

14 Days | Extraordinary New Zealand | With Flights

Queenstown - Milford Sound - Franz Josef - Christchurch - Wellington - Auckland

From **\$4,999** Typically \$5,999 ✈️ pp twin share



Explore Milford Sound aboard The Milford Mariner

Enjoy the convenience of car hire to see more of the South Island

Travel on the world-famous TranzAlpine Scenic Train

Discover the delights of Wellington and Auckland with extended stays

Description



Celebrate the beauty of the South and North Island in this extraordinary New Zealand holiday!

What a stunning way to see the best of New Zealand. This special package takes you from the South to North Island and includes a stunning Milford Mariner overnight cruise on Milford Sound, as well as self-drive itinerary, great hotels and spectacular train journeys, like the TranzAlpine and Northern Explorer!

Fly to picturesque Queenstown, famously known as the adventure capital of New Zealand. Then drive to Milford Sound for the most spectacular way to explore the stunning region – overnighting aboard the Fiordland Mariner. Cruise to the open sea with the nature guide and friendly crew, before anchoring for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. Wildlife viewing opportunities and a special dinner are all part of the unforgettable experience.

Jump back in the car and head to Franz Josef Glacier where you have two nights to explore the lively town in the heart of the West Coast. Of course, the unmissable attraction is to get a good view of the famous 12km long glacier.

Read our latest Blogs about travelling through New Zealand at '[Wake Up Here](#)'

Next is another spellbinding highlight aboard one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Scenic Train. Travel across the South Island, from west to east, through Arthur's Pass National Park and descend to the Canterbury Plains before arriving in Christchurch.

After time to explore the southern capital, it's another thrilling journey, this time aboard the Coastal Pacific Train and interisland ferry from Christchurch to Wellington. Travelling between Christchurch and Picton, the Coastal Pacific meanders breathtakingly close to the sea, where the roaring Pacific Ocean meets the rising Kaikōura mountains. The Coastal Pacific isn't just a scenic activity, combined with the Interislander Ferry it is the perfect way to connect between the South and North islands.

Enjoy two nights discover the highlights of Wellington, the Harbour Capital and board the Northern Explorer train bound for Auckland. Experience the extremes of New Zealand's scenery, from the fertile farmlands of Waikato to the volcanic peaks of the Central Plateau and the sparkling Kapiti coast.

A three-night stay in Auckland caps off this breathtaking journey perfectly before it's time to say Mā te wā Aotearoa – see you next time New Zealand!

Itinerary

Day 1

Australia ✈ Queenstown, New Zealand

Today you will check in and board your flight across the ditch...

Welcome to New Zealand! On arrival in Queenstown, please collect your rental car and make your way to your Queenstown hotel.

Meals: Inflight Menu

Accommodation: The Loft Hotel, Ramada Suites or Holiday Inn

Day 2

Queenstown

Although celebrated as New Zealand's 'adventure capital' Queenstown offers far more than a fast-paced action-packed holiday. Settled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu beneath a soaring panorama of the Remarkables Mountain Range, this alpine town is surrounded by a plethora of historic, gastronomic and scenic wonders.

Head down the Gibbston Valley wine trail to sample some of the region's best Pinot or catch a ride on the 100 year old Steamship – the TSS Earnslaw – to Walter Peak Station for dinner and a farm tour. Browse the waterfront cafes and have lunch at Michelin star chef Josh Emmett's 'Rata.' Check out nearby historic Arrowtown and enhance your experience with a four wheel drive trip to Macetown.

Take a leisurely lakeside stroll or ride the gondola for breathtaking views. Drive through Lord Of The Rings country – or for the really fanatic, jump aboard one of many dedicated LOTR tours. If you do really want the adrenaline rush Queenstown is known for, take your pick from the Shotover Jet, Bungy, Canyon Swing, Zipline, Luge or Heli-ski.

Meals: None

Accommodation: The Loft Hotel, Ramada Suites or Holiday Inn

Day 3

Queenstown 🚌 Te Anau 🚌 Milford Sound 🚢

Drive from Queenstown to Milford Sound over 5 hours stopping at Te Anau along the way.

Spend the night aboard the beautiful Milford Mariner and wake up to dawn in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. It's the ultimate Milford Sound experience!

Enjoy accommodation in private cabins with ensuite bathrooms. A 3-course buffet dinner and cooked breakfast prepared by our on-board chef. Choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or small boat and take advantage of the specialist nature guide on board. Take a Milford Guided Walk for an extra \$50 per person.

Wildlife sighting opportunities – seals, penguins and dolphins.

This overnight cruise through the heart of Fiordland provides astonishing views and the ultimate Milford Sound adventure.

You'll start by departing from the Milford Sound wharf in the late afternoon before cruising through Milford Sound accompanied by our specialist nature guide. They'll explain the history and geology of the area and be on hand to answer your questions.

This cruise style is relaxed, allowing plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife – you're bound to encounter seals and, if you're lucky, maybe dolphins and penguins too.

The Milford Mariner then anchors in a sheltered cove. From here you can join the guide and explore in the vessel's tender craft (small boat) or kayaks. If you prefer, you can simply relax on deck and soak in the beauty of this amazing place. If you're feeling brave there's always the option of a refreshing swim too. All activities are weather dependent.

As evening falls, you'll enjoy a delicious carvery buffet in the dining saloon – a feast prepared freshly by our on-site chef. Then it's time to relax in the company of your fellow traveller, indulge in some star-gazing and story-sharing or simply retire to your private cabin.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: The Milford Mariner

Day 4

Milford Sound Queenstown

Disembark Milford Mariner this morning and make your way back towards Te Anau. Admire waterfalls gushing into pools of sparkling water, take in the panoramic views from The Divide and the Hollyford Valley Lookout and take a thrilling walk over a footbridge at The Chasm. The biggest lake in the South Island, Lake Te Anau is the perfect pit-stop. Admire the picturesque lake, capture some photographs and stop for a bite to eat. From Te Anau, travel on to Mirror Lakes and stop here to take more photos! Carry on your journey towards Milford Sound as you come across many other scenic spots.

Along the way you'll pass through small farming towns like Kingston, home of the famous Kingston Flyer steam train, and Mossburn, the deer capital of New Zealand.

This two-hour drive along Lake Wakatipu and into southern farmland is absolutely stunning The glistening waters of Lake Wakatipu are framed by the appropriately named mountain range, The Remarkables. You will arrive back in Queenstown late afternoon for your overnight accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: The Loft Hotel, Ramada Suites or Holiday Inn

Day 5

Queenstown Franz Josef Glacier

From Queenstown, you'll cross the Crown Range – the highest sealed road in New Zealand – to arrive in the Alpine town of Wanaka, gateway to Mt Aspiring National Park. Skirting the shores of both Lake Wanaka and Hawea, you will enter the small town of Makarora. Stop at Blue Pools for a 1-hour return walk through the native beech forest to a glacier-fed swimming hole. Continue on through the remote seaside settlement of Haast before heading up the wild West Coast – a 600 km stretch of bush and native rainforest. Fox Glacier welcomes you first, then comes your destination for the night – Franz Josef Township.

Meals: None

Accommodation: Punga View or Glacier View Motel

Day 6

Franz Josef Glacier

Franz Josef is a small but lively town in the heart of the West Coast, known for its 12 km long glacier. Surrounded by lush rainforest-clad mountains the township has a vibrant and bustling atmosphere. To see the ice from a viewpoint you can walk along the valley floor to the viewpoint below the terminal face. However, to go on the glacier itself you must take a licensed helicopter tour.

Meals: None

Accommodation: Punga View or Glacier View Motel

Day 7

Franz Josef Glacier Greymouth Train Station Christchurch

Today, you'll head north through the historic gold mining region of Hokitika. Known for its Greenstone (Pounamu) this seaside town has a rich history dating back to the 1860's. Head to the coast and take in the endless sea-views or pick up a souvenir at one of the many craft shops. Continue on to Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast and the starting point for the next leg of your journey – the TranzAlpine Scenic Train.

Drop your rental car at the Greymouth Train Station depot located inside the train station building before boarding your train to Christchurch.

TranzAlpine Scenic Train: Greymouth to Christchurch

Considered one of the world's great train journeys, the TranzAlpine Scenic Train takes you from Greymouth to Christchurch. You'll travel across the South Island from the west to the east coast through Arthur's Pass National Park. From the comfort of your carriage see lush beech forest, deep river valleys and the spectacular peaks of the Southern Alps. Descend to the windswept Canterbury Plains before arriving in the city of Christchurch. On arrival at the Christchurch train station, please catch a taxi to your overnight accommodation.

Meals: None

Accommodation: South Walk Apartments or Carnmore Hotel

Day 8

Christchurch

The Christchurch Tram City Tour Loop in New Zealand is open and ready to take you on an amazing ride on our heritage trams, filled with history and the best sightseeing in the city! The wonderfully restored heritage Trams are one of the main attractions in Christchurch and now you too can enjoy a trip through the city centre in comfort and style. Friendly drivers are well-informed regarding the history and facts of the city. They will share their knowledge about the various landmarks and sights on the way and, with a day-long ticket in hand, you can hop on and off as many times as you like throughout the day!

The trip takes you to various main stops so that you can also enjoy Punting on the Avon and sign up for the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Caterpillar Tour. Some of the main sights that you will enjoy from the comfort of your Tram include New Regent Street, The Art Gallery, Cathedral Junction, Avon River, the Canterbury Museum and the Arts Centre. You are welcome to board at any of the 17 tram stops and, with your ticket for the day, you can get on and off as you please. The trams run at intervals of 15 to 25 minutes so you won't have long to wait until another one arrives. The seats inside offer cosy and secure seating while the outside seats are not weatherproof. Due to safety reasons, all children on the trams must be accompanied by a paying adult. Just like any other city, you must ensure the safety of your child in traffic. The trams are happy to accommodate folded prams on board.

Meals: None

Accommodation: South Walk Apartments or Carnmore Hotel

Day 9

Christchurch Picton Wellington

After you check out of your hotel, please catch a taxi to the station in time for your departing train to Wellington: Depart: 7AM – Arrive: 545PM

This morning you board the Coastal Pacific train. Travel through the Canterbury plains before heading east to the coast and north along the rugged coastline that separates the majestic Kaikoura Ranges from the sea. Kaikoura is famous for viewing whales and dolphins. Continue further north along the coastline before turning inland, passing Lake Grassmere Salt Ponds and the wineries of Blenheim to the Picton – the gateway of the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

At Picton, you board your Interislander ferry for your 3-hour (92-kilometer) journey. A modern ship with a range of onboard facilities from eateries, a shop, a movie theatre, a games arcade, a large bar with live entertainment, numerous passenger lounges, open-air decks and friendly crew to assist you through the Marlborough Sounds and out to Cook Strait before entering the picturesque harbour of Wellington – The Harbour Capital and New Zealand's capital city.

Meals: None

Accommodation: Astelia Hotel, Mercure Hotel or similar

Day 10

Wellington

Wellington's Hop on Hop off City Tour is a 1.5-hour tour of Wellington with 10 stops at some of the top sightseeing attractions that Wellington has to offer. Choose to stay on for the entire 1.5-hour loop, or hop off at an attraction and hop back on an hour later! This trip allows you to see Wellington the way you want to, travelling in comfortable air-conditioned modern minibusses and interacting with friendly drivers – you won't get lost in the back of this bus!

The best hop-off and hop-on stops in Wellington have been hand-picked. Enjoy stunning 360-degree views of all of Wellington, the Harbour and Cook Strait; watch planes take off below you.

Travel through some of the inner-city streets, and see a stunning coastline as you drive around the bays to the outer suburbs. On this city tour, you will get a great overview of what our "cool little capital" has to offer its visitors!

Meals: None

Accommodation: Astelia Hotel, Mercure Hotel or similar

Day 11

Wellington Auckland

Depart: 755AM – Arrive: 645PM. This morning you board the Northern Explorer train heading along Wellington's coastline to the rolling farming landscape of the Palmerston North ascending up through stunning river gorges of the central North Island to the volcanic plateau passing Mt Ruapehu to National Park for a short stop. From National Park, your journey takes you along the volcanic plateau, passing the volcanoes of Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro before descending down the famous Raurimu Spiral to the rugged bush country and through the rolling framing landscape of the Waikato region and onto Auckland – the city of sails. Overnight Auckland for three nights.

Meals: None

Accommodation: VR Suites on Queen or similar

Day 12

Auckland

Start your Auckland hop-on hop-off bus tour at Philips Corner/Princes Wharf. You can create your own sightseeing itinerary with a flexible ticket, valid for one day. Listen to interesting audio commentary during the entire loop on the red circle or blue circle route. Buses depart regularly throughout the day on a seasonal schedule. If you'd like, hop on and off throughout the day to explore Auckland on your own or visit top attractions. Discover New Zealand history at the Auckland Museum, meet King and Gentoo penguins at Kelly Tarlton's SEA LIFE Aquarium, and soak up the city skyline from the Sky Tower, to name a few.

Meals: None

Accommodation: VR Suites on Queen or similar

Day 13

Auckland

Auckland, based around 2 large harbours, is a major city in the north of New Zealand's North Island. In the centre, the iconic Sky Tower has views of Viaduct Harbour, which is full of superyachts and lined with bars and cafes. Auckland Domain, the city's oldest park, is based around an extinct volcano and is home to the formal Wintergardens. Near Downtown, Mission Bay Beach has a seaside promenade.

Meals: None

Accommodation: VR Suites on Queen or similar

Day 14

Auckland ✈ Australia

Today it's time to depart New Zealand and head home! Check out from your hotel and make your way to the airport and board your flight home.

Meals: Inflight Menu

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Return Economy Class airfare to Queenstown & return from Auckland
- For capitals other than Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane please enquire for an updated cost
- 6 days Economy, automatic vehicle (Unlimited kilometers; Pick up Queenstown Airport, drop off Greymouth Rail Terminal)
- Accommodation – 12 nights in standard rooms, twin share
- 1 night aboard Milford Mariner, Private Cabin, twin share
- TranzAlpine Scenic Train, one-way from Greymouth to Christchurch
- Coastal Pacific Train, one-way from Christchurch to Picton
- Northern Explorer Train, one-way from Wellington to Auckland
- Interislander Ferry connects with the Coastal Pacific, from Picton to Wellington
- Christchurch Hop On Hop Off Tram Tour
- Auckland Hop On Hop Off Bus Tour

Wanting to arrive earlier or stay later: Please contact us to arrange pre or post-arrangements.

Travelling on your own? Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.

[WAKE UP HERE!](#) Read the latest from the Official Traveldream Blog

Exclusions

- Meals not mentioned
- Any additional requests
- Travel Insurance
- Tipping/Gratuities

Passport and Visa Requirements: All visitors require a passport to enter New Zealand. Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the date that you intend to leave New Zealand. For Australian citizens travelling on an Australian passport, you do not need a visa or permit to visit New Zealand. Visitors from visa-waiver countries must request an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) prior to travelling to New Zealand. For visitors from non-visa waiver countries, it is recommended you contact your Travel Agent or NZ Immigration for full entry requirements. If you are not an Australian Citizen or permanent resident, you may also have to pay for an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). Please check with your Travel Agent for up-to-date immigration requirements.

Solo Supplement: There is a single supplement of \$2000 payable on check out.

Travel Insurance: We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).