



Lake Wanaka, New Zealand

## THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

28 days from only £5,195 per person

**New Zealand is known for so much - its stunning and other-worldly landscapes, its Maori culture and laid-back lifestyle, its unique flora and fauna; the list is endless. For that reason, if you're going to travel to the other side of the world, you need to allow plenty of time to appreciate everything that New Zealand has to offer.**

**Distant Journeys' Very Best of New Zealand tour takes in all the sights that would top anyone's wish list with the addition of some less well known gems that many itineraries just wouldn't have time to visit. For instance, we discover the Art Deco city of Napier; arty, bohemian Nelson and Wellington, the nation's capital.**

**The tour is leisurely paced with plenty of free time to explore as you please, and truly does provide you with the Very Best of New Zealand.**





Bay of Islands

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

#### **Milford Sound overnight cruise**



An unforgettable overnight cruise on breath-taking Milford Sound is included in your holiday with Distant Journeys.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### **Flights with leading scheduled airlines**

- ✓ Return economy class flights with Qantas / Emirates
- ✓ Depart from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow at no additional cost
- ✓ Alternatively fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow - again at no additional cost
- ✓ Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available (subject to availability) for a supplement

### **Great choice of included stopovers**

- ✓ Your choice of two night outbound stopover in Singapore, Dubai or Bangkok depending on your choice of airline
- ✓ Your stopover includes airport transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a sightseeing tour

### **Carefully selected hotels**

- ✓ Superior hotels in great locations, as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ Overnight accommodation on-board the Milford Mariner

### **Many meals included**

- ✓ Daily breakfast included, worth £397pp
- ✓ Maori Hangi dinner in Rotorua
- ✓ Dinner on-board the Milford Mariner

### **Unforgettable experiences included**

- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Singapore, Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- ✓ 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands
- ✓ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- ✓ Maori concert
- ✓ Maori village visit at Wairakei Terraces

### **We include even more**

- ✓ Services of an experienced local Coach Captain
- ✓ All hotel portorage
- ✓ All overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
- ✓ All airport charges, security charges and applicable fuel surcharges
- ✓ UK Air Passenger Duty
- ✓ No surcharge guarantee
- ✓ ATOL protection for your holiday

# THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Christchurch - Dunedin



Moeraki Boulders, Dunedin



Clock tower, Dunedin

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas / Emirates, at no extra cost: London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow.

*In-flight meals and drinks included*

## Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Depending on the airline you choose, some flights to Singapore travel via Dubai. Arrive into the wonderful city of Singapore and transfer to the four star Copthorne Kings Hotel, situated in an enviable position close to the banks of the Singapore River.

*In-flight meals and drinks included*

## Alternative Stopover - Dubai or Bangkok

We have based days 2 - 4 of this itinerary on flights with Qantas / Emirates and a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may choose to stop in Bangkok or Dubai at the same price. Alternatively you may choose to travel with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. Your included stopover with Singapore Airlines will be Singapore.

All stopovers include transfers to and from the hotel, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings vary dependent on your choice of stopover. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details.

## Day 3: Singapore

Known as 'the crossroads of Asia', Singapore is a city where east meets west; a cosmopolitan melting pot with an inspirational identity. This morning, enjoy a tour of this wonderful city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park with impressive views of Marina Bay. See the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple and the fabulous orchid gardens set within Singapore's botanical gardens. Return to the hotel where the rest of our day is free to spend as we please.

*Breakfast included*

## Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles.

*Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included*

## Day 5: Christchurch, 1 night

We change aircraft in Australia, and on arrival into Christchurch we board our waiting coach and transfer to the Heartland Hotel Cotswold, where we spend our first night in New Zealand.

*In-flight meals and drinks included*

## Day 6: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning we start the day with a short sight-seeing tour of Christchurch before travelling south to Dunedin. We stop at Hampden Beach to witness the geological curiosities known as the Moeraki Boulders, huge spherical boulders which are scattered along the beach, whilst others can be seen emerging from the sandstone cliffs. Each boulder weighs several tonnes and is up

to two metres in diameter. According to Maori legend, the boulders are gourds washed ashore from the great voyaging canoe Araiteuru when it was wrecked upon landfall in New Zealand hundreds of years ago. Scientists explain the boulders as calcite concretions formed about 65 million years ago. The soft mudstone containing the boulders was raised from the seabed around 15 million years ago and waves, wind and rain are excavating them one by one. Known as the 'Edinburgh of the South', Dunedin is South Island's second largest city and is considered New Zealand's architectural heritage capital, with its lovingly restored Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

Our next two nights are spent at the Distinction Hotel Dunedin, conveniently located close to the Octagon.

*Breakfast included*

## Day 7: Dunedin

Enjoy a city sightseeing tour this morning travelling past Otago University, New Zealand's first university. Our sightseeing also takes in the city's neo-Gothic churches, town hall, opulent theatres, and other 19th century buildings. We have time to admire the beautifully landscaped trees and plants of Dunedin Botanical Gardens and the spectacular views of the Otago Peninsula and Harbour before we return to our hotel. Our afternoon is at leisure to spend as we please.

*Breakfast included*

# THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

Days 8 to 13: Milford Sound - Queenstown - Franz Josef



TSS Earnslaw, Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown



Queenstown

## Day 8: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Milford Sound, Overnight



Today we visit the magnificence of Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound. The scenic drive takes us through Te Anau, and a variety of landscapes – farmland, native tussock grasslands, lush beech forests and impressive glacial valleys – before arriving at Milford Sound. In the height of summer Milford Sound attracts thousands of tourists each day; but when the day ends, visitors depart and a silence descends. Distant Journeys have included an overnight cruise along Milford Sound, undoubtedly a once in a lifetime experience. On board the wonderful Milford Mariner we cruise the full length of New Zealand's most spectacular fiord to the Tasman Sea, before anchoring for the night in a sheltered cove. Our night aboard Milford Mariner will be a truly memorable experience, with nature guides on hand to assist, and the option to go exploring in the tender craft or kayaks, or simply relax on deck. After the day's activities, enjoy a sumptuous evening buffet in the spacious dining saloon before retiring to your private cabin with en-suite facilities.  
**Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 9: Queenstown, 3 nights

After a truly wonderful experience as well as a hot breakfast, it's time to make our way back to the jetty ready for the next part of our journey, to the cosmopolitan city of Queenstown, where we will spend three nights at the four star Millennium Hotel. It's situated only a short walk from the centre of town, so you may wish to explore with an early evening stroll.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 10: Queenstown

Queenstown shoulders Lake Wakatipu, creating an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lakefront and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. This morning we take a tour to visit nearby Lake Hayes and on to the historic mining town of Arrowtown. The heart of its history is Buckingham Street, a procession of small town heritage buildings that stretch into a tree lined avenue of tiny miners' cottages. There are a number of quaint tea rooms with tempting cream teas that you don't want to miss out on. Our afternoon has been left at leisure, giving thrill-seekers a chance to try the Shotover Jet – an exhilarating boat ride amongst the crags and boulders of the Shotover River canyon. The wine lovers amongst us, may wish to follow Queenstown's wine trail – an enjoyable afternoon of wine tasting and sightseeing.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Queenstown Freedom Day

Today has been left free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand's most glamorous alpine resort. For a fabulous view across the lake to the Remarkables, why not take a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak? There is also an opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise, at an additional cost, across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. The cruise includes a visit to Walter Peak Homestead and a sheep shearing show, before returning to Queenstown aboard Earnslaw.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 12: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Incredible scenery today as we travel via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. We make our way through New Zealand's Central Otago region, along the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea. We will also travel along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built – crossing the Haast River Bridge and via Clark Bluff. Later in the afternoon we reach Franz Josef in the Westland National Park. Our next two nights are at the Franz Josef Glacier Hotel.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 13: Franz Josef Freedom Day

Today is left completely free to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef. For those that so wish, we shall drive to the Franz Josef Glacier terminal where we will have the opportunity to walk to view the glacier. Weather permitting we may also take an optional scenic flight, which is at an additional cost, over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region.

**Breakfast included**

# THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

Days 14 to 20: Nelson - Wellington - Napier - Rotorua



Abel Tasman National Park



Wine tasting in Napier

## Day 14: Nelson, 2 nights

Journey north this morning along the Heritage Highway, passing Lakes Lanthe and Mapourika as we leave Westland National Park. Our travels continue northbound taking us via Hokitika and Hari Hari travelling alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. We also visit Punakaki (Pancake Rocks), an incredible maze of limestone rocks with booming blowholes stacked high above the sea; before arriving in Nelson where our next two nights are at the Nelson Rutherford Hotel.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 15: Nelson Freedom Day

Nelson is a delight for explorers on foot. Scattered throughout the city are art galleries and workshops, historic buildings and street-side cafés. Today has been left as a Freedom Day so you can spend it any way you choose. Perhaps consider a trip to Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand's smallest national park, blessed with golden beaches, sculptured granite cliffs, and its world-famous coast track.

A cruise along the coast will take you to the very best scenery this region has to offer. Alternatively, you may wish to take a tour of some of the region's wonderful wineries.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 16: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning we leave South Island in our wake as we board the ferry for our inter-island cruise to New Zealand's North Island. During the cruise, enjoy spectacular views as we depart Queen Charlotte Sound. With the possibility of birds and dolphins following, we make

our way across the Cook Strait to Wellington. Upon arrival we re-join our coach and make our way to Wellington, where the remainder of our day is at leisure. Our next two nights are spent at the Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 17: Wellington

Wellington is compact, cultured and full of character. Its interesting and varied architecture provides the ideal starting point for our orientation tour this morning. We visit Wellington's administrative area, taking in Parliament House, 'the Beehive' - you'll understand the name when you see it - and the government buildings. We then continue to the top of Mount Victoria for the finest view of the city and its picturesque harbour. Your afternoon is at leisure - a visit to Te Papa museum is highly recommended, as it offers a fascinating insight into New Zealand's rich history and cultural heritage. Alternatively, ride a cable car to Wellington's beautiful botanical gardens.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 18: Napier, 2 nights

This morning our journey continues north via Hastings and the Kapiti coast as we make our way to our final destination, the Art Deco city of Napier, located in an area dominated by orchards and vineyards. Our next two evenings are spent at the delightful Scenic Hotel Te Pania, superbly situated on Napier's sea front.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 19: Napier Freedom Day

Today is yours to spend as you please. Napier's city centre has the feeling of a time capsule - the seamless line of 1930s

architecture is quite extraordinary. One of the ways to enjoy the streetscape is on a self-guided tour. Alternatively visit one or more of the local wineries on a tour to some of New Zealand's finest vineyards - Pinot Gris and Syrah are the region's signature wines.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 20: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Rotorua, 2 nights and Maori Hangi



Today we make our way along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. Visit the impressive Huka Falls where the Waikato River suddenly narrows to a chasm less than 15 metres across and heaves its vast bulk over an 11-metre ledge to boil furiously in a deep semi circular basin below. We continue to Wairakei Terraces, where we visit a Maori village. Our Maori guides walk with us through the geothermal and Maori cultural walkway, recounting stories of their history and guiding us around the varied art forms found in the village. Rotorua is the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and this evening we attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance - The Haka. Also included is a Hangi buffet dinner, cooked using traditional Maori methods.

**Breakfast and dinner included**

# THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

Days 21 to 26: Rotorua - Bay of Islands - Auckland



Auckland Harbour



Waitakere, Auckland

## Day 21: Rotorua

Sightseeing this morning takes us via Rotorua's famous Bath House, a Tudor style building within the Government Gardens. We continue to Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools. Our afternoon is at leisure to relax. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane flight over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps an afternoon enjoying the healing properties of the thermal pools at the nearby Polynesian Spa may be more appealing?

**Breakfast included**

## Day 22: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We travel north this morning via Auckland as we make our way to the pale sands and turquoise waters of the Bay of Islands, and the pretty seaside town of Paihia where the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands will be our home for the next three nights.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 23: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Bay of Islands cruise



Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this tour is a cruise around the Bay of Islands, as in our opinion, there's no better way to see this picturesque part of New Zealand. You'll cruise via Red Head Passage to Cape Brett and Piercy Island and on to

the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-fishing spots it's not uncommon to see schools of fish and dolphins. The return trip includes a visit to historic Russell. It's hard to believe that this quaint township was once known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific'. As the afternoon has been left free, you have an excellent opportunity to take an optional visit to the grounds of the Waitangi National Reserve. It was here in 1840 that the British and Maori chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 24: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Today you'll have a full day at leisure, allowing you to do the things that really interest you. For example, there is the opportunity to join a fantastic optional trip to Cape Reinga. It's a full-day excursion which visits the northern tip of New Zealand. Not only is this area the place where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean, but it holds a special significance in Maori tradition as the place where Maori spirits return to their traditional homeland, Hawaiki-A-Nui, via the roots of a lone - and still standing - 800 year old pohutukawa tree. Other standout locations during the tour include the Te Paki sand dunes and a drive along Ninety Mile Beach, passing some magnificent scenery along the coast.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 25: Auckland, 2 nights

After breakfast this morning, we leave The Bay of Islands. On the drive to the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, we pass rolling hills dotted with dairy farms which give way to lush forest the closer we get to the reserve. There's chance to marvel at the gigantic kauri tree Tane Mahuta, or 'Lord of the Forest.' From here, we cross the impressive Waitemata Harbour Bridge and head in to Auckland, and the Scenic Hotel Auckland, where our last two nights of this guided tour of New Zealand will be spent.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 26: Auckland

Start the morning with an orientation tour of the city. Auckland has a beautiful waterside setting, with a modern skyline standing out against a backdrop of volcanic hills. As part of the tour, we'll drive along the famous Waitemata Harbour. You'll be able to see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, which although it's in the distance, dominates the horizon. The stylish Viaduct Harbour is another stop on the tour, which has played host to many America's Cup celebrations. As the afternoon has been left free for you to enjoy however you'd like, why not take in the panoramic views from the top of the Sky Tower? As you'd expect from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, the views truly are break-taking.

**Breakfast included**

# THE VERY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND (REVERSE)

Days 27 to 28: Auckland - UK



Enjoy a warm Maori welcome in Rotorua

## Day 27: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Auckland Airport. Our flights to our chosen airport operate via Sydney and Dubai or Singapore.

**Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 28: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our arrival into London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow.

**In-flight drinks and breakfast included**

## Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining the Wonders of Australia or Very Best of Australia tours with The Very Best of New Zealand tour makes perfect sense. Please see the combination tour pages for more details.

## HOMEBOUND STOPOVERS

If you would like to break your journey on the way home, we have a selection of fabulous stopovers for you to choose from: Singapore, Sydney, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bali or alternatively, enjoy a stay in Dubai, leaving a relatively short flight back to the UK.

### Dubai - 5\* Marriott al Jaddaf

Two nights from only £295PP

### Hong Kong - 4\* Regal Kowloon

Two nights from only £345PP

### Bangkok - 4\* Amari Watergate Hotel

Two nights from only £195PP

### Singapore - 4\* Copthorne Kings Hotel

Two nights from only £245PP

### Bali - 4\* Melia Bali

Three nights from only £395PP

### Sydney - 4\* North Sydney Harbourview

Three nights from only £495PP





Milford Sound

## DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES

### 2018 DEPARTURES

09 October 2018	£5,195 PER PERSON
31 October 2018*	£5,395 PER PERSON

### 2019 DEPARTURES

04 January 2019	£5,495 PER PERSON
25 January 2019*	£5,495 PER PERSON
20 February 2019	£5,395 PER PERSON

*\*These departure dates are in reverse, beginning in Auckland and finishing in Christchurch. All hotels and experiences are the same as featured in this brochure.*

### Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

### Supplements

Single supplement £1,895.

### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling in economy class, £1,950 per person if travelling in premium economy, and £3,750 per person for business class.

### Homebound stopovers

Homebound stopovers are available on all dates. If flying with Singapore Airlines, your stopover will be Singapore. If flying with Qantas / Emirates, your choices are Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bali, Sydney or Dubai.

The stopovers may be on special offer – please call our travel experts for the most up to date prices and offers.

### Alternative hotels

Please note, the 9th October 2018 and 20th February 2019 departures stay at the Copthorne Hotel in Queenstown. The 31st October 2018 and 25th January 2019 departures will stay at the Grand Millennium Hotel in Auckland and the Copthorne Waitangi in the Bay of Islands.

### Terms and conditions

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest fare booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.