



18 DAY DISCOVERY TOUR

Day 1

ARRIVE AUCKLAND

(D)

Welcome to New Zealand! **Meet and greet on arrival at Auckland International Airport** before being transferred to our hotel.

Day 2

AUCKLAND - BAY OF ISLANDS

(BD)

Departing Auckland we travel north over the **Auckland Harbour Bridge** to first of all **visit the Parry Kauri Park**. Here we view some examples of Giant Kauri Trees. Continuing we then **visit the Matakoho Kauri Museum, at Otamatea**. Here we have an insight to the early New Zealand Pioneer History, which helped form the New Zealand that we see today. Continuing we reach Paihia in the beautiful Bay of Islands, where we enjoy a **guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty House** where New Zealand's history began.

Day 3

BAY OF ISLANDS

(BD)

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

BAY OF ISLANDS - AUCKLAND

(BD)

We board a luxury catamaran to cruise the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett before making a passage through the Hole in the Rock. After our cruise we travel south via Whangarei to **visit a Kauri Clock factory** learning the manufacturing process of these beautiful clocks. Further south we follow the Hibiscus Coast to Auckland, where we enjoy a **tour of the highlights of Auckland**, the City of Sails, exploring the lively waterfront area and the base of New Zealand's America's Cup Challenge. Enjoy the relaxing views along Tamaki Drive, which runs east past peaceful sheltered bays to Auckland's most expensive real estate. View a spectacular 360-degree panoramic view of Auckland from Mt Eden, an extinct volcano.

Day 5

AUCKLAND - ROTORUA

(BD)

Travelling south crossing the Bombay Hills through the Dairy Rich Waikato Countryside we arrive at the **famous Waitomo Caves**. Here a guide will take us underground to **view the amazing limestone caves featuring stalagmites and stalactites, which have taken centuries to form**. We continue to walk down to an underground stream to board a small boat to **view the glow-worm grotto - an underground cavern featuring millions of glow-worms**. 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 as will be witnessed tomorrow evening. On our arrival **we visit Rainbow Springs, specialising in New Zealand flora and fauna including Kiwi Tuatara Rainbow & Brown Trout**.

Day 6

ROTORUA

(BD)

Today is at your leisure. Rotorua has many options for visitors to New Zealand, or perhaps you'd just like to relax. Your Coach Captain will have suggestions on how to spend your time. **Tonight we will be treated to a traditional Hangi (feast) and Maori concert**.



Day 7

ROTORUA – NAPIER

(BD)

This morning we visit Te Puia – The New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley featuring the famous Pohutu Geyser. Departing Rotorua we travel via New Zealand's largest pine tree forests to Taupo. En-route, we make a *visit to the Wairakei Geothermal Steam Field.* This was a world first generating electricity by tapping a natural steam field then channelling the steam to a nearby power generation plant. Continuing *we view the mighty Huka Falls.* Huka in Maori translates to "snow" as the water here has the appearance of snow falling as it is forced along from Lake Taupo through the falls on its journey along the Waikato River. This afternoon we continue to the 'Fruit Bowl' of New Zealand, Hawkes Bay – Napier.

Day 8

NAPIER – WELLINGTON

(BD)

Before we depart *Napier we take a city sights tour, featuring beautiful Art Deco buildings* to give us an insight of why Napier is known as the Art Deco capital of the world. This afternoon we continue south to Wellington where we spend the rest of the day enjoying an informative sightseeing tour, including a *visit to Te Papa, (Our Place) New Zealand's national museum.*

Day 9

WELLINGTON – NELSON

(BD)

Today begins as we *crruise the Wellington Harbour* out onto the Cook Strait on the Interislander and through New Zealand's only true sounds, the *picturesque Marlborough Sound* into Picton. The bustling port of Picton is the terminal for inter-island ferries, and gateway to the 'Mainland', the South Island's self-proclaimed nickname. Reboarding our coach we continue to tour through to *Pelorous Bridge.* Here we can walk through the Beech and Podocarp Forest as well as view the many sculptured *boulder's in the Pelorous River.* Continuing on for a tour of Nelson – this being our first city of New Zealand.

Day 10

NELSON – CHRISTCHURCH

(BD)

Passing *Brightwater, the birth place of Lord Rutherford, the New Zealand science pioneer who split the atom,* we travel through the Golden Downs Forest to Murchison through the Maruia Forest over the Lewis Pass then into *Hanmer Springs* where there is time to soak in the mineral pools, (at own expense) before joining the upper reaches of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch where *we enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City'* also known as "the most English city outside of England", en-route to our accommodation.

Day 11

CHRISTCHURCH – FOX GLACIER

(BD)

From Christchurch *we traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous Tranz-Alpine rail journey to Arthurs Pass.* 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. Once we have crossed into the Southern Alps we are met at the Village of Arthurs Pass by our coach for us to continue our journey to the West Coast – or the Coast as locals call it, stopping in Hokitika where a visit is made to the *Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories.* Further south we tour the *Westland National Park, the home of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.* On arrival, time is available for optional scenic flights, before continuing onto our accommodation for the night.

Day 12

FOX GLACIER - 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. Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafes and bars.



Day 13

QUEENSTOWN

(BD)

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. **This evening we take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.**

Day 14

QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD SOUNDS - TE ANAU

(BLD)

Then Leaving Queenstown we skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake. travelling via Te Anau we reach the **beautiful Eglinton Valley** climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach **Milford Sound where we enjoy a cruise of the Sound.** The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of **Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls.** Returning to Te Anau, to our overnight accommodation.

Day 15

TE ANAU – INVERCARGILL – DUNEDIN

(BD)

Departing Te Anau we travel across country through some of New Zealand's most populated sheep country to Lumsden then south to New Zealand's Southern most city. On arrival we **enjoy a sightseeing tour of Invercargill** then time out for lunch before heading north to Gore then onto Dunedin – the Edinburgh of the South. Tonight we dine with a decidedly Scottish air enjoying the **Haggis presentation** and dinner at the hotel.

Day 16

DUNEDIN – OMARAMA

(BD)

This morning we visit **Olveston House** - an impressive turn-of-the-century house that is still home to all the lavish furnishings and art collections that have been collected from all corners of the world. We continue to then take in the sights of this old Scottish City. Then onto Oamaru - here we have time to look at the **'White Stone City'**. The old buildings have been constructed with local limestone. It was from Oamaru that New Zealand's first frozen meat was shipped in 1882 taking over three months to reach England, and thus began New Zealand's most important export industry. Travelling inland through Benmore and Otematata through sailers cutting we arrive at Omarama.

Day 17

OMARAMA – CHRISTCHURCH

(BD)

A day for spectacular sights. We head north to skirt the shore of Lake Pukaki to **Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.** Time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers (weather permitting – a highly recommended option). Travelling to Tekapo we witness the **magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo.** Here we visit the **Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog,** before travelling the **vast Mackenzie Basin,** over Burke's Pass through Fairlie, Geraldine, Ashburton and across the Canterbury Plains into Christchurch.

Day 18

CHRISTCHURCH – HOME PORT

(B)

Farewell from New Zealand, today you will be **transferred from the hotel to Christchurch International Airport** for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Meet and Greet on arrival in New Zealand
- **Fully Escorted tour by same staff and coach throughout New Zealand**
- 17 Nights quality hotel/motel accommodation, twin/double rooms, (single rooms available with surcharge) all with private facilities
- Baggage assistance at each hotel
- All Tour Admissions as per itinerary
- Cooked Breakfasts (B), Lunches (L), and Dinners (D) where indicated on the itinerary
- 3 Special Meals including: Maori Hangi and Concert – Rotorua, Haggis Ceremony – Dunedin, and Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonels Homestead – Queenstown
- 4 Scenic Boat Cruises including: The Hole in the Rock, Cook Strait and Queen Charlotte Sounds, TSS Earnslaw Cruise on Lake Wakatipu and Milford Sounds Cruise,
- Touring in modern air conditioned coach
- Complimentary Travel Kit including, Travel Bag, Travel wallet, Name Bar, Luggage Labels, and New Zealand Map

