

12 Day Kiwi Rail Adventure

Northerner, Coastal Pacific, Tranz Alpine & Taieri Gorge

TOURING MAP:



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,
- ◆ Tour Admissions as per itinerary, including 4 Rail Journeys: The Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific, TranzAlpine and the Taieri Gorge; also including 3 Scenic Boat Cruises: Cook Strait & Queen Charlotte Sounds, 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

2014/15 GUARANTEED DEPARTURE DATES:

09 October, 25 October, 11 November, 27 November, 24 January, 14 February, 26 February, 12 March, 31 March, 14 April

PER PERSON TOUR PRICES (NZD):

Land Only Share Twin	\$NZ4,590.00
Single Supplement Extra	\$NZ1,295.00
Deposit due at time of booking	\$NZ500.00
Balance of tour payment due 6 weeks prior to tour commencement	

DAILY 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 – 2 nights

Day 2 AUCKLAND SIGHTS (B)

After breakfast **embark on an Auckland City Sightseeing Tour**. Learn about the City's history and discover the spectacular scenery on this introductory tour of Auckland - enjoy the panoramic views from the Michael Joseph Savage Memorial Park near Mission Bay, see the Winter Gardens in the Auckland Domain.



Journey around Auckland's waterfront to **visit Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter** for a scuba diver's view of the sharks, massive stingrays and other deep sea creatures as you travel through the Perspex Tunnel. You will also take a trip to the 'South Pole' to see live penguin colonies, walk through a replica of Scott's Hut at Antarctica and learn about his ill-fated expedition. This afternoon is at your leisure to further explore 'Auckland the City of Sails'.

Day 3 AUCKLAND – WELLINGTON (B)

This morning, you are transferred from your hotel to the Auckland Train Station to board **The Northern Explorer**. The Northern Explorer is a journey through the heart of the North Island, travelling between Auckland - New Zealand's largest city and home of the Sky Tower, to Wellington – New Zealand's arts and culture capital. Along the way you pass the Central North Island ski towns of National Park and Ohakune, popular with young and old alike. Also see fantastic views of New Zealand farmland, the volcanic plateau, Mount Ruapehu, the world famous Raurimu Spiral, and stunning river gorges - all from our panoramic windows or open air viewing decks allowing you the best possible views. On arrival into Wellington you are transferred to your accommodation.

James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington

Day 4 WELLINGTON – CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Today **cruise the Cook Strait heading through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound** into the South Island. On arrival in Picton **board the Coastal Pacific train journey** to travel from the delightful port of Picton through to Christchurch, the South Island's largest city. This journey is a scenic feast of New Zealand, with the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side of your train and the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline on the other. One of the world's most scenic train journeys, the Coastal Pacific travels through 22 tunnels and crosses 175 bridges. The Coastal Pacific includes an open air viewing carriage where all your senses are awakened with the clean, fresh, sea air. On arrival you are transferred to your accommodation.

Day 5 CHRISTCHURCH – FRANZ JOSEF (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 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.

Scenic Franz Josef Hotel, Franz Josef

Day 6 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 we 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** we reach the popular **Lake Wanaka**, the starting point of the mighty Clutha River. This afternoon we 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 7 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. **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.**



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 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, and thus began New Zealand's most important export industry. Travelling inland through Benmore and Otematata, through Sailors Cutting we arrive at Oamaru.

Heritage Gateway Hotel, Oamaru

Day 8 QUEENSTOWN – TE ANAU (BD)

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**. From Milford Sound we return to Te Anau reaching our overnight accommodation.

Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Lake Te Anau

Day 9 TE ANAU – DUNEDIN (BD)

Departing Te Anau we 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, **we board 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. Experience the dramatic changes in scenery from a bustling city to the remote hinterland regions, marvel at graceful wrought iron viaducts spanning deep ravines and admire skilfully crafted stonework on bridges and tunnels.

Scenic Hotel Dunedin City, Dunedin

Day 10 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

Day 11 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.

Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch

Day 12 CHRISTCHURCH – HOME PORT (B)

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

The Train Journeys...

Northern Explorer:

The *Northern Explorer* service is a remarkable, ever-changing daytime journey between Auckland and Wellington which takes you into the heart of the North Island, through lush green farmland, native forests, over stunning river gorges and across New Zealand's volcanic plateau. Highlights include Tongariro National Park and the Raurimu Spiral, an amazing feat of railway engineering.

Coastal Pacific:

The *Coastal Pacific* train journey travels between the delightful port of Picton and Christchurch, the South Island's largest city. This journey is a scenic feast of New Zealand, with the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side of your train and the rugged Pacific Ocean coastline on the other.

TranzAlpine:

The *TranzAlpine* scenic train journey travels between Christchurch and Greymouth, from one coast of New Zealand to the other. From the comfort of world class carriages 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 majestic Southern Alps to Arthurs Pass.

Taieri George Railway:

The *Taieri Gorge Railway*, offers unique and panoramic views over ever-changing scenery. There are opportunities for photos where the train either slows down or stops for you to disembark.

