



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

# NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

**FIRST CHOICE** 3-17 day Fully Curated Experiences [From page 24](#)

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# New Zealand Vista

## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

Freedom in travel? Explore remote reaches of the North Island one minute, then sip wine or zip across Queenstown lakes the next. Ask us for tips.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

Within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi is the kind of place you expect to see on postcards. You're here in real life.

### 🌿 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Dark Sky Project is committed to preserving our night skies by connecting manuhiri (visitors) to the relevance of the night sky via scientific and cultural experiences.

### 🌌 Natural Wonders

Get your glow on at the Waitomo Caves, a magical subterranean world lit by thousands of glowworms. Drift along and prepare to be dazzled.



Walter Peak High Country Farm

14 DAYS  
18 Included Experiences

## Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 17	Jan 09, 16, 23, 30	Jan 07, 14, 21, 28
Nov 07, 14	Feb 06, 13, 20, 27	Feb 04, 11, 18, 25
Dec 05, 12, 19, 26	Mar 05, 12, 19, 26	Mar 04, 11, 18, 25
	Apr 16, 23	
	May 28	
	Jun 25	
	Jul 23	
	Sep 10, 24	
	Oct 01, 08, 15, 22, 29	
	Nov 05, 12, 26	
	Dec 03, 10, 17, 24	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit [aatkings.com/laac](http://aatkings.com/laac) or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

## Dining

13 Full buffet breakfasts B      2 Highlight Dinners HD  
5 Dinners D                              1 Farewell Dinner FD

## Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Auckland Airport  
Day 14 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport  
Flights are not included in the holiday price

### 1 Welcome to Auckland

Auckland never fails to turn on the charm, as you'll discover while exploring the city before meeting your Travel Director and fellow adventure seekers for a Welcome Reception tonight. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express.**

### 2 Auckland – Rotorua

After a morning of sightseeing, set your GPS for the Waikato River to Waitomo Caves. Here, your cruise route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. This evening, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience, which includes a dinner of hangi-inspired cuisine and a cultural performance in a finely carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. It ends on a high at the Pohutu Geyser, where, armed with a hot chocolate you'll view one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands. **Hotel: Ibis, 2 nights. B HD**

### 3 Rotorua Free Time

We're leaving you up to your own devices today. Bliss out in the steamy thermal springs in Rotorua's Polynesian Spa. Go behind the scenes on a working kiwi nursery and hatchery. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. The choice is yours. **B**

### 4 Rotorua – Wellington

A staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over Huka Falls' 11-metre high escarpment every second. It creates quite the calamity. From here, the road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupō, its waters so vivid and blue they resemble an Ice Mint. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B**

### 5 Wellington – Picton

Wellington is known for its uber-cool cafés, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Onwards to the Interislander for a cruise across Cook Strait, from the North Island to the South. **Hotel: Picton Yacht Club. B D**

### 6 Picton – Christchurch

Black is the new black, as you'll fast discover when walking along the dramatic ink-hued Kaikōura beach. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore. Talk to your Travel Director for tips on the essential restaurants to dine in tonight – Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden. B**

### 7 Christchurch – Omarama

View the sights of the city including the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate guides, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe. **Hotel: Heritage Gateway. B D**

### 8 Omarama – Dunedin

Oamaru may have supplied other NZ cities with limestone, but it kept some for itself – and the result is glorious leafy streets with grand 1800s buildings that stand proud before you journey further south toward Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in 'little Edinburgh's' atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them. **Hotel: Scenic Dunedin City. B**

### 9 Dunedin – Te Anau

Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this. **Hotel: Luxmore. B D**

### 10 Te Anau – Queenstown

There are some travel days that blaze into your memory. Today is one. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

### 11 Queenstown Free Time

Queenstown is known as NZ's adventure capital for good reason. But don't take our word for it. Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. But make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet BBQ Highlight Dinner and farm show. **B HD**

### 12 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

After departing the movie-set-perfect streets of Arrowtown, discover Lake Dunstan, surrounded by orchards where you'll pause to refuel on flavour-packed stone fruit. Then there's Lake Hawea followed by Lake Wanaka, with its Instagrammable shoreline of poplars and willows. Over the Haast Pass, Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere sparkles like a gem. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

### 13 Franz Josef/Waiau – Christchurch

Swap white at Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere for green at Hokitika: the pounamu (native jade) found here is the stuff jewellery dreams are made of. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden. B FD**

### 14 Farewell from Christchurch

Two islands, two weeks. It's remarkable what you can see when you have the right people guiding you. **B**

