

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



Featuring breathtaking rail journeys and Milford Sound overnight cruise

19 Day Classic Rail, Cruise & Coach

Tour Highlight: 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. View the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. You are bound to encounter seals, 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 take in some stargazing before retiring to your cabin. Next morning, indulge in a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) and exploring more of the breathtaking fiord.

Tour Highlight: 3 breathtaking Rail Journeys



GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

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 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 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.

TOUR CODE CGPR19

STYLE Classic Group
COACH 48 seat Classic
ACCOMMODATION 4 star

STARTS Auckland
FINISHES Christchurch

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

2022	2023
Sep 19	Jan 8
Oct 7, 14	Feb 4, 12, 25
Nov 3, 13	Mar 2, 13, 31
	Apr 10, 21
	May 4



No hidden extras

PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Kauri Museum
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- Paradise Valley Springs*
- Skyline Rotorua Gondola and Luge Ride
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools and geysers*
- Te Puia traditional Māori Hāngi and Concert
- 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
- Larnach Castle*
- Haggis Ceremony and Gift
- Olveston Historic Home*
- City sights tour of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin

*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
- 17 nights 4 star accommodation
- Milford Sound Overnight Cruise
- 6 two night stays
- Hotel portering
- 3 rail journeys
- 4 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Extensive Optional Tours Programme
- Classic Documentation Pack



“Great people, lots of laughs, terrific Tour Leader and Coach Captains. A holiday where the thinking was done for me!”

- B. & L. - *Past Travellers*

Itinerary and Hotels

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

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (D)

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

Hotel SkyCity Hotel or similar

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

Enjoy a city tour of Auckland, before travelling to Matakōhe 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 Māori tribes and the British.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (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, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

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

This morning cruise through the beautiful Bay of Islands aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piery Island, or as it is popularly known, the 'Hole in the Rock'. Keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. Upon return 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 SkyCity Hotel or similar

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 Distinction Rotorua (Deluxe Room. 2 nights)

DAY 6: Rotorua (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 the Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is 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 Māori Hāngi 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 and continue south to New Zealand's capital city, Wellington.

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

MEALS

- 18 cooked breakfasts including a specialty breakfast: Stratosfare Restaurant, Rotorua
- 14 sumptuous dinners including 3 specialty dinners: Māori Hāngi and Concert, Rotorua; Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown; Haggis Ceremony, Dunedin
- 2 delicious morning teas
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

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

DAY 8: 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. 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 Kaikōura 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 Hotel (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 leisure. This evening is free to explore the local cuisine.



Auckland, on New Zealand's North Island, is a multi-cultural hub of food, wine, music, art and culture.

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

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as 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 Millennium Hotel Queenstown (2 nights)

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

Today is a free day to explore Queenstown. Your Coach Captain and Tour Leader will assist with the many optional activities available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner featuring a menu of seasonal, fresh and locally sourced food at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy

a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown.

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 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 Glowworm Caves (optional).

Hotel Distinction Luxmore Hotel (Deluxe Room)

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

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, famous for its stunning Edwardian and Victorian architecture dating back to the gold rush of the 1800s. Today Dunedin is New Zealand's oldest university city.

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 Dunedin for a city tour followed by some free time. Optional activities you might be interested in include a tour of Speights Brewery or the chance to see wildlife in their natural habitat. Tonight, a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,D)

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

Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel

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.



Pohutu Geyser in Rotorua is the largest in New Zealand and can reach heights of up to 30 metres.



On the Interislander Ferry cross the Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton.

Optional Activities



CAPE REINGA WANDER

A full-day trip takes you to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse at NZ's most northern tip. Discover the wild beauty of the region, rich in Māori culture and tradition.



TWIN GLACIER HELICOPTER FLIGHT

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



TE ANAU GLOWWORM CAVES

Tour of the mysterious world of underground