

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# NEW ZEALAND

2023-2024 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

Explore the extremes of the North Island, where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean. Or just relax by the pool. It's your choice.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

You don't need a reason to visit World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. But if you're looking for one, make it shimmering Milford Sound/Piopiota. This place is nature amplified.

### 📷 Time For You

Queenstown is best explored at a leisurely pace. Follow your guide (or go as you will) to appreciate this town's many allures.

### 🏠 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Thousands of kids across NZ go hungry every year. The 'Eat My Lunch' program that you support ensures this tide is turning.

### 🌋 Natural Wonders

End-of-the-Earth drama awaits in the Bay of Islands, where 140 droplets of land unite powdery beaches with dreamy pockets of forest.

#### 1 Welcome to Auckland

Explore waterfront precincts filled with yachts, take a cruise out to the wineries of Waiheke Island, or just meet fellow travel companions over a few local tipples tonight. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

#### 2 Auckland – Bay of Islands

Say goodbye to the 'City of Sails' as you journey north to the Bay of Islands – 140 droplets of land ringed by turquoise sea. It's undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical secret; this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. Your guide, likely an ancestor of one of the original signatories, will explain the significance of the site, while pointing out the world's largest ceremonial canoe and a carved meeting house.

**Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort (Garden View), 2 nights. B D**

#### 3 Bay of Islands Free Time

Today, trip the light fantastic and head off in whatever direction you please. Perhaps travel up to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, the very top of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach. Or glide around on an historic tall ship, enjoy local drops on a wine tour of the region, or join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. **B**

#### 4 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Whangarei is a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. It's like the country in a tantalising snapshot – a union of nature and forward-thinking culture. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

#### 5 Auckland – Rotorua

After a morning of sightseeing, set your GPS for the Waitomo Caves. Cruising cavernous waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers. Tonight, delve deep into Māori culture and traditions at Te Puia. Your dinner, a hangi cooked underground, is served while you overlook the spectacular geothermal valley. The highlight is a Māori cultural performance in the beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

#### 6 Rotorua Free Time

Explore at your own pace today. Want a bit of down time? Bliss out at the Polynesian Spa. Animal lover? Go behind the scenes at a working kiwi hatchery. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of today's opportunity to visit the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. **B**

#### 7 Rotorua – Wellington

At Huka Falls, 220,000 litres of water thunder over an 11-metre-high waterfall every second. The road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of mint-blue Lake Taupo. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington, where there are so many restaurants and bars to choose from, you'll need a guidebook. Wait, you have an in-the-know Travel Director to talk to. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

#### 8 Wellington – Picton

Wellington is known for its uber-cool cafés, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Onwards to the Interislander for a cruise across Cook Strait, from the North Island to the South, through a maze of arms and inlets. **Hotel: Beachcomber Inn. B L D**

#### 9 Picton – Christchurch

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the black sands of Kaikoura. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore. Your Travel Director has tips on where to dine tonight. **Hotel: Ibis. B**

#### 10 Christchurch – Omarama

Christchurch is not only rebuilding itself after the 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. From here, your outlook the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Take it all in on an optional scenic flight for added perspective of the Southern Alps. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

#### 11 Omarama – Dunedin Free Time

Oamaru, with its stately tree-lined streets and limestone buildings, stands proud before you journey further south toward the 'Edinburgh of the South': Dunedin. While away the afternoon in the city's art-lined alleys, or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives here – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**



Te Puia



## 16 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Oct 08, 15	Jan 07, 14, 21, 28	Jan 06, 13, 20, 27
Nov 05, 12, 26	Feb 04, 11, 18, 25	Feb 03, 10, 17, 24
Dec 03, 10, 17	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25	Mar 02, 09, 16, 23
	Apr 15, 22	
	May 27	
	Jun 24	
	Jul 22	
	Aug 05	
	Sep 02, 09, 23, 30	
	Oct 07, 14, 21, 28	
	Nov 04, 11, 25	
	Dec 02, 09, 16, 23	

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 2024 at [atkings.com](http://atkings.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 any time from Christchurch Airport  
**Flights are not included in the holiday price**

#### 12 Dunedin – Te Anau

Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to Larnach Castle. Weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

#### 13 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. All roads lead to Milford Sound/Piopiota, where a string of waterfalls create a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins – they're a common sight here. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

#### 14 Queenstown Free Time

Take Queenstown at your own pace today. Feel the wind in your hair on a high octane Shotover Jet, perhaps. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner. **B HD**

#### 15 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

Leaving Lake Wakatipu behind, Arrowtown and Lake Dunstan appear on the horizon. Then there's Lake Hawea followed by Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D**

#### 16 Franz Josef/Waiau – Christchurch

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. In Māori tradition, it's bad luck to buy this sacred stone for yourself; flutter your eyelids at your loved one. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

#### 17 Farewell from Christchurch

Two islands, glaciers, lakes, thermal springs and a parade of wildlife... We hope you find the words to describe this epic adventure. **B**

