

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*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**

# Contrasts of New Zealand

## Highlights

### 📍 Local Connection

You'll not only meet the Weston family for morning tea, but also get exclusive access to the stables where a record-breaking motorcycle was designed.

### 🗺️ Insider Knowledge

World Heritage listed Milford Sound is so big, it can be overwhelming. Your in-the-know guide provides perspective.

### 🌿 Cultural Immersion

Discover and celebrate NZ's Indigenous heritage at Tamaki Māori Village, where cultural traditions are revealed through performance and food.

### 🌱 Sustainable Footprints

Help ensure the future of rare kiwi birds when you visit the National Hatchery, an important breeding place for NZ's icon.



## 1 Arrive Auckland

On arrival in Auckland you'll have time to relax or explore. This evening, meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception and dinner. **Hotel: The Grand by SkyCity, 2 nights. DW**

## 2 Auckland

Embark on a city sightseeing tour this morning around the waterfront to Mission Bay. Keep your camera at the ready to capture spectacular panoramic views of the skyline, sprawling North Shore and Waitemata Harbour from Bastion Point and Michael Joseph Savage Memorial. Spend the afternoon as you wish. **B**

## 3 Auckland – Rotorua

Venture through dramatic scenery and landscapes passing through Cambridge, 'The Town of Trees and Champions'. On arrival in Rotorua, embark on an orientation of the area before visiting Rainbow Springs Nature Park for a guided tour of the National Kiwi Hatchery Aotearoa, the national leader in kiwi husbandry. Learn about the work being done to save New Zealand's national bird, see kiwi eggs being incubated, the hatching process and newly hatched kiwi chicks. This evening, enjoy a traditional Hangi Highlight Dinner and cultural performance at the Tamaki Māori Village. **Hotel: Millennium. B HD**

## 4 Rotorua – Auckland – Queenstown

Enjoy breakfast in the charming village of Hobbiton, the movie set of the iconic The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies. Experience the rolling hills and green pastures of The Shire before continuing to Auckland for your flight to Queenstown. **Hotel: Millennium, 3 nights. B**

## 5 Milford Sound Cruise

Journey over the Devil's Staircase and along the shore of Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau and its lake, the largest in the South Island. Travel through the rainforest of World Heritage Fiordland National Park, sighting glaciers and mountain ranges. Enjoy numerous photo opportunities afforded by the Mirror Lakes, Knobs Flat, Hollyford Valley lookout (Pop's view), Cleddau Valley and the Chasm. Drive through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel towards iconic Mitre Peak Bowen Falls before reaching Milford Sound, for a cruise on this natural wonder. Return to Queenstown for the evening. **B L**

## 6 Queenstown Free Time

Your final day in Queenstown could see you take an optional experience ride on the Shotover Jet boat, a minibus excursion through spectacular Skippers Canyon or a wine tour. This evening join your Travel Director for dinner at the Postmasters Cottage. The historic cottage was once home to the town's postmaster and has been a main street feature since the 1860s. Its old-world charm, complete with horse-hitching post, picket fence, beautiful gardens and hanging wisteria, has made it one of Arrowtown's most photographed buildings and is the perfect venue for your Highlight Dinner. **B HD**

## 7 Queenstown – Lake Tekapo

This morning you'll leave the alpine wonderland of Queenstown behind, and begin the passage through Central Otago and out to Westland. From here you will travel over to Cromwell, on the banks of Lake Dunstan to taste some of the town's delicious stone fruit. Continue over the Lindis Pass and on to the world-renowned UNESCO Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. Enjoy views of Mt. Cook before heading to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Later, join a local expert on an incredible voyage of discovery through the Southern Hemisphere's night sky, including the Southern Cross, Magellanic Cloud and the Milky Way. Your guide will enhance your knowledge and understanding of our southern skies as you admire and ponder the possibilities through powerful optical telescopes. **Hotel: Peppers Bluewater Resort. B DW**

## 8 Lake Tekapo – Christchurch

Journey through South Canterbury, visiting the charming village of Geraldine on your way to Christchurch. **Hotel: Distinction, 2 nights. B**

## 9 Christchurch

This morning see how Christchurch is rebuilding after the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, and pop into the Transitional Cathedral in Latimer Square, the temporary home of the Christchurch Cathedral. It is the world's only cathedral made substantially of cardboard! After a Christchurch city sights tour, you're invited to a Be My Guest morning tea at the home of Tim and Isabelle Weston, owners of Britten Stables. Formerly horse stables for nearby Mona Vale Gardens and following that,



Hobbiton

## Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	01, 08, 22	Jan	06, 13, 20, 27
May	20	Feb	03, 10, 17, 24
Jun	10	Mar	03, 10, 17, 24, 31
Jul	08		
Aug	26		
Sep	09, 23		
Oct	07, 14, 21		
Nov	11, 18, 25		
Dec	02, 09, 16, 23, 30		

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 [atkings.com](http://atkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

## Dining

- 9 Full buffet breakfasts B
- 1 Lunch L
- 1 Be My Guest Morning Tea BG
- 2 Highlight Dinners HD
- 2 Dinners with wine DW
- 1 Farewell Dinner FD

## Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport  
 Day 10 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch

\*Internal-holiday flight: Please note that the price above includes land and internal-holiday airfare, which is required to be booked in order to fulfil the holiday itinerary:

Day 4 – Auckland to Queenstown

Return airfares from your home port are not included in the price above.

the birth place of the world-record-setting Britten V1000 motorcycle designed and built in the garage by Isabelle's late father, John Britten. The couple restored the original charm of the stables and transformed it into the exquisite home that it is today. This evening join your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner. **B BG FD**

### 10 Farewell from Christchurch

Your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. You will be transferred to Christchurch Airport for your onward flight. **B**



Britten Stables

