

new zealand

North & South Island

Christchurch, Dunedin, Milford Sound, Queenstown,
Fox Glacier, Wellington, Rotorua, Waitomo, Auckland,
Overnight Cruise on Bay of Islands, Te Anau, plus more!

\$5172ppts
\$1448s/s
+ taxes

**12 October
2010
19 Days
~Includes
Flights**

DAY 1: Sydney - Auckland (D)

Today we will pick up in Newcastle and the Central Coast on our way to fly from Sydney to Auckland. On arrival in Auckland we will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to our hotel.

Hotel Hyatt Regency Auckland

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (BD)

Today we depart Auckland and travel to the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree. We enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum in Matakoho, then travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Then we enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British.

Hotel Scenic Bay of Islands

DAY 3: EXCLUSIVE! Bay of Islands Overnight Cruise (BD)

A memorable day lies ahead of us today. After breakfast you are free to explore Paihia before boarding Ipiriri, the brand new luxurious catamaran for our overnight cruise in the beautiful Bay of Islands. Cruise past spectacular landmarks, such as the Black Rocks and Urupukapuka Island before being anchored in a sheltered bay for an exclusive experience. We will be surrounded by nature, as the warm waters are home to an abundance of marine life such as dolphins, whales, seals and penguins. Tenders will ferry us to nearby islands as we learn of the rich history and ecology associated with this region. At sunset enjoy a buffet of local cuisine before retiring to your King Stateroom that has sea views.

Overnight Bay of Islands Cruise



DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (BD)

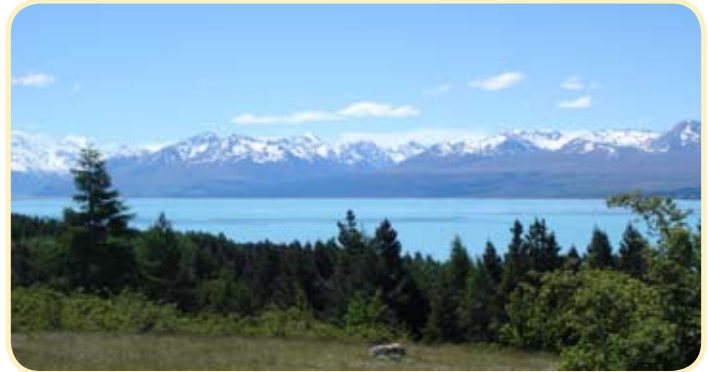
After a unique overnight stay, we start the day with a leisurely breakfast before we cruise back to Opuha Wharf mid-morning. Bid farewell to the Bay of Islands before we drive south via Whangarei, Wellsford and Warkworth to Auckland.

Hotel Hyatt Regency Auckland

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (BLD)

This morning enjoy a city sights tour including a visit to Sky Tower, one of New Zealand's most spectacular attractions. Then we continue to Longlands Dairy Farm where a short farm talk is followed by a delicious home cooked lunch. Then it is onto Rotorua, where we will visit Paradise Valley Springs, a wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout.

Hotel Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Rooms. 2 nights)



DAY 6: Rotorua (B SD)

Today begins with a Gondola ride to Skyrides Restaurant where a buffet breakfast and spectacular views are on offer. Travel to the Agrodome where we will see performing sheep, a shearing display and sheep dog trial. Enjoy free time this afternoon before travelling out to see the boiling mud pools and awesome Geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening we will experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert.

DAY 7: Rotorua - Napier - Masterton (B SD)

Today we depart Rotorua and travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Huka Falls and Lake Taupo. We continue to Napier "The Art Deco Capital Of The World", for a tour of this city that was destroyed by an earthquake in 1931. Enjoy some free time to explore the fascinating architecture before we travel through the Wairarapa, an emerging cool-climate wine region. At the hotel this evening we will enjoy a wine and cheese tasting.

Hotel Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park

DAY 8: Masterton - Greytown - Wellington (BD)

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day with time to take in the facilities of this impressive resort. Later on we travel to Greytown to see the most complete example of original Victorian wooden architecture. We will drive through Featherston before travelling through the Rimutaka Mountain Range into Wellington. This afternoon we enjoy a city tour of the nation's capital which will highlight the history and culture on show here.

Hotel James Cook Grand Chancellor

DAY 9: Wellington - Picton - Blenheim (BD)

Enjoy free time this morning to explore Wellington at leisure. Suggested options include a visit to Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum or a tour through the Parliament Buildings. This afternoon we board the Interislander Ferry to cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Here we will board our coach for the short journey to Blenheim.

Hotel Heartland Hotel Marlborough

DAY 10: Blenheim - Kaikoura - Christchurch (BD)

Today we tour through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine before travelling to the quaint fishing village of Kaikoura. We then continue onto the garden city of Christchurch. A city sights tour will



showcase the grand architecture, historic homesteads, immaculate parks and the picturesque Avon River.

Hotel Copthorne Durham Street

DAY 11: Christchurch - Twizel (BD)

After breakfast we travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and view the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available (time and weather permitting) to enjoy a scenic flight (optional) over the Southern Alps before travelling to Twizel.

Hotel MacKenzie Country Inn



DAY 12: Twizel - Dunedin (B SD)

We depart Twizel this morning and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continuing south to Dunedin, a well preserved Victorian city, we enjoy an informative city tour including a visit to Olveston House, a prestigious historic home. Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special Haggis Ceremony and gift.

Hotel Mercure Leisure Lodge



DAY 13: Dunedin - Te Anau (BD)

Today we travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. We then visit Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens and view the superb collection of flowers, followed by a delightful morning tea. We then say farewell to Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, our overnight stay.

Hotel Distinction Luxmore Hotel (Deluxe Rooms. 2 nights)

DAY 14: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Te Anau (BLD)

Enjoy a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where we will board our launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. We will see the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as we enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon we return to Te Anau where some free time is available. Tonight you may like to visit the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves (optional).



DAY 15: Te Anau - Queenstown (B SD)

Today we travel to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village before we visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue to Queenstown, a year round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening we board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. On arrival sit back and relax, as you are treated to the best of New Zealand's high country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner we will enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as we cruise back to Queenstown.

Hotel Mercure Queenstown Resort (Lakeview Rooms.2 nights)

DAY 16: Queenstown (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day with plenty of sightseeing options available for you. Your Coach Captain is available to assist with these arrangements. You will also have the opportunity tonight to enjoy one of the local restaurants.

DAY 17: Queenstown - Fox Glacier - Franz Josef (BD)

Departing Queenstown we will travel via the Haast Pass to the West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. Here we will see the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to Fox Glacier. Time is available (weather permitting) to experience a scenic flight (optional) over the spectacular glaciers before continuing to Franz Josef.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

DAY 18: Franz Josef - Arthur's Pass - Christchurch (B SD)

Today we travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continuing to Arthur's Pass we board The TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin and across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. This evening you will be treated to a special farewell dinner including musical entertainment..

Hotel Copthorne Durham Street

DAY 19: Christchurch - Sydney (B)

Today we will have to say goodbye to New Zealand. You'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable holiday.