

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

# New Zealand Magic



## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Have an adventure at the very top of the North Island, where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean. Or just relax by the pool. The choice is yours.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

Visiting Milford Sound/Piopiota within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park is a humbling experience. Waterfalls, ancient escarpments and dolphins await.

### 📷 Time For You

Explore Queenstown at your own pace, whether sipping your way around wineries or zipping across rivers. Your Travel Director has endless ideas.

### 🏠 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

Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem in the Southern Alps, cutting through the mountains for more than 12 kilometres.



## 1 Welcome to Christchurch

Explore the 'Garden City' at your leisure. We recommend jumping aboard the Christchurch Tram to discover how the city has rebuilt itself since the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes. **Hotel: Ibis.**

## 2 Christchurch – Franz Josef/Waiau

All aboard the TranzAlpine train, whisking you through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks. Arriving in Hokitika, your outlook is all pounamu (native greenstone or jade). In Māori tradition, it's bad luck to buy this sacred stone for yourself; flutter your eyelids at your loved one. Things are about to get cool again as you arrive at Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere, a white-out of snow and ice. Get some perspective on an optional flight over this natural wonder. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D**

## 3 Franz Josef/Waiau – Queenstown

Over the Haast Pass, the alpine scenery of the Southern Lakes spreads before you: Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows; Lake Hawea; and Lake Dunstan, where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. We know you'll want to linger in Arrowtown's movie-set-like streets, but Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables await in Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

## 4 Queenstown Free Time

Take today at your own pace. Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet, perhaps; discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre; or sip your way through surrounding vineyards. Then glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner. **B HD**

## 5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Your route from the Mirror Lakes through the Cleddau Valley is the entrée to Milford Sound/Piopiota, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. The onward road through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and gin-clear rivers. And just when you thought things couldn't get any more magical, glowworm-filled caves make an appearance. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

## 6 Te Anau – Dunedin

While away your Dunedin afternoon in atmospheric art-lined alleys or sipping a lager or two in Speight's Brewery (a national institution). Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

## 7 Dunedin – Omarama

Sleep in or channel your inner royalty at Larnach Castle – Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look. If you've ever wanted to see New Zealand's oldest public gardens, today you're in luck with a visit to Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

## 8 Omarama – Christchurch

Your outlook this morning is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Take it in on an optional scenic flight for added perspective of the Southern Alps and on to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Back on the ground, you're becoming reacquainted with Christchurch. **Hotel: Ibis. B D**

## 9 Christchurch – Picton

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the black sands of Kaikoura. Your onward route skirts the pink tinged crystallisation ponds of the Lake Grassmere Salt Works, before arriving in the pretty seaside fishing village of Picton. **Hotel: Beachcomber Inn. B D**

## 10 Picton – Wellington

Swap wheels for water aboard the Interislander for a cruise from the South Island to the North into New Zealand's cool little capital of Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

## 11 Wellington – Rotorua

Tonight, Māori culture and traditions are in the spotlight 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 L HD**



Fur Seals, Dunedin



## 16 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Oct 24, 31	Jan 02, 09, 16, 23, 30	Jan 01, 08, 15, 22, 29
Nov 21, 28	Feb 06, 13, 20, 27	Feb 05, 12, 19, 26
Dec 26	Mar 06, 13, 20, 27	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25
	Apr 03, 10	
	May 01	
	Sep 04	
	Oct 02, 16, 23, 30	
	Nov 06, 20, 27	
	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 2024 at [aatkings.com](http://aatkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

### Dining

16 Full buffet breakfasts B      2 Highlight Dinners HD  
1 Lunch L                                7 Dinners D

### Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport  
Day 17 – flights to depart any time from Auckland Airport  
Flights are not included in the holiday price

#### 12 Rotorua Free Time

Explore at your own pace: Bliss out in the steamy thermal springs of the Polynesian Spa, or go behind the scenes at a working kiwi hatchery. And then there's Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway. **B**

#### 13 Rotorua – Auckland

Waitomo Caves is radiant – quite literally. While cruising waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. The next thing that glows on your horizon is Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B D**

#### 14 Auckland – Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands is undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical secret: this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort (Garden View), 2 nights. B D**

#### 15 Bay of Islands Free Time

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, or visit Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. **B**

#### 16 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Today, New Zealand's most northerly city is on your radar. Whangarei is a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

#### 17 Farewell from Auckland

It's hard to say goodbye. But you have a camera full of photos to categorise before you get home. **B**

