



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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Contrasts of New Zealand

Highlights

Local Connection

South Island countryside never fails to impress, as you'll discover cruising World Heritage-listed Milford Sound/Piopiotahi and enjoying morning tea on a farm in the Hurunui Hills.

Cultural Immersion

Discover just how strong Māori culture is at Te Pā Tū Māori Experience, celebrating art, tradition and cuisine. Bring your appetite for nurturing Māori cuisine.

Sustainable Footprints

Operation Nest Egg may sound James Bond-esque, but it's actually a National Kiwi Hatchery project to care for the country's kiwi population.

Wildlife & Nature

You'd be forgiven for thinking you'd be transported to Mars when you arrive at Rotorua, a place where steam and mud pop, fizz and swoosh at every turn.



Postmasters Café

1 Welcome to Auckland

New Zealand's largest city is also one of its prettiest, as you'll discover exploring at your leisure. Arrive early to linger in its hip harbourside precincts, where galleries and design-driven stores await. You'll have worked up an appetite by the time you meet your fellow travel companions at a Welcome Reception and dinner. Start your Auckland tour on a high, we say. **Hotel: The Grand by SkyCity, 2 nights. DW**

2 Auckland

If you didn't get your city bearings yesterday, you will on an Auckland tour today. Have your camera poised as you reach Mission Bay, a dreamy waterside suburb where the blues patchwork to the horizon. Click! Then get snap happy once again at Bastion Point and the Michael Joseph Savage Memorial, offering epic vistas over Auckland and its harbours. Click, click, click! Want some tips on how to spend your free afternoon in New Zealand's largest city? How about going behind the scenes of the All Blacks, arguably the world's most legendary rugby team? Or cruising to Waiheke Island to sip more wine at forward-thinking cellar doors? **B**

3 Auckland – Rotorua

You could be forgiven for thinking Rotorua's landscapes are a sci-fi movie set. Mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. The surrounding forest is a fertile habitat for New Zealand's national bird, being protected and bred at the National Kiwi Hatchery Aotearoa. The cute-as-a-button, cotton-ball kiwi is under threat in the wild; at the hatchery, passionate conservationists reveal how they are saving the population, one incubated egg at a time. Tonight, dive deep into Indigenous culture and traditions on a Rotorua tour at Te Pā Tū Māori Experience. Enjoy a forest kai horotai (seasonal canapés) and chef choice aperitif, followed by a seasonal three-course Highlight Dinner. **Hotel: Millennium. B HD**

4 Rotorua – Auckland – Queenstown

Lance O'Sullivan, a retired champion jockey, and his wife Bridgette invite you to an exclusive Be My Guest morning tea at the Red Barn, at their working dairy farm in the Waikato district. Expect country banter and have a go at the forgotten art of butter churning. The feel-good vibes that endure

will follow you all the way to Queenstown, the self-proclaimed adventure capital of New Zealand. It makes perfect sense – there are ski fields, white-water river and bridges strapped with bungy cords wherever you turn. And then there's the dining scene; Queenstown is home to some of the country's most awarded restaurants. Whether you're in the mood for bulging burgers or lakeside tapas, ask us for recommendations on this leg of your Queenstown New Zealand tour. **Hotel: Millennium, 3 nights. B BG**

5 Milford Sound/Piopiotahi Cruise

Bring your stamina and sense of adventure – things get a little wild today. Nature rules as you skirt Queenstown's gleaming Lake Wakatipu, and traverse the Devil's Staircase to Te Anau, the alpine gateway to World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. Once you've paused to admire the drama at Mirror Lakes, Knobs Flat, Hollyford Valley lookout, Cleddau Valley and the Chasm, you'll begin to understand why Rudyard Kipling called this the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. You haven't even seen Bowen Falls or Milford Sound/Piopiotahi yet... The best Milford Sound/Piopiotahi cruise sees you in the company of an eagle-eyed guide, who not only knows the immense geological history of the region, but can also point out sun-baking fur seals and playful dolphins. **B L**

6 Queenstown Free Time

Take today's Queenstown New Zealand tour at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride. Blast across Lake Wakatipu and down the world-famous Kawarau and Shotover Rivers in one of the world's most stunning locations. Prefer to be able to talk (and drink wine) while you cruise? Glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue lunch in a dreamy alpine setting. Wherever you wander, be sure to save space for tonight's Highlight Dinner at Postmasters Café, a historic Arrowtown cottage replete with picket fence and Instagrammable gardens. **B HD**

7 Queenstown – Lake Tekapo

Whether pinot noir grapes or cherries, things grow well in the fertile Central Otago region of the South Island. Get a taste for the area's plump stone fruit at the stall of a local orchard. Mountain drama – including

views of Aoraki/Mt. Cook – is your backdrop en route to Lake Tekapo, with water so turquoise it looks like a Renaissance painting. This part of the country is ravishing and remote; the lack of light pollution means dazzling Southern Hemisphere stargazing at UNESCO World Heritage listed Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. It's handy to have an astronomer in your company to decode the constellations of the Milky Way. If there was ever a NZ experience that put life in perspective, this is it. **Hotel: Pepper's Bluewater Resort. B DW**

8 Lake Tekapo – Christchurch

The Canterbury region of the west coast is a rustic union of grassy plains, mirror-like lakes and snow-capped mountains, the kind of landscape that you might see on postcards. Arrive into the beautiful English city of Christchurch for a guided visit. The city is not only rebuilding itself after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. **Hotel: Distinction, 2 nights. B**

9 Christchurch

Travel north through rolling countryside to Hurunui Hills, a hill country farm in North Canterbury. Enjoy warm Kiwi hospitality with the Bamford Family, who have been farming at Hurunui since 1884 with six generations focused on producing premium Merino sheep, wool and Angus cattle. Soak up stunning scenery while enjoying morning tea, meet the farm animals & discover what it is like to live off the land on this unique Be My Guest experience. Continue to a local vineyard, Waipara Springs Winery, where it's time to relax and enjoy a platter-style lunch among the vines. A big day leads to a big evening joining your Travel Director and travel mates for a celebratory Farewell Dinner featuring produce from the Canterbury region. **B BG L FD**

10 Farewell from Christchurch

You've travelled hundreds of kilometres across two islands, likely taken thousands of photos, and made countless memories and new friends. The only thing left to do is plan your next trip to New Zealand. **B**

10 DAYS 12 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 06, 20	Jan 05, 12, 19, 26	Jan 03, 10, 17, 24, 31
Nov 17	Feb 02, 09, 16, 23	Feb 07, 14, 21, 28
Dec 08	Mar 01, 08, 15, 22	Mar 07, 14, 21, 28
	Apr 05, 19	
	Jul 05	
	Aug 23	
	Sep 06, 20	
	Oct 04, 18	
	Nov 08, 15, 22, 29	
	Dec 06, 20	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatkings.com/izanb or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

- 9 Full buffet breakfasts B
- 2 Lunches L
- 2 Be My Guest Morning Teas BG
- 2 Highlight Dinners HD
- 2 Dinners with wine DW
- 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

- Day 1 – flights to arrive by 4.00pm into Auckland Airport
- Day 10 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price. Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the price above.

Internal-holiday flight: The flight below is required to be purchased in order to fulfil the holiday itinerary:
Day 4 – Auckland to Queenstown

