

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

NEW ZEALAND

2023-2024 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



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Spirit of New Zealand



Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

It doesn't matter how you choose to explore Abel Tasman National Park – on foot or by boat – you'll be wowed by its all-consuming natural beauty.

📍 Iconic Sites

There are few places in NZ quite as humbling as Milford Sound/Piopiotahi within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. Waterfalls, ancient escarpments and dolphins await.

📷 Time For You

There are some holiday moments where it's great to have someone else take care of the details. And others where you want to wander at your own pace. We've got the perfect mix.

🌱 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

Cruising across mirror-like Lake Wakatipu, your backdrop the staggering Remarkables range of mountains, you'll feel insignificant – in the best possible way.

1 Welcome to Christchurch

Community spirit is strong in Christchurch, as you'll discover exploring its streets at your leisure. We recommend jumping on the tram to discover how the city has rebuilt itself since the 2010/11 earthquakes. **Hotel: Ibis.**

2 Christchurch – Omarama

More of Christchurch is revealed before the colours of the Canterbury Plains spread before you: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Opt to take in the drama on a scenic flight over the Southern Alps. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

3 Omarama – Dunedin

Architectural drama awaits in Dunedin. 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 Larnach Castle, fur seals and penguins. **Hotel: Kingsgate. B**

4 Dunedin – Invercargill

Rolling green pastures dotted with wide-eyed sheep are your backdrop to Gore. Fun fact: this is the country music capital of NZ. Invercargill is obsessed with something else: motor vehicles. Tributes to speed legends colour the city. **Hotel: Kelvin, 2 nights. B**

5 Stewart Island

Stewart Island's rugged coastline cuts a dramatic form in the Southern Ocean. It's largely untouched, which means endemic flora and fauna thrive. But don't take our word for it. Meet the locals on a tour through valleys and bays and out to avian heaven at Ulva Island. **B**

6 Invercargill – Queenstown

Take the afternoon at your own pace in Queenstown. Feel the wind in your hair on the Shotover Jet, perhaps. Or sip your way through surrounding vineyards. There's also an afternoon cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a barbecue dinner. The choice is yours. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

7 Queenstown Free Time

A spot of bungy jumping at the place it was born? Or an epic journey through Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, carved by

waterfalls and a playground for dolphins and seals? There's a reason why this part of the island has World Heritage status. You choose today's path. **B**

8 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

Alpine country of the Southern Lakes awaits, from Lake Dunstan to oh-so-blue Lake Hawea and lovely Lake Wanaka. Over the Haast Pass, Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere shimmers like a gem. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier (Graham Wing). B D**

9 Franz Josef/Waiau – Punakaiki

Wander Hokitika's windswept coast before discovering the town's other beauty: pounamu (native greenstone or jade). Prepare yourself for Punakaiki's Pancake Rocks and blowholes; they owe their existence to the thundering surf that will lull you to sleep. **Hotel: Ocean View Retreat. B D**

10 Punakaiki – Nelson

Ease along the Heritage Highway toward Nelson. Press your nose against the glass as your coach weaves through Buller Gorge and Kahurangi National Park. **Hotel: Rutherford, 2 nights. B**

11 Nelson Free Time

Lace up your hiking shoes and head off on a bushwalk, or cruise through Abel Tasman National Park. This pocket in the north of the island inspires calm, its golden beaches framed by sculpted granite cliffs. **B**

12 Nelson – Wellington

All aboard the Interislander for a cruise through Queen Charlotte Sound to Wellington. Bring your appetite – the city is known for its oh-so-cool restaurants and bars. Ask us for tips. **Hotel: Travelodge, 2 nights. B**

13 Wellington Free Time

After a strong coffee, it's time to choose your own adventure. Stroll through Te Papa, or tour Parliament. Peter Jackson fans will have their sights set firmly on a Lord of the Rings movie tour or to visit the Weta Workshop, where special-effects wizards work their magic creating goblins. **B D**

14 Wellington – Napier

Napier is architectural Nirvana, a city home to the world's greatest concentration of Art Deco, Spanish Mission and Stripped Classical buildings. Get the lowdown from your guide. **Hotel: Scenic Te Pania. B L**



Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown



6 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2022	2023	2024
Nov 24	Jan 05, 26	Jan 04, 25
Dec 15	Feb 02, 16	Feb 01, 08, 15, 22, 29
	Mar 02, 09	Mar 07, 21
	Apr 06, 27	
	Sep 07	
	Oct 05, 19	
	Nov 02, 23, 30	
	Dec 14, 21, 28	

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

20 Full buffet breakfasts B 5 Dinners D
 1 Lunch L 1 Farewell Dinner FD
 1 Highlight Dinner HD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport
 Day 21 – flights to depart any time from Auckland Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price

15 Napier – Rotorua

Tonight, delve deep into Māori culture and traditions at Te Puia. Your journey starts with a guided tour including the Pohutu Geyser, followed by a hangi dinner overlooking the geothermal valley, and a Māori cultural performance in their meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. **Hotel: Sudima, 2 nights. B HD**

16 Rotorua Free Time

Today is one of decisions. Bliss out in the Polynesian Spa's thermal springs; go behind the scenes on a working kiwi nursery; visit the Hobbiton movie set; or board a scenic flight for a bird's-eye view. **B**

17 Rotorua – Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. Today your sights are firmly set on the city's main love: rugby. The interactive All Blacks Experience explores the sporting team's remarkable history. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

18 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. Your guide, likely an ancestor of one of the original signatories, will explain the significance. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort (Garden View), 2 nights. B D**

19 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 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. **B**

20 Bay of Islands – Auckland

For a little more northern exposure, make your way to Whangarei, the island's most northerly outpost and a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. Explore at your leisure before the commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B FD**

21 Farewell from Auckland

Over three weeks, we hope you've packed your address book with the names of new friends and your camera with photos. But at the end of the day, it's the memories that will fuel your flight home. **B**

