

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**

Kia Ora New Zealand

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

Spot rare yellow-eyed penguins, fur seals and northern royal albatrosses via optional Otago Peninsula wildlife cruises from Dunedin.

📍 Iconic Sites

Fiordland National Park is a World Heritage Site for good reason – this wilderness wonderland hosts the natural drama of Milford Sound.

📷 Time For You

Free time in the Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Dunedin and Queenstown means you can get as active (or be as relaxed) as you like.

🌱 Sustainable Travel



When we supply a lunch to guests, we donate another to Eat My Lunch, an organisation that has fed over 1.6-million underprivileged Kiwi kids.

1 Welcome to Auckland

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

2 Auckland – Bay of Islands

This morning, travel to the beautiful Bay of Islands. Discover the stories, people and events that shaped the past, present and future of Aotearoa New Zealand at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. During your tour you will view the world's largest ceremonial war canoe, the historic Treaty House and carved Meeting House. Stand on the spot where New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi, was signed in 1840.

Hotel: Copthorne Resort, Garden View, 2 nights. B D

3 Bay of Islands Free Time

Explore the Bay of Islands at leisure today. **B**

4 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Enjoy a relaxed morning before travelling through lush farmland on your way back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

5 Auckland – Rotorua

After a tour of Auckland's city highlights, trace the Waikato River to the Waitomo Caves where you'll explore the Waitomo Glowworm Grotto by boat. Your journey continues to Rotorua for an orientation tour with views of Lake Rotorua. This evening, enjoy a Māori Hangi feast Highlight Dinner and concert at the Tamaki Māori Village. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

6 Rotorua Free Time

Your day is free to explore as you wish. You might like to visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park for a glimpse of New Zealand's iconic kiwi bird, or Te Puia, the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute. **B**

7 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, and follow the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's capital, Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

8 Wellington – Picton

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'. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Wellington, and then visit Te Papa Museum of New Zealand. Cruise across the Cook Strait and explore the maze of inlets of Queen Charlotte Sound. Later you'll travel to the seaside village of Picton and take a tour of the city before dinner. **Hotel: Picton Beachcomber Inn. B L D**

9 Picton – Christchurch

Travel to Kaikoura, where an optional whale-watching flight is available. Continue along the Pacific Ocean coast and across the colourful Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. **Hotel: Ibis. B**

10 Christchurch – Oamaru

Explore Christchurch at leisure this morning, then travel over the fertile plains to serene Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo. View the Church of the Good Shepherd and soak up the scenery of Mt. Cook National Park.

Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D

11 Oamaru – Dunedin Free Time

Your day begins on the Waitaki River with a visit to the Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme. See the monumental spillway of nearby Benmore Dam. Then travel to the historic town of Oamaru, with its celebrated white limestone buildings. Continue to Dunedin and enjoy an orientation tour. Dunedin is known for its Scottish and Māori heritage, Victorian and Edwardian architecture, and large student population. The afternoon is free for you to relax or explore independently. You might like to take a wildlife cruise, or a ride on the historic Taieri Gorge Railway. The train negotiates the deep, narrow gorge with ease as it travels through ten tunnels and over countless bridges and viaducts. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

12 Dunedin – Te Anau

Enjoy free time in Dunedin and then travel across the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago en route to Fiordland National Park and Te Anau. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**



Waitomo Glowworm Grotto

Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	16, 23	Jan	07, 14, 21, 28
May	28	Feb	04, 11, 18, 25
Jun	25	Mar	04, 11, 18, 25
Jul	23		
Aug	06		
Sep	03, 10, 24		
Oct	01, 08, 15, 22, 29		
Nov	05, 12, 26		
Dec	03, 10, 17, 24		

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

16 Full buffet breakfasts B 5 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 17 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

13 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your experience in magnificent Milford Sound today is sure to be one of the highlights of your journey. Travel first through the tall native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park, traversing the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel. Milford Sound, named after Milford Haven in Wales, is a fiord that runs 15 Kilometres inland from the Tasman Sea and is home to fur seal colonies, penguins and dolphins. Your unforgettable cruise takes in cascading waterfalls, hanging glacial valleys, and the sheer pinnacle of Mitre Peak, which rises 5,560 feet from the water. After disembarking, travel on to beautiful Queenstown via the breathtaking stretch of highway called the Devil’s Staircase, and Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy an informative orientation tour of the city before settling in for your two-night stay. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, 2 nights. B**

14 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand’s adventure capital at your own pace today. Later in the afternoon, cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. An entertaining after-dinner farm show completes your evening. **B HD**

15 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Visit the faithfully-restored gold mining settlement of Arrowtown and travel on to Cromwell to taste its sensational stone fruit. You will 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**

16 Franz Josef – Christchurch

This morning’s destination is Hokitika, home of New Zealand’s famous greenstone, prized for its strength, durability and beauty. Then continue to Arthur’s Pass to board the iconic TranzAlpine train and take one of the world’s most scenic rail journeys. This evening, join your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

17 Farewell from Christchurch

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

