

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**

# New Zealand Uncovered

## Highlights

### Local Connection

Working dairy Red Barn is a dreamy destination for a country-style lunch – churn butter with the owners.

### Insider Knowledge

Nature humbles in World Heritage listed Milford Sound, your cruise guide pointing out waterfalls alongside rare flora and fauna.

### Cultural Immersion

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE From a traditional hangi meal to a cultural performance, Indigenous customs star at Tamaki Maori Village.

### Sustainable Footprints

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Support AAT Kings' Sustainable Tourism Commitment to restore NZ's largest inland island through the Pomona Island Charitable Trust.

#### 1 Welcome to Auckland

On arrival in Auckland you'll have time at leisure to explore or relax. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Reception and dinner with your Travel Director. Hotel: Cordis, 2 nights. DW

#### 2 Auckland

Head to the New Zealand Maritime Museum for an exclusive America's Cup tour. Then see the sights of Auckland, from the waterfront to Mission Bay. Capture spectacular panoramic views of the skyline, the North Shore and Waikato Harbour from Beeson Point. B

#### 3 Auckland – Tauranga

You're invited to a Be My Guest lunch at the Red Barn on the Waikato farm of Lance O'Sullivan, a retired champion jockey, and his wife Bridgette. Later, travel to Tauranga, in the Bay of Plenty. Hotel: Trinity Wharf. B BG DW

#### 4 Tauranga – Rotorua

Travel through Te Puke to visit Kihitiki Country, then on to Rotorua for an orientation tour. This afternoon explore Te Puke Thermal Reserve. Then an evening of culture, history and a Hangi feast Highlight Dinner awaits you at the Tamaki Māori Village. Hotel: Millennium, 2 nights. B HD

#### 5 Rotorua Free Time

Perhaps embark on one of our optional experiences. You could glide through the Waikato Glowworm Grotto or explore Rotorua and its lakes in an amphibious Wiri-wiri Duck. Why not consider an adventure to the charming village of Hobbiton, the movie set of the now iconic The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogy? Enjoy breakfast 'on set' before you're treated to guided tour through the 12-acre set, stopping in the Alexander family sheep farm, past Hobbit Holes, and the Mill as your guide points out how the movie was made, famous locations, and the set's artistic details. Even if you've never seen the films or read the books, you'll be entranced by the rolling green hills and lush landscapes. B

#### 6 Rotorua – Wellington

Journey through forests and farmland to the turquoise town known as Huka Falls. The road unfolds in a broad panorama of stunning Lake Taupo. Continue south and along the Kapiti Coast to the capital city, Wellington. Hotel: Jeanes Cook Grand Chancellor. B

#### 7 Wellington – Blenheim

Explore Te Papa Museum of New Zealand. Cruise the Cook Strait into tranquil Queen Charlotte Sound. The village of Fiordon is next, then its on to Blenheim for a city sightseeing tour. Tonight, enjoy a Highlight Dinner celebrating local produce and the wines of the Marlborough region. Hotel: Chateau Marlborough. B HD

#### 8 Blenheim – Christchurch

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

#### 9 Christchurch – Twizel

On your city sights tour, see how Christchurch is rebuilding after the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, and pop into the Transitional Cathedral in Latimer Square, Christchurch Cathedral's temporary home. It is the world's only cathedral made substantially of cardboard. Next, visit the home of Angie and Stan Taylor at Lake Tekapo, for a Be My Guest afternoon tea and hear about a lifetime spent farming in the Southern Alps. Later, view the little stone-hewn Church of the Good Shepherd on your way to Twizel. Hotel: MacKenzie Country Inn. B BG DW

#### 10 Twizel – Dunedin Free Time

Journey along the Waitaki River, and travel through to Oamaru with its famous limestone buildings, and on to Dunedin. This afternoon why not choose an optional experience? Perhaps take a wildlife cruise out to Otago Peninsula or visit the famous Speight's Brewery. Hotel: Soenda Southern Cross. B DW

#### 11 Dunedin – Te Anau

Travel through lush sheep-farming land. Then the rolling, grassy hills turn back into forested, rugged mountains, as you meander your way up into Fiordland National Park and Te Anau. This afternoon you will hear and learn about the conservation efforts of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust, which aims to restore the largest inland island in New Zealand to its natural state. Get up close to the islands on a boat ride on Lake Manapouri. Stop in some quiet and tranquil spots to soak up the amazing surrounds, spot a few trout, and learn about the unique environment and fascinating history. Hotel: Distinction Te Anau. B DW



Milford Sound Cruise

## Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	05, 12, 19, 26	Jan	03, 10, 17, 24, 31
Jun	07, 28	Feb	07, 14, 21, 28
Sep	06, 13, 20	Mar	07, 14, 21, 28
Oct	04, 11, 18, 25		
Nov	01, 08, 15, 22, 29		
Dec	06, 13, 20, 27		

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

## Dining

16 Full buffet breakfasts B	3 Highlight Dinners HD
1 Be My Guest Lunch BG	7 Dinners with wine DW
1 Lunch L	1 Farewell Dinner FD
1 Be My Guest Afternoon Tea BG	

## 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

### 12 Te Anau – Queenstown

You will take the scenic journey through the rainforests, beach forests and meadows of Fiordland National Park and out to Milford Sound to cruise on this natural wonder. Afterwards, travel to Queenstown for an orientation tour. Hotel: Millennium, 2 nights. B

### 13 Queenstown Free Time

Why not get your final fix of Queenstown today with an optional experience? Ride the Shotover Jet, join a wine tour, a Pure Glenorchy Lord of the Rings Tour or a minibus tour through Skippers Canyon. This evening, cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner. B HD

### 14 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Visit the gold mining settlement of Arrowtown. From here you will travel to Cromwell to taste the delicious stone fruit. It is a day of gorgeous lakes, as you travel further into Central Otago. Cross over the Haast Pass, where the landscape changes from alpine scenery to the rainforest marvels of the wild West Coast. Your destination is Franz Josef Glacier. Hotel: Soenda Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing). B DW

### 15 Franz Josef – Punakaiki

Visit Hokitika, home of the native greenstone for a factory visit and Jewellery demonstration. Later, travel to Punakaiki to view the Pinnacles Rocks and Blowholes. You'll spend the night in an eco-friendly resort right on the waterfront. Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B DW

### 16 Punakaiki – Christchurch

Travel to Greymouth to visit the iconic Monteith's Brewery and taste some of their innovative beers before a pub-style lunch. Later you will journey aboard the TranzAlpine train to Christchurch and embark on one of the world's great train journeys. This evening, join your Travel Director and new-found friends for a Farewell Dinner. Hotel: Distinction. B L FD

### 17 Farewell from Christchurch

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday concludes after breakfast. B

