



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

# NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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# New Zealand Magic

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Freedom in travel? Explore remote reaches of the North Island one minute, then sip wine or zip across Queenstown lakes the next. Ask us for tips.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

Visiting Milford Sound/Piopiotahi within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park is a humbling experience. Waterfalls, ancient escarpments and dolphins await.

### 🌿 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

Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem in the Southern Alps, cutting through the mountains for more than 12 kilometres.



Waitomo Glowworm Grotto

17 DAYS  
19 Included Experiences

## Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct <b>02, 23</b>	Jan <b>01, 08, 15, 22, 29</b>	Jan 06, <b>13, 20, 27</b>
Nov <b>20, 27</b>	Feb <b>05, 12, 19, 26</b>	Feb 03, <b>10, 17, 24</b>
Dec 18, 25	Mar <b>04, 11, 18, 25</b>	Mar 03, <b>10, 17, 24</b>
	Apr 01, 08	
	Sep 02, 30	
	Oct 14, 21, <b>28</b>	
	Nov 04, <b>18, 25</b>	
	Dec 02, <b>09, 16, 23, 30</b>	

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/lcba](https://aatkings.com/lcba) 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  
7 Dinners D

## Flight Information

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

Day 17 – flights to depart any time from Auckland Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price

### 1 Welcome to Christchurch

Explore the 'Garden City' at your leisure. We recommend jumping aboard the Christchurch Tram. Meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception this evening. **Hotel: Ibis.**

### 2 Christchurch – Franz Josef/Waiiau

All aboard the TranzAlpine train, whisking you through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks. From Arthur's Pass, visit the small town of Hokitika, the heritage and cultural centre of the West Coast well-known for its jade. Things are about to get cool again as you arrive in the town of Franz Josef, gateway to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere, a white-out of snow and ice. Get some perspective on an optional flight over this natural wonder. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

### 3 Franz Josef/Waiiau – Queenstown

Over the Haast Pass, the alpine scenery of the Southern Lakes spreads before you: Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows; Lake Hawea; and Lake Dunstan, where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. We know you'll want to linger in Arrowtown's movie-set-like streets, but Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables await in Queenstown. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

### 4 Queenstown Free Time

Take today at your own pace. Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride, perhaps; discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre; or sip your way through surrounding vineyards. Then glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet BBQ dinner and farm show. **B HD**

### 5 Queenstown – Te Anau

Your route from the Mirror Lakes through the Cleddau Valley is the entrée to your Milford Sound/Piopiotahi tour. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. Look out for dolphins – they're a common sight here. The onward road through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and gin-clear rivers, carving up the countryside en route to Te Anau. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

### 6 Te Anau – Dunedin

While away your Dunedin afternoon in atmospheric art-lined alleys or sipping a lager or two in Speight's Brewery (a national institution). Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

### 7 Dunedin – Omarama

Sleep in or channel your inner royalty at Larnach Castle – Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look. If you've ever wanted to see New Zealand's oldest public gardens, today you're in luck with a visit to Oamaru. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

### 8 Omarama – Christchurch

Your outlook this morning is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snowcapped 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. Back on earth, it's time to become reacquainted with Christchurch. On your city tour view the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. **Hotel: Ibis. B D**

### 9 Christchurch – Picton

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the black sands of Kaikōura. Your onward route skirts the pink tinged crystallisation ponds of the Lake Grassmere Salt Works, before arriving in the pretty seaside fishing village of Picton. **Hotel: Picton Yacht Club. B D**

### 10 Picton – Wellington

Swap wheels for water aboard the Interislander for a cruise from the South Island to the North into New Zealand's cool little capital of Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

### 11 Wellington – Rotorua

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**

### 12 Rotorua Free Time

Explore at your own pace: Bliss out in the steamy thermal springs of the Polynesian Spa, or go behind the scenes at a working kiwi hatchery. And then there's Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway. **B**

### 13 Rotorua – Auckland

Waitomo Caves is radiant – quite literally. While cruising waterways, your route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. The next thing that glows on your horizon is Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B D**

### 14 Auckland – Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands is undeniably beautiful, but it also holds a special historical secret: this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B D**

### 15 Bay of Islands Free Time

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, or visit Russell and learn more about the settling of the Bay of Islands. **B**

### 16 Bay of Islands – Auckland

Today, New Zealand's most northerly city is on your radar. Whangarei is a place where waterfalls meet beaches, galleries meet museums. Explore at your leisure before sinking back into your seat for the mesmerising commute back to Auckland. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

### 17 Farewell from Auckland

It's hard to say goodbye. But you have a camera full of photos to categorise before you get home. **B**

