

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 Wonders

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Queenstown boasts 150+ bars, restaurants and cafés. Thankfully, you have free hours to eat your way around town.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

Few rail journeys excite the imagination like the TranzAlpine, traversing the South Island from Arthur's Pass to Christchurch.

### 📷 Time For You

Adventures often happen when you least expect. Explore at your own pace and uncover those surprise memorable moments.

### 🌿 Sustainable Travel

Fiordland National Park is one of the world's great wilderness areas. Your visit will help protect and preserve it.

## 1 Welcome to Christchurch

Explore Christchurch, the largest city in New Zealand's South Island. The old city centre shows evidence of a rich English heritage, boasting some of the finest Gothic architecture outside of Britain. You'll have time at leisure this afternoon: you might like to take a stroll along the banks of the Avon River before a Welcome Reception with your Travel Director and fellow travellers. **Hotel: Ibis.**

## 2 Christchurch – Franz Josef

This morning, board the iconic TranzAlpine train and take one of the world's great rail journeys. Pass through magnificent landscapes ranging from the lush pasture land of the Canterbury Plains to the rugged gorges and pristine ice-fed streams and lakes of the Southern Alps. Arrive at Arthur's Pass, the highest settlement on the South Island, and continue 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. Continue to Franz Josef Glacier (optional scenic flight is available). **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier, Graham Wing. B D**

## 3 Franz Josef – Queenstown

Drive over the spectacular Haast Pass this morning, passing the 96-metre Thunder Creek Falls and serene Lakes Wanaka, Hawea and Dunstan. Stop in Cromwell and enjoy the tastes of the delicious stone fruit for which the region is known. Next, you'll visit the historic gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown, where more than 70 original buildings from the gold-rush era are preserved. An orientation tour of Queenstown, which sits on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu among dramatic mountain ranges, completes your day. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, 2 nights. B**

## 4 Queenstown Free Time

Explore New Zealand's adventure capital at your own pace today. There are jet boat rides for the thrill-seekers, and wine tours or intimate cafés for those who enjoy a more leisurely rhythm. This evening, take a peaceful cruise 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**

## 5 Queenstown – Te Anau

This morning you'll travel the iconic stretch of highway known as the Devil's Staircase, and along the shores of serene Lake Wakatipu to the town of Te Anau. On your way to Milford Sound you'll be awestruck by the towering native rainforests and rugged mountains of Fiordland National Park. Your cruise on the magnificent Sound provides views of cascading waterfalls, hanging glacial valleys, and the sheer pinnacle of Mitre Peak – it's sure to be one of the highlights of your New Zealand adventure. Return to lakeside Te Anau, where this evening you'll have the option of visiting the Te Anau Glowworm Caves. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

## 6 Te Anau – Dunedin

Journey through lush green sheep-grazing country on your way to Dunedin this morning. After a city tour, the afternoon is yours to enjoy as you please. Sit back and relax, or consider an optional experience. Perhaps tour imposing Larnach Castle, take a wildlife cruise out to the Otago Peninsula to spot penguins and the Royal Albatross or experience an interactive tour of famous Speight's Brewery. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

## 7 Dunedin – Omarama

This morning you have some free time in Dunedin. Then set out for the historic town of Oamaru, with its elegant tree-lined streets and celebrated white limestone buildings. Later, follow the course of the mighty Waitaki River, passing the monumental Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and Aviemore on your way to Omarama. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

## 8 Omarama – Christchurch

Travel through the awe-inspiring Aoraki/Mt. Cook National Park. At 3,724 metres, Aoraki/Mt. Cook is New Zealand's highest mountain. Stop at serene Lake Tekapo, and view the famous Church of the Good Shepherd, whose altar window frames a perfect view of the Southern Alps beyond the lake. Later, traverse the fertile Canterbury Plains and return to the vibrant city of Christchurch. This evening, join your Travel Director and new-found friends at a Farewell Dinner. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**



Milford Sound

## Departure Dates

2022		2023	
Apr	04, 11	Jan	02, 09, 16, 23, 30
May	02	Feb	06, 13, 20, 27
Sep	05	Mar	06, 13, 20, 27
Oct	03, 17, 24, 31		
Nov	07, 21, 28		
Dec	05, 12, 19, 26		

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

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**

### 9 Farewell from Christchurch

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



Christchurch

