

Pacific Escapade

18 Days Auckland to Christchurch

At a glance ...

Explore all the 'must-see' areas of New Zealand as well as some of the special lesser-known regions on our most popular Classic Collection holiday. This 18-day tour will take you on an extraordinary journey through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. It includes some exclusive & exciting excursions yet still offers plenty of time for you to 'do your own thing'.

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Auckland

On arrival, you will be met by our representative & transferred by limousine to your city hotel.

Stay Duxton Hotel

Day 2 Auckland, Coromandel Peninsula (B)

The Coromandel Peninsula is a beautiful, rugged area fringed with dozens of excellent beaches & is a place where many kiwis choose to escape the hustle & hype of city life. At the quaint township of Coromandel, we ride the Driving Creek narrow gauge railway to a fascinating artist colony.

Stay Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 3 Coromandel, Rotorua (B,D)

Rotorua's raw beauty has enchanted visitors from around the world for more than 160 years. At Te Whakarewarewa Thermal Village, you will stand upon volcanoes, peer into massive craters, see boiling mud, exploding geysers and marvel at the unspoiled native forests that cloak the land. This evening, enjoy a twilight cruise across Lake Rotoiti to the natural thermal springs of Manupirua Pools before enjoying a lakeside BBQ dinner at your resort.

Stay Duxton Hotel Okawa Bay (2 nights)

Day 4 Lake Tarawera Cruise & Te Wairoa Buried Village (B,L)

Today's highlight is an exclusive cruise across the pristine, clear waters of Lake Tarawera. Experience spectacular scenery and soak in the thermal waters of Hot Water Beach. This afternoon, visit the Blue & Green Lakes and then wander around the famous buried village of Te Wairoa.

Day 5 Lake Taupo, Napier (B)

View Huka Falls & the Wairakei Geothermal project and take time to walk around the popular lakeside resort of Taupo. On to Napier, one of the world's finest Art Deco cities. Your local guide will bring this fascinating architecture to life on your walk around the town this afternoon.

Stay Te Pania Hotel (2 nights)



Day 6 At leisure in the Hawke's Bay (B)

Widely regarded as the 'Tuscany of the South Pacific', this region boasts some of New Zealand's best and oldest wineries. You can enjoy a guided wine trail and taste some of the great wines produced locally, visit the world's largest mainland Gannet Colony, play a challenging round of golf at Cape Kidnappers, take to the skies on an early morning balloon ride over vineyards, olive groves and orchards or simply relax and enjoy your surroundings.

Day 7 Village Farmers Market, Wairarapa & Wellington (B)

Visit the popular Village Farmers market where local growers and crafts people sell their goods. On arrival in Wellington, the nation's capital, enjoy a brief sightseeing and orientation tour before checking into your accommodation.

Stay Duxton Hotel

Day 8 Picton & the Marlborough Sounds (B)

This morning is at leisure to explore what Wellington has to offer. A visit to Te Papa National Museum is highly recommended. Travel across Cook Strait by Interislander ferry to the picturesque fishing village of Picton. Join your water taxi for the transfer to Torea Bay. Transfer over Torea saddle by resort vehicle to your hotel.

Stay The Portage Resort (2 nights)

Day 9 Stunning Kenepuru Sound (B)

A free day to relax & marvel at the magic that is the Marlborough Sounds. Resort staff will share their love of the Sounds with you through the wide range of water and nature based experiences they put at your fingertips. There is also the opportunity to visit the vineyards & wineries located in the famous Marlborough wine region.





Day 10 Kaikoura Coast, Christchurch (B)

Travel through Blenheim to Kaikoura, the world-renowned whale-watching centre of New Zealand. Later, we continue south to the "Garden City" of Christchurch, regarded as the most English of New Zealand cities. *Stay Hotel Grand Chancellor*

Day 11 Spectacular TranzAlpine Train, Franz Josef & Fox Glaciers (B)

Today board the TranzAlpine train for "The Great New Zealand Rail Adventure", rated as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. The TranzAlpine winds its way over massive viaducts, through spectacular river gorges and tracks its way up and across the spectacular Southern Alps via the alpine village of Arthur's Pass. Travel along the dramatic West Coast to the township of Fox Glacier for our overnight stay. *Stay Te Weheka Inn*

Day 12 Haast, Wanaka, Queenstown (B)

There is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions) before our departure this morning. Today, view incredible scenery as you travel past the untouched native forests and pristine lakes of the World Heritage Westland National Park and Haast Pass. Time to wander around the popular lakeside townships of Hawea and Wanaka before travelling to Queenstown, a beautiful alpine resort regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination. *Stay Heritage Queenstown (4 nights)*

Day 13, 14 & 15 Explore Queenstown & the Fiordland National Park (B)

Enjoy three full days to experience this magnificent resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains, Queenstown boasts adventure activities in all forms, from extreme to relaxed exploration. Here you can take a thrilling jet boat ride, pan for gold, raft the white water rapids, take a wine trail, fish for trout, play golf or 4WD sheer canyons. It is also a great base from which to explore the Fiordland National Park, and optional day tours & overnight cruises to the awesome Milford & Doubtful Sounds are available.

Day 16 Arrowtown, Mt Cook National Park (B,D)

Set beneath the rugged Crown Range is Arrowtown, a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Enjoy some time to stroll through this historic village, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's. Later, we travel up the western side of Lake Pukaki to the Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage listed site. The park covers over 70,000 hectares of breathtaking alpine scenery (optional Ski-plane & helicopter flights are available subject to weather conditions). *Stay Mt Cook Hermitage – Aoraki Wing*

Day 17 Tasman Glacier, Lake Tekapo, Christchurch (B)

Experience the Tasman Glacier in the most unique way possible. An experienced guide will whisk you away in a stable MAC Boat to explore the melting ice-face of the glacier. Touch & taste 400-year old icebergs that have been carved into the murky waters of the lake. Visit beautiful Lake Tekapo and view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd before crossing the vast Canterbury Plains to the 'Garden City' of Christchurch. *Stay Hotel Grand Chancellor*

Day 18 Depart Christchurch (B)

Sadly, your holiday is at an end and you will be transferred to Christchurch airport today for your onward flight. Here, we bid you 'Haere Ra', a fond farewell and hope you leave with many happy memories of your stay.

Highlights and Inclusions

- Group size won't exceed 16 guests
- 17 nights superior hotel accommodation
- 2 night stopovers in Rotorua, Napier, Marlborough Sounds & Christchurch
- 4 nights in majestic Queenstown
- Accompanied throughout by professional, experienced Tour Host
- Full breakfasts daily, 1 lunch & 2 dinners
- Spectacular Coromandel Peninsula & Driving Creek Railway
- Twilight cruise across Lake Rotoiti to Manupirua Pools
- Exclusive Lake Tarawera cruise, Blue & Green Lakes and Te Wairoa Buried Village
- Whakarewarewa Thermal Village
- Huka Falls, Wairakei Geothermal region & Lake Taupo
- Guided Art Deco Walk, Napier
- Village Farmers Market
- Wellington, the nation's capital & Te Papa National Museum
- Scenic Interislander cruise
- Stunning Kenepuru Sound
- World famous TranzAlpine Train through the magnificent Southern Alps
- Twin Glaciers of Franz Josef & Fox
- Historic Arrowtown and beautiful Southern Lakes District
- Optional tours & overnight cruises of Milford & Doubtful Sounds
- World-Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- See & touch glaciers & icebergs up-close on your Tasman Glacier Explorer expedition
- Lake Tekapo & the Church of the Good Shepherd
- Complimentary airport transfers by limousine

Departure Dates

2008: Jan 06, 13, 16, 20, 27; Feb 03, 06, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27; Mar 02, 09, 16, 23, 30; Apr 06, 13, 20; May 11; Jun 15; Jul 20; Aug 24; Sep 14, 28; Oct 12, 19, 26; Nov 02, 09, 16, 23, 30; Dec 07, 14, 28

2009: Jan 04, 11, 14, 18, 25; Feb 01, 04, 08, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25; Mar 01, 08, 15, 18, 22, 29; Apr: 05, 12, 19

Prices

	Twin	Single
01 Apr-30 Sep 08	\$7,059	\$9,195
01 Oct-30 Apr 09	\$7,839	\$10,199

Please refer to 2007-08 brochure for prices for travel prior to 01 Apr 08.