

New Zealand Guided Tours

New Zealand Rail, Cruise and Coach

Operator: Grand Pacific Tours
Days: 19
Start: Auckland
Finish: Christchurch
Itinerary valid: September 2012 – June 2013.



Grand Pacific coach tours offer you an experience where everything is taken care of. From the time you arrive in New Zealand a friendly smile awaits. Grand Pacific Tours' professional crew will provide a high standard of service. See New Zealand's spectacular scenery in armchair comfort as you travel through each region. Grand Pacific Tours' offers an "all inclusive" style of touring and believe it is important for you to return home from your holiday feeling that you have received excellent value for money.

Tour Overview

This extremely popular tour has been designed specifically for rail enthusiasts to enjoy the best of New Zealand at a relaxed pace. This exceptional itinerary includes five breathtaking rail journeys and the popular exclusive overnight cruise in the Bay of Islands, whilst visiting many attractions and offering a wide range of prepaid activities.

Inclusions

Attractions

- Kauri Museum
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Bay of Islands Overnight Cruise
- Glenbrook Vintage Railway
- Longlands Dairy Farm
- Paradise Valley Springs
- Skyline Gondola and Luge Ride
- Agrodome
- Thermal mud pools and geysers
- Te Puia Maori Hangi and Concert
- Southward Car Museum
- Te Papa National Museum
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Coastal Pacific Rail Journey
- TranzAlpine Rail Journey
- Cruise on the TSS Earnslaw
- Lakes District Museum
- Glow Worm Caves visit
- Milford Sound Cruise
- Olveston House
- Haggis Ceremony and Gift
- Larnach Castle
- Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens
- Taieri Gorge Limited Rail Journey
- Oamaru Victorian Precinct



Transportation

Luxury coach travel with 2 door access, restroom, reclining seats and panoramic windows

Professionally Escorted

Professional Coach Captain and driver

Dining Inclusions

- 18 cooked breakfasts including one specialty breakfast
- 16 sumptuous dinners including 4 specialty dinners
- 3 lunches including one specialty lunch
- 4 delicious morning / afternoon teas

Plus

- Personalised Meet and Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- Bay of Islands Overnight Cruise
- Hotel portorage
- 5 rail journeys and 5 cruises
- GST (Goods and Services Tax)
- Comprehensive documentation pack

Flight Information

Please aim to arrive at the hotel before 8:00pm on Day 1 to make it in time for dinner. You can depart anytime on Day 19.

Tour itinerary

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

Day 1: Arrive Auckland

Fly from your homeport to Auckland where you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel Harbourcity. D**

Day 2: Bay of Islands

Depart Auckland and travel to the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum in Matakoho then pass through Whangarei to Paihia. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British.

Hotel: Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands. B D

Day 3: Bay of Islands Overnight Cruise

A memorable day lies ahead of you today. After breakfast you are free to explore Paihia before boarding Ipipiri, the Great Sights luxurious catamaran for your overnight cruise in the beautiful Bay of Islands. Cruise past spectacular landmarks, such as the Black Rocks and Urupukapuka Island before being anchored in a sheltered bay for a truly exclusive experience. You will be surrounded by nature, as the warm waters are home to an abundance of marine life such as dolphins, whales, seals and penguins. Tenders will ferry you to nearby islands as you learn of the rich history and ecology associated with this region. At sunset enjoy a buffet of local cuisine before retiring to your King Stateroom that has sea views. **B D**

Day 4: Auckland

After a unique overnight stay, start the day with a leisurely breakfast before you cruise back to Opua Wharf mid-morning. Farewell the Bay of Islands and drive south via Whangarei, Wellsford and Warkworth to Auckland. Enjoy a short city tour and free time before transferring to your hotel. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel Harbourcity. B D**

Day 5: Rotorua

Depart Auckland and travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop and on return to Glenbrook Station, morning tea will be served. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside to Longlands Dairy Farm. Enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch hosted by a rural New Zealand family. Next, continue to Rotorua and visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout.

Hotel: Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Rooms. 2 nights) B L D

Day 6: Rotorua

Today begins with a Gondola ride to Cableway 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. Enjoy some free time before travelling to Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome Geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert. **B SD**

Day 7: Wellington

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and this afternoon visit Southward Car Museum, home to a comprehensive collection of veteran and vintage cars. Enjoy afternoon tea before continuing south along the Kapiti Coast to Wellington.

Hotel: James Cook Grand Chancellor (2 nights) B D

Day 8: Wellington

Enjoy an extensive city tour 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. Enjoy free time at leisure this afternoon. **B D**

Day 9: Interislander Ferry - Kaikoura

This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that showcases the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side and the rugged scenic coastline on the other. Travel through numerous tunnels and across several bridges before departing the train in Kaikoura. Experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) to view the amazing whales this region is renowned for.

Hotel: Donegal House. B D

Day 10: Canterbury

A leisurely start this morning with time to enjoy the tranquil setting. Travel south through some of the finest farmland areas to Christchurch for an introductory city sights tour. A short drive through the Canterbury region brings you to your hotel.

Hotel: Methven Resort or Hotel Ashburton B D

Day 11: TranzAlpine Train – Franz Josef

This morning board the TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Pass through the Otira Tunnel and

continue through lush beech forest, skirt lakes and follow rivers as you enjoy a boxed lunch onboard. Your journey concludes at Greymouth. Travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before arriving at Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Hotel: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. B L D

Day 12: Queenstown

See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, a year round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free and you may choose to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

Hotel: Mercure Queenstown Resort (Lakeview Rooms. 2 nights). B

Day 13: Queenstown

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown. Your Tour Guide and Coach Captain are available to assist with the many options available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. 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 on your return cruise. **B SD**

Day 14: Te Anau

This morning travel to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village where you visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue to Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland. This evening cruise across Lake Te Anau to visit the Glow Worm Caves. Admire the incredible limestone caverns, waterfalls and mystery of the Glow Worm Grotto.

Hotel: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas (2 nights). B D

Day 15: Milford Sound –Te Anau

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 onboard. This afternoon return to Te Anau where some free time is available. **B L D**

Day 16: Dunedin

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin for an informative city tour including a visit to Olveston House, a prestigious historic home. Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.

Hotel: Mercure Leisure Lodge (2 nights). B SD

Day 17: Dunedin

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle for a guided tour. Visit Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens, view the superb collection of flowers followed by a delightful morning tea. Return to the city for some free time before boarding The Taieri

Gorge Limited for a journey through spectacular scenery only accessible by rail. On return to Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station your coach will transfer you to your hotel. **B D**

Day 18: Christchurch

Travel to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. After a true Victorian welcome, enjoy an informative update on this unique Precinct. Continue to The Plains Vintage Railway to experience a 'K'88 Steam Locomotive at work, view informative displays and enjoy a delightful afternoon tea before travelling to Christchurch. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner. **Hotel: Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport. B SD**

Day 19: Depart New Zealand

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



EXPERIENCE
NEW ZEALAND
TRAVEL
WHEN IT'S ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Booking Terms and Conditions

1. Reservations and Payments

A deposit of \$200 per person is required at the time of booking. The balance of payment, is due 60 days prior to departure.

2. Cancellations/Transfer of Booking

In the event a traveller cancels off a tour the following fees apply:

- 60 days or more prior to departure, loss of deposit
- Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour package price.
- Less than 7 days prior to departure, 100% of the tour package price.

If a traveller wishes to cancel their existing booking and transfer to a new departure date, the above cancellation fees still apply.

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