

14 DAY GREAT SIGHTS OF NEW ZEALAND

Regular Departure Dates Available

Day 1 ARRIVE AUCKLAND

You are met at the Auckland airport and are **transferred to your accommodation.**

Day 2 AUCKLAND – PAIHIA (BL)

There's no place in the world like the Bay of Islands a stunning region of 144 secluded islands, abundant in natural wonders and marine life. Regarded as the birthplace of New Zealand as a bi-cultural nation, the Bay of Islands is rich in both Maori culture and early European history. Discover well-preserved Maori and European relics of the past, and learn more about the unique history that has shaped our country. Departing Auckland city we tour to the Bay of Islands taking you through spectacular scenery of native forests and sub-tropical bush to the foreshores of the National Maritime Park, arriving at your destination seaside town of Paihia. Visit the **Waitangi Treaty Grounds** before **enjoying a Cape Brett Cruise**, travelling through the famous 'Hole in the Rock' (weather permitting).



Day 3 PAIHIA (B)

Today is a day of leisure. The Bay of Islands has so many options for you to discover - perhaps a day trip to the light house at Cape Reinga the most northern tip of New Zealand, followed by a safari along 90 Mile Beach on the way home. Maybe try your luck at deep-sea fishing, or take the plunge swimming with the dolphins or just take time out to relax within Paihia or Russell - New Zealand's first Capital.

Day 4 PAHIA – AUCKLAND (B)

This afternoon you travel back to Auckland. The departure time today allows you to spend a full day in the Bay before leaving for Auckland. Your journey will take you past scenic native forests and sub-tropical bush, before crossing the Auckland Harbour Bridge to arrive into the spectacular city scene of Auckland by night.

Day 5 AUCKLAND – ROTORUA (BL)

Via – WAITOMO

Travel south from Auckland through the rich farmland of the Waikato on to Waitomo. **Enjoy a guided tour through the long galleries and lofty**

chambers of the World Famous Glowworm Caves. Your tour continues with a boat ride through the Glowworm Grotto, illuminated by thousands of tiny lights from the glow worms suspended from the cave ceiling. From Waitomo we travel to the thermal wonderland of Rotorua, the Sulphur City. Rotorua has the most energetic thermal activity in the country with bubbling mud pools, gushing geysers, beautiful coloured hot springs and terrace formations created by mineral water. Rotorua also has a large Maori population whose cultural activities are interesting and accessible.

Day 6 ROTORUA MORNING SIGHTS (B)

This morning you enjoy a half day tour of Rotorua. Included in your tour is a visit to **Te Puia and the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute** where you can view mighty geysers, boiling mud pools, and the traditional arts & culture of the Maori People; **Rainbow Springs** - a unique showcase of New Zealand's flora and fauna including New Zealand's national icon, a kiwi bird; and the **Agrodome Sheep Show** - a hands-on experience giving you an animated insight into New Zealand's farming history.

Day 7 ROTORUA – CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Today you are **transferred from your hotel to connect with flight to Christchurch** – on arrival you are collected from the Christchurch airport and **transferred to your hotel**. [Cost of flight not included in the tour cost].

Day 8 CHRISTCHURCH SIGHTS (B)

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island and one of the most beautiful in New Zealand with its large public gardens, parks, river and majestic backdrop of the Port Hills. Your **tour takes you around the city's highlights and historic sites** including the Christchurch Arts Centre, Botanic Gardens, the Avon River and Canterbury Museum. On leaving the inner city, the tour takes in several parks and gardens including Mona Vale Gardens and Hagley Park before heading to the Port Hills for spectacular views over the city and Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps. This afternoon is at your leisure.

Day 9 CHRISTCHURCH TO FRANZ JOSEF (B)

This morning you are **transferred from your accommodation to connect with the TranzAlpine**. The TranzAlpine scenic train journey travels between Christchurch and Greymouth, from one coast of New Zealand to the other. From your carriage you'll see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps before descending through lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Greymouth. This afternoon you are collected from the Greymouth Train Station and transferred to your accommodation at Franz Josef.

Day 10 FRANZ JOSEF TO QUEENSTOWN (B)

Driving towards the southern end of the South Island's West Coast Road, there is a strong sense of entering a primeval land, and a feeling of total isolation. Arriving at Haast, you are surrounded by a landscape of rainforest, wetlands, sand dunes and surf-pounded shingle beaches. This wilderness forms part of the **South West New Zealand World Heritage Area**, so designated because South Westland and Fiordland have some of the most dramatic forest and mountain scenery and natural resources in the world. From the Westland National Park we travel through the Haast River valleys and over the Haast Pass to Makaroa and onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. Travelling past **Lake Hawea** we reach the **popular Lake Wanaka**, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. This afternoon we travel via Cromwell following the Kawerau Gorge Road into Queenstown.

Day 11 MILFORD SOUNDS CRUISE (BL)

Travel by **luxury coach on an unforgettable journey from Queenstown into Milford Sound**. Located within the World Heritage Fiordland National Park, this region is rich with dense rainforest, lakes and waterfalls cascading from rugged mountain peaks. Journey through the Southern Alps via the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km tunnel drilled through a solid mountain of rock. Upon arrival **at Milford Sound, board your vessel for a spectacular cruise** where you will see the wonders of Mitre Peak, glacier scarred rock walls that rise 1,200m vertically from the sea, and waterfalls that tumble from hanging valleys and crash into the sound far below. Return by coach to Queenstown.

Day 12 QUEENSTOWN AT LEISURE (B)

Today is at leisure. Visit the Remarkable's or Coronet Peak. Experience the thrill of a jet-boat ride along the Shotover or Kawerau Rivers. Perhaps a scenic 4 wheel drive excursion through Skippers Canyon, or a tour to Glenorchy to visit Lord of the Rings movie sites, or maybe just browse in the many shops and galleries - it's up to you. Perhaps this evening, you could take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.

Day 13 QUEENSTOWN – CHRISTCHURCH (BL)

Departing from Queenstown we travel through diverse farmland continuing along the Tasman River before arriving at the location of **New Zealand's tallest mountain Aoraki / Mount Cook**. There is time to experience an optional scenic helicopter or ski plane flight (weather permitting). Next we arrive at Lake Tekapo, where you can view the solitary Church of the Good Shepherd. We continue to Christchurch where on arrival you will be dropped off at your hotel.

Day 14 DEPART CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Today you are transferred from your hotel to connect with your outbound flight.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Airport Transfers
- 13 nights quality accommodation, double/twin share rooms with private facilities
- All tour admissions as per the itinerary
- Cooked breakfasts (B), lunches (L) and dinners (D) where indicated on the daily itinerary
- Touring in modern air conditioned coach
- Complimentary Travel Bag and New Zealand Map

TOUR PAYMENTS PER PERSON:

- Share Twin Accommodation \$3995.00
- Single Supplement Extra \$1295.00
- Deposit due at time of booking \$100.00
- Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement.

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