

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 Spotlight

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

From epic burgers to fine dining, Queenstown's restaurants, bars and cafes are just waiting to be enjoyed. Ask us for tips.

📍 Iconic Sites

Among the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine traverses countryside made for postcards, as are fabled Milford Sound and Franz Josef Glacier.

📷 Time For You

Sometimes, the best adventures are unplanned. We give you free days and afternoons to dive deep into southern attractions.

🌱 Sustainable Travel

By visiting Fiordland National Park, you're helping protect this fragile ecosystem's flora and fauna for future generations.

1 Welcome to Christchurch

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

2 Christchurch – Oamaru

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 famous Church of the Good Shepherd, and stop for a quick photo with the bronze statue of a collie dog. You may wish to view Mount Cook National Park from the air this afternoon on an optional experience scenic flight. Your day finishes in the heart of the Mackenzie Country at Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

3 Oamaru – Dunedin

Your day starts with a journey along the Waitaki River, which marks the boundary between the regions of Canterbury and Otago, and with its large catchment it is an ideal source of hydro-electric power. From the Waitaki Valley you will travel to the historic town of Oamaru, with its elegant tree-lined streets and celebrated white limestone buildings. Continue to Dunedin, where your afternoon is at leisure. You may like to take a tour of imposing Larnach Castle, the country's only castle. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

4 Dunedin – Te Anau

This morning you're free to explore Dunedin at your own pace. Later, travel through lush green pastures, crossing sheep-filled farming land. As your journey continues, the rolling, grassy hills once again turn back into heavily forested, rugged mountains, and you'll meander into Fiordland National Park to the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Tonight, consider an optional experience and take a boat tour of the mysterious Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

5 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your experience in magnificent Milford Sound is sure to be one of the highlights of your trip. Travel through tall native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park, then cruise the serene waters of this natural wonder. On the way to Queenstown see Mirror Lake, Cleddau Valley, the Chasm, Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls, then travel along the Devil's Staircase and the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy an informative orientation tour on arrival. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, 2 nights. B**

6 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital at your own pace today. There are jet boat rides and white water rafting for the thrill-seekers, and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely rhythm. You might like to visit the picturesque Queenstown Gardens and enjoy its beautiful tulips in spring or glorious roses in summer. Take a peaceful cruise this evening across Lake Wakatipu aboard the century-old TSS Earnslaw, the only remaining commercial passenger-carrying coal-fired steamship in the Southern Hemisphere. Your destination is Walter Peak High Country Farm, where you'll enjoy a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner and entertaining after-dinner show offering glimpses of high country farm life. **B HD**

7 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 the 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**



TranzAlpine Train

Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	24	Jan	01, 15, 22, 29
May	01	Feb	05, 12, 19, 26
Jun	05	Mar	05, 12, 19, 26
Jul	03, 31	Apr	02
Aug	14		
Sep	11, 18		
Oct	02, 09, 16, 23, 30		
Nov	06, 13, 20		
Dec	04, 11, 18, 25		

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. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

8 Full buffet breakfasts B 3 Dinners D
 1 Highlight Dinner HD 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
 Day 9 – flights to depart anytime from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

8 Franz Josef – Christchurch

Travel on this morning to Hokitika, home of New Zealand’s famous greenstone. Pounamu (its Māori name) is of great cultural significance in Māori culture and was prized for its strength, durability and beauty. It was used for weapons, tools and personal ornaments, and also denoted great status. Continue to Arthur’s Pass to board the iconic TranzAlpine train and embark on one of the world’s most renowned rail journeys. Pass through magnificent landscapes ranging from the rugged gorges and pristine ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps, to the lush pasture-land of the Canterbury Plains. This evening in Christchurch, join your Travel Director and new-found friends for a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

9 Farewell from Christchurch

Say farewell to your fellow travellers when your holiday comes to an end this morning after breakfast. **B**



Dunedin

