

New Zealand Guided Tours

Pacific Escapade

Operator: Great New Zealand Travel Company
Days: 18
Start: Auckland
Finish: Christchurch
Itinerary valid: April 2012 – April 2013.



The Great New Zealand Travel Company is New Zealand's leading & most innovative small group tour specialist. Group size will never exceed 16 guests on any of their trips and you'll quickly discover that it's like being on holiday with a group of friends ... like-minded travellers from all walks of life that you can share your day-to-day experiences with. You'll enjoy a strong group spirit and a greater sense of camaraderie, more fun and more flexibility!

Tour Overview

Explore all the 'must-see' areas of New Zealand as well as some of the special lesser-known regions on this classic 18-day holiday. You will be taken on an extraordinary journey through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. This trip includes some exclusive and exciting excursions yet still offers plenty of time for you to 'do your own thing'.

Inclusions

Attractions

- Spectacular Coromandel Peninsula and Driving Creek Railway
- Exclusive Lake Tarawera cruise
- Blue and Green Lakes, Te Wairoa Buried Village
- Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Reserve
- Wairakei Geothermal region and mighty Huka Falls
- Guided Art Deco Walk, Napier
- Wellington and Te Papa National Museum
- Scenic Interislander ferry cruise
- Transfers by floatplane and water taxi
- Lake Tekapo and Church of the Good Shepherd
- World-Heritage listed Mt Cook National Park
- Tasman Glacier Explorer boat expedition
- Milford Sound Nature Cruise
- Historic Arrowtown
- Beautiful Southern Lakes region
- Twin glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef
- World famous TransAlpine train journey through the Southern Alps



Transportation

Luxurious, purpose-built, air-conditioned midi-coaches. Whilst individual vehicles may vary, they all feature reclining armchair-style seating, seatbelts, large panoramic

windows, individual reading lights and air-conditioning controls, video and/or DVD players.

Professionally Escorted

Professional driver and experienced Tour Host

Dining Inclusions

- Full breakfasts daily, 2 lunches and 4 dinners

Plus

- Complimentary airport transfers by limousine

Transfer Information

The Great New Zealand Travel Company offers all guests complimentary, private limousine airport transfers on arrival and departure.

Tour itinerary

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

Day 1: Arrive Auckland

'Haere Mai' ... welcome to New Zealand! On arrival, you will be met by a representative and transferred by limousine to your city hotel. The rest of today is at leisure to explore the 'City of Sails'.

Hotel: Heritage Auckland Hotel.

Day 2: Auckland – Coromandel Peninsula

The Coromandel Peninsula is a beautiful rugged area fringed with dozens of excellent beaches and is a place where many kiwis choose to escape the hustle and hype of city life. At the quaint township of Coromandel, ride the famous Driving Creek narrow gauge railway to a fascinating artist colony. **Hotel: Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort. B**

Day 3: Rotorua

Travel along the Bay of Plenty Coastline to the popular beachside towns of Tauranga and Mt Maunganui. Then head inland across the volcanic plateau to the geothermal city of Rotorua, an area that has enchanted visitors from around the world for more than 160 years. Tonight, enjoy a lakeside BBQ at your hotel.

Hotel: Amora Lake Resort Okawa Bay (2 nights). B D

Day 4: Rotorua

Today's highlight is an exclusive cruise across the pristine, clear waters of Lake Tarawera. Experience spectacular scenery, try your hand at trout fishing and enjoy soaking in the thermal waters of Hot Water Beach. This afternoon, visit the Blue and Green Lakes and then wander around the famous buried village of Te Wairoa. **B L**

Day 5: Lake Taupo - Napier

This morning, visit Wai-O-Tapu, a wonderland of geothermal activity. Walk at your own pace and marvel at the reserve's unique features that include the world famous Champagne Pool, geysers, bubbling mud, steaming ground, expansive vistas, huge volcanic craters and sinter terrace formations. Stop to view the mighty Huka Falls and Wairakei Geothermal project and then take time to wander around the lakeside resort of Taupo. Continue 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. **Hotel: Te Pania Hotel (2 nights). B**

Day 6: Hawke's Bay

Widely regarded as the 'Tuscany of the South Pacific', this region boasts some of New Zealand's best and oldest wineries. Enjoy a free day to experience some of the many optional activities available. Perhaps take 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. **B**

Day 7: Wairarapa - Wellington

Today you'll travel through the rural heartland of the Wairarapa region en-route to Wellington, the nation's capital, where you enjoy a brief sightseeing and orientation tour before checking into your accommodation. A visit to Te Papa National Museum is highly recommended. **Hotel: James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel. B**

Day 8: Marlborough Sounds

This morning cruise across Cook Strait by Interislander ferry to the picturesque fishing village of Picton and then transfer by floatplane to your remote resort located in the stunning Kenepuru Sound. A scenic mussel cruise to the resort is also available for those who prefer to travel by boat. **Hotel: Raetihi Lodge (2 nights). B D**

Day 9: Marlborough Sounds

A free day to relax and marvel at the magic that is the Marlborough Sounds. Lodge staff will share their love of the region with you through the wide range of water and nature based experiences they put at your fingertips. Complimentary fishing tackle, kayaks and mountains bikes are provided at the lodge and there are a number of bush walks to enjoy. Nearby is a picturesque 13-hole rural golf course grazed by sheep with fenced greens or you can simply relax with a book and soak in the spectacular scenery. **B D**

Day 10: Blenheim - Kaikoura

Return to Havelock by water taxi and rejoin your coach. Travel through Blenheim to Kaikoura, a coastal town nestled between the Kaikoura mountain range and the Pacific Ocean. There is time to enjoy an optional whale-watching adventure, swim with the dolphins or join local Maori for a unique, award winning cultural experience.

Hotel: White Morph Inn. B

Day 11: Lake Tekapo – Mt Cook

Continue your journey south and stop at beautiful Lake Tekapo to view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd. Then 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 skiplane and helicopter flights are available subject to weather conditions. **Hotel: Mt Cook Hermitage Hotel. B D**

Day 12: Tasman Glacier - Queenstown

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 Tasman Glacier. Get up close to touch and taste 400-year old icebergs that have been carved

into the murky waters of the lake. This afternoon we travel through the MacKenzie Country before beginning the ascent over the Lindis Pass and emerging into the lush green farmland that surrounds the spectacular alpine village of Queenstown, regarded as New Zealand's premier holiday destination.

Hotel: Heritage Queenstown Hotel (4 nights) B

Day 13 and 14: Queenstown

Enjoy two free days to experience this magnificent resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains, Queenstown boasts an incredible array of adventure and leisure activities in all forms, from extreme to relaxed exploration.

Day 15: Milford Sound – Queenstown

Your highlight today is a leisurely Nature Cruise of the breathtaking Milford Sound, cruising the full length of the fiord to the Tasman Sea. An on-board nature guide will give you detailed information of the region's history, flora and fauna and you will view spectacular waterfalls, rainforests and towering mountains, including the awesome Mitre Peak. Wildlife includes dolphins, seals, penguins and albatross when in season. A truly memorable experience. **B L**

Day 16: Arrowtown – Wanaka – Fox Glacier

Set beneath the rugged Crown Range is Arrowtown, a fascinating collection of mining cottages with an atmosphere straight out of last century. Enjoy time to stroll through this historic village located beside the Arrow River, once a haven for the gold prospectors of the 1860's. There is time to wander around Lake Wanaka before enjoying incredible scenery as you travel past the untouched native forests and pristine lakes of the World Heritage Westland National Park and Haast Pass. On to Fox Glacier where there is the opportunity to experience an optional scenic flight over this remarkable region (subject to weather conditions). **Hotel: Distinction Te Weheka B**

Day 17: TranzAlpine Train - Methven

Head north along the dramatic West Coast, steeped in history dating back to the gold rush era of the 1800's. This afternoon, board the TranzAlpine train for a coast to coast rail adventure through the Southern Alps, rated as one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. Disembark at Darfield and travel on to Methven for your last night.

Hotel: Terrace Downs Resort. B

Day 18: Depart Christchurch

Sadly, your holiday ends today and you will be transferred late morning to Christchurch city or airport to connect with your onward flight. **B**





Booking Terms and Conditions

1. Reservations and Payments

A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is required to confirm your booking. Failure to pay the deposit within 10 days of booking may result in the cancellation of your reservation. Full and final payment must be received no later than 45 days prior to departure date. If full payment is not received by this date, GNZTC reserves the right to cancel the booking. Bookings made within 45 days of travel date must be paid in full upon confirmation.

2. Amendments and Late Bookings

Any amendments requested by you, once your reservation has been confirmed, may incur a minimum charge of \$50 per file to cover administration and communication costs. Bookings made within 14 days of departure date may be subject to a \$50 per person late booking fee.

3. Cancellations

Having accepted your booking, should it become necessary for you to cancel your reservation 45 days or more prior to departure date, your deposit only shall be forfeited. Cancellations made within 45 days of departure date will incur the following charges (expressed as a percentage of the confirmed tour & holiday price):

- 44-30 days prior to departure - 50%
- 29-15 days prior to departure - 75%
- 14 days or less prior to departure - 100%

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