

# FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

New Zealand  
**Coach Holidays**  
2022 / 23



3 Ways to Travel. 4 Styles of Touring

Valid for Departures September 2022 - May 2023



**TOUR CODE** CGPNX17

**STYLE** Classic Affordable Group  
**COACH** 48 seat Classic  
**ACCOMMODATION** 3.5 star

**STARTS** Christchurch  
**FINISHES** Auckland

**2022 GUARANTEED DEPARTURE**  
 Dec 19



Celebrate Christmas and welcome in the New Year on this fully escorted tour

# 17 Day Affordable Festive Season

No hidden extras

## PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Christchurch Tram
- Haggis Ceremony and Gift
- Larnach Castle\*
- Milford Sound Cruise and Lunch
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Lakes District Museum
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Te Papa, NZ's National Museum
- Skyline Rotorua Gondola and Luge Ride
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools and geysers\*
- Traditional Māori Hāngi and Concert
- Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Kauri Museum
- City sights tour of Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland

\*Guided tour.

## COACH FEATURES

- 48 seats on a Classic touring coach
- 2 door access; overhead travel bag storage
- Restroom; panoramic viewing

## EXPERIENCE

- Return airfares from your homeport
- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Professional Coach Captain
- Tour Leader
- 16 nights 3.5 star accommodation
- 5 two night stays
- Hotel portage
- 1 rail journey
- 4 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Extensive Optional Tours Programme
- Classic Documentation Pack

## MEALS

- 16 cooked breakfasts including a specialty breakfast: Stratosfare Restaurant, Rotorua
- 13 sumptuous dinners including 2 specialty dinners: Haggis Ceremony, Dunedin; Māori Hāngi and Concert, Rotorua
- Christmas Day Lunch: Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown
- 1 picnic lunch: Milford Sound Cruise
- 1 delicious Devonshire Tea: Larnach Castle
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

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

## Itinerary and Hotels

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

### DAY 1: Arrive Christchurch (D)

On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions.

**Hotel** Heartland Hotel Cotswold (2 nights)

### DAY 2: Christchurch (Free Day) (B,D)

Today is a free day to explore Christchurch. Enjoy a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at leisure, one of Christchurch's leading attractions.

### DAY 3: Christchurch - Omarama (B,D)

After an introductory city sights tour depart Christchurch and travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available (time and weather permitting, optional) to enjoy a scenic flight over the Southern Alps before travelling to Omarama.

**Hotel** Heritage Gateway Hotel

### DAY 4: Omarama - Dunedin (B,SD)

Depart Omarama and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue south to Dunedin and enjoy a city sights tour followed by some free time. Tonight, a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special Haggis Ceremony and gift.

**Hotel** Dunedin Leisure Lodge - A Distinction Hotel

### DAY 5: Dunedin - Te Anau (B,D)

This morning travel out 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. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland and your overnight stay. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

**Hotel** Distinction Luxmore Hotel (Superior Room)



On Christmas Day board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station.

### DAY 6: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown (B,L,D)

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon travel to Queenstown, overlooking magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year-round resort which offers a wide range of activities and attractions.

**Hotel** Copthorne Hotel & Resort Queenstown Lakefront (2 nights)

### DAY 7: Queenstown - Christmas Day (B,L) 🎄

Merry Christmas! Today board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Enjoy a gourmet Christmas lunch and the best of NZ's high-country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. Reboard the TSS Earnslaw and enjoy a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

### DAY 8: Queenstown - Arrowtown - Fox Glacier (B,D)

Travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the mighty West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Fox Glacier. Time is available to experience a scenic flight (weather permitting, optional) over the spectacular glaciers.

**Hotel** Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier

### DAY 9: Fox Glacier - Arthur's Pass - Christchurch (B,D) 🚂

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue into Arthur's Pass and board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains. On arrival into the

elegant city of Christchurch, your coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel.

**Hotel** Heartland Hotel Cotswold

### DAY 10: Christchurch - Picton - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the East Coast to the seaside village of Kaikōura. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you travel through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine. Continue to Picton, where you will board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait to Wellington.

**Hotel** Ibis Wellington (2 nights)

### DAY 11: Wellington (B)

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour which showcases the history and culture on show. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also free to choose your own dining arrangements.

### DAY 12: Wellington - Taupo - Rotorua (B,D)

Depart Wellington and view the snow-capped peaks of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro as you travel to Lake Taupo. Visit the spectacular Huka Falls then travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua.

**Hotel** Distinction Rotorua (Superior Room. 2 nights)

### DAY 13: Rotorua - New Year's Eve (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a thrilling luge ride! Next stop is Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is unlike anything you've seen before. Visit Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and

awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. Enjoy some free time this afternoon. This evening experience an entertaining Māori Hāngi and Concert.

### DAY 14: Rotorua - Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

This morning depart Rotorua and travel north via Auckland. Continue via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy an introduction to the Bay of Islands, location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British.

**Hotel** Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge (2 nights)

### DAY 15: Bay of Islands (B)

Today you will explore the scenic beauty of the Bay of Islands aboard a luxury catamaran. Cruise to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock, keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. Return to Paihia for a free afternoon where a range of optional activities are available or you may choose to relax and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the waterfront. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

### DAY 16: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,D)

Depart the Bay of Islands this morning and travel via Whangarei and Dargaville to Matakōhe. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum before continuing to Auckland for a city sights tour. This evening enjoy a final dinner with your newfound friends.

**Hotel** Rydges Auckland

### DAY 17: Depart Auckland (B)

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