

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**

Southern Spirit

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

Our Travel Directors know the best places to wine and dine in Queenstown, Dunedin and Wellington. Ask for tips in your downtime.

📍 Iconic Sites

Remote and ravishing, Stewart Island is the country's southernmost settlement. Rare yellow-eyed penguins live here, too.

📷 Time For You

Nelson is the gateway to immense Abel Tasman National Park. Chart your own path on a hike, or enjoy an optional cruise.

🌱 Sustainable Travel



More than 1.6 million Kiwi kids return from school full thanks to Eat My Lunch. We donate a meal for every guest lunch served.

1 Welcome to Christchurch

You'll have time at leisure this afternoon before a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. **Hotel: Ibis.**

2 Christchurch – Omarama

See how Christchurch has rebuilt itself after the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Later, travel over the fertile Canterbury Plains to soak up spectacular scenery. You'll view the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd. Your day finishes in the heart of the Mackenzie Country at Omarama. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

3 Omarama – Dunedin Free Time

Your day starts with a journey along the Waitaki River through to historic Oamaru, famous for its white limestone buildings. This afternoon you will make your way down to the city of Dunedin. **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 Maori 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 today is the wild west coast of the South Island. Stop to visit the gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown, where more than 70 original buildings from the gold-rush era are faithfully preserved. Sample luscious stone fruit in Cromwell and enjoy the serenity of the region's vivid blue lakes, the most famous of which is tranquil Lake Wanaka. Drive over spectacular Haast Pass, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls and stopping for a leisurely rainforest walk on your way to the extraordinary Franz Josef Glacier. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing. B D**

9 Franz Josef – Punakaiki

Travel on to Hokitika, home of New Zealand's famous greenstone. Pounamu (its Māori name) is of great cultural significance in Māori culture and is prized for its strength, durability and beauty. Continue to Punakaiki to view the intriguing Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. You'll spend the night in an eco-friendly resort on the waterfront. **Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

10 Punakaiki – Nelson

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



Queenstown

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

13 Full buffet breakfasts B 3 Dinners D
1 Lunch L 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
Day 14 – flights to depart anytime from Wellington Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

11 Nelson Free Time

On this day at leisure, you'll have the option of journeying to the top of the South Island and embarking on a scenic cruise in the Abel Tasman National Park. You may prefer to take a short bushwalk, relax in sunny Nelson, or explore the town's many art and craft galleries. **B**

12 Nelson – Wellington

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

13 Wellington Free Time

Celebrated as the country's creative and culinary capital, Wellington is nestled between two of New Zealand's finest wine regions. Today is yours to explore the city at your own pace. Celebrate your holiday at a Farewell Dinner with your new-found friends. Consider an optional experience to Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, where you'll explore New Zealand's nature, art, history and cultural heritage. Or a behind-the-scenes guided tour through the Weta Workshop, creators of special effects for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films. **B FD**

14 Farewell from Wellington

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

