



## Your holiday includes

### Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow
- Alternatively fly with Qantas/Emirates from London Heathrow, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. A supplement of £395 per person will apply
- 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
- Lunch 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 204-207.

# The Very Best of New Zealand

29 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.





Cardboard Cathedral, Christchurch



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore



Milford Sound

# The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Christchurch - Dunedin - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow with award-winning Singapore Airlines. Alternatively, you may choose to fly via Amsterdam with KLM/Singapore Airlines from Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds Bradford, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow at no additional cost.

**In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

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 airline and stopovers

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on flights with Singapore Airlines and a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may fly with Qantas / Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, for a supplement of £395 per person. If you are flying with Qantas / Emirates, you have the added stopover options of Bangkok or Dubai. Flight timings and routes 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast included**

## Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 5: Christchurch, 2 nights

On arrival into Christchurch we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time in New Zealand. Transfer to the centrally located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand.

**In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 6: 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**

## Day 7: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our journey south towards 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 uncovering them one by one. Our next two nights are spent at the Distinction Hotel Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

## Day 8: Dunedin

This Morning, we enjoy a sightseeing tour taking 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 9: Te Anau, 2 nights

This morning we say goodbye to Dunedin and begin our journey to Te Anau. Our journey takes us via Milton and Balclutha, with its distinctive arched concrete bridge before continuing through fresh, green farm scenery into Gore. We travel via Lumsden and Mossburn before arriving in Fiordland and the shores of Lake Te Anau, the biggest of South Island's many lakes. We stay the next two nights at the Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

## Day 10: Milford Sound Cruise

### Tour Highlight

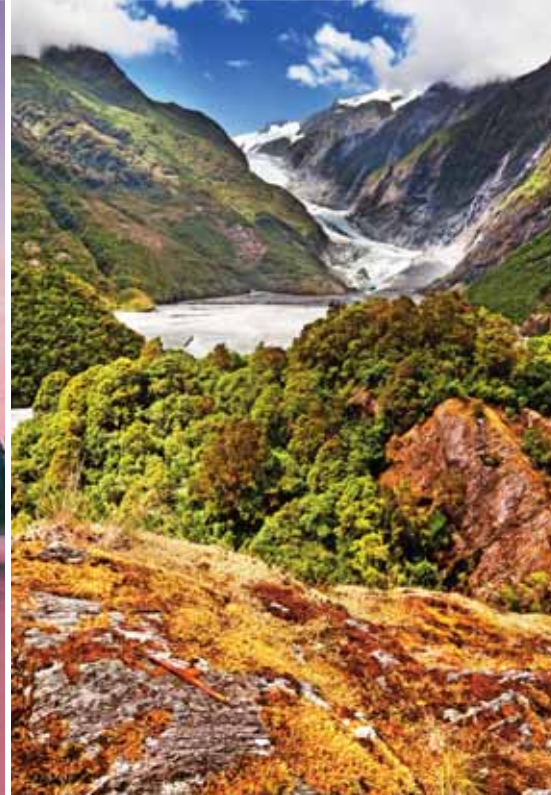
An early start this morning as we embark on a stunning scenic drive into the heart of Fiordland National Park to join our morning cruise on spectacular Milford Sound. By choosing to cruise early in the morning, we will experience a quieter environment in which to enjoy all the wonders this beautiful fiord has to offer. See towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic and much photographed Mitre Peak, rising 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 11: Queenstown, 3 nights

This morning, we depart through high country landscapes as we travel 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. Be sure to try a cream tea in one of the quaint tea rooms. We journey on to nearby Queenstown, and our home for the next three nights, the four star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown



Franz Josef Glacier



Vineyard, Queenstown

# The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Queenstown - Franz Josef - Nelson

### Day 12: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lake front and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. 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 relaxing experience, follow Queenstown's wine trail, an enjoyable day excursion of wine tasting and sightseeing. 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**

### Day 13: Queenstown Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day to enjoy in this wonderful alpine setting. The thrill seekers amongst us may wish to try the Shotover Jet – an exhilarating boat ride amongst the crags and boulders of the Shotover River canyon. For a more serene experience maybe stroll by the lakeside or take a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for a magnificent panoramic view of Queenstown. **Breakfast included**

### Day 14: 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. Later in the afternoon we reach Franz Josef in the Westland National Park. Our next two nights are at the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. **Breakfast included**

### Day 15: 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**

### We recommend

#### Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

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



### Day 16: Nelson, 2 nights

Journey north this morning along the Heritage Highway, passing Lakes Mapourika and Ianthe as we leave Westland National Park. Our travels continue northbound taking us via Hari Hari and Hokitika, travelling alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. We 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 Rutherford Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Cable Car, Wellington



Maori Culture

# The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 17 to 23: Nelson - Wellington - Napier - Rotorua - Bay of Islands

## Day 17: 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 to visit some of the region's wonderful wineries. **Breakfast included**

## Day 18: 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 19: 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 20: Napier, Overnight

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

## Day 21: Rotorua, 2 nights

Today we make our way along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. We 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 Rotorua, which is at the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture, and enjoy a lunch inspired by traditional Maori cooking. Following lunch, we explore Te Puia, Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools, before attending a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance – The Haka. After a wonderful day soaking up traditional Maori culture, we head to the Millennium Hotel for a two night stay. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 22: Rotorua Freedom Day

A day at leisure in Rotorua. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane flight over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings may be more appealing? **Breakfast included**

## Day 23: 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. In the pretty seaside town of Paihia, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands will be our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

*All contact was polite, friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. We were made to feel confident in our choice of holiday and could relax as everything was taken care of. We would definitely recommend them and hope to use them in the future.*

Mr & Mrs Buck, West Yorkshire



Abel Tasman National Park



Auckland



Dolphins, Bay of Islands

# The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 24 to 29: Bay of Islands - Auckland - UK

## Day 24: Bay of Islands cruise

### Tour Highlight

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 area of New Zealand. You'll cruise via Red Head Passage to Cape Brett and Piery Island and on to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-sea fishing waters 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 25: 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 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 26: 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 into Auckland and the Grand Millennium Hotel for our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

## Day 27: 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. Stop at the stylish Viaduct Harbour, which has played host to many America's Cup celebrations. As the afternoon has been left free for you to enjoy however you would like, why not take in the panoramic views from the top of the Sky Tower? As you would expect from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, the views truly are breathtaking. **Breakfast included**

## Day 28: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Christchurch Airport. Our flights to London Heathrow or Manchester travel via Singapore. If flying to Birmingham, Leeds Bradford, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, flights will also travel via Amsterdam. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 29: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport, bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Please see overleaf for departure dates & prices.

### 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 tour with The Very Best of New Zealand tour makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 82-89 for more details.



Bay of Islands



Sentosa Island



Maori carving



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

## Stopovers & Special Stays

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Your stopover options are dependent on your choice of airline. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

**Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person**  
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

**Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person**  
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

**Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person**  
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets, and a mix of Chinese and colonial culture.

**Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person**  
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

**Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person**  
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

**Bali - Three nights from £445 per person**  
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

If flying with Singapore Airlines, your homebound stopover choices are Singapore or Sentosa Island. If choosing to fly with Qantas/Emirates (at a supplement of £395 per person), your homebound stopover choices are Singapore, Sentosa Island, Hong Kong, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 190-193 for more details on homebound stopovers.



## Indulge in a Special Stay



If you are celebrating a special occasion or you would simply like to treat yourself, then our Special Stays offer a unique experience in some of the world's finest hotels.

**Raffles Hotel, Singapore**  
**Two nights from £795 per person**  
An iconic hotel, steeped in history, Raffles is a famous landmark in the heart of Singapore. Price includes a two night stay, daily breakfast, transfers and afternoon tea.

**Peninsula Hotel, Hong Kong**  
**Two nights from £595 per person**  
Considered the Grande Dame of the Far East, the Peninsula has been entertaining guests since 1928. Price includes a two night stay, daily breakfast, transfers and their classic afternoon tea.

**Ritz Carlton, Al Wadi Desert, Dubai**  
**Two nights from £895 per person**  
Inspired by Bedouin architecture, experience a different Dubai amid the beauty of the desert. Price includes a two night stay, transfers and half board.

Please see pages 194-195 for more information on Special Stays.

## Departure Dates & Prices

### 2020 Departures

13 October 2020	£5,395 per person
03 November 2020	£5,495 per person

### 2021 Departures

05 January 2021	£5,495 per person
19 January 2021	£5,495 per person
16 February 2021	£5,495 per person
16 March 2021	£5,495 per person
20 April 2021	£4,495 per person

### Prices

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

### Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £1,895  
Single occupancy supplement 20 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 £1,795 per person. Upgrade to Business Class from £3,995 per person.

### Travel times

For information on daily travel timings, please refer to the relevant itinerary on our website.

### Visa information

Travellers to New Zealand are required to obtain a visa (NZETA). For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 200-203.

### 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.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 204-207.

## Call to book

Our award-winning team of travel experts is happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

### 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](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)

