

2019-2020

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

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Your South Pacific Travel Specialists



Whangarei Falls

Spirit of New Zealand

21 DAYS CHRISTCHURCH → AUCKLAND

LCQB



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

Slumber under a star-studded sky in your cabin on a Milford Sound cruise, and stroll along deserted golden beaches in New Zealand's only coastal national park. This comprehensive journey takes you through both the North and South Islands to a wonderland of towering snow-capped mountains, ice-blue glaciers, and pristine lakes, and reveals fascinating insights into the culture of the indigenous Māori.

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
- Immerse yourself in Māori culture at a Hangi Highlight Dinner and concert
- Explore the geothermal valley at Te Puia in Rotorua
- Relax in the Bay of Islands
- 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

Visit the city this morning, then travel over the Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo and view the Church of the Good Shepherd before continuing to Mt. Cook National Park. You may choose to take an optional scenic flight over Mt. Cook (weather permitting). **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

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. Experience a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in silent darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of hundreds of glowworms. Later, travel to Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Queenstown, 3 nights. B D**

Day 6 Queenstown Free Time

Today is free for you to explore Queenstown at your own pace. You may like to choose one of our optional experiences, including riding the Shotover Jet boat, joining a wine tour, or enjoying a minibus excursion through Skippers Canyon. This evening, consider a cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw. **B**

Day 7 Queenstown Free Time

Today, take time to either relax or tailor your own action-packed agenda. **B**

Day 8 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Your first destination today is the old gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown. Travel on to witness the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes, the most famous of which is pristine Lake Wanaka. Drive over the spectacular Haast Pass and take a rainforest walk to Thunder Creek Falls on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Douglas Wing, Franz Josef. B D**

Day 9 Franz Josef – Punakaiki

This morning, why not choose an optional experience and see Franz Josef Glacier from the air or take a glacier hike. Travel on to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, for a factory visit and demonstration. Continue to Punakaiki to view the Pancake Rocks. Spend the night in an eco-friendly waterfront resort. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

Day 10 Punakaiki – Nelson

The Heritage Highway leads you through a scenic wilderness to the Buller Gorge and pristine Kahurangi National Park. This afternoon in Nelson, 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 to journey to the top of the South Island and take a scenic cruise in the Abel Tasman National Park. Or just relax in sunny Nelson. **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

Explore Wellington at your own pace today. You might like to take an optional experience tour of Parliament, or a behind-the-scenes guided tour through 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 vineyards of the Wairarapa region and Hawke's Bay, and take a walking tour of Art Deco Napier. **Hotel: Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier. B D**

Day 15 Napier – Rotorua

Today journey to Lake Taupo, then visit Huka Falls on your way to Rotorua, where a sightseeing tour will include views of Lake Rotorua. **Hotel: Ibis Rotorua Hotel, 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 a further insight into traditional Māori culture this evening at a concert and Hangi Highlight Dinner at the Tamaki Māori Village. **B HD**

Day 17 Rotorua – Auckland

Experience the entertaining Agrodome Farm Show, and later, travel through the lush dairy-farming district of Waikato en route to Auckland. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B**

Day 18 Auckland – Bay of Islands

Depart Auckland and travel through Northland's lush farmland. Arriving in the Bay of Islands this afternoon, you'll experience spectacular scenery as you cruise to Cape Brett and through the 'Hole in the Rock'. **Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Garden View, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. B D**

Day 19 Bay of Islands Free Time

Today is free for exploration. Ask about optional experiences such as a coach trip to Cape Reinga via Ninety-Mile Beach, a tour of historic Russell, or a cruise on a tall ship. **B**

Day 20 Bay of Islands – Auckland

After a morning at leisure, drive through lush farmland scenery as you return to Auckland. This evening, join your Travel Director and travelling companions for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: VR Queen Street, Auckland. B FD**

Day 21 Farewell from Auckland

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

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