

# 18 Day Discover New Zealand

*Our most popular Two Island New Zealand tour...*

## 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, including a 2 special dinners: Maori Hangi and Concert – Rotorua and Walter Peak Dinner at the Colonel's Homestead
- ◆ Tour Admissions as per itinerary, including 4 Scenic Boat Cruises in the Bay of Islands - The Hole in the Rock cruise, 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:

03 September, 17 September, 03 October, 19 October, 05 November, 21 November, 18 January, 08 February, 20 February, 06 March, 25 March, 08 April, 24 April

## PER PERSON TOUR PRICES (NZD):

Land Only Share Twin	\$NZ5,550.00
Single Supplement Extra	\$NZ1,815.00
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 (D)**  
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 – BAY OF ISLANDS (BD)**  
Departing Auckland we travel north over the **Auckland Harbour Bridge** to first **visit the Parry Kauri Park**. Here we will view some fine examples of



Giant Kauri Trees. Continuing we then **visit the Matakohe Kauri Museum**, at Otamatea. Here we gain an insight to the early New Zealand pioneer history, which helped form the New Zealand that we see today. Continuing our journey we reach Paihia in the beautiful Bay of Islands, where you'll take a **guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty House** where New Zealand's history began.  
*Scenic Bay of Islands Hotel, Paihia – 2 nights*

**Day 3 BAY OF ISLANDS (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 BAY OF ISLANDS – AUCKLAND (BD)**  
**This morning board a luxury catamaran to cruise** the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett before making a passage through **the Hole in the Rock**. After your cruise we travel south following the Twin Coast Discovery Highway to arrive in Auckland, where on arrival we experience a **highlights tour 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.  
*Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Auckland*

**Day 5 AUCKLAND – WAITOMO – ROTORUA (BD)**  
This morning we **visit the Auckland Sky Tower** – at 328m tall it is one of the tallest buildings in the Southern Hemisphere offering you outstanding views of the Auckland CBD and the surrounding region. Departing Auckland we travel south crossing the Bombay Hills through the dairy rich Waikato countryside we 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

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. This afternoon we 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 6 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. We 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 7 ROTORUA – NAPIER (BD)**  
This morning **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.  
*Scenic Te Pania Hotel, 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.*

*James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington*

**Day 9 WELLINGTON – NELSON (BD)**

Today begins as we *cruise the Wellington Harbour* out onto the Cook Strait on the Interislander and through New Zealand's only true sounds, 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 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 *boulders in the Pelorous River*. Continuing on for a tour of Nelson – this being the first city of New Zealand.

*Quality Hotel Leisure Lodge, Nelson*

**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*. 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 *we 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 11 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 12 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 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 Kawarau Gorge Road into Queenstown. Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafes and bars.

*Copthorne Lakefront Hotel, Queenstown – 2 nights*

**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 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.*

**Day 14 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 15 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, 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 16 DUNEDIN – OMARAMA (BD)**

This morning we visit *Oveston 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 before travelling onto Oamaru where we 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, through Sailors Cutting we arrive at Omarama.

*Heritage Gateway Hotel, 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.

*Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch*

**Day 18 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.

