

NZ COACH HOLIDAYS

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



2019/20

200+ GUARANTEED departures
September 2019 - May 2020

5
STYLES
OF
TOURING

19 Day New Zealand Rail, Cruise & Coach Holiday

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Milford Sound Overnight Cruise



THE MILFORD MARINER

For a majestic experience, spend the night on board the Milford Mariner. Cruise the full length of Milford Sound with commentary by a specialist nature

guide. You will view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife - you're bound to encounter seals and if you're lucky maybe dolphins and penguins. As evening falls, enjoy a delicious carvery buffet, prepared by an onboard chef. Relax in the company of your fellow travellers or indulge in some star-gazing before retiring to your private cabin. In the morning, indulge in a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) and exploring more of the breathtaking fiord.

NO HIDDEN EXTRAS

PRE PAID ATTRACTIONS

- Kauri Museum*
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds*
- Dolphin / Hole in the Rock Cruise
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- Paradise Valley Springs*
- Skyline Rotorua Gondola & Luge Ride
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools & geysers*
- Te Puia traditional Maori Hangi & Concert
- Wellington Tramway Museum
- Te Papa, NZ's National Museum
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Coastal Pacific Rail Journey
- International Antarctic Centre
- Christchurch Tram
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Lakes District Museum
- **HIGHLIGHT** Milford Sound Overnight Cruise
- Taieri Gorge Limited Rail Journey
- Larnach Castle*
- Haggis Ceremony & Gift
- Olveston Historic Home*
- City sights tour of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch & Dunedin

TOURING

- Personalised Meet & Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Modern coach travel with 2 door access, restroom, reclining seats and panoramic windows
- Professional Coach Captain & Tour Guide
- 17 nights 4 star hotel accommodation
- Milford Sound Overnight Cruise
- 6 two night stays
- Hotel portorage
- 4 rail journeys
- 4 cruises
- All sightseeing and pre paid attractions
- Comprehensive documentation pack

MEALS

- 18 cooked breakfasts including a specialty breakfast: Stratosfare Restaurant, Rotorua
- 14 sumptuous dinners including 4 specialty dinners: Maori Hangi & Concert, Rotorua; Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown; Haggis Ceremony, Dunedin; Farewell Dinner, Christchurch
- 2 delicious morning teas

Note: Dinner on Day 1 not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

*Guided tour is included with 1 guide per 24 travellers.



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+ 4 breathtaking rail journeys



GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAIL

Experience the thrill of travelling by steam train as you meander through beautiful rural countryside on a vintage train hauled by one of the lovingly restored steam locomotives. Settle into the immaculate wood carriages and as you listen to the panting steam engine. Morning tea will also be served.



COASTAL PACIFIC

Begin your journey from the coastal port of Picton, travel through the picturesque Marlborough Wine Region and the East Coast providing vistas of the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountains. You may see amazing wildlife including dolphins, seals and penguins.



THE TAIERI GORGE LIMITED

The Taieri Gorge scenic journey will travel through some of New Zealand's most spectacular and iconic scenery. The train will make its way through ten tunnels and over countless bridges and viaducts. The natural wonders combined with the challenge of man-made engineering will leave you amazed.



THE TRANZALPINE

One of the great train journeys of the world. Depart Christchurch and travel through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, view alpine scenery, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps.

▶ ITINERARY

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (D)

On arrival into Auckland you will be met by a representative and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel Grand Millennium Hotel

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

Enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakoho to enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands or similar (2 nights)

DAY 3: Bay of Islands (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free and you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,D)

This morning travel aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Keep an eye out for bottlenose and common dolphins before returning to Paihia. Travel south via Whangarei, call into the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree before returning to Auckland.

Hotel Grand Millennium Hotel

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (B,D)

This morning travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop and on return to Glenbrook Station, morning tea will be served. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout.

Hotel Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Room. 2 nights)

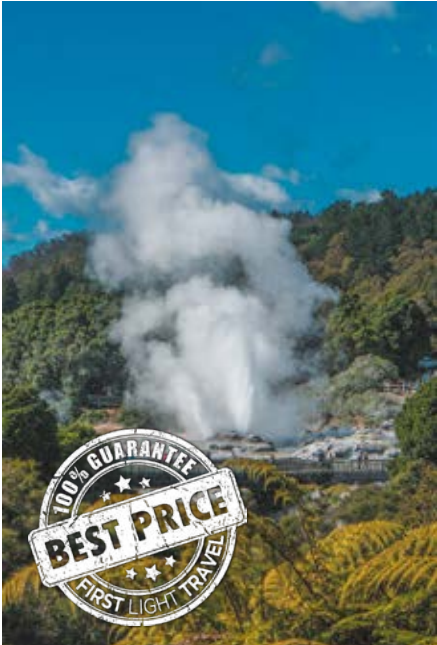
DAY 6: Rotorua (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at the Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a luge ride! Next stop is Agrodome for an action packed hour of farming entertainment and education that's unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before travelling to Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Maori Haka and Concert.

DAY 7: Rotorua - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park to the Wellington Tramway Museum to view a display of tramway history and enjoy a nostalgic trip on one of the original trams that served Wellington city.

Hotel James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (Lambton Room. 2 nights)



DAY 8: Wellington (B)

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum with exhibits that embrace both Maori and European views. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon and this evening is also free to explore Wellington's lively food scene.

DAY 9: Wellington - Christchurch (B,D)

This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that showcases the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side and the rugged scenic coastline on the other travelling through numerous tunnels and across several bridges. Enjoy a two night stay in the garden city of Christchurch.

Hotel Distinction Christchurch (2 nights)

DAY 10: Christchurch (B)

Today visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This is followed by an introductory city tour of Christchurch. This afternoon includes a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at your leisure, one of Christchurch's leading attractions. This evening is free to explore the local cuisine.

DAY 11: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass - Franz Josef (B,D) 

This morning board the TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before arriving at the township of Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

DAY 12: Franz Josef - Queenstown (B)

See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, a year round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

Hotel Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront (2 nights)

DAY 13: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown. Your Tour Guide and Coach Captain are available to assist with the many options available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a gourmet barbecue dinner which the chef will prepare in front of you at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano on your return cruise.

3 must do options



CAPE REINGA WANDER VIA 90 MILE BEACH

A full-day trip takes you to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse at NZ's most northern tip, where the Tasman Sea meets the mighty Pacific Ocean. Discover the wild beauty of the region, rich in Maori culture and tradition.



TWIN GLACIER HELICOPTER FLIGHT

Fly over both the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers, and then following the ice flow high into the upper reaches. Land in the snow at the head of a glacier and survey the path that the glacier has carved below you.



TE ANAU GLOWWORM CAVES

Venture into the underground caves for a tour of the mysterious world of waterfalls and incredible rock formations before drifting into silent darkness beneath glittering glowworms.



DAY 14: Queenstown - Milford Sound Overnight Cruise (B,D)

This morning travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via Te Anau to Milford Sound and board the Milford Mariner for your amazing overnight cruise. There is plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife - you're bound to encounter seals and if you're lucky maybe dolphins and penguins. As evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared freshly by the onboard chef.

Overnight Milford Mariner

DAY 15: Milford Sound - Te Anau (B,D)

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) to explore more of the fiord. Return back to the wharf to meet your coach and enjoy the scenic drive to Te Anau where you will enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves (optional).

Hotel Distinction Luxmore (Deluxe Room)

DAY 16: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,D)

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Pukerangi to board The Taieri Gorge Limited for a journey through spectacular scenery only accessible by rail. On arrival at Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station your coach will transfer you to the hotel.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Southern Cross (2 nights)

DAY 17: Dunedin (B,SD)

This morning travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander around this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Devonshire Tea. Return to the city for an informative city tour followed by some free time. You might be interested in a tour of Speights Brewery (optional) or the chance to see wildlife in their natural habitat (optional). Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,SD)

This morning visit Olveston, a prosperous merchants' home from the turn of the century before travelling to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your new found friends.

Hotel Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

DAY 19: Depart Christchurch (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: View Pohutu Geyser in Rotorua; the Christchurch Tram is one of the city's leading attractions; enjoy a guided tour and a Devonshire Tea at Larnach Castle; cruise aboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak; you will be immersed in the Maori Culture during your visit to the North Island; visit the Hole in the Rock in the Bay of Islands.