern Lakes region
- + West Coast Glacier region

Featured Experiences

- + Authentic Maori Village, Hangi & Cultural Performance
- + Milford Sound Scenic Cruise
- + World famous TransAlpine train journey
- + TSS Earnslaw Walter Peak Cruise & Dinner

Iconic Sightseeing

- + City Tours of Auckland and Wellington
- + Cape Brett 'Hole in the Rock' Cruise
- + Tour of Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- + Entry to Auckland Sky Tower
- + Agrodome Farm Show
- + Rainbow Springs Park
- + Skyline Gondola & Luge
- + Locally guided Art Deco Walking Tour
- + Scenic Interislander Ferry Crossing
- + Entry into Hanmer Springs Hot Pools
- + International Antarctic Centre
- + Christchurch City Tram Tour
- + Guided Tour of Larnach Castle
- + Visit the historic gold mining village of Arrowtown

Day 1 Arrive Auckland (D)

"Haere Mai" ... Welcome to New Zealand. A representative will greet you at the airport with transport waiting to take you to your downtown city hotel. We include a visit to the Auckland Skytower, the tallest free-standing structure in the Southern Hemisphere where you will experience 360-degree panoramic views over the harbours, city and surrounds. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner and drinks with your fellow travellers.

Stay: Rydges Hotel



Auckland Sky Tower

Day 2 Auckland, Paihia (B,D)

Leaving the city behind, we travel across the Auckland Harbour Bridge and drive north to Paihia in the Bay of Islands, a seaside town nestled on the foreshore of a National Maritime Park. On arrival, meet your local Maori guide who will provide an insight into the local history before visiting Waitangi, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori people and the British. Enjoy a self-guided tour through the Treaty House, the Maori Meeting House and War Canoe. Later this afternoon, board your launch for the scenic cruise to the Cape Brett Lighthouse and the famous 'Hole in the Rock'.

Stay: Copthorne Bay of Islands (2 nights)

Day 3 Explore the Bay of Islands (B)

Today is a free day to explore and enjoy the beauty of the Bay of Islands. Your Guide will happily assist with arranging optional activities for you. Why not try a full day tour to Cape Reinga, New Zealand's northern most point. Alternatively, explore the township of Russell, New Zealand's first settlement and visit its historic Church, Mission House and Museum.

Day 4 Auckland, Rotorua (B,D)

Leaving Paihia, travel south through Whangarei to Warkworth and on to Auckland. Cross the Bombay Hills to the lush farmlands of the Waikato before arriving at the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua, the centre of Maori culture and famous for its geysers, boiling mud pools and steaming craters.

Stay: Sudima Lake Rotorua (2 nights)

"A wonderful welcome to New Zealand with the delightful Raewyn. She was an excellent tour guide on our journey to our hotel. You have a great ambassador there."

Day 5 Rotorua Sightseeing (B,D)

Today begins with a visit to the Agrodome to see a unique New Zealand farm show. Visit Rainbow Springs to learn about native flora and fauna, including the famous Kiwi bird. This is followed by the spectacular Skyline Gondola which offers superb views over the city, lake and mountains and for those wanting a little excitement, why not try a Luge ride with our compliments. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before visiting Tamaki Village for an evening of fun and culture. You will experience a traditionally prepared Maori Hangi (feast) followed by a cultural performance featuring Maori songs, chants and dance including the stirring haka.

Day 6 Taupo, Art Deco Napier (B,D)

View the mighty Huka Falls and the Wairakei Geothermal project before stopping at Lake Taupo, the largest in New Zealand. Continue on to Napier, often regarded as the world's Art Deco capital. On arrival, enjoy a locally guided walking tour of the city.

Stay: Scenic Te Pania Hotel

Day 7 Wairarapa, Wellington (B,D)

Orchards and vineyards give way to farmland as you travel into the rural heartland of the Wairarapa region. Stop at historic Greytown to view excellent examples of Victorian colonial architecture before travelling over the Rimutaka Ranges to Wellington, the nation's capital, where you enjoy a city tour on arrival.

Stay: Ibis Wellington Hotel

Day 8 Wellington, Hanmer Springs (B,D)

This morning, we board the Interislander Ferry for the scenic cruise across Cook Strait to the South Island. Travel through the beautiful sheltered waters of Queen Charlotte Sound before arriving into the small seaside village of Picton. Continue our journey south to the alpine resort town of Hanmer Springs, renowned for its therapeutic natural thermal waters.

Stay: Heritage Hanmer Springs

Day 9 Hanmer Springs, Christchurch (B,D)

After a leisurely breakfast, stroll around the village and enjoy entry into the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools with its naturally heated thermal mineral waters. Later today, we make the short drive to the Garden City of Christchurch.

Stay: Distinction Christchurch Hotel



Day 10 Christchurch, Lake Tekapo (B,D)

Enjoy a tour of Christchurch's city centre on board a beautifully restored heritage tram. Visit the International Antarctic Centre before crossing the Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. Stop to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd and the Collie Dog Memorial. There is time for some optional alpine flightseeing over Mt Cook National Park (subject to weather conditions).

Stay: Peppers Bluewater Resort

Day 11 Moeraki Boulders, Dunedin (B,D)

Continue south and stop to view the Benmore Dam, one of the largest in the southern hemisphere. Travel down the Waitaki Valley to the Whitestone township of Oamaru, home to some of the best preserved heritage buildings in New Zealand. Stop to view the mystical Moeraki Boulders, then on to Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South.

Stay: Scenic Dunedin City Hotel

Day 12 Central Otago, Te Anau (B,D)

Enjoy spectacular views across the Otago Peninsula as you travel to Larnach Castle. On your guided tour, learn about its tragic and mysterious history. Depart Dunedin and head inland, crossing rich farmlands to the agricultural towns of Gore and Lumsden, before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau, gateway to the Fiordland National Park.

Stay: Distinction Luxmore Hotel (2 nights)

Day 13 Spectacular Milford Sound (B,L,D)

Follow the Hollyford Valley before descending into the Cleddau Canyon. Drive through the Homer Tunnel into spectacular Milford Sound, the world renowned natural wonder dominated by Mitre Peak. Luxuriant rainforest clings to sheer rock walls and waterfalls tumble hundreds of metres to the sea below. Cruise the entire length of the fiord and enjoy the on-board commentary that gives you detailed information on the region's history, flora and fauna as you view spectacular waterfalls, towering mountains and wildlife.

Optional overnight cruises on Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound are also on offer subject to availability - ask us for details.

Day 14 Te Anau, Queenstown (B,D)

Continue north to Kingston, then skirt around the shores of Lake Wakatipu to the picturesque alpine resort of Queenstown. This evening, cruise across the lake aboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw before reaching the Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner.

Stay: Millennium Hotel (2 nights)

Day 15 At leisure in Queenstown (B)

Today is a free day to experience this magnificent alpine resort. Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure and leisure activities and your Guide can assist with any optional activities you would like to do. Take a ride on the world famous Shotover Jet Boat, travel to the top of Bob's Peak by gondola for spectacular views, take a tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon or for the adventurous, try white water rafting. Alternatively, browse in the many shops and galleries.

Day 16 Wanaka, Franz Josef (B,D)

Pass picturesque Lake Hayes on the way to Arrowtown, an area steeped in fascinating history relating to early settlement and the gold mining era. Stop at Wanaka, a picture postcard resort on the lake's edge with a spectacular mountain backdrop. View the untouched wilderness and pristine lakes of the Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks before arriving on the West Coast, home to the twin glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef.

Stay: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Day 17 TranzAlpine, Christchurch (B,D)

Visit a Pounamu (also known as Greenstone or Jade) factory at Hokitika. Pounamu is considered a treasure in Maori culture and is seen as a sign of status and power. At Greymouth, board the famous TranzAlpine train. Renowned as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world, this coast to coast rail adventure will take you through the Southern Alps, over massive viaducts, river valleys and gorges. Enjoy a farewell dinner and drinks with your fellow travellers this evening.

Stay: Sudima Christchurch Airport Hotel

Day 18 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, it's time to bid farewell to all your new friends today. You will be transferred to the airport to join your onward flight.



Mt John Credit: Peppers Bluewater Resort



Inclusions

- + 17 nights premium hotel accommodation
- + Full breakfast daily (B), 1 lunch (L) & 15 dinners (D)
- + Travel by 5-star luxury touring coach
- + Guided by a professional Driver Guide
- + Welcome and farewell dinners with drinks included
- + All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as shown
- + Hotel portorage
- + Complimentary airport transfers on arrival and departure

CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

+64 92814481