



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

# NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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# Southern Spirit

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

New Zealand's natural bounty is epic, as you'll see in Nelson, the gateway to Abel Tasman National Park. The bounty also inspires talented chefs across Queenstown, Christchurch and Wellington.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

New Zealand's cool little Capital, Wellington's diversions range from cultural Nirvana at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand to the beehive-like Parliament building.

### 🌿 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE The Real Country Farm Show offers an authentic taste of real, rural New Zealand is like. For every guest, we donate funds to The Fairlight Foundation, Advancing Women in Agriculture.

### 🏞 Natural Wonders

An island off an island, Stewart Island is wild, wide and wonderful. Some 97% is national parkland – prepare for epic animal encounters.



Punakaiki Pancake Rocks

13 DAYS  
15 Included Experiences

## Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct <b>05</b>	Jan 04	Jan 02, 23, <b>30</b>
Nov <b>30</b>	Feb 01, <b>08</b> , 15, 22, 29	Feb 06, 13, <b>20</b> , 27
	Mar <b>07</b> , 21	Mar 06, <b>20</b>
	Oct <b>03</b> , 17, 31	
	Nov 21, <b>28</b>	
	Dec 12, 19, 26	

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/lcqw](https://www.aatkings.com/lcqw) or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

## Dining

12 Full buffet breakfasts **B**      1 Highlight Dinner **HD**  
3 Dinners **D**                              1 Farewell Dinner **FD**

## Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport  
Day 13 – flights to depart at 12 noon from Wellington Airport  
Flights are not included in the holiday price

### 1 Welcome to Christchurch

There are plenty of reasons to arrive in New Zealand's 'Garden City' early, among them the astonishing transformation that has reinvigorated streets since the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes. Explore at your leisure. We recommend jumping aboard the Christchurch Tram. This evening, it's time to meet your fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden.**

### 2 Christchurch – Omarama

Step out with your guide for a deeper dive into 'The City of Gardens' before traversing the colourful Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo and snow-capped mountains. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate guides, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe. **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). **Hotel: Kingsgate. B**

### 4 Dunedin – Invercargill

If you find yourself humming a Garth Brooks tune en route to Gore, you're not alone; it's the country music capital of NZ. Invercargill is obsessed with something else: motor vehicles. Tributes to speed legends colour the city. So it's only fitting that you visit Classic Motorcycle Mecca for a tour and Highlight Dinner. **Hotel: Kelvin, 2 nights. B HD**

### 5 Stewart Island

Invercargill is the gateway to the southernmost community in the country. Welcome to Stewart Island, a wild and wonderful drop of land that is 97% national parkland. Naturally, it's a magnet for endemic flora and fauna, as you'll discover on your guided Village and Bays tour. Later you have the option to join a leisurely cruise, including a picnic lunch, around Paterson Inlet that will take you past unique places including Acker's Cottage before docking at Ulva Island to admire the bird life and native flora. **B**

### 6 Invercargill – Queenstown

You've probably already noticed that there's a lot of farmland here in New Zealand. It's fitting, then, that you meet southern girl Laura, who will introduce you to the sheep farm she was born and raised on. Continue to Queenstown and take the afternoon at your own pace. Wine aficionado? Sip your way through surrounding vineyards. You might choose to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm, where a gourmet barbecue BBQ dinner and farm show awaits. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

### 7 Queenstown Free Time

We wouldn't blame you for using today to linger by the banks of Lake Wakatipu, marvelling at the sky-scraping Remarkables. But if you want to venture further afield, we have a few ideas. Top of our list today is 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. **B**

### 8 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

Atmospheric Arrowtown was born from gold, and its movie-set-like streets still shimmer today. It's hard to tear yourself away, but the Alpine country of the Southern Lakes is calling, from Lake Dunstan – pause for juicy stone fruit picked fresh from the tree – to oh-so-blue Lake Hawea and lovely Lake Wanaka, with its shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, the pretty town of Franz Josef/Waiau awaits. Get some perspective on an optional Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere flight tour – if the weather behaves, you may even get to land on it. New Zealand tours don't get much cooler than this. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

### 9 Franz Josef/Waiau – Punakaiki

On the wild West Coast, Hokitika may be small in size, but boy is it big in personality, not to mention natural attractions. Wander the windswept coast before discovering the town's other beauty: pounamu (native greenstone or jade). Steel yourself for Punakaiki's Pancake Rocks and blowholes; they owe their existence to the thundering surf that will lull you to sleep. **Hotel: Scenic Punakaiki. B D**

### 10 Punakaiki – Nelson

After action-packed days, all you need to do today is sit back and enjoy the drama of the Heritage Highway en route to Nelson. Gaze over Buller Gorge – a deep canyon home to New Zealand's longest swingbridge – and Kahurangi National Park, a place of wild rivers, high plateaus, alpine herbfields and coastal forests. **Hotel: Rutherford, 2 nights. B**

### 11 Nelson Free Time

The South Island's oldest city, Nelson is the ideal starting point for outings through Abel Tasman National Park. This pocket in the north of the island is a beguiling union of golden beaches framed by sculpted granite cliffs. It's home to one of the country's most legendary coastal tracks, if you fancy stretching your legs on a hike. Otherwise, drift away on a cruise around the coast, revealing unpeopled bays and dreamy inlets. The choice is yours. **B**

### 12 Nelson – Wellington

All aboard the Interislander for a cruise through Queen Charlotte Sound, up the Tory Channel and across Cook Strait, from the South Island to the North, navigating a maze of arms and inlets into New Zealand's cool little capital of Wellington. End your tour on a high note at a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and travel companions. **Hotel: Travelodge. B FD**

### 13 Farewell from Wellington

Wellington also knows a thing or two about good coffee, and you'll need a strong one to get you through this morning's sightseeing. You may wish to linger in town, discovering Māori culture at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. It's hard to say goodbye to your tour of the South Island of New Zealand. If you can't bear to leave, we have a few ideas up our sleeve to extend your holiday. **B**

