

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

2023-2024 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



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New Zealand Vista

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Whether you like sky-high adventures – think, landing on a glacier – or prefer to keep your feet on the ground, we have a little black book of adventures ready to inspire.

📍 Iconic Sites

Within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi is the kind of place you expect to see on postcards. You're here in real life.

📷 Time For You

Free days in Queenstown and Rotorua means you can explore at leisure – thermal soaks and hiking slopes could be on the menu.

🌱 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Your presence on this tour contributes to AAT's 'Eat My Lunch' program, designed to ensure that no Kiwi kid goes to school hungry.

🏞 Natural Wonders

Get your glow on at the Waitomo Caves, a magical subterranean world lit by thousands of glow-worms. Drift along and prepare to be dazzled.



1 Welcome to Auckland

Auckland never fails to turn on the charm, as you'll discover while exploring the city before meeting your fellow adventure-seekers. Peruse waterfront precincts filled with yachts; take a cruise out to the wineries of Waiheke Island; or hit up the CBD to discover local designers. Turns out Kiwi creativity is surging. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

2 Auckland – Rotorua

After a morning of sightseeing, set your GPS for the Waikato River to Waitomo Caves. Here, your cruise 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, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. 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**

3 Rotorua Free Time

We're leaving you up to your own devices today. Bliss out in the steamy thermal springs in Rotorua's Polynesian Spa. Go behind the scenes on a working kiwi nursery and hatchery. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. The choice is yours. **B**

4 Rotorua – Wellington

A staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over Huka Falls' 11-metre-high escarpment every second. It creates quite the calamity. From here, the road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, its waters so vivid and blue they resemble an Ice Mint. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

5 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. **Hotel: Beachcomber. B L D**

6 Picton – Christchurch

Black is the new black, as you'll fast discover when walking along the dramatic ink-hued Kaikoura beach. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore. Talk to your Travel Director for tips on the essential restaurants to dine in tonight – Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. **Hotel: Ibis. B**

7 Christchurch – Omarama

From its devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has become one of the most forward-thinking cities in the world when it comes to design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Choose to take it in from the air for added perspective, on an optional scenic flight around the Southern Alps and on to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

8 Omarama – Dunedin

Oamaru may have supplied other NZ cities with limestone, but it kept some for itself – and the result is glorious leafy streets with grand 1800s buildings that stand proud before you journey further south toward Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in 'little Edinburgh's' atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

9 Dunedin – Te Anau

There's no judgement that comes from a sleep-in. But if you have the energy, channel it into exploring Larnach Castle – the only one of its kind in the country. Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown



14 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Oct 11, 18	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31	Jan 09, 16, 23, 30
Nov 08, 15, 29	Feb 07, 14, 21, 28	Feb 06, 13, 20, 27
Dec 06, 13, 20	Mar 07, 14, 21, 28	Mar 05, 12, 19, 26
	Apr 18, 25	
	May 30	
	Jun 27	
	Jul 25	
	Aug 08	
	Sep 05, 12, 26	
	Oct 03, 10, 17, 24, 31	
	Nov 07, 14, 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 2024 at atkings.com. Or contact your local travel agent.

Dining

13 Full buffet breakfasts B 4 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 14 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

10 Te Anau – Queenstown

There are some travel days that blaze into your memory. Today is one. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments.

Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B

11 Queenstown Free Time

Queenstown is known as NZ's adventure capital for good reason. But don't take our word for it. Feel the wind in your hair on the high-octane Shotover Jet. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. 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**

12 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

After departing the movie-set-perfect streets of Arrowtown, discover Lake Dunstan, surrounded by orchards where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. 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**

13 Franz Josef/Waiau – Christchurch

Swap white at Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere for green at Hokitika: the pounamu (native jade) found here is the stuff jewellery dreams are made of. 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 of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. **Hotel: Ibis. B FD**

14 Farewell from Christchurch

Two islands, two weeks. It's remarkable what you can see when you have the right people guiding you. **B**

