



# Panoramic New Zealand

## 15 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLAND

Auckland – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington – Nelson – Christchurch – Glacier Country – Queenstown – Milford Sound – Dunedin – Aoraki Mount Cook – Christchurch

Our 'Panoramic New Zealand' tour explores the geothermal and culturally rich North Island and the contrasting natural beauty of the scenic South Island of New Zealand. On tour we include key visitor attractions including Waitomo Caves, geothermal Rotorua, Maori Culture, Napier & Nelson, Tranz Alpine Train journey, Queenstown, the stunning natural beauty of Milford Sound and more.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 ARRIVE AUCKLAND

Welcome to New Zealand! *You are met on arrival at the Auckland International Airport* before being transferred to your hotel.

*Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Auckland*

#### Day 2 AUCKLAND – WAITOMO – ROTORUA (BD)

Departing Auckland travelling south through the dairy rich Waikato countryside to arrive at the *famous Waitomo Caves*. Here a guide will take you underground to *view the amazing limestone caves featuring stalagmites and stalactites, which have taken centuries to form*. 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 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. This afternoon enjoy a relaxing guided walk through *Rainbow Springs, a specialist garden featuring spring fed pools full of Rainbow & Brown Trout and New Zealand native flora and fauna including the iconic New Zealand Native Kiwi Bird*.

*Distinction Hotel, Rotorua – 2 nights*

#### Day 3 ROTORUA (BD)

Today is at your leisure. Your Optional Touring Booklet will give you plenty of options on how to spend your time. *This evening you will be treated to a traditional Hangi (feast) and Maori Concert. You are transferred from our hotel to visit Tamaki Maori Village for a Cultural Experience and Hangi Dinner*. Experience the warmth of the Maori people during an evening of ceremonial rituals, powerful cultural performance, storytelling & hangi feasting. Enter the pre-European Maori village, witness the earth being scraped carefully away from the hangi pit and enter their ancestral Meeting House to relax as their family entertain you with a powerful cultural performance before dining on the traditional *hangi buffet dinner* (Maori feast) cooked the traditional Maori way in an earth oven.

#### Day 4 ROTORUA – NAPIER (B)

This morning *visit Te Puia – The New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley featuring the famous Pohutu Geyser*. Departing Rotorua, travel via New Zealand's largest pine tree forests to Taupo. En-route you take 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. Continue to *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 you continue to the 'Fruit Bowl' of New Zealand, Hawkes Bay – Napier.

*Scenic Te Pania Hotel, Napier*

**Day 5 NAPIER – WELLINGTON (BD)**

Before departing *Napier, 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.*

*James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington*

**Day 6 WELLINGTON – NELSON (BD)**

Today begins with a *cruise through Wellington Harbour* out onto the Cook Strait on the Interislander and through New Zealand's only true sound, the *picturesque Queen Charlotte 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 you continue to tour through to *Pelorous Bridge*. Here you can walk through the Beech and Podocarp Forest as well as view the many sculptured *boulders in the Pelorous River*. Continue on for a tour of Nelson.

*Trailways Hotel, Nelson*

**Day 7 NELSON – CHRISTCHURCH (BD)**

Passing *Brightwater, the birth place of Lord Rutherford, the New Zealand science pioneer who split the atom*, travel through the Golden Downs Forest to Murchison through the Maruia Forest over the Lewis Pass then into *Hanmer Springs*. Time out here for lunch in this lovely alpine village (at own expense) before joining the upper reaches of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch where you'll *enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City'* also known as "the most English city outside of England", en-route to our accommodation.

*Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch*

**Day 8 CHRISTCHURCH – FRANZ JOSEF (B)**

From Christchurch *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. Crossing Southern Alps, into the village of Arthurs Pass where you will be met by coach to continue your 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, 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.

*Scenic Franz Josef Hotel, Franz Josef*

**Day 9 FRANZ JOSEF – 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, travel through the Haast River valleys and over the Haast Pass to Makarua and onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. Travelling past *Lake Hawea*, reaching the popular *Lake Wanaka*, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. This afternoon you travel via Cromwell following the Kawarau Gorge Road into Queenstown. Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafes and bars.

*Cophorne Lakefront Hotel, Queenstown – 2 nights*

**Day 10 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 Kawarau Rivers. Perhaps a scenic 4 wheel drive excursion through Skippers Canyon, it's up to you. *Take a cruise this evening, across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.*

**Day 11 QUEENSTOWN – TE ANAU (B)**

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

*Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Lake Te Anau*

**Day 12 TE ANAU – DUNEDIN (B)**

Departing Te Anau, travel through some of New Zealand's most populated sheep country through to Lumsden and onto Gore before arriving in *Dunedin – "the Edinburgh of the South"*. Upon our arrival into Dunedin, you have the opportunity to board an optional train ride - the Taieri Gorge Train Excursion from the historic Dunedin Railway Station for a scenic train ride into the spectacular Taieri Gorge to Pukerangi and return.

*Scenic Dunedin City Hotel, Dunedin*

**Day 13 DUNEDIN – OMARAMA (BD)**

This morning, 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. Continue to then take in the sights of this old Scottish City before travelling onto Oamaru where you will have time to look at the *'White Stone City'* where 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,

**TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- Meet and Greet on arrival in New Zealand
- New Zealand Airport Transfers
- Quality hotel accommodation, twin/double rooms, (single rooms available with single supplement) all with private facilities
- Cooked Breakfasts (B) and Dinners (D) where indicated on the itinerary, including a two special dinners: Maori Hangi and Concert – Rotorua and Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonel's Homestead
- Tour Admissions as per itinerary, including three Scenic Boat Cruises in the Cook Strait & Queen Charlotte Sound, TSS Earnslaw Cruise on Lake Wakatipu and Milford Sound
- Touring in a modern air conditioned coach and where possible we will provide a complimentary Roadside Morning Tea from the coach
- Complimentary Travel Kit including, Travel Bag, Travel Wallet, Name Bar, Luggage Labels, and New Zealand Map

through Sailors Cutting before arriving at Omarama. *Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama*

**Day 14 OMARAMA – CHRISTCHURCH (BD)**

Today is a day for spectacular sights as you 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, you'll witness the *magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo*. 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.

*Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch*

**Day 15 CHRISTCHURCH – HOME PORT (B)**

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

**DATES & PRICES NZD**

06 September 2016, 20 September 2016,  
11 October 2016, 25 October 2016,  
15 November 2016, 31 January 2017,  
14 February 2017, 07 March 2017,  
21 March 2017, 11 April 2017, 25 April 2017

<b>Land Only Share Twin</b>	<b>NZ\$4595.00</b>
<b>Single Supplement Extra</b>	<b>NZ\$1495.00</b>
<b>Deposit due at time of booking</b>	<b>NZ\$500.00</b>

**Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement**