

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 Marvel



Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

From helicopter jaunts to thrilling jet-boat rides, winery expeditions to Hobbiton tours, your Travel Director is at your beck and call to organise travel optional experiences.

📍 Iconic Sites

Waterfalls, ancient escarpments and dolphins await in Fiordland National Park's Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. This World Heritage Site is as humbling as it is immense.

📷 Time For You

There's a reason why we give you downtime in Rotorua and Queenstown – there are enough attractions to fill every traveller's wish list.

🏠 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

From snow-tipped mountains to a wild and dramatic coastline and turquoise alpine lakes, the Southern Lakes region is one of NZ's most diverse and distinctive wilderness areas.



1 Welcome to Christchurch

There are plenty of reasons to arrive in New Zealand's 'Garden City' early, among them the astonishing transformation that has reinvigorated streets since the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes. Explore at your leisure. We recommend jumping aboard the Christchurch Tram. **Hotel: Ibis.**

2 Christchurch – Franz Josef/Waiau

Jump aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, gorges and river valleys. 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 the one you love. Around the corner is Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Get some perspective on an optional flight. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D**

3 Franz Josef/Waiau – Queenstown

Over the Haast Pass, alpine scenery of the Southern Lakes spreads before you. First up there's lovely Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Then Lake Hawea – the colour of an Ice Mint – and Lake Dunstan, where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruits. As tempting as it is to linger in Arrowtown's movie-set-like streets, Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables await in Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

4 Queenstown Free Time

Today, choose your own adventure – there are plenty to be had. Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet, perhaps. Or discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. Wine aficionado? Sip your way through surrounding vineyards. 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 and a little late-night dancing. **B HD**

5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Your route from the Mirror Lakes through the Cleddau Valley is the entrée to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, a cavernous wonderland where waterfalls thunder from ancient escarpments into inky water where dolphins play. It's all part of

World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and gin-clear rivers, carving up the countryside. This is your backdrop all the way to Te Anau. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

6 Te Anau – Dunedin

Swap the forested slopes of Fiordland for the rolling green hills of the Edinburgh of the South. Welcome to Dunedin, a beguiling union of both Māori and Scottish heritage. While away the 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 – fur seals and penguins, anyone? **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

7 Dunedin – Oamaru

If you didn't get a taste for Dunedin's Scottish heritage yesterday, you surely will today. Explore grand Larnach Castle at your leisure – this is, after all, the only one of its kind in the country – then wander the manicured grounds of Otago University or the city's main George Street for an additional reminder of the city's ties to Europe. If you've ever wanted to see New Zealand's oldest public gardens, today you're in luck with a visit to Oamaru, known for its stately tree-lined streets and limestone buildings. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

8 Oamaru – Christchurch

Your outlook this morning is the Canterbury Plains. 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, it's time to become reacquainted with Christchurch, your in-the-know guide pointing out the city's miraculous transformation. **Hotel: Ibis. B D**

9 Christchurch – Picton

Forget powdery white sand – once you've seen the dramatic black Kaikoura cove, you'll be spoilt for all future beach-bashing. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore; a sighting is practically guaranteed if you opt for an aerial tour over the coastline. 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. B D**



Milford Sound/Piopiotahi



14 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. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

13 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 Christchurch Airport
 Day 14 – flights to depart any time from Auckland Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

10 Picton – Wellington

Cruising through Queen Charlotte Sound, up the Tory Channel and across Cook Strait is a journey as scenic as it is serene. Today's chariot, the Interislander, transports you from the South Island to the North, navigating a maze of arms and inlets into Wellington. Bring your stamina to explore Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Ask your Travel Director for tips on where to sip wine and coffee tonight – this city is known for its uber-cool cafés, restaurants and bars. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

11 Wellington – Rotorua

The road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, the largest of its kind in the country. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. 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**

12 Rotorua Free Time

Sometimes, the best adventures are those that you have when you least expect them. Like wandering into Rotorua's Polynesian Spa and falling into a few hours of bliss while soaking in steamy thermal springs. Or discovering endangered birds on a working kiwi nursery and 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

Before you reach your final destination, get set to glow through the Waitomo Caves. While cruising cavernous limestone waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, appears on the horizon, dazzling with not one, but two harbours. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B FD**

14 Farewell from Auckland

The 'City of Sails' flutters a wave goodbye as you make your way home. **B**

