



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS

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Essence of New Zealand

Highlights

✂ Flexible Holidays

We've crafted an itinerary with plenty of two-night stays, so you can sleep in and take the pulse of your destination, whether Queenstown, Wellington, Nelson or Rotorua.

📍 Iconic Sites

From the bubbling geysers of Rotorua to the gem-like surface of Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere, nature and culture unite across the North and South islands.

🏡 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE The Real Country Farm Show offers an authentic taste of what rural New Zealand is like. For every guest, we donate funds to The Fairlight Foundation, Advancing Women in Agriculture.

🌿 Natural Wonders

More than 97% of Stewart Island is protected national parkland – unspoilt and largely unpeopled. It's a magnet for the kiwi bird, which thrives here.



All Blacks Experience, Auckland

18 DAYS 21 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 05	Jan 04	Jan 02, 23, 30
Nov 30	Feb 01, 08 , 15, 22, 29	Feb 06, 13, 20 , 27
	Mar 07 , 21	Mar 06, 20
	Oct 03 , 17, 31	
	Nov 21, 28	
	Dec 12, 19, 26	

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/lcqa or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

17 Full buffet breakfasts B 2 Highlight Dinners HD
4 Dinners D

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm into Christchurch Airport

Day 18 – flights to depart any time from Auckland Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price

1 Welcome to Christchurch

Arrive early to see just how Christchurch has transformed itself since the 2010/11 earthquakes. The best way to do this? Aboard the city's tram. It loops past historic attractions as well as some new ones. Meet your fellow travellers this evening for a Welcome Reception. **Hotel: Wyndham Garden.**

2 Christchurch – Omarama

Step out with your guide for a deeper dive into 'The City of Gardens' before traversing the colourful Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo and snow-capped mountains. 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**

3 Omarama – Dunedin

Architectural drama awaits in Dunedin. While away the afternoon in atmospheric art-lined alleys or sipping a lager or two in Speight's Brewery (a national institution). **Hotel: Kingsgate. B**

4 Dunedin – Invercargill

If you've got an odd urge to hear Slim Dusty while traversing rolling green pastures en route to Gore, you're not alone, it's the country music capital of NZ. Invercargill is obsessed with something else: motor vehicles. Tributes to speed legends colour the city. So it's only fitting that you visit Classic Motorcycle Mecca for a tour and Highlight Dinner. **Hotel: Kelvin, 2 nights. B HD**

5 Stewart Island

The ferry ride to Stewart Island is wild and wonderful. When you arrive, you're welcomed by the country's southernmost community. It's largely untouched, which means endemic flora and fauna thrive here. But don't take our word for it. Meet the locals on a Village & Bays Tour. **B**

6 Invercargill – Queenstown

You've probably already noticed that there's a lot of farmland here in New Zealand. It's fitting, then, that you meet southern girl Laura, who will introduce you to the sheep farm she was born and raised on. The Real

Country Farm Show, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, offers an authentic taste of what rural New Zealand is like. For every guest, we donate funds to The Fairlight Foundation, Advancing Women in Agriculture. Continue to Queenstown and take the afternoon and evening at your own pace. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort, 2 nights. B**

7 Queenstown Free Time

Today, sign up to dive deep into Milford Sound/Piopiotahi within World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park, best explored on an optional tour cruising the waterway. Don't be surprised if you see dolphins and seals. **B**

8 Queenstown – Franz Josef/Waiau

Around the next bend is the Alpine countryside of the Southern Lakes, from Lake Dunstan to oh-so-blue Lake Hawea and lovely Lake Wanaka. Over the Haast Pass, the town of Franz Josef/Waiau at the edge of the Westland World Heritage Park, awaits. **Hotel: Scenic Franz Josef Glacier. B D**

9 Franz Josef/Waiau – Punakaiki

Wandering Hokitika's windswept shore on the West Coast feels a bit like you've discovered the end of the Earth. The town's other natural beauty is pounamu (native greenstone or jade). Prepare yourself for Punakaiki's Pancake Rocks and blowholes; they owe their existence to the thundering surf that will lull you to sleep. **Hotel: Scenic Punakaiki. B D**

10 Punakaiki – Nelson

Ease along the Heritage Highway toward Nelson. Press your nose against the glass as your coach weaves through Buller Gorge and Kahurangi National Park, a place of wild rivers, high plateaus, alpine herb fields and coastal forests. **Hotel: Rutherford, 2 nights. B**

11 Nelson Free Time

Today is at your leisure. Lace up your hiking shoes, or sit back on a boat and soak up the silence of Abel Tasman National Park. This wilderness inspires calm, its golden beaches framed by sculpted granite cliffs that all unite to create one of the country's most legendary coastal tracks. **B**

12 Nelson – Wellington

You'll want a window seat for the cruise from the South Island to the North aboard the Interislander. This spectacle unfolds as you glide through

Queen Charlotte Sound up the Tory Channel and across Cook Strait to NZ's cool little capital of Wellington. **Hotel: Travelodge. B D**

13 Wellington – Napier

Your city sights tour will end at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. After the opportunity to visit, don't miss seeing the Maori whareniui, travel to the Art Deco mecca, Napier. **Hotel: Scenic Te Pania, 2 nights. B**

14 Napier

After a devastating earthquake in 1931, Napier completely rebuilt itself in just two years. The end result is architectural Nirvana, a city home to the world's greatest concentration of Art Deco, Spanish Mission and Striped Classical buildings. This morning get the lowdown from your in-the-know local guide on a Napier tour. Your afternoon is at leisure. **B**

15 Napier – Rotorua

This evening, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience, including 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: Sudima, 2 nights. B HD**

16 Rotorua Free Time

Today, it's your choice. Your Travel Director can point you in the direction of a 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. Want a bit of down time? Bliss out at the Polynesian Spa. **B**

17 Rotorua – Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. You'll understand how it got its moniker when you glimpse yachts gliding around its two harbours. But today your sights are firmly set on the city's other love: rugby. The interactive All Blacks Experience explores an introduction to the game as a part of New Zealand culture. **Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. B**

18 Farewell from Auckland

It's amazing how much of two islands you can see in 18 days. Provided you have the right people at the helm, and like-minded company, that is. **B**

