



The Very Best of New Zealand

28 days from only £4,495 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; as well as arty, bohemian Nelson.

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

Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- ◆ Return economy class flights
- ◆ Fly with Qantas / Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow
- ◆ Alternatively fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester
- ◆ All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- ◆ UK Air Passenger Duty

Choice of outbound stopover

- ◆ Two-night outbound stopover; choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (dependent on choice of airline)

Carefully selected hotels

- ◆ Superior hotels in great locations
- ◆ All hotel portorage
- ◆ Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £367 per person
- ◆ Dinner in Rotorua

Unforgettable experiences

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- ◆ 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands
- ◆ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- ◆ Maori concert
- ◆ Morning cruise on Milford Sound

On the ground

- ◆ Services of an experienced Coach Captain
- ◆ All overseas transfers
- ◆ Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- ◆ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- ◆ Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 104-107.



② = Number of nights



The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Auckland – Bay of Islands - Rotorua

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas / Emirates. Choose from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Flights from London Heathrow may travel direct to Singapore. All UK regional flights will 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 a stopover in Singapore. If you are flying with Qantas / Emirates, you may choose to stop in Bangkok or Dubai for the same price. Your stopover includes transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings will vary. Please speak with one of our personal 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, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

We change aircraft in Australia (Singapore Airlines passengers will fly direct to Auckland). On arrival into Auckland we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time in New Zealand. Transfer to the centrally located Grand Millennium Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Auckland

This morning, we take an orientation tour of the city. Known as the 'City of Sails', Auckland is New Zealand's most populous city, with a beautiful waterside setting and a landscape dotted with volcanic hills. We drive along the stunning coastline of the famous Waitemata Harbour. In the distance see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, dominating the horizon. We continue to the stylish Viaduct Harbour, host to many America's Cup celebrations. Your afternoon is free to enjoy as you please. Perhaps take a trip to the top of Sky Tower; the panoramic views from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere are truly breath-taking. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

Our travels today commence with a drive over the impressive Waitemata Harbour Bridge. Journey past dairy farms and rolling hills as we make our way north. We continue to the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, where we stop to view the gigantic Kauri tree Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest.' We then travel across country to the beautiful Bay of Islands and our home for the next three nights, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, located in the picturesque seaside town of Paihia. **Breakfast included**



Day 8: Bay of Islands

Tour Highlight

Visiting this stunning area wouldn't be complete without a cruise around the Bay of Islands, no doubt one of your tour highlights. 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 grounds dolphins and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our return trip visits historic Russell, once known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific', but now a peaceful and picturesque township. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity (at an additional cost) to visit the grounds of the Waitangi National Reserve where, in 1840, the British and Maori chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Although our day has been left at leisure, we have the opportunity to join a fantastic optional trip to Cape Reinga. This full day excursion visits the northern tip of New Zealand, where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean. The area holds special spiritual significance in Maori tradition, as the place where Maori spirits return to their traditional homeland, Hawaiiiki-A-Nui, via the roots of a lone (and still standing) 800 year old pohutukawa tree. Highlights of today's tour include magnificent coastal landscapes, the Te Pahi sand dunes and a drive along Ninety Mile Beach. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Cape Reinga

Take a tour to Cape Reinga, at the top of North Island, where the Pacific and Tasman meet, followed by a drive along Ninety Mile Beach.



Day 10: Rotorua, 2 nights

We travel south this morning via Auckland as we make our way to the world-famous thermal region of Rotorua. The next two nights are spent at the four star Millennium Rotorua, superbly situated close to the shores of beautiful Lake Rotorua. Rotorua is the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and this evening, at our hotel, 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**

Day 11: 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. Your 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**



The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 12 to 17: Napier - Wellington - Nelson - Franz Josef

Day 12: Napier, Overnight

This morning 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. Our destination today is the Art Deco city of Napier, located in an area dominated by orchards and vineyards. Take time this afternoon to explore the city. The seamless line of 1930s architecture is quite extraordinary and one of the best ways to experience the town is on a self-guided walk. We stay overnight at the delightful Scenic Hotel Te Pania, superbly situated on Napier's sea front. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning our journey continues south via Hastings and the Kapiti Coast as we make our way to Wellington, New Zealand's capital. Upon arrival we make our way to Wellington's Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, where our evening is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: 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 15: Nelson, 2 nights

This morning we leave North Island in our wake as we board the ferry for our inter-island cruise to New Zealand's South Island. During the cruise, enjoy spectacular views as we approach Queen Charlotte Sound. With the possibility of birds and dolphins following, we make our way across the Cook Strait to Picton. Upon arrival we re-join our coach and make our way to Nelson where the remainder of our day is at leisure. Our next two nights are spent at the Rutherford Hotel Nelson. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Nelson Freedom Day

Nelson is a delight for explorers on foot. Scattered throughout the city are art galleries and workshops, historic buildings and street 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 to some of the region's wonderful wineries. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Journey south this morning along the Heritage Highway to the rugged west coast. Visit Punakaiki (Pancake Rocks), an incredible maze of limestone rocks with booming blow-holes stacked high above the sea. Our travels continue southbound taking us via Hokitika and Hari Hari travelling alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. Just a few miles further south we pass Lakes Ianthe and Mapourika before reaching Franz Josef and entering the Westland National Park. Our next two nights are at the Scenic Franz Josef Glacier Hotel. **Breakfast included**





The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 18 to 21: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Te Anau

Day 18: 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 (at an additional cost) over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

Enjoy an optional helicopter flight over awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier.



Day 19: Queenstown, 2 nights

Incredible scenery today as we travel across the Haast River Bridge and via Clark Bluff along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built. Travel along the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea as we enter New Zealand's Central Otago region. We continue via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. Later in the afternoon we reach beautiful, cosmopolitan Queenstown, and our home for the next two nights, the four star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: 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 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**

We recommend

Queenstown TSS Earnslaw

Enjoy a cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw, including a sheep shearing show at Walter Peak homestead.



Day 21: Te Anau, 2 nights

This morning we take a tour to visit the nearby 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. Be sure to try a cream tea in one of the quaint tea rooms. Later on, we depart through high country landscapes and trout fishing rivers and travel onwards to the shores of Lake Te Anau, the biggest of South Island's many lakes. We stay the next two nights at either the Distinction Luxmore Hotel or Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

From the moment I phoned and booked until departure, we received excellent and first class service from the office in Ormskirk. Nothing was too small or too large to deal with, they were superb.

Mr & Mrs Lamb, Cumbria





The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 22 to 26: Milford Sound - Te Anau - Dunedin - Christchurch

Day 22: Milford Sound Cruise

Tour Highlight

An early start this morning as we embark on a stunning scenic drive into the heart of Fiordland National Park to join our morning cruise on spectacular Milford Sound. By choosing to cruise early in the morning, we will experience a quieter environment in which to enjoy all the wonders this beautiful fiord has to offer. See towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic and much photographed Mitre Peak, that rises more than a kilometre straight out of the sea. Waterfalls cascade into the fiord and luxuriant rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Later we return to Te Anau where there is time to enjoy the delights of this quaint township. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning after a hearty breakfast we say goodbye to Fiordland. A morning drive takes us via Mossburn and Lumsden to Gore. Fresh, green farm scenery will accompany us to Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge. Milton is the last sizeable settlement before we reach Dunedin. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 24: Dunedin

Enjoy a city sightseeing tour this morning travelling past Otago University, New Zealand's first. 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**

Day 25: Christchurch, 2 nights

This morning, our travels take us north once more. 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. Later in the day we arrive at the Distinction Hotel Christchurch for our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

Day 26: Christchurch

Considered the most English of New Zealand's cities, today in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, Christchurch is in the midst of an epic rebuild that has completely reconstructed the city centre. This morning we take a tour to see what this exciting developing city has to offer. We start our day with a visit to the Sign of the Takahe, an historical building on the edge of the city before continuing to view the key landmarks of the city centre, including the transitional 'Cardboard Cathedral'. From here we take a visit to the Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1863 with the planting of an English oak tree, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens contain an impressive array of flora and fauna. Our afternoon is at leisure to continue exploring this delightful city. **Breakfast included**





The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 27 to 28: Christchurch - UK

Day 27: Depart Christchurch

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Christchurch Airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Australia and Dubai if travelling with Qantas / Emirates, or via Singapore if travelling with Singapore Airlines. **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 pages 86-89 for more details.

Homebound stopovers from £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from the captivating Asian cities of Singapore, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stay in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover package includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast. Please see pages 98-99 for more details.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person

To take in the magic, mystery and culture of Arabia perhaps consider a stopover in Dubai, home to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person

The Far East's number one stopover destination. Be sure to take in a Victoria Harbour cruise and indulge yourselves in the very best street markets, vibrant shops and excellent dining.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person

Why not consider a stopover in Bangkok, with its glittering temples, buzzing street markets, indulgent spas and graceful service?

Singapore - Two nights from £245 per person

Possibly a two night break in the Lion City of Singapore might be on your wish list? A former British trading colony, Singapore perfectly blends ancient eastern with modern western cultures.

Bali - Three nights from £395 per person

For a truly relaxing homeward stopover, a stay in this beachside resort with its large private pool and many on-site dining options, is a must.





Departure Dates & Prices

2019 Departures

09 October 2019*	£5,195 per person
31 October 2019	£5,395 per person
10 December 2019^	£5,495 per person

2020 Departures

02 January 2020	£5,495 per person
22 January 2020*	£5,495 per person
13 February 2020	£5,495 per person
04 March 2020*	£5,395 per person
30 April 2020	£4,495 per person

Prices

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

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £1,795
Single occupancy supplement 30 April 2020, £1,495

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

Homebound stopovers

Extend your holiday with a stopover on the return journey. Prices from £195 per person. Stopovers may be on special offer, please call for details.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to Premium Economy on selected routes from £1,495 per person. Upgrade to Business Class from £3,755 per person.

Christmas departure^

The Christmas and New Year tour includes Christmas dinner in Nelson and a celebratory dinner on New Year's Eve in the Bay of Islands. Please call for details on this altered itinerary.

Important information

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

To enter Australia, British Citizens require an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). Our processing fee is £25 per person and will be added to your confirmation invoice.

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

Full booking conditions are available on pages 104-107.

To book, call us on 01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

