



Magnificent New Zealand

24 days from only £4,995 per person

New Zealand is like no other place on earth – packed full of amazing and diverse landscapes. New Zealand’s North Island is dominated by ancient volcanoes, stunning coastal scenery and pristine beaches.

South Island possesses high mountain peaks, deep fiords, lush rainforests and magnificent glaciers.

Distant Journeys’ leisurely itinerary visits all the must-see attractions during our comprehensive 24 day tour. We explore the country’s breathtaking scenery, vibrant cities and rich Maori culture – and experience an unforgettable cruise along spectacular Milford Sound.

Our itinerary operates at a leisurely tempo and allows plenty of Freedom Days to fully explore each area at your own pace.



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 on certain days of the week
 - Domestic flight within New Zealand
 - 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 £357 per person
 - Dinner in Rotorua

- Unforgettable experiences**
- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
 - ‘Hole in the Rock’ cruise in the Bay of Islands
 - Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
 - Maori concert
 - Scenic rail journey on board the TranzAlpine
 - Morning cruise on Milford Sound

- On the ground**
- Services of experienced Coach Captains
 - All overseas transfers
 - Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

- 100% confidence**
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
 - Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
 - Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 132-135.



Auckland



Maori carving



TranzAlpine

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 1 to 13: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Christchurch - Franz Josef

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. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. 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

Arrive into the island city of Singapore and transfer to the four star M Hotel Singapore. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopovers: Dubai or Bangkok

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. Should you prefer, you may choose to stop in Bangkok or Dubai for the same price if flying with Qantas & Emirates. Your stopover includes transfers, 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles Hotel. **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: Auckland, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, flights will transit in Australia. On arrival into Auckland we transfer to the centrally located Grand Millennium Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. At the hotel, we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time on New Zealand's North Island. **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. Our afternoon is free for us to enjoy as we please. Perhaps take a trip to the top of Sky Tower; the panoramic views from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere are truly breathtaking. **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 Piery Island and on to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-sea fishing grounds dolphins and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our return trip travels via historic Russell once known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific', but now a peaceful and picturesque township. There is an opportunity to disembark for those that wish, returning to Paihia independently by purchasing a ticket for the public ferry. 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, Hawaiki-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**

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. 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 buffet dinner. The next two nights are spent at the four star Distinction Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Rotorua

Our 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 visiting the world-renowned Polynesian Thermal Pools for a soak in their therapeutic geothermal waters. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning we make our way to Auckland Airport for our flight to Christchurch. We meet our South Island Coach Captain and enjoy a brief orientation tour, before arriving at the centrally located Distinction Hotel, Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast we transfer to Christchurch railway station in plenty of time to catch the TranzAlpine, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. Cross the fertile farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, and enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River. We climb the mighty Southern Alps, where at every turn, spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape take our breath away. At Arthur's Pass we join our waiting coach to make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps through thick native beech forest. Our travels continue southbound taking us alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. Just a few miles further south we pass Lakes lanthe and Mapourika before entering the Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound



Dunedin



Queenstown

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 14 to 22: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Christchurch

Day 14: Franz Josef Freedom Day

Today is left completely free to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef. For those that so wish, we shall drive into the valley of Franz Josef Glacier, where we will have the opportunity to walk through the rainforest and enjoy views of the steep glacial valley. 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 15: Queenstown, 3 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 three nights, the four star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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. Afterwards, 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. Enjoy the next two nights at the Distinction Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: 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 ample time to enjoy the delights of this quaint township. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning 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. 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. On arrival, 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 reach our hotel, the Distinction Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Dunedin Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as we please. Perhaps join an Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour - the perfect optional excursion for nature lovers. The tour includes an Otago Harbour cruise to Taiaroa Head, home of the world's only mainland nesting place of the Royal Albatross, and a visit to Penguin Place, a private conservation reserve for the endangered Yellow Eyed Penguin. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Christchurch, Overnight

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 uncovering them one by one. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streets. Later in the day we arrive at the Distinction Hotel, Christchurch for our final night in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**



Moeraki Boulders



Maori boat



Bangkok

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 23 to 24: Christchurch - UK

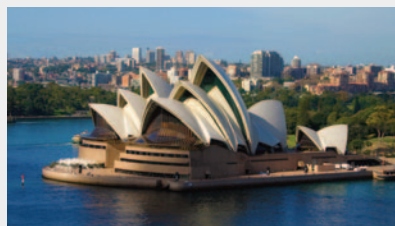
Day 23: Depart Christchurch

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Christchurch Airport. Dependent on your choice of airline your flight will either connect via Australia and Dubai, if flying with Qantas & Emirates, or Singapore if your chosen airline is Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our arrival, bringing to an end our Magnificent New Zealand tour. **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 Magnificent New Zealand tour with one of our Australia tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 106-115 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bangkok, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

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.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £495 per person

A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £495 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 travelling with Qantas & Emirates your homebound stopover choices are Singapore, Sentosa Island, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 126-127 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2023 Departures

03 November 2023 **£5,595** per person

2024 Departures

19 January 2024 **£5,745** per person

16 February 2024 **£5,595** per person

15 March 2024 **£5,545** per person

19 April 2024 **£4,995** per person

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,445.

19 April 2024 £1,145.

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 £2,295 per person return.

Upgrade to Business Class from £4,995 per person return.

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 130-131.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

Call to book

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

Call FREE on 0800 141 3745

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

Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

