Embark on an enchanting expedition through the North and South Islands that provides the perfect balance of relaxation and adventure. Explore extraordinary landscapes and the age-old legends of the Māori as you encounter exhilarating New Zealand as few have seen it before.

The Long White Cloud

The water in Milford Sound is inky black – a combination of darkened fresh water and sea water. During rainfalls the water drains from the surrounding lush forests and washes a tannin which stains the water the colour of strong tea. There’s approximately 6 meters of fresh water that sit on top of the ocean water, which blocks out the light making it uniquely ideal for deep sea life to thrive even in shallow waters.
22 DAYS Christchurch • Franz Josef Glacier • Queenstown • Milford Sound • Dunedin • Wellington • Hawke’s Bay • Rotorua • Auckland • Bay of Islands

Discover
Franz Josef with a Glacier Valley Walk
The buzzing resort town of Queenstown
New Zealand’s vibrant capital Wellington

Explore
Glowworm Caves in Waitomo
Milford Sound with a nature cruise and kayak

Immerse
In traditional Māori Life at Whakarewarewa Living Village
Take a guided walk through the sacred Waipoua Forest
Tour the grounds and castle of the Larnach Family in Dunedin

Relax
Spa treatment in Queenstown
In the beauty of the Bay of Islands
With a soak in Rotorua’s healing waters
Day 1: Welcome to Christchurch
Your New Zealand adventure begins in Christchurch, the Garden City. Spend the afternoon at leisure, before joining your Journey Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception to kick-off your journey of a lifetime.
Hotel Montreal, Christchurch

Day 2: Christchurch – Franz Josef Glacier
Traverse the Canterbury Plains on board the TranzAlpine train. The gentle chug-chug in extraordinary surroundings gives way to more epic scenery as you board the coach at Arthur's Pass. Admire the vivid hues of greenstone (jade) on your visit to Hokitika to meet a local artisan for a jewellery carving demonstration. Continue to Franz Josef Glacier. Your eco-friendly accommodation for the next two nights is set in pristine wilderness, with an emphasis on relaxation and rejuvenation. Your only priority – relaxing in Franz Josef’s geothermal hot pools.
Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 3: Franz Josef Glacier
After a relaxed start, you’ll explore the area with a local guide, who’ll explain the history behind Franz Josef Glacier.
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 4: Franz Josef Glacier – Queenstown
It’s time for adventure as you board a purpose-built fully enclosed river jet boat and journey down the Haast River. After a lunch stop in Makarora and later the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown, the adventure capital of Queenstown awaits and you’ll have an opportunity to explore it during an orientation tour.
Crown Plaza, Queenstown, 3 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 5: Queenstown Journey Select
Today, select your choice of sightseeing: consider a day in the region’s vintages on a wine tour. View the Lord of the Rings film locations and scenery of Queenstown and Glenorchy on a scenic tour or spend time in the spa indulging in a relaxing massage.
Full buffet breakfast

Day 6: Queenstown Free Time
Calling all thrill seekers! Today’s the day to earn your adventurer stripes braving some of Queenstown’s most daring activities. This evening, enjoy a memorable Local Dining Experience at one of Queenstown’s fine dining restaurants.
Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

Day 7: Queenstown – Milford Sound
Venture to Te Anau and then deep within the Fiordland National Park. Drive through the hand-hewn Homer Tunnel and emerge into a photographer’s paradise where glaciers and peaks give way to the unexpected beauty of Mirror Lake. You’ll stop to explore the wonder of the Chasm Walk before arriving at Milford Sound Lodge, with its exquisite views of the Cleddau Valley.
Milford Sound Lodge, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 8: Milford Sound Cruise
Wake up to the startling beauty of Milford Sound. This morning, before boarding the Southern Discoveries vessel for a half day exploration of Milford Sound, a nature guide will share their knowledge of the fiordland and the wildlife that call it home. Sail out to the Tasman sea looking for wildlife and an opportunity to go sea kayaking in Harrison Cove.
Full buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine

Day 9: Milford Sound – Dunedin
This morning, embark on a journey from the rainforests of Fiordland National Park through the fertile sheep-dotted pastures of South Otago and Te Anau, known for its beautiful lake. Stop in the country musical town of Gore at lunchtime before arriving in Dunedin, New Zealand’s southernmost city.
Distinction Hotel, Dunedin, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 10: Dunedin Free Time
This morning, join an exclusive tour of Larnach Castle. Your afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps ride the historic Taieri Gorge Railway or take a wildlife cruise.
Full buffet breakfast

Day 11: Dunedin – Christchurch
Discover the Church of the Good Shepherd before returning to Christchurch for an in-depth sightseeing tour. From 01 October 2019, you’ll travel up the east coast through Oamaru to Christchurch.
Hotel Montreal, Christchurch
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 12: Christchurch – Wellington
Against the backdrop of snow-capped peaks, you’ll arrive in the whale-watching capital of Kaikoura. Consider an optional experience scenic whale-watching flight. Continue to the picturesque port town of Picton, the launch pad for a serene sailing across the Cook Strait to trendy Wellington.
 Sofitel, Wellington, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 13: Wellington Journey Select
Today, select your choice of sightseeing: you may wish to experience Weta Cave, home of the creative wizards behind The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies. Take a walking tour around Wellington with a local guide or a guided tour of Te Papa Museum of New Zealand.
Full buffet breakfast

Day 14: Wellington – Hawke’s Bay
Travel through the dairy farming land of Manawatu to Napier in Hawke’s Bay. Enjoy time to relax after the day’s adventures before joining your Journey Director for dinner at your hotel.
Porters Boutique Hotel, Hawke’s Bay, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 15: Hawke’s Bay
Enjoy a relaxed start before you venture out to explore Napier. Join a local guide for a city tour where you’ll see several types of Art Deco architecture, the style in which Napier was rebuilt after a devastating earthquake in 1931. This evening, enjoy wine-tasting and dinner at one of the region’s renowned wineries.
Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

“Life as a kayak guide here in Milford Sound is like no other. Every single day can be completely different from the one before. Whether it’s seals following us around on a kayaking trip, or having thousands of waterfalls appear within hours of rainfall – every group I take gets their own unique Milford experience.”
– Stella, Kayak Guide, Southern Discoveries
Day 16: Hawke’s Bay – Rotorua

You’ll travel past Lake Taupo and visit Huka Falls before you arrive in Rotorua, the cultural capital, for a sightseeing tour. Visit Whakarewarewa Living Village for insights into the lives of the Māori community and their special bond with this ancient land. This evening, enjoy a Māori Hangi feast and concert at the Tamaki Māori Marae.

Pullman, Rotorua, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, Local Dining Experience

Day 17: Rotorua

Your first stop is Rotorua’s natural splendour – revealed in the crystal clear mineral springs and native flora of Rainbow Springs Nature Park. Later, ascending to the Redwoods Treewalk, enjoy an elevated bird’s-eye view of these redwood giants. Your afternoon is at leisure.

Full buffet breakfast

Day 18: Rotorua – Auckland

Begin your day with a dazzling show during an exclusive five-star Eco Glowworm experience. Later in New Zealand’s largest city, Auckland, get your bearings during a city tour, then spend the rest of the day discovering why it’s deemed one of the world’s most liveable cities.

 Sofitel, Auckland
Full buffet breakfast

Day 19: Auckland – Bay of Islands

The golden sands of Orewa seem to stretch endlessly heading north to the native forest of Waipoua. Join a local Māori guide and head deep into the forest, immersing yourself in the fascinating legends behind these giant trees. Finally, journey to your waterfront resort in the Bay of Islands.

Copthorne Resort, Bay of Islands, 2 nights
Full buffet breakfast, dinner with wine

Day 20: Bay of Islands Free Time

Make the most of your extended stay in the Bay of Islands. Why not sail aboard a historic tall ship, enjoy wine tasting around Kerikeri, or discover Russell on a highlights tour of this small township. Your Journey Director can assist you in booking your choice of activity.

Full buffet breakfast

Day 21: Bay of Islands Cruise – Auckland

Set forth through the Bay of Islands Maritime Park, and explore some of the 144 islands in the bay. Return to Auckland for a memorable Celebration Dinner this evening.

 Sofitel, Auckland
Full buffet breakfast, Celebration Dinner

Day 22: Farewell from Auckland

Bid a fond farewell to your newfound friends as your epic New Zealand Inspiring Journey has come to an end.

Full buffet breakfast

NZIJ: Christchurch to Auckland

Flights are not included in holiday price. Flight Information:
Day 1: flights to arrive prior to 4:00pm into Christchurch Airport
Day 22: flights to depart anytime from Auckland Airport.

Footwhistle Cave