



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

FIRST CHOICE 3-17 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 24**

BEST BUYS 8-21 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 34**

New Zealand Uncovered



Highlights

Local Connection

Enjoy an exclusive Be My Guest lunch at the Red Barn, a Waikato working dairy farm of a retired champion jockey and his wife.

Cultural Immersion

Māori culture is celebrated across the country, no more so than at Te Pā Tū Māori Experience. Be immersed in art, tradition, culture... and nurturing cuisine.

Sustainable Footprints

Hear from the founder about the work being done to address biodiversity needs in the Kaikōura region, by developing a wildlife hospital and conservation centre.

Wildlife & Nature

A limestone landscape of pancake-shaped rock formations, blowholes and surge pools sure have carved out a name for themselves. Punakaiki or Pancake Rocks are West Coasters that are known the world over.



Milford Sound

17 DAYS
21 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Oct 03, 24, 31 | Jan 09, 16, 23, 30 | Jan 07, 14, 21, 28 |
| Nov 14, 28 | Feb 06, 13, 20, 27 | Feb 04, 11, 18, 25 |
| Dec 19 | Mar 05, 12, 19, 26 | Mar 04, 11, 18, 25 |
| | Apr 02, 09, 16, 23, | |
| | Jun 04, 25 | |
| | Sep 03, 10, 17 | |
| | Oct 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 | |
| | Nov 05, 12, 19, 26 | |
| | Dec 03, 10, 17, 24, 31 | |

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/zaac or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

- 16 Full buffet breakfasts B
- 1 Be My Guest Lunch BG
- 1 Lunch L
- 1 Be My Guest Afternoon Tea BG
- 3 Highlight Dinners HD
- 7 Dinners with wine DW
- 1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive by 4.00pm into Auckland Airport
 Day 17 – flights to depart any time from Christchurch Airport
Flights are not included in the holiday price.
Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

1 Welcome to Auckland

Auckland is the kind of place you could lose yourself in for a couple of weeks. Arrive at your leisure and explore new waterfront precincts, cruise to the wineries of Waiheke Island, or just ready yourself to meet fellow travellers over a Welcome Reception and dinner. **Hotel: Cordis, 2 nights. DW**

2 Auckland

A little bit of leisure, a little bit of culture – today is one of those days. Peek behind the scenes of racing history on the New Zealand Maritime Museum's America's Cup Tour. Your Travel Director then takes you around the city, pausing at Bastion Point for epic photo opportunities. **B**

3 Auckland – Rotorua

The O'Sullivan's welcome you to their Waikato estate for a Be My Guest lunch in their Red Barn. Expect country banter and farm-to-table fare prepared with a lot of love. The next hot spot – in every sense of the word – on your NZ holiday is Rotorua. Visit Te Puia to see and support Māori artisans at work, then continue your Rotorua tour at the steamy Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, a staggering valley where geysers pop and thermal springs jettison skywards. **Hotel: Millennium, 2 nights. B BG**

4 Rotorua

Today, choose your own adventure. We have plenty of ideas for the paths you might follow. Tonight, dive deep into Māori culture at Te Pā Tū Māori Experience, an important hub keeping tradition, art and music alive. Oh, and nurturing Māori cuisine. Enjoy a forest kai horotai (seasonal canapés) and chef choice aperitif, followed by a seasonal three-course dinner. **B HD**

5 Rotorua – Wellington

Say goodbye to Rotorua and hello to the raging rapids of Huka Falls. Your outlook then unfolds into the dreamy landscape of Lake Taupō. Traverse the volcanic Central Plateau to NZ's cool little capital of Wellington. **Hotel: Rydges, 2 nights. B DW**

6 Wellington

Take a city tour to discover highlights like its iconic Cable Car, parliament and Mt. Victoria. This afternoon is all yours. You could visit Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand, perhaps the wine region of Wairarapa or Zealandia's ecosanctuary restoring 225 hectares of forest. **B**

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7 Wellington – Kaikōura

This morning cruise the Cook Strait to Kaikōura, a marine life haven. On arrival be treated to a biodiversity talk from Sabrina Leucht, founder of Kaikōura Wildlife Centre Trust, and learn about the work the trust is doing towards Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, at this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Tonight, dine at Hiku, which celebrates what Kaikōura is all about - kai moana and dramatic sea and mountain scapes. **Hotel: Sudima. B HD**

8 Kaikōura – Christchurch

Enjoy a relaxed start this morning or sign up for one of several optional wildlife experiences available. Take a scenic flight for a bird's-eye view, get up close to dolphins by boat or kayak, or sample tasty crayfish at waterside fish-and-chip shops. Follow the coast and Canterbury Plains to Christchurch, home to innovative architecture, art institutions and restaurants. **Hotel: Distinction. B**

9 Christchurch – Twizel

From its cardboard-crafted Transitional Cathedral to its gold-clad central library, Christchurch has well and truly rebuilt itself since the 2010/11 earthquakes. But South Island locals still cherish a simple life, as you'll discover over a Be My Guest afternoon tea with retired farmers Angie and Stan Taylor at their home Morelea on the edge of Lake Tekapo. **Hotel: Mackenzie Country Inn. B BG DW**

10 Twizel – Dunedin

Oamaru has a rich history and proud heritage, enriched by passionate and perhaps quirky locals. Explore the shops, galleries and traditional crafts within some of the Southern Hemisphere's most complete Victorian streetscapes, before landing in Dunedin. **Hotel: Scenic Southern Cross. B DW**

11 Dunedin – Te Anau

From sheep farms to rugged mountains, today is one of contrasts. Venture into Fiordland National Park toward the South Island's largest lake and the lakeside town of Te Anau. Enjoy the thrill of jet boating on scenic Lake Manapouri, home to Pomona Island, where native birds are under threat - and your visit is helping to protect them through a community-based conservation project. **Hotel: Distinction Te Anau. B DW**

12 Te Anau – Queenstown

Your journey toward your cruise on Milford Sound/Piopiotaui traverses native rainforest, alluvial flats and meadows, with mirrored lakes, thundering waterfalls, dramatic rocky ranges and millennia-old valleys. That's enough drama for an entire travel year – you still have the streets of Queenstown to explore. **Hotel: Millennium, 2 nights. B**

13 Queenstown Free Time

Adrenaline-junkies may wish to get some perspective on a tour of the gorges of Skippers Canyon. Gourmand at heart? Perhaps a Central Otago wine tour? Your day ends on a dreamy TSS Earnslaw cruise across Lake Wakatipu, landing at Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue Highlight Dinner and farm show. **B HD**

14 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

From Arrowtown's tree-lined avenues to Central Otago's gleaming lakes, nature rules. Alpine scenery tiers into rainforest along the West Coast, where Thunder Creek Falls and the glacier-studded Mt. Hooker steal the scene. Welcome to the town of Franz Josef, home to Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B DW**

15 Franz Josef/Waiau – Punakaiki

Explore the small but lively Franz Josef/Waiau village before venturing to Hokitika. Then steel yourself for the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes of Punakaiki, a sliver of South Island geology that is as humbling as it is awe-inspiring. After a spectacular day, spend the night at an eco-friendly, waterfront resort. **Hotel: Scenic Punakaiki. B DW**

16 Punakaiki – Christchurch

Beer for breakfast? We've got you sorted on a morning tour of legendary Monteith's Brewery, which is followed by lunch. The best is yet to come – all aboard for the scenic TranzAlpine train back to Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts, with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. **Hotel: Distinction. B L FD**

17 Farewell from Christchurch

How many travel highs can you pack into a holiday? This itinerary has certainly pushed the boundaries. Now all you have to do is go home and sort through all those photos. **B**

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