

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*



GRAND PACIFIC TOURS

# New Zealand **Coach Holidays** 2023 / 24



20 Seat Business Class or 32 Seat Premium Economy

Valid for Departures September 2023 - May 2024. New Zealand Dollars (NZD)



### TOUR CODE SGPN16

**STYLE** Signature Mid-Size Group  
**COACH** 32 seat Premium Economy  
**ACCOMMODATION** 4 star

**STARTS** Christchurch  
**FINISHES** Auckland

### GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

2023	2024
Sep 6	Jan 31
Oct 9	Feb 5
Nov 8	Mar 14
	Apr 21



Embrace both islands of New Zealand including the stunning Bay of Islands

# 16 Day Signature Highlights

## No hidden extras

### PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Larnach Castle\*
- Milford Sound Cruise and Lunch
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Lakes District Museum
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Te Papa, NZ's National Museum
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools and geysers\*
- Te Puia traditional Māori Hāngi and Concert
- Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Kauri Museum
- City sights tour of Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland

\*Guided tour.

### COACH FEATURES

- 32 Premium Economy Comfort seats on a full-size coach
- 2 door access; seat back tray table; cup holder
- Restroom; daily onboard Wi-Fi allowance

### EXPERIENCE

- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Professional Coach Captain
- Tour Leader
- 15 nights 4 star accommodation
- 4 two night stays
- Hotel portorage
- 1 rail journey
- 4 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Extensive Optional Activities
- Signature Documentation Pack

### MEALS

- 15 cooked breakfasts including a specialty breakfast: Stratosfare Restaurant, Rotorua
- 12 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 3 specialty dinners: Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown; Māori Hāngi and Concert, Rotorua; Farewell Dinner including pre-dinner drink, Auckland
- 1 lunch: Milford Sound Cruise
- 1 delicious Devonshire Tea: Larnach Castle
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

Day 1: Dinner not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

## Itinerary and Hotels

### DAY 1: Arrive Christchurch (D)

On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink when you meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions for dinner.

**Hotel** Distinction Christchurch Hotel

### DAY 2: Christchurch - Mt Cook - Twizel (B,D)

After an introductory city sights tour depart Christchurch and travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available to enjoy a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the Southern Alps before travelling to Twizel.

**Hotel** MacKenzie Country Hotel

### DAY 3: Twizel - Dunedin (B,D)

Depart Twizel and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue south to Dunedin and enjoy a city sights tour followed by some free time.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

### DAY 4: Dunedin - Te Anau (B,D)

This morning travel out along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander around this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Devonshire Tea. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland and your overnight stay. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

**Hotel** Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau (Deluxe Room)

### DAY 5: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown (B,L)

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy lunch. This afternoon travel to Queenstown, overlooking magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year-round resort which offers a wide range of activities and attractions. This evening is free, you may choose to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

**Hotel** Millennium Hotel Queenstown (2 nights)



Marvel at spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak.

### DAY 6: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown at leisure. Your Coach Captain and Tour Leader are available to assist with the many optional activities available, including the thrill of a jet boat ride or a heritage tour of the scenic Skippers Canyon. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner featuring a menu of seasonal, fresh and locally sourced food at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown.

### DAY 7: Queenstown - Arrowtown - Franz Josef (B,D)

Travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the mighty West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Franz Josef. Time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

### DAY 8: Franz Josef - Arthur's Pass - Christchurch (B,D)

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue into Arthur's Pass and board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains. On arrival into the elegant city of Christchurch, your coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel.

**Hotel** Distinction Christchurch Hotel

### DAY 9: Christchurch - Picton - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the East Coast to the seaside village of Kaikōura. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you travel through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine. Continue to Picton, where you will board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait to Wellington.

**Hotel** James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (Executive Room. 2 nights)

### DAY 10: Wellington (B)

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour which showcases the history and culture on show. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also free to choose your own dining arrangements.

### DAY 11: Wellington - Taupo - Rotorua (B,D)

Depart Wellington and view the snow-capped peaks of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro as you travel to Lake Taupo. Visit the spectacular Huka Falls then travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua.

**Hotel** Pullman Rotorua (City View Room. 2 nights)

### DAY 12: Rotorua (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a thrilling luge ride! Next stop is Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before visiting Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Māori Hāngi and Concert.

### DAY 13: Rotorua - Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

This morning depart Rotorua and travel north via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy an introduction to the Bay of Islands, location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British.

**Hotel** Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights)

### DAY 14: Bay of Islands (B)

Today you will cruise through the beautiful Bay of Islands aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Pterci Island, or as it is popularly known, the 'Hole in the Rock'. Keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life before returning to Paihia for a free afternoon. A range of optional activities are available, or you may choose to relax and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the waterfront. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

### DAY 15: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,SD)

Depart the Bay of Islands this morning and travel via Whangarei and Dargaville to Matakoho. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum before continuing to Auckland for a city sights tour. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink and reminisce on memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner.

**Hotel** Sudima Auckland City

### DAY 16: Depart Auckland (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.