

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

2022-2023 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 3-17 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 24**

BEST BUYS 8-21 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 34**

New Zealand Vista

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Wild Kiwi birds are a national icon, but tricky to spot. Our optional experience gives you a glimpse at a Rotorua hatchery.

📍 Iconic Sites

From World Heritage-listed Milford Sound to immense Franz Josef Glacier and the TranzAlpine train, untamed wilderness awaits.

📷 Time For You

Enjoy the luxury of spending two nights in Rotorua and Queenstown – time to take each city's culinary pulse.

🌱 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Kiwi kids go to school well fed thanks to Eat My Lunch. For every lunch we give guests, we donate one to the initiative.

1 Welcome to Auckland

After settling into your hotel, you'll have time to explore Auckland independently. This evening enjoy a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

2 Auckland – Rotorua

Begin your day with a city tour, then trace the path of the Waikato River to the Waitomo Caves to explore the amazing Glowworm Grotto. Travel on to Rotorua and take an orientation tour of the city, where you'll enjoy spectacular views of Lake Rotorua. Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter and gain insight into traditional Māori culture followed by a delicious Hangi Highlight Dinner at the Tamaki Māori Village. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

3 Rotorua Free Time

You have a full day to explore Rotorua's natural beauty as you like. You could take an optional experience and delve into the fantasy of Hobbiton with a tour of the sights featured in the Lord of the Rings movies and the sprawling natural landscapes that made the movies so famous. **B**

4 Rotorua – Wellington

Journey through tall pine forests and verdant farmland to spectacular Huka Falls and serene Lake Taupo. Drive along the shores of New Zealand's biggest lake through the alpine scenery of Mt. Ruapehu, Tongariro National Park and the dairy farms of Manawatu. Next, follow the Kapiti Coast to Wellington for a city orientation tour. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

5 Wellington – Picton

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Wellington, and then visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand. Your special packed lunch today won't only be wholesome, it will also feed a Kiwi child who may otherwise go without, through the charity 'Eat My Lunch'. Cruise across the Cook Strait and explore the maze of inlets of Queen Charlotte Sound. Later, travel to the seaside village of Picton and take a tour of the city. **Hotel: Picton Beachcomber Inn. B L D**

6 Picton – Christchurch

Travel to Kaikoura, where an optional whale-watching flight is available. Continue along the Pacific Ocean coast, then across fertile farmlands to Christchurch. **Hotel: Ibis. B**

7 Christchurch – Omarama

After a morning at leisure, travel through verdant countryside to serene Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, and view the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd before continuing to the awe-inspiring Aoraki/Mt. Cook National Park. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

8 Omarama – Dunedin

Travel along the Waitaki River, which marks the boundary between the regions of Canterbury and Otago, and with its large catchment, it is an ideal source of hydro-electric power. Continue through the historic town of Oamaru en route to Dunedin, where your afternoon is at leisure. Consider an optional experience. Perhaps take a wildlife cruise out to the Otago Peninsula to spot penguins and the Royal Albatross or experience an interactive tour of famous Speight's Brewery. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

9 Dunedin – Te Anau

Enjoy some free time here this morning, during which you might an optional visit the lovely stately home known as Larnach Castle. A walk in the lovely grounds of the University of Otago, New Zealand's oldest university, is another option. Then travel across the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago en route to Lake Te Anau, the largest in the South Island. Tonight consider an optional experience by flat-bottomed boat through the mysterious Te Anau Glowworm Caves. The Caves are a culturally and ecologically important system of limestone caves on the western shore of Lake Te Anau, with some of the caves nearest to the shore providing a habitat for the bioluminescent insect larvae known as glowworms. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

10 Te Anau – Milford Sound – Queenstown

Your experience in magnificent Milford Sound is sure to be one of the highlights of your trip. Travel through tall native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park, then cruise the serene waters of this natural wonder. On the way to Queenstown see Mirror Lake, Cleddau Valley, the Chasm, Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls, then travel along the Devil's Staircase and the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy an informative orientation tour on arrival. **Hotel: Cophthorne Hotel and Resort, 2 nights. B**



Mt. Cook National Park

Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	19, 26	Jan	10, 17, 24, 31
May	31	Feb	07, 14, 21, 28
Jun	28	Mar	07, 14, 21, 28
Jul	26		
Aug	09		
Sep	06, 13, 27		
Oct	04, 11, 18, 25		
Nov	01, 08, 15, 29		
Dec	06, 13, 20, 27		

A limited number of single rooms are available. Ask your local travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 Apr 2023 at aatings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

13 Full buffet breakfasts B 4 Dinners D
 1 Lunch L 1 Farewell Dinner FD
 2 Highlight Dinners HD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport
 Day 14 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

11 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital at your own pace today. There are jet boat rides, white water rafting and 4WD safaris for the thrill-seekers, and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely experience. Later this afternoon, enjoy a cruise across peaceful Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. **B HD**

12 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Your destination today is the wild west coast of the South Island. Stop to visit the gold mining settlement of Arrowtown, where more than 70 original buildings from the gold-rush era are still preserved. Sample luscious stone fruit in Cromwell and enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes, the most famous of which is tranquil Lake Wanaka. Drive over spectacular Haast Pass, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls and stopping for a leisurely rainforest walk on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing. B D**

13 Franz Josef – Christchurch

Travel on this morning to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone. Pounamu (its Māori name) is of great cultural significance in Māori culture and is prized for its strength, durability and beauty. Continue to Arthur's Pass to board the iconic TranzAlpine train and embark on one of the world's most renowned rail journeys. Pass through magnificent landscapes ranging from the rugged gorges and pristine ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps to the lush pastureland of the Canterbury Plains. This evening in Christchurch, join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

14 Farewell from Christchurch

Your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. **B**

