



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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Kia Ora New Zealand

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

Want to get your heart racing? Explore the extremes of the North Island then feel the natural rush of Queenstown. Or just laze by the pool. Your choice...

📍 Iconic Sites

You don't need a reason to visit World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. But if you're looking for one, make it shimmering Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. This place is nature amplified.

🏠 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Journey through New Zealand's most important historic site, Waitangi Treaty Grounds, with a passionate local guide. Discover the stories, people and events that have shaped the past, present, and future.

🌿 Natural Wonders

End-of-the-Earth drama awaits in the Bay of Islands, where 140 droplets of land unite powdery beaches with dreamy pockets of forest.



1 Welcome to Auckland

Explore waterfront precincts filled with yachts or just meet your fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception tonight. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

2 Auckland – Bay of Islands

Say goodbye to the 'City of Sails' as you journey north to the Bay of Islands – 140 droplets of land ringed by turquoise sea. It's undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical secret; this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. Your guide, perhaps a descendent of one of the original signatories, will explain the significance of the site, while pointing out the world's largest ceremonial canoe and a carved meeting house. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B D**

3 Bay of Islands Free Time

Today, trip the light fantastic and head off in whatever direction you please. Perhaps travel up to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, the very top of New Zealand, via idyllic Ninety Mile Beach. Or glide around on an historic tall ship, enjoy a cruise to the iconic Hole in the Rock or join a tour of Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. **B**

4 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Whangarei is a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. It's like the country in a tantalising snapshot – a union of nature and forward-thinking culture. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

5 Auckland – Rotorua

After a morning of sightseeing, set your GPS for the Waitomo Caves. Cruising cavernous waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers. This evening, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience, which includes a dinner of hangi-inspired cuisine and a cultural performance in a finely carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. It ends on a high at the Pohutu Geyser, where, armed with a hot chocolate you'll view one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

6 Rotorua Free Time

Explore at your own pace today. Want a bit of down time? Bliss out at the Polynesian Spa. Animal lover? Go behind the scenes at a working kiwi hatchery. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of today's opportunity to visit the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. **B**

7 Rotorua – Wellington

At Huka Falls, 220,000 litres of water thunder over an 11-metre-high waterfall every second. The road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of mint-blue Lake Taupō. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

8 Wellington – Picton

Wellington is known for its uber-cool cafés, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Onwards to the Interislander for a cruise across Cook Strait, from the North Island to the South, through a maze of arms and inlets. **Hotel: Picton Yacht Club. B D**

9 Picton – Christchurch

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the black sands of Kaikōura. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore. Your Travel Director has tips on where to dine tonight. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden. B**

10 Christchurch – Omarama

On your city tour view the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience in 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**

11 Omarama – Dunedin Free Time

Oamaru, with its stately tree-lined streets and limestone buildings, stands proud before you journey further south toward the 'Edinburgh of the South'. Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to Larnach Castle. While away the



Te Puia Cultural Performance

17 DAYS 19 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 14	Jan 06, 13, 20, 27	Jan 04, 11, 18, 25
Nov 04, 11	Feb 03, 10, 17, 24	Feb 01, 08, 15, 22
Dec 02, 09, 16, 23	Mar 02, 09, 16, 23	Mar 01, 08, 15, 22
	Apr 13, 20, 25	
	Jun 22	
	Jul 20	
	Sep 07, 21, 28	
	Oct 05, 12, 19, 26	
	Nov 02, 09, 23, 30	
	Dec 07, 14, 21	

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/labc or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

16 Full buffet breakfasts B 2 Highlight Dinners HD
5 Dinners D 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport

Day 17 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price

afternoon in the city's art-lined alleys, or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives here – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

12 Dunedin – Te Anau

Weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

13 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. All roads lead to Milford Sound/Piopiota, where a string of waterfalls create a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Venture out into the Fjord on a sightseeing cruise, where dolphins and seals are a common sight. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

14 Queenstown Free Time

Take Queenstown at your own pace today. Feel the wind in your hair on a high octane jet boat ride, perhaps. But make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet BBQ Highlight Dinner and farm show. **B HD**

15 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiiau

Leaving Lake Wakatipu behind, Arrowtown and Lake Dunstan appear on the horizon. Then there's Lakes Hawea and Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, the pretty town of Franz Josef/Waiiau awaits. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

16 Franz Josef/Waiiau – Christchurch

Swap snow for pounamu (native greenstone or jade) in Hokitika. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden. B FD**

17 Farewell from Christchurch

Two islands, glaciers, lakes, thermal springs and a parade of wildlife... We hope you find the words to describe this epic adventure. **B**

