

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**

Essence of New Zealand

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

From Nelson, there's time to explore immense Abel Tasman National Park at your leisure. Hike or cruise as an optional experience.

📍 Iconic Sites

From the natural wonders of Stewart Island and Franz Josef Glacier, to Huka Falls and Rotorua's steamy geysers, legendary sights await.

📷 Time For You

Get under the skin of New Zealand's cities – Wellington or Queenstown – exploring at your leisure.

🌱 Sustainable Travel



For every guest lunch, we donate another to Eat My Lunch, ensuring underprivileged Kiwi kids don't go hungry during the day.

1 Welcome to Christchurch

You'll have time to relax before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Ibis.**

2 Christchurch – Omarama

See how Christchurch has rebuilt itself after the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, and pop into the Transitional Cathedral, the temporary home of the Christchurch Cathedral, built almost entirely of cardboard. Later, travel over the fertile Canterbury Plains to soak up spectacular scenery. You'll view the Church of the Good Shepherd, and stop for a photo with the bronze statue of a collie dog. Your day finishes in the heart of the Mackenzie Country at Omarama. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

3 Omarama – Dunedin Free Time

Travel along the Waitaki River via Oamaru, with its famous white limestone buildings, to Dunedin, a region of unique landscapes and fascinating cultural history, for an orientation tour and free time. **Hotel: Kingsgate. B**

4 Dunedin – Invercargill

You'll leave Dunedin and travel through lush green pastures, crossing sheep-filled farming land to Gore, and on to Invercargill, New Zealand's southernmost city. This commercial hub is full of grand architecture and gardens. This afternoon you'll have free time to explore this city, and perhaps learn more about its obsession with motoring history. **Hotel: Kelvin, 2 nights. B**

5 Stewart Island

Board a ferry at Bluff and cruise to Stewart Island, known by the locals as Rakiura, which is the Māori reference to Glowing Skies. It has been described as rugged, pristine, and tranquil, and rightly so as 97% of the island is designated National Park and Conservation Estate. This means the birdlife, native flora & fauna and other natural environmental features have been able to thrive. You will gain an entertaining insight into the community and learn about the history and environment of the island on a Village and Bays tour. Later, you have free time. Perhaps join an optional experience on a guided sail around Paterson Inlet that will take you past unique places including Acker's Cottage, before docking at Ulva Island to admire the bird life and native flora. For a more active option you could hire an E-bike and explore the Island for yourself. **B**

6 Invercargill – Queenstown

Enjoy a relaxed start before departing for Queenstown, where your afternoon and evening are at leisure. Known for its adventure, you could take an optional experience Shotover Jet Boat ride. If laid-back and relaxed is more your idea of fun, then join a Wine Tour and sample some of Central Otago's award-winning wines. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

7 Queenstown Free Time

While Queenstown wears its Global Adventure badge proudly, it's also the perfect place to relax and explore. The town boasts great shopping, with iconic New Zealand design stores and boutique fashion. Or consider an optional experience to World Heritage Fiordland National Park for a cruise on magnificent Milford Sound, enjoying spectacular sights along the way. **B**

8 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Your destination is the wild West Coast of the South Island. Visit the gold mining settlement of Arrowtown, and then travel over Haast Pass and view the sheer drop of Thunder Creek Falls on your way to Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing. B D**

9 Franz Josef – Punakaiki

Explore this astounding glacier on foot or from the air this morning (both optional). Travel to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone, then on to Punakaiki to view the intriguing Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. You'll spend the night in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

10 Punakaiki – Nelson

The Heritage Highway leads you through a scenic wilderness to the plunging Buller Gorge and pristine Kahurangi National Park. **Hotel: Rutherford, 2 nights. B**

11 Nelson Free Time

On this day at leisure have the opportunity to journey to the top of the South Island and enjoy a relaxing cruise in the Abel Tasman National Park, or perhaps take a short bush walk, relax in sunny Nelson or explore the many arts and craft shops. **B**



Rotorua Mud Pool

Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Oct	06	Jan	05, 26
Nov	03, 24	Feb	02, 16
Dec	15	Mar	02, 09

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 Oct 2023 at aatkings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

17 Full buffet breakfasts B 1 Highlight Dinner HD
1 Lunch L 4 Dinners D

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
Day 18 – flights to depart anytime from Auckland Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

12 Nelson – Wellington

Visit the seaside village of Picton with free time to explore. Cruise on tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound before heading across Cook Strait to the North Island and Wellington, New Zealand’s capital. Enjoy a city sights tour before an evening at leisure. **Hotel: Travelodge, 2 nights. B**

13 Wellington Free Time

Wellington is celebrated as the country’s creative and culinary capital and today is yours to explore at your own pace. **B D**

14 Wellington – Napier

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’. Travel through the dairy farming land of Manawatu to Napier, a city whose unique concentration of beautiful Art Deco architecture is due to its rebuilding after the 1931 earthquake. Enjoy a walking tour with a local guide. **Hotel: Scenic Te Pania. B L**

15 Napier – Rotorua

Journey to Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand, and then visit mighty Huka Falls on your way to Rotorua, where a sightseeing tour will include views of Lake Rotorua. An evening of culture, history and delicious food awaits you at the Tamaki Māori village. Wander through the ancient forest village and learn about Māori art forms and traditions, followed by a cultural performance. Experience an authentic Māori Hangi, steamed underground in the traditional way. **Hotel: Sudima, 2 nights. B HD**

16 Rotorua Free Time

Today is yours to explore at your own pace. **B**

17 Rotorua – Auckland

As you make your way into the heart of New Zealand’s largest city, you will discover what it takes to make shape and become an All Black at The All-Blacks Experience. This interactive experience celebrates New Zealand’s rugby heritage, achievements, and culture through exceptional innovation and technology. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

18 Farewell from Auckland

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

