



## 21 DAY SPECTACULAR TOUR

### Featuring 3 Train Journeys and the “Twin Fiords”

#### Day 1 ARRIVE - CHRISTCHURCH (D)

Meet and greet on arrival at Christchurch International Airport. Before being transferred to our hotel we have a brief sightseeing tour showing you the **highlights of the “Garden City”**.

#### Day 2 CHRISTCHURCH - AKAROA - CHRISTCHURCH (BD)

We **tour Akaroa**; a tranquil historical French town nestled on Banks Peninsula. Admire the French architecture and the beautiful scenery before returning to Christchurch over the Port Hills. Upon our arrival we have some **free time in the city centre** - catch a ride through the streets on a tram, visit the Cathedral which dominates the City Square or climb the steep Cathedral stairway to the balcony for an outstanding view of the city.

#### Day 3 CHRISTCHURCH - GREYMOUTH - FOX GLACIER (BD)

We **traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous TranzAlpine rail journey** to the West Coast. Upon arrival the coach will be waiting in Greymouth for our journey further south to the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers, via Hokitika.

#### Day 4 FOX GLACIER - QUEENSTOWN (BD)

Departing the Westland National Park, firstly we traverse the rugged Haast Pass to Makaroa, then onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. From here we travel past Lake Hawea and Cromwell following the mighty Clutha River, before travelling to Queenstown via the Kawerau Gorge Road. 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 5 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. Try bungy jumping, white-water rafting or maybe just browse in the many shops and galleries – it’s up to you. This evening we will ride on the Gondola up to Bob’s Peak, which overlooks Lake Wakatipu and the impressive Remarkables Mountain Range.

#### Day 6 QUEENSTOWN - DOUBTFUL SOUND - TE ANAU (BLD)

Departing Queenstown, we follow Lake Wakatipu beneath the towering Remarkables to Lake Manapouri where we **take a cruise from Pearl Harbour to the West Arm Underground Power Station**. After visiting the Power Station we board another vessel for a **cruise of Doubtful Sound** viewing excellent waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Of particular interest are a resident pod of Bottlenose Dolphins and a colony of Fur Seals. On return, the vessels engines will be turned off to experience the “Sound of Silence”, returning to Pearl Harbour via the Wilmot Pass and Lake Manapouri. We travel back to Te Anau for our overnight accommodation.

#### Day 7 TE ANAU - MILFORD SOUND – TE ANAU (BLD)

This morning we travel through the beautiful Eglinton Valley climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach **Milford Sound where we enjoy a luncheon cruise**. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls. This afternoon we retrace our steps to Te Anau for the night.

**Day 8 TE ANAU – DUNEDIN (BD)**

Departing Te Anau we travel onto Dunedin, “The Edinburgh of the South”, going through Lumsden, Gore and Balclutha - some of the most populated sheep country in New Zealand. On our arrival we begin our *city sights tour* including a visit out to the Otago Peninsula. Here we have the opportunity to view the impressive *Albatross colony, followed by a visit to New Zealand’s only castle – Larnach Castle.*

**Day 9 DUNEDIN (BD)**

Taking in the city sights, paying particular attention to the Scottish influence of the architecture, we begin with a visit to *Olveston House*. We then board the *Taieri Gorge Train Excursion*, which will take us some sixty kilometres from Dunedin viewing impressive scenery and engineering feats.

**Day 10 DUNEDIN - CHRISTCHURCH (BD)**

Continuing north, we will view the extraordinary spherical Moeraki Boulders shaped rather like giant marbles, then onto Oamaru where 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, this being the beginning of New Zealand’s most important export industry. Continuing our northward drift, we travel through Timaru and the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

**Day 11 CHRISTCHURCH - BLENHEIM (BD)**

All aboard the *TranzCoastal rail journey*. We travel along the rugged coastline through Kaikoura to Blenheim, keeping an eye out for the seals sunning themselves on the coastal rocks.

**Day 12 BLENHEIM - WELLINGTON (BD)**

After breakfast we board the *Interislander crossing to Wellington*, New Zealand’s Capital city. This cruise takes us through the picturesque Queen Charlotte and Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait. Upon arrival we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Wellington.

**Day 13 WELLINGTON (BD)**

*Today is free for optional activities* - spend time at Te Papa, New Zealand’s and the world’s newest national museum or ride the cable car for spectacular views, followed by a walk through Wellington’s Botanical Gardens.

**Day 14 WELLINGTON – NAPIER (BD)**

Departing the Capital this morning we journey northward bound through the Manuatu and Central Hawkes Bay route. Upon arrival the coach will take us on a *tour of the "Art Deco Capital of the World" - Napier.*

**Day 15 NAPIER - ROTORUA (BD)**

Following the Esk Valley, the prime grape growing area for the Hawkes Bay, we travel north to Taupo stopping at the mighty *Huka Falls and the Wairaki Geothermal Steam Field*, before travelling onto Rotorua which 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.

**Day 16 ROTORUA (BD)**

We visit the *Maori Arts and Crafts Institute*, then continue onto *Rainbow Springs* who specialise in New Zealand’s flora and fauna including kiwi, tuatara, rainbow and brown trout. This evening we will be treated to a traditional Hangi (feast) and Maori Concert.

**Day 17 ROTORUA - WAITOMO – AUCKLAND (BD)**

Leaving Rotorua travelling north, we *visit the famous Waitomo Caves* where a guide escorts us underground to the glow-worm grotto. We then continue north crossing the Bombay Hills to Auckland.

## Day 18 AUCKLAND - BAY OF ISLANDS (BD)

Departing Auckland, the first stop is to visit the *Matakohe Kauri Museum* at Otamatea. Moving further north via the rugged West Coast and onto Paihia, in the beautiful Bay of Islands, we travel through the *Waipoua Forest with its mighty kauri trees*. On arrival in Paihia we *visit the Waitangi Treaty House* where New Zealand's history began.

## Day 19 BAY OF ISLANDS (BD)

*Today is a day of leisure*. Paihia has many options for one to choose from - perhaps deep sea fishing, watch dolphins play in their natural habitat, a day trip to Cape Reinga the most northern tip of New Zealand, shopping in Paihia or just a chance to relax and unwind in this beautiful setting.

## Day 20 BAY OF ISLANDS - AUCKLAND (BD)

Aboard a luxury catamaran, *we cruise the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett before making a passage through the 'Hole in the Rock'*. After our cruise we begin to travel south, via Whangarei and the Hibiscus Coast, before travelling to Auckland to *visit Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter*.

## Day 21 AUCKLAND - HOME PORT (B)

Last morning together. There will be time to relax before being transferred to the Auckland International Airport where we connect our outbound flight.

### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Meet and Greet on arrival in New Zealand
- Fully Escorted tour by professional staff throughout New Zealand
- 20 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
- 4 Special Meals including: Queenstown – Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonels Homestead, Skyline Restaurant on top of Bob's Peak, Dunedin – Haggis Ceremony, Rotorua – Maori Concert and Hangi
- 5 Scenic Boat Cruises including: TSS Earnslaw on Lake Wakatipu, Doubtful Sound Cruise, Milford Sound Cruise, Queen Charlotte Sounds and Cook Strait, Hole in the Rock Cruise
- 3 Train Rides including: The Tranz Alpine, The Taieri Gorge, and The Tranz Coastal
- Touring in modern air conditioned coach
- Transfers to/from New Zealand airport

