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NEW ZEALAND GUIDED TOURS

Grand New Zealand



Tour Summary

Tour name: Grand New Zealand

Days: 18

Overview:

The Evergreen Difference

- Guided tour of amazing cave formations and glowworms at Ruakuri Cave
- Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine and breakfast as your cruise Lake Rotorua on the Lakeland Queen historic paddle steamer
- Experience the warmth of the local people with a 'Home Stay' opportunity in Dunedin

Tour Highlights

- Journey through the Southern Alps and the TranzAlpine rail
- Cruise the magnificent glacier carved fiords of Milford Sound
- Experience a traditional Maori cultural concert and Hangi feast.
- Glide across Lake Wakatipu on the nostalgic TSS Earnslaw steamship, followed by dinner at Walter Peak High Country Station
- Visit the awesome Franz Josef Glacier
- Cruise between the north and south islands, through the spectacular Marlborough Sounds
- Travel to World Heritage Mt Cook National Park
- Delight in a scenic 'Hole in the Rock' cruise
- See the bubbling mud pools at Te Puia Thermal Reserve
- Discover the fascinating and tragic history of Larnach Castle
- View the Church of the Good Shepherd, situated on the edge of Lake Tekapo
- Discover New Zealand's history at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Be entertained by sheep and farm dog trials at the Agrodome farm show
- Enjoy a guided tour of Te Papa National Museum
- Tour the historic Kauri & Pioneer Museum
- Marvel at the unique Moeraki Boulders

Inclusive Value

- New Zealand specialist Tour Director and Coach Captain
- 17 nights first class accommodation including relaxing 2 night stays in Auckland, Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Queenstown & Christchurch.
- 29 quality meals including 17 breakfasts and 12 dinners

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Auckland

Welcome to New Zealand! You will be met upon arrival and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Two Night Stay: Rydges Auckland Hotel.

Day 2: Auckland Tour (BD)

This morning enjoy a tour of the city including the Domain, Viaduct Harbour, Auckland Museum, Parnell and Devonport. This afternoon is at leisure. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 3: Kauri Museum - Treaty House - Bay of Islands (BD)

Journey north to view the imposing Kauri Tree before continuing on to the Kauri Pioneer Museum. Arrive at the Bay of Islands for a guided tour, then visit the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds, home to New Zealand's founding document as a nation. Opportunity tonight or tomorrow night to enjoy a Culture North Night Show (own expense).

Two Night Stay: Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge

Day 4: Bay of Islands (B)

Today is free to relax or to explore this picturesque and historical area at your own pace. Your Tour Director will assist with suggestions (optional activities at own expense).

Day 5: 'Hole in the Rock' Cruise - Auckland (B)

This morning cruise through the scenic waters of the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett Lighthouse and through the famous 'Hole in the Rock' (weather permitting). Rejoin the coach and enjoy the scenic return journey to Auckland.

Overnight Stay: Rydges Auckland Hotel

Day 6: Ruakuri glowworm cave – Rotorua - Maori Hangi (BD)

This morning journey to the top of Mt Eden for spectacular views of the city and harbour. Then head south through some of New Zealand's most fertile farmland to the amazing Ruakuri glowworm cave. Ruakuri cave offers a captivating blend of Waitomo's most compelling subterranean experiences. During your tour, your guide will bring you up close to glowworms, elaborate cave formations, underground rivers, myths, legends and sacred Maori sites. Continue on to the Whakarewarewa Forest for a relaxing stroll through the towering Californian Coastal Redwoods. Arrive in Rotorua the heartland of New Zealand's Maori culture where tonight you will be entertained at a traditional Maori cultural performance followed by a Hangi feast.

Two Night Stay: Rydges Rotorua Hotel.

Day 7: Lakeland Queen Cruise - Thermal Reserve - Maori Art Centre (B)

View the sunrise over the shores of Lake Rotorua, whilst enjoying a glass of sparkling wine and a hearty breakfast on the Lakeland Queen historic paddle steamer. After breakfast continue on to the Agrodome for an entertaining show of sheep shearing and farm dog trials, then visit the bubbling mud pools and thermal geyser at the amazing Te Puia Thermal Valley and the Maori Arts and Craft Institute. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Day 8: Huka Falls - Te Papa - Wellington (BD)

Today our first stop is the fascinating geothermal power station of the Wairakei Steam Valley. Then it's on to see spectacular Huka Falls and the impressive Lake Taupo. Cross the vast volcanic plains of Tongariro National Park and on to Wellington. On arrival enjoy a guided tour of Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Overnight Stay: Mercure Hotel.

Day 9: Marlborough Sounds Cruise - Christchurch (BD)

This morning board the Interislander Ferry and cruise from the north to the south island, through the breathtaking beauty of the Marlborough Sounds. Continue by coach down spectacular east coast, including a short stop at the Kaikoura seal colony. Tonight stay in the garden city of Christchurch.

Overnight Stay: Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Day 10: TranzAlpine Rail - Franz Josef & Fox Glacier (BD)

Today's touring takes you for an unforgettable rail journey through the magnificent Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine. Disembark at Arthurs Pass and continue on to Hokitika to see skilled craftsmen carving Pounamu

(Jade). Its then on to view the awesome Franz Josef Glacier. Opportunity to experience a scenic helicopter flight with snow landing (own expense and weather permitting).

Overnight Stay: Scenic Circle Fox Glacier Country Hotel

Day 11: Haast Valley – Arrowtown - Queenstown (BD)

Travel through the sub-tropical rainforest to Haast Pass. Visit popular Arrowtown, a quaint and historic gold mining town. Continue on to picturesque Queenstown and your hotel overlooking beautiful Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables mountain range.

Two Night Stay: Mercure Resort, Lakeview Rooms.

Day 12: Queenstown Free Day - TSS Earnslaw Cruise & Dinner (BD)

Today is free to explore at your own pace. Your Tour Director will assist with suggestions (optional activities at own expense). Late this afternoon cruise Lake Wakatipu on the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw. Enjoy wine tasting and dinner at Walter Peak High Country Station followed by a short farm tour.

Day 13: Milford Sound Cruise - Te Anau (BD)

Today travel through the breathtaking Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound, where you will experience an unforgettable cruise. Return to lakeside town of Te Anau.

Overnight Stay: Luxmore Hotel.

Day 14: Te Anau - Dunedin (BD)

Journey to Dunedin, a university city of Scottish heritage and New Zealand's oldest city.. *Opportunity to experience the warmth of the local people during a one night 'Home Stay'. Included in the tour at no extra cost. Must be pre-booked.*

Overnight Stay: Kingsgate Hotel.

Day 15: Larnach Castle - Moeraki Boulders - Omarama (BD)

This morning enjoy a Dunedin city sights tour, before continuing on to Larnach Castle. Experience a guided tour of the castle with its tragic and fascinating history. Continue on to the intriguing Moeraki Boulders, before following the Waitaki River to Omarama.

Overnight Stay: Heritage Gateway Hotel.

Day 16: Mt Cook National Park - Lake Tekapo - Christchurch (BD)

Pass picturesque Lake Pukaki, then stop and view Mount Cook (weather permitting). Continue on to visit Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, and then on to Christchurch for a sightseeing tour. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel.

Two Night Stay: Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Day 17: Christchurch at Leisure (B)

Today is free to enjoy this beautiful city. Your Tour Director will assist with any arrangements (optional activities at own expense).

Day 18: Christchurch - Homeport (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home. It's "haere ra" (goodbye) to New Zealand.

Key (B: breakfast; L: lunch; D: dinner)