



Northward Journey



Tour Summary

Tour name: Northward Journey

Days: 13

Tour Highlights

- Exclusive Experiences in Queenstown, Dunedin and Auckland
- Adventure Options available in Queenstown and Auckland
- Award-winning TranzAlpine Train
- Cruise Milford Sound in style aboard the Milford Mariner
- Tranquil Lake Wanaka
- Franz Josef Glacier
- Fascinating Moeraki Beach boulders
- Interislander Cruise from the South Island to the North Island
- Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage listed area
- Art Deco buildings in Napier
- Christchurch, the 'Garden City'
- Kiwifruit Country
- 12 nights first class hotels in central locations
- 2 nights in Queenstown, at the Sofitel Queenstown
- Fully cooked breakfasts (B)
- Superb a la carte dinners featuring the finest cuisine that New Zealand has to offer (D)
- Queenstown Dining Options, choose from 15 Queenstown restaurants (D)
- Christchurch Dining Options, choose from 3 superb restaurants (D)
- Dedicated Tour Director and Professional Driver
- Arrival and departure transfers

Tour Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive Christchurch

On arrival at Christchurch International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: Christchurch, Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 2. Christchurch, Franz Josef (BD)

This morning we board the TranzAlpine Train. We join our coach at Greymouth and continue to Hokitika, where a stop is made at Hokitika situated beside the Tasman Sea with stunning views to Mt Cook and the spectacular Southern Alps. Here there is the opportunity to see beautiful Pounamu (Jade) being carved into jewellery and other artefacts. Continue along the dramatic west coast and enter World Heritage-listed Westland National Park, where you can view the magnificent glaciers, rivers of ice. Nowhere in the world's temperate zones are glaciers as

accessible as here. There may be the opportunity to enjoy a scenic flight over this breathtaking region (own expense, weather permitting). This evening enjoy famous West Coast hospitality and dine on regional specialities.
Accommodation: Franz Josef, Franz Josef Glacier Hotel.

Day 3. Franz Josef, Wanaka (BD)

View incredible scenery today as we leave this World Heritage-listed area, travelling through Haast Pass and over the incredible Southern Alps. This scenic road takes us along the shore of picturesque Lakes Hawea and Wanaka where crystal clear blue waters reflect dramatic landscapes. Continue to Wanaka township originally settled during the goldrush era of last century and surrounded by Mount Aspiring National Park. Enjoy an overnight stay in this inspiring place of peace and tranquillity.

Accommodation: Wanaka, Edgewater Resort.

Day 4. Wanaka, Queenstown, Dine Around Dinner (BD)

Depart Wanaka this morning and journey to the delightful village of Arrowtown, an old gold rush settlement. Visit the Lake District museum, before continuing to the alpine resort of Queenstown situated on the banks of Lake Wakatipu. The wide range of activities available in and around the area makes Queenstown a popular holiday destination at any time of year. Tonight we explore Queenstown with our Dine Around Dinner. You may wish to take a gondola ride to the Skyline Restaurant and enjoy dinner and spectacular views over Queenstown. Perhaps cruise on the TSS Earnslaw Steamboat, across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Sheep Station for a sumptuous homestead carvery dinner. Or enjoy a meal at one of the many diverse restaurants and cafes in Queenstown. The choice is yours!

Accommodation: Queenstown, Sofitel Hotel Queenstown, 2 nights.

Day 5. Queenstown, Exclusive Experiences (BD)

Today you choose the activity and we will include it. You may like to partake in a Queenstown "Double Decker Explorer" tour, an "Original Wine Tour" of some of the local and award winning wineries, an exhilarating jetboat ride on the Shotover River or a relaxing garden tour. Perhaps the "Safari of the Scenes" tour or an adventure into Skippers Canyon by 4WD might appeal or a leisurely walk around Lake Wakatipu on a "Lakeshore Forest and Bird Walk". The choice is yours!

Day 6. Queenstown, Milford Sound, Te Anau (BD)

This morning travel through Fiordland National Park where lush rainforests meet snow capped mountains. On arrival into Milford we cruise the full length of this beautiful Fiord. The calm 22km long waterway is dominated by sheer weather-scuffed cliffs and peaks, in particular mile-high Mitre Peak. This afternoon we have a relaxing drive returning through the Eglinton Valley and the Homer Tunnel to the pretty lake side settlement of Te Anau.

Accommodation: Te Anau Hotel and Villas.

Day 7. Te Anau, Dunedin, Exclusive Experiences (BD)

Today we journey via beautiful Lake Manapouri to the southern most coast of New Zealand. Continue to Dunedin, settled by the Scottish in 1848 and renowned as the 'Edinburgh of the South'. This afternoon you choose the activity and we will include it. Perhaps a visit to Speights Brewery and Heritage Centre where they brew the popular Speights ale. Or discover the Otago Peninsula to visit the Royal Albatross Colony or Penguin Place to see the rare yellow-eyed penguins the "Hoiho". Perhaps visit New Zealand's only castle "Larnach Castle" for a tour of the castle and stroll around the beautiful gardens or explore the grandeur of Olveston House. The choice is yours!

Accommodation: Dunedin, Southern Cross Hotel.

Day 8. Dunedin, Mt Cook (BD)

Travel north along the coast to view the unique and fascinating Moeraki Beach boulders. Stop at Oamaru, a town renowned for its distinctive limestone architecture. Pass massive hydro-electric dams and glacier-fed lakes of incredible colour on our journey to Mt Cook National Park, a World Heritage-listed area and home to Australasia's highest mountain, Mt Cook at 3763 metres. You may wish to take an optional scenic flight over this awe-inspiring alpine region (weather permitting, own expense) and land on the mighty Tasman Glacier.

Accommodation: Mt Cook, The Hermitage.

Day 9. Mt Cook, TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch (BD)

This morning we visit the beautiful glacier-fed lake of Tekapo and view the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, built in 1935 of locally gathered stone and oak. Leaving the High Country and its sheep stations you may choose to take the scenic TranzAlpine Train from Arthurs Pass or continue with the coach via the Rakaia Gorge to the charming garden city of Christchurch. This evening you may select from three superb restaurants located within your hotel.

Accommodation: Christchurch, Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 10. Christchurch, Wellington (BD)

Today view spectacular seascapes as we travel north to Kaikoura. At Picton board the Interislander ferry for our cruise across Cook Strait. Sail through the breathtaking natural beauty of the Marlborough Sounds and into scenic Wellington Harbour. Bird life and dolphins are often our companions as we cross between the two islands.

Accommodation: Wellington Hotel InterContinental.

Day 11. Wellington, Taupo (BD)

Leaving Wellington this morning we cross the Rimutaka Ranges into the farming district of the Wairarapa. Continue to the coastal township of Napier, an area dominated by orchards and vineyards. This afternoon explore this unique 'Art Deco' city which represents one of the most complete and significant group of 'Art Deco' buildings in the world. This afternoon we continue our journey to arrive in Taupo and the remainder of today is at your leisure.

Accommodation: Taupo, Wairakei Resort.

Day 12. Taupo, Auckland (BD)

Near Taupo stop and visit Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland, a geothermal area well known for its beautiful colours and mystical quality. Continue via Rotorua to Kiwifruit Country. Enjoy a guided tour through the orchard on unique 'Kiwi-Karts'. This afternoon travel to the popular holiday beach resort of Mt Maunganui and then to the port city of Tauranga. Crossing the Hauraki Plains we make our way to the cosmopolitan city of Auckland.

Accommodation: Auckland, Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Day 13. Depart Auckland (B)

This morning personalise your sightseeing with our range of Freedom of Choice Touring options. Perhaps go sailing on Waitemata Harbour, explore Auckland on a City Sights tour or indulge in a Bliss Reflexology spa treatment. The remainder of your day is at leisure before it is time for your included departure transfer to the airport.

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