

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 UGPR19

STYLE Ultimate Small Group
COACH 20 seat Business Class
ACCOMMODATION 4.5 star

STARTS Auckland
FINISHES Christchurch

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

2023	2024
Sep 5, 21	Jan 6, 26
Oct 5, 10, 12, 28	Feb 10, 26
Nov 14, 20	Mar 8, 28
Dec 18	Apr 2, 15
	May 3



The ultimate experience combining rail, coach and Doubtful Sound overnight cruise

19 Day Ultimate Rail, Cruise and Coach

Tour Highlight: Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise



THE FIORDLAND NAVIGATOR

Doubtful Sound is unspoiled, unmatched and unforgettable. You will create some lifelong memories as the Fiordland Navigator takes you through the ultimate Doubtful Sound experience. As you cruise through some of NZ's most stunning scenery, knowledgeable nature guides will provide commentary. There are opportunities to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender boat - or to simply relax on board. As evening falls, you will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner prepared by the onboard chef and served in the dining saloon. Mingle with fellow travellers, savour some of the fine wines and if the skies are clear, enjoy some stargazing. The next day explore other parts of the fiord.

Tour Highlight: 4 breathtaking Rail Journeys



GLENBROOK VINTAGE RAILWAY

Experience the thrill of travelling by steam train as you meander through beautiful rural countryside on a vintage train hauled by one of the lovingly restored steam locomotives. A delightful morning tea is also included.



THE TRANZALPINE

One of the great train journeys of the world. Depart Christchurch and travel through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, view alpine scenery, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps.



COASTAL PACIFIC

Begin your journey from the coastal port of Picton, travel through the picturesque Marlborough Wine Region and the East Coast providing vistas of the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountains. You may see amazing wildlife including dolphins, seals and penguins.



PLEASANT POINT MUSEUM AND RAILWAY

Nestled in the small town of Pleasant Point is a museum and railway housing two steam engines, one of the world's only Model T Ford railcars and a 137-year-old station. A small army of volunteers work hard to preserve New Zealand's railway history.

No hidden extras

PREPAID ATTRACTIONS

- Kauri Museum
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- National Kiwi Hatchery Tour*
- Skyline Rotorua Gondola and Luge Ride
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools and geysers*
- Te Puia traditional Māori Hāngi and Concert
- Te Papa, NZ's National Museum
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Coastal Pacific Rail Journey
- International Antarctic Centre
- Christchurch Tram
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Lakes District Museum
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- **HIGHLIGHT** Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise
- Larnach Castle*
- Pleasant Point Museum and Railway
- City sights tour of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin

*Guided tour.

COACH FEATURES

- 20 Business Class seats on a full-size coach
- 2 door access; dedicated seat side storage with 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
- 17 nights 4.5 star accommodation
- Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise
- 6 two night stays
- Hotel portage
- 4 rail journeys
- 4 cruises
- All sightseeing and prepaid attractions
- Extensive Optional Activities
- Ultimate Documentation Pack

MEALS

- 18 cooked breakfasts including a speciality breakfast: Stratosfare Restaurant, Rotorua
- 14 sumptuous dinners including complimentary pre-dinner drink at the Welcome Dinner and 3 speciality dinners: Māori Hāngi and Concert, Rotorua; Walter Peak Homestead, Queenstown; Intimate Farewell Dinner, selected beverages, Christchurch
- 2 lunches: Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise; Pleasant Point Museum and Railway
- 2 delicious morning teas including an Ultimate High Tea: Larnach Castle
- Enjoy GPT Hotel Wine Time (discounted drinks)

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



"Everything provided has been to a very high standard. Loved every minute!"

- J. C. & G. B. - *Past Travellers*

Itinerary and Hotels

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

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (D)

On arrival into Auckland you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink as you meet your travelling companions.

Hotel Crowne Plaza Auckland

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

Board the luxurious Ultimate Coach and enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakohē to enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights)

DAY 3: Bay of Islands (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,D)

This morning you will explore the scenic beauty of the Bay of Islands including an island visit aboard a luxury catamaran. Cruise to Cape Brett and the famous 'Hole in the Rock', keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. On return to Paihia, travel south, call into the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree before returning to Auckland.

Hotel Crowne Plaza Auckland

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (B,D)

This morning travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop followed by a delightful morning tea. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit the National Kiwi Hatchery, for a unique behind the scenes tour of the world's largest kiwi hatchery.

Hotel Regent of Rotorua (2 nights)

DAY 6: Rotorua (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua where spectacular views are on offer. 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 travelling to 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 7: Rotorua - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and then continue south to NZ's capital city, Wellington.

Hotel InterContinental Wellington (Premium Room. 2 nights)

DAY 8: 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 Ultimate coach for an extensive city tour which showcases the history and culture on show. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also at leisure.

DAY 9: Wellington - Kaikōura - Christchurch (B,D)

This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross the Cook Strait and enjoy the scenery as you travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that follows a thin wedge of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Kaikōura Ranges. Meet your Ultimate Coach in the fishing village of Kaikōura for the journey to the garden city of Christchurch.

Hotel The George (2 nights)

DAY 10: Christchurch (B)

Today visit the International Antarctic Centre designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This is followed by an introductory city tour of Christchurch. This afternoon includes a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at your leisure. This evening is free to enjoy one of the many eateries near your hotel.



Enjoy the surrounds and activities on offer at Skyline Rotorua Gondola and Luge.



The Doubtful Sound overnight cruise on New Year's Eve will provide an unforgettable experience.

FESTIVE SEASON DEPARTURE DECEMBER 18

Witness the spectacular scenery of New Zealand during the Festive Season. On Christmas Day in Wellington enjoy a sumptuous dinner with all the trimmings. Celebrate an unforgettable New Year's Eve on your overnight cruise through the pristine beauty of Doubtful Sound. See in the New Year with new friends creating lifelong memories.

DAY 11: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass - Fox Glacier (B,D)

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your Ultimate Coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before continuing via Franz Josef to the township of Fox Glacier where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers. **Hotel** Distinction Fox Glacier

DAY 12: Fox Glacier - Queenstown (B)

See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south along the West Coast. Continue via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into Arrowtown to visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue to picturesque Queenstown, a year-round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free and you may choose to dine out at one of the many fine restaurants. **Hotel** Heritage Queenstown (2 nights)

DAY 13: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown with many optional activities available. 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 14: Queenstown - Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise (B,L,D)

Today travel via Te Anau to Manapouri. Enjoy lunch as you cruise across this glacial lake. A short ride over the Wilmot Pass brings you to the boarding point to join the Fiordland Navigator for an amazing overnight experience. As you cruise through the pristine beauty of Doubtful Sound, naturalist guides will provide commentary and point out the resident wildlife. When evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared by the onboard chef. **Overnight** Fiordland Navigator

DAY 15: Doubtful Sound - Te Anau (B,D)

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back to Deep Cove for the trip to Manapouri. Return to the wharf and meet your Ultimate Coach for the journey to Te Anau where you will enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional). **Hotel** Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

DAY 16: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,D)

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, famous for its stunning Edwardian and Victorian architecture dating back to the gold rush of the 1800s. Today Dunedin is New Zealand's oldest university city. **Hotel** Distinction Dunedin Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 17: Dunedin (B,D)

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle. On a guided tour you will hear the tragic and scandalous stories followed by time to wander around this Garden of International Significance and an Ultimate High Tea served in the Grand Ballroom. Return to Dunedin for a city tour followed by some free time. Optional activities available include a tour of the Speight's Brewery, which produces New Zealand's most popular beer, see wildlife in their natural habitat or take a tour of Olveston Historic Home, containing many treasures of a bygone era.

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,L,SD)

This morning travel to the city of Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue north to Pleasant Point Museum and Railway for a short rail experience followed by lunch and time to explore the preserved heritage of the South Canterbury railway. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with selected beverages and your newfound friends. **Hotel** The George

DAY 19: Depart Christchurch (B)

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



On an Ultimate tour of New Zealand, you will not only see spectacular scenery, but you will also make lifelong friends.

Optional Activities



CAPE REINGA VIA NINETY MILE BEACH

A full-day trip takes you to the iconic Cape Reinga lighthouse at NZ's most northern tip. Discover the wild beauty of the region, rich in Māori culture and tradition.



TE ANAU GLOWWORM CAVES

Venture into underground caves and the mysterious world of waterfalls and incredible rock formations before drifting into silent darkness beneath glittering glowworms.



SPEIGHTS BREWERY

See over 141 years of brewing history on a guided tour of this Dunedin icon. At the end of the tour, sample the different styles and flavours of these award-winning brews.