

# NEW ZEALAND 2020-2021





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## 🧭 BEST BUYS

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☐ 14 DAYS ♀ CHRISTCHURCH → AUCKLAND

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### CHOOSE THIS TRIP IF YOU'D LOVE TO:

- Cruise Milford Sound and journey on the TranzAlpine train
- Delight in the Waitomo Glowworm Grotto by boat
- Take to the dance floor on the TSS Earnslaw
- Explore New Zealand's most iconic sights

#### 1 Welcome to Christchurch

On arrival in Christchurch there's time for relaxing or exploring. This evening, your holiday begins at a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. **Hotel: Ibis.** 

#### 2 Christchurch – Franz Josef

Board the iconic TranzAlpine train for one of the world's great rail journeys. Pass through the lush pasture-land of the Canterbury Plains to the rugged gorges and ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps. Arrive at Arthur's Pass and continue to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone. Continue to Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing. B D** 

#### Franz Josef – Queenstown

Drive over the spectacular Haast Pass, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls, and serene Lakes Wanaka, Hawea and Dunstan. Stop at the town of Cromwell and enjoy delicious stone fruit. Next, you'll visit the historic goldmining settlement of Arrowtown, where over seventy buildings from the gold-rush era are still beautifully preserved. You'll arrive in Queenstown in time for an orientation tour. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, 2 nights. B** 

#### **4** Queenstown Free Time

→ Explore New Zealand's adventure capital today. There are jet-boat rides for thrill-seekers, and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely pace. Enjoy a peaceful cruise this evening across Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner and an entertaining after-dinner show offering glimpses of high-country farm life. **B HD** 

#### 5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Travel the highway known as the Devil's Staircase and along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to the town of Te Anau. (<sup>(C)</sup>) On your journey to Milford Sound you'll be awestruck by the native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park. Your cruise on the Sound provides views of cascading waterfalls, hanging glacial valleys, and towering Mitre Peak. Return to lakeside Te Anau, where this evening you can consider an optional experience visiting the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D** 

#### 6 Te Anau – Dunedin

→ Journey through lush green sheep-grazing country on your way to Dunedin this morning. The afternoon is yours to enjoy as you please. Sit back and relax, or consider an optional experience. Perhaps ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway, or take a wildlife cruise to spot penguins and Royal Albatross. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B** 

#### 7 Dunedin – Omarama

Consider an optional experience to visit Larnach Castle this morning. Then set out for the historic town of Oamaru, with its elegant tree-lined streets and celebrated white limestone buildings. Later, follow the course of the mighty Waitaki River, passing monumental Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and the Benmore Dam on your way to Omarama. Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel. B D

#### 8 Omarama – Christchurch

Journey through the awe-inspiring Aoraki/ Mt. Cook National Park this morning. See majestic Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, and stop to view the famous Church of the Good Shepherd. Later, traverse the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. **Hotel: Ibis. B D** 

#### Ohristchurch – Picton

Travel along the rugged Pacific Ocean coast this morning to Kaikoura, where sperm whales can often be seen not far from shore. Pass the pink-tinged crystallisation ponds of the Lake Grassmere Salt Works, then travel on to the pretty seaside village of Picton. **Hotel: Picton Beachcomber Inn. B D** 

#### 🔟 Picton – Wellington

Cruise tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound, then cross the Cook Strait to Wellington on the North Island. Take a city tour before enjoying some free time. Later, visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, where you'll have time to explore the many fascinating exhibits. **Hotel: Travelodge. B** 

#### 🕕 Wellington – Rotorua

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#### 12 Rotorua Free Time

→ Relax or explore Rotorua at your own pace. Perhaps you might visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park to observe the native fauna of New Zealand, including the country's iconic kiwi. **B** 

#### 13 Rotorua – Auckland

This morning, explore the Waitomo Glowworm Grotto by boat, and walk through towering limestone caverns. Later, you'll follow the noble Waikato River into Auckland. Take an orientation tour of the city before joining your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: VR Queen Street. B FD** 

#### Farewell from Auckland

Your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast.  ${\boldsymbol B}$ 







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