

## New Zealand Guided Tours

### Highlights Tour

**Operator:** Grand Pacific Tours

**Days:** 16

**Start:** Christchurch

**Finish:** Auckland

**Our price:** Check [www.experiencenz.com](http://www.experiencenz.com)

**Enquiries:** Email [travel@experiencenz.com](mailto:travel@experiencenz.com)



### Overview

Covering the best of both the North and South Islands, begin in Christchurch, and discover the delights of the South Island including Dunedin, Milford Sound and Queenstown.

Spend eight days touring the North Island, visiting cultural Rotorua, the stunning Bay of Islands and finishing the tour in Auckland, the 'City of Sails'.

### Highlights

- Olveston House and haggis ceremony
- Larnach Castle
- Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens
- Lakes District Museum
- Milford Sound cruise
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- TranzAlpine rail journey
- Cruise on the Interislander ferry across Cook Strait
- Rotorua Skyline Gondola, luge ride, Agrodome, thermal mud pools and geysers
- Kauri Museum and Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Hole in the Rock Cruise
- City sights tour of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch

### Tour itinerary

**B** = Breakfast   **L** = Lunch   **D** = Dinner

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#### Day 1: Christchurch

Fly into Christchurch where you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. **D**

*Accommodation:* All Seasons Christchurch or The Elms Hotel

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### **Day 2: Christchurch – Omarama**

Travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, view the Sheep Dog Statue and marvel at 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. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Heritage Gateway Hotel

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### **Day 3: Omarama – Dunedin**

See Lake Benmore before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. On arrival in Dunedin enjoy an informative tour including a visit to Olveston House, a prestigious historic home. A Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special haggis ceremony and gift. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Mercure Leisure Lodge

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### **Day 4: Dunedin – Te Anau**

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Visit Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens and view the superb collection of flowers, followed by a delightful morning tea. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, your overnight stay. Tonight you may like to visit the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves (optional). **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Distinction Luxmore Hotel

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### **Day 5: Te Anau – Milford Sound – Queenstown**

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon travel to Queenstown, overlooking magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year round resort which offers a wide range of activities and attractions. This evening is free and you may choose to dine at one of the many fine restaurants. **B, L**

*Accommodation:* Mercure Resort (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **Day 6: Queenstown**

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown at leisure. Your Coach Captain is available to assist with the many sightseeing options available, whether it be the thrill of a jet boat ride, a heritage tour to Skippers Canyon or the helicopter ride of a lifetime. This evening 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 enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown.

**B, D**

*Accommodation:* Mercure Resort (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **Day 7: Queenstown – Arrowtown – Fox Glacier**

Travel to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village, and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the mighty West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel to Fox Glacier. Time is available

(weather permitting) to experience a scenic flight (optional) over the spectacular glaciers.

**B, D**

*Accommodation:* Heartland Hotel Glacier Country

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### **Day 8: Fox Glacier – Arthur’s Pass – Christchurch**

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue into Arthur’s Pass and board The TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains to the elegant city of Christchurch. On arrival your coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* All Seasons Christchurch or The Elms Hotel

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### **Day 9: Christchurch – Picton – Wellington**

Travel along the East Coast to the fishing village of Kaikoura. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you travel through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine. Continue to Picton, where you board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait to Wellington. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Ibis (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **Day 10: Wellington**

Today explore this exciting region and enjoy an extensive city tour which explains the history and culture on show in New Zealand’s capital, Wellington. A highlight will be a guided tour of Te Papa, New Zealand’s National Museum, with exhibits that embrace both Maori and European views of the land, environment and people. Enjoy some free time to explore at leisure late this afternoon. This evening is also free and you may choose to dine at one of the many fine restaurants. **B**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Ibis (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **Day 11: Wellington – Taupo – Rotorua**

Depart Wellington and view the snow capped peaks of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro as you travel to Lake Taupo. Visit the spectacular Huka Falls, then travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Sudima Hotel (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **DAY 12: Rotorua**

Today begins with a Gondola ride to Skyrides Restaurant where a buffet breakfast and spectacular views are on offer. Travel to the Agrodome where you see performing sheep, a shearing display and sheep dog trial. Next visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout. Some free time is available before an afternoon transfer to see the boiling mud pools and the awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening you will experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Sudima Hotel (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 nights)

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### **Day: 13: Rotorua – Auckland – Bay of Islands**

This morning depart Rotorua and travel north via Auckland to the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree. Continue via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart

of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British. **B, D**  
*Accommodation:* Hotel Paihia or Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 nights)

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#### **Day 14: Bay of Islands**

This morning travel aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Stopover at Otehei Bay before returning via Russell to Paihia for a free afternoon. A range of optional activities are available or you may choose to relax and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the waterfront. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Paihia or Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 nights)

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#### **Day 15: Bay of Islands – Auckland**

Depart the Bay of Islands this morning and travel via Whangarei and Dargaville to Matakoho. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum before continuing to Auckland for a city sights tour. This evening you will be treated to a special farewell dinner including entertainment with your new friends. **B, D**

*Accommodation:* Hotel Copthorne Anzac Avenue

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#### **Day 16: Auckland**

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday. **B**

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