



Grand New Zealand Rail



Tour Summary

Tour name: Grand New Zealand Rail

Days: 19

Tour Highlights

- Travel through the upper reaches of the Karangahake Gorge on the Goldfields vintage train
- Visit a working dairy farm for a guided tour
- Immerse yourself in traditional Maori Culture at the 'Realm of Tane' cultural performance
- Visit New Zealand's smallest and most natural island, Stewart Island
- Choose between a number of sightseeing options at no extra cost with our Scenic FreeChoice Inclusions in Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Queenstown, Stewart Island and Dunedin.

Included Premium Highlights

- View the giant Kauri tree 'Tane Mahuta' in the Waipoua Forest
- Tour the Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Cruise through the famous 'Hole in the Rock'
- Journey to the top of Mt Eden, Auckland's highest extinct volcano
- See bubbling mud pools at Te Puia Thermal Reserve
- Travel up the famous Raumiru Spiral on the Overlander Train
- Guided tour of New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa
- Cruise through the Marlborough Sounds
- Board the Tranz Coastal Train and journey down the east coast
- Journey through the Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine railway
- Stop and view the awesome Franz Josef Glacier
- Enjoy a scenic jet boat ride on the mighty Haast River in Mt Aspiring National Park
- Ride the Kingston Flyer fully restored vintage steam train
- Experience an unforgettable cruise on Milford Sound, the most accessible of Fiordland's magnificent glacier carved fiords
- Visit the famous Moeraki Boulders
- Travel to Mt Cook National Park and stop and view picturesque Mt Cook
- See the glacier fed lake of Tekapo and view the Church of the Good Shepherd, situated right on the lakes edge

Dining & Highlight Meals

- Enjoy a country roast lamb lunch with all the trimmings at Longlands Homestead
- Experience a taste of traditional Maori cuisine at the 'Realm of Tane' hangi feast
- Choose from 3 separate dining experiences during your Scenic FreeChoice dining night in Queenstown
- Enjoy cocktails and canapés aboard the historic Christchurch Tram before dining at a local restaurant
- 33 Quality Meals including 18 breakfasts (B). 1 highlight lunch (HL), 3 highlight dinners (HD) and 11 dinners (D)

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Auckland

Welcome to New Zealand! Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.

Overnight Stay: Langham Hotel. **Meals: D**

Day 2 Auckland - Bay of Islands

Head north along the Hibiscus Coast to the Bay of Islands. Visit the Kauri & Pioneer Museum at Matakoho. Cross the Northland peninsula through the breathtaking Waipoua Forest where you'll view the giant Kauri Tree 'Tane Mahuta', followed by a visit to the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Two Night Stay: Copthorne Hotel and Resort. **Meals: B, D**

Luxury Lodge Upgrade: Upgrade to two nights at Bay of Islands Lodge. Must be pre-booked, surcharge applies.

Day 3 Bay of Islands

Scenic FreeChoice Inclusions, choose from: On the Edge, the ultimate day sail in the bay; cruise and tour historic Russell and Pompallier; full day tour to Cape Reinga, the northern most tip of New Zealand; cruise and swim with the dolphins; play 18 holes of golf at Waitangi Golf Club, try your hand at fishing in the bay. **Meals: B, D**

Day 4 'Hole in the Rock' cruise - Auckland

This morning cruise through the scenic waters of the Bay of Islands to the Cape Brett Lighthouse and through the famous 'Hole in the Rock' (weather permitting). This afternoon enjoy the scenic return journey to Auckland. *(16 Day Tour passengers join tour this evening for dinner).*

Overnight Stay: Langham Hotel. **Meals: B, D**

Day 5 Longlands Homestead - Rotorua

Journey to the top of Mt Eden, Auckland's highest extinct volcano, then continue on to Goldfields Railway. This vintage train will carry you through the upper reaches of the stunning Karangahake Gorge. Continue onto Longlands Homestead for lunch and a farm tour. Then it's on to the Whakarewarewa Forest for a stroll through the towering Californian Coastal Redwoods.

Two Night Stay: Novotel Royal Lakeside Resort. **Meals: B, HL**

Luxury Lodge Upgrade: Upgrade to two nights at Hamurana Country Estate or Treetops Lodge & Estate. Must be pre-booked, surcharge applies.

Day 6 Rotorua

This morning enjoy a guided tour of Te Puia Thermal Reserve and the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute. **Scenic FreeChoice Inclusions, choose from:** the entertaining Agrodome sheep shearing and farm dog show; explore Rotorua's city and lakes on an amphibious duck tour; relax in the geothermal mineral pools at the Polynesian Spa; take a thrilling 4WD Safari adventure; visit the Buried Village, enjoy trout fishing on one of Rotorua's many lakes, visit Rotorua Museum. Tonight we have an exclusive treat in store at the 'Realm of Tane' cultural performance and Hangi dinner. **Meals: B, HD**

Day 7 The Overlander Train Journey - Wellington

Depart Rotorua and head south via stunning Lake Taupo to Taumaranui where you will board The Overlander train. Enjoy a magnificent afternoon's journey up the famous Raumiru Spiral onto New Zealand's awesome volcanic plateau and native bush. Travel through Tongariro National Park to Wellington.

Two Night Stay: Duxton Hotel. **Meals: B**

Day 8 Wellington

This morning visit Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, recognised as a world leader in the new wave of innovative and interactive museum experiences exhibits. Remainder of the day at leisure. **Meals: B, D**

Day 9 Marlborough Sounds - Christchurch

Cruise through the Marlborough and Queen Charlotte Sounds to the south island. Board the Tranz Coastal train to enjoy one of New Zealand's most spectacular rail journeys! Hugging the coastline you head south, passing vineyards, salt mountains and river valleys.

Overnight Stay: Millennium Hotel. **Meals: B, D**

Day 10 TranzAlpine - Franz Josef Glacier

Today enjoy an unforgettable journey through the magnificent Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine. Disembark at Arthurs Pass and continue on by coach to Hokitika to see skilled craftsmen carving Pounama (Jade). View the awesome Franz Josef Glacier before arriving in the charming little village of Franz Josef.

Overnight Stay: Scenic Circle Franz Josef Glacier Hotel. **Meals: B, D**

Day 11 Franz Josef - Queenstown

A highlight today is a scenic jet boat ride on the mighty Haast river in Mt Aspiring National Park. Continue on to picturesque Queenstown. **Scenic FreeChoice Dining, choose from:** cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw historic steamship then dine at Walter Peak Station; ride the gondola up to Skyline Restaurant and dine with views of Queenstown; enjoy a relaxing al-a-carte dinner at Lombardis Restaurant.

Two Night Stay: Mercure Grand St Moritz Hotel. **Meals: B, HD**

Luxury Lodge Upgrade: Upgrade to two nights at Evergreen Lodge. Must be pre-booked, surcharge applies.

Day 12 Queenstown

Scenic FreeChoice Inclusions, choose from: indulge yourself with a therapeutic massage or foot revival; tour local country gardens including morning tea; take a guided walk through Mt Aspiring National Park and the Routeburn Valley; enjoy a guided tour of local wineries with lunch; take an exhilarating ride through Shotover Canyon in a jet boat; see the beautiful scenery of the Southern Lakes region on a 4WD tour; discover the secrets of bungee jumping followed by lunch or a bungee jump; enjoy a scenic guided tour to historic Skippers Canyon.

Day 13 Kingston Flyer - Milford Sound - Te Anau

Join the Kingston Flyer, a fully restored vintage steam train, for magnificent views of Lake Wakatipu and the fascinating alpine desert. Rejoin the coach in Fairlight and travel to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park. Today you will experience an unforgettable cruise on Milford Sound.

Overnight Stay: Village Inn. **Meals: B, D**

Day 14 Stewart Island – Invercargill

This morning journey to Bluff for your ferry ride to Stewart Island, New Zealand's southernmost island. Stewart Island is the smallest and most natural of New Zealand's islands and home to the Rakiura National Park. **Scenic FreeChoice Inclusions, choose from:** enjoy a leisurely cruise of Paterson Inlet and visit Ulva Island and it's internationally acclaimed open wildlife sanctuary; explore Oban and the surrounding bays on a guided Village and Bays Tour; enjoy superb underwater viewing from a semi-submersible as your cruise in sheltered Halfmoon Bay. Return by ferry to Bluff and continue on to Invercargill.

Overnight Stay: Ascott Park Hotel. **Meals: B, D**

Day 15 Invercargill - Dunedin

Enjoy the scenery today as we travel to Dunedin, New Zealand's oldest city. **Home Stay:** opportunity to experience the warmth of the local people during an overnight 'Home Stay' (included in tour at no extra cost, must be pre-booked).

Two Night Stay: Southern Cross Hotel. **Meals: B, D**

Day 16 Dunedin

Scenic FreeChoice Inclusion, choose from: guided tour of Larnach Castle including lunch; see the famous Yellow-Eyed Penguins or Albatross; enjoy a rail journey through the Taieri Gorge; take a guided tour of Speight's Brewery followed by lunch at the Alehouse. **Meals: B**

Day 17 Dunedin - Mt Cook - Twizel

This morning we head north, stopping first at Moeraki Boulders and then continuing on to Mt Cook National Park, where we will stop and view Mt Cook (subject to weather).

Overnight Stay: Mackenzie Country Inn. **Meals: B, D**

Day 18 Lake Tekapo - Christchurch (BD)

Travel over tussock plains to visit the picturesque glacier-fed lake of Tekapo and stop and view the Church of the Good Shepherd. Continue on to Christchurch for tonight's Farewell Dinner. We begin aboard the historic Christchurch Tram for Cocktail Hour with drinks and canapés then continue our dining at a local restaurant.

Overnight Stay: Millennium Hotel. **Meals: B, HD**

Day 19 Depart Christchurch

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport. **Meals: B**