



Natural Wonders of New Zealand

24 days from only £5,795 per person

Out of all the many reasons to visit New Zealand, surely the most compelling is to experience its natural beauty and unique environment. New Zealand's remoteness and relatively small population means so many of its landscapes are unspoilt, its air is crystal-clear, and its wildlife is diverse and plentiful.

Our Natural Wonders of New Zealand tour showcases the diversity of both North and South Islands, with a focus on exploration that celebrates New Zealand's stunning surroundings. We cruise the sheltered waters of the Bay of Islands, traverse the Southern Alps on board the TranzAlpine railway, walk sections of the celebrated Milford and Kepler Tracks and hope to encounter whales, dolphins, seals and a host of birdlife.

Freedom Days allow you to pursue interests of your choosing, and there is also a choice of included activities in several places we visit; whether it be kayaking on a stunning lake in Franz Josef, exploring Rotorua's boiling geothermal geysers or walking through ancient rainforest with a Maori guide. To fully appreciate natural beauty of New Zealand, many places are only accessible on foot, meaning this itinerary is perfect for keen walkers and those who like to keep active.



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 £354 per person
- Barbecue lunch in the Bay of Islands
- Dinner in Rotorua

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- Wildlife cruise in the Hauraki Gulf, Auckland
- Cruise and visit to Urupukapuka Island, Bay of Islands
- Maori concert, Wai-O-Tapu & Wairakei Terraces in Rotorua
- Scenic rail journey on board the TranzAlpine
- Cruise or kayak beautiful Lake Mapourika
- Guided nature walks on the Milford and Kepler Tracks
- Milford Sound cruise
- Wildlife on the Otago Peninsula

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.



Whirinaki Rainforest



Tiritiri Matangi Island



Otehei Bay, Bay of Islands

Natural Wonders 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. 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 vibrant city of Singapore and transfer to the four star M Hotel Singapore. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopovers:

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 and will be advised at the time of booking.

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: Auckland, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, flights will transit in Australia. On arrival into Auckland we transfer to the centrally located Airedale Boutique Suites, 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's Hauraki Gulf

On our first morning in Aotearoa (New Zealand), we enjoy a short walk from the hotel through Queen Street to the Harbour, a great way to experience the bustling atmosphere of New Zealand's largest city. Once at the harbour, we set sail on a fabulous wildlife cruise. The Hauraki Gulf is abundant with a diverse array of marine wildlife, including whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and a variety of interesting birdlife. During our cruise we learn about the fascinating history of the land and sea surrounding Auckland and its original inhabitants, the Maori tribe, Tamaki Makaurau.

Alternatively, for those who are interested in New Zealand's birdlife, you may instead choose to visit the nearby island of Tiritiri Matangi, one of New Zealand's most successful conservation projects. The wildlife on this spectacular island sanctuary includes precious populations of kokako, tieke and tuatara. We join a guided tour to learn about the fascinating wildlife and flora of the region, whilst hopefully spotting some of the rare birds found on the island. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

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

Day 8: Bay of Islands Tour Highlight

Visiting this stunning area would not be complete without a cruise around the Bay of Islands, no doubt one of your tour highlights. After a leisurely breakfast, we board our catamaran for a fabulous cruise, via Red Head Passage, Cape Brett and Piercy Island, to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous sheltered waters whales, dolphins, seals and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our cruise continues to the scenic Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island, where we enjoy a barbecue lunch. Our afternoon is at leisure with the opportunity to explore the island on one of the numerous walking tracks and learn about the restoration project for the island's natural ecosystem. The island is teeming with birdlife and incredible views. Alternatively, you may prefer to enjoy a swim in the bay or relax on the beach. Later, we return to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch 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, Hawaiiki-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. The next two nights are spent at the four star Distinction Hotel Rotorua. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Rotorua

This morning, there is a choice of activities for you to enjoy. Rotorua is well known for its spectacular geothermal activity and our first option is to join an excursion to Wai-O-Tapu, considered to be New Zealand's most colourful and diverse geothermal wonder. Sculptured by volcanic activity and thousands of years in the making, we view spouting geysers, steaming vents, boiling lakes, bubbling mud pools and colourful sinter terraces. Following a visit to spectacular Huka Falls and Lake Taupo, we travel to the Wairakei Terraces, where we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the mineral-rich, naturally-heated thermal pools. We complete our day with a visit to the National Kiwi Hatchery where we learn about the conservation project and the unique kiwi.

Alternatively, for an additional £75 per person, you may prefer to join a cultural walking tour in the Whirinaki Ancient Rainforest. To the Tangata Whenua, the area's original inhabitants, the rainforest was a pharmacy, a supermarket and an abundant source of building materials. During a comfortable four hour walk, our Maori guide, who is a descendent of the Tangata Whenua, will share their intimate knowledge of the forest. Learn about kai (food), rongoa (medicine plants) and tikanga (protocols and traditions) and the lives of those who once dwelled within the magical Whirinaki. No matter which option you chose, it will be a day packed with exciting experiences. **Breakfast included**



Rainforest Walk, Franz Josef



Kiwi chick



Lake Mapourika, Franz Josef

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Christchurch - Franz Josef - Queenstown

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning we make our way to Auckland Airport for our flight to Christchurch. Enjoy a brief sightseeing tour, prior to our arrival 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 Express, 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 will take our breath away. At Arthur's Pass we join our waiting coach to make the spectacular descent to 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 reaching Franz Josef and entering the Westland National Park. Our next two nights are spent at the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Franz Josef

Following breakfast, we discover the immense beauty of New Zealand's West Coast and one of the region's true gems - Lake Mapourika. We explore the lake's spectacular beauty with either a scenic cruise or a guided kayak tour. The Jurassic rainforest-fringed shoreline is a landscape photographer's dream, with spectacular panoramic views of glaciers and the Southern Alps. As we navigate the lake, keep watch for curious native birdlife, and we may spot one of the region's legendary locals - the White Heron. In the afternoon, 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 helicopter flight (at an additional cost) over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Queenstown, 2 nights

Enjoy 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 Heritage Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. 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 for an enjoyable day of wine tasting and sightseeing, or take leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. For something a little more adventurous, a jet boat ride along the glacier-fed Dart River or a four-wheel drive adventure along the famous Skippers Road may be appealing. **Breakfast included**



Kepler Track, Te Anau



Milford Sound



Allans Beach, Otago Peninsula, Dunedin

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 17 to 22: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Otago Peninsula - Christchurch

Day 17: Te Anau, 3 nights

This morning we tour 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 lakeside town of Te Anau, gateway to the spectacular Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound and the beginning of our next adventure. For those that wish there is the opportunity (at an additional cost), to visit the magical glow-worm caves. We stay the next three nights at the Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Milford Track & Milford Sound Tour Highlight

This morning, we embark on a stunning scenic drive into the heart of Fiordland National Park, encountering soaring cliffs, ancient rainforest, vast lakes and snowy mountains. Keen walkers may be familiar with the Milford Track, at 32-miles long, it is New Zealand's most-famous walking trail. Today, we enjoy a six mile walk along a section of the Milford Track, in the company of an expert nature guide, who will point out unique native fauna and flora whilst sharing fascinating stories about the rich history of the area. Later, we embark our fabulous cruise on Milford Sound. Witness towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic and much-photographed Mitre Peak, rising more than a kilometre from the sea. Waterfalls cascade into the fiord and luxuriant rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Later we return to Te Anau to relax and savour the day's experiences. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: The Kepler Track Tour Highlight

The Kepler Track showcases the best of the Fiordland region, and today we can choose one of the following options to experience a section of this beautiful track. The first option begins with a jet boat ride along the majestic Waiau River. At Lake Manapouri we join a 3 1/2 mile nature walk along part of the picturesque Kepler Track to Rainbow Reach. Our expert guide will share incredible insights and lead us through the native forest, and tree-lined beaches of this well-maintained (and mostly flat) trail. Keen ramblers have the opportunity to extend this walk by a further six miles.

Our second option today, is available at an additional cost of £195 per person, and begins with a spectacular helicopter flight from Te Anau, over hidden lakes and beech forest to Mount Luxmore. Accompanied by our knowledgeable nature guide, we learn about the area's flora and fauna. Enjoy the panoramic views of the Te Anau basin, its scenic lakes and the surrounding Fiordland mountains as we descend a well-formed section of the Kepler Track. After approximately four miles, we arrive at Brod Bay, where our awaiting boat will take us across the lake to the town of Te Anau.

Whichever option you choose today, you will have experienced of one of New Zealand's greatest walking routes. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: 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. 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 before we reach our hotel, the Southern Cross Hotel, our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Otago Peninsula

A morning at leisure to spend as we please. In the afternoon we travel across the beautiful Otago Peninsula to visit the Royal Albatross Colony. We visit The Observatory, where, from behind tinted glass, we look out over the nesting sites. Watch as the parent birds interact with their chicks and soar around the headland. We then visit a yellow-eyed penguin breeding area before walking through regenerated native bushland and hidden trenches to special viewing hides which are scattered throughout the reserve. From here we have a great opportunity to see the world's rarest and most endangered penguin. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Christchurch, Overnight

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 in Christchurch for our final night in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**



Sandfly Point, Milford Track



Royal Albatross, Otago Peninsula



Lake Mapourika, Franz Josef

Natural Wonders of 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 drinks and meals included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

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

Please call us 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

27 October 2023 **£5,995** per person

2024 Departures

12 January 2024 **£6,245** per person

09 February 2024* **£6,095** per person

08 March 2024 **£6,095** per person

12 April 2024 **£5,795** per person

* The TranzAlpine does not operate on this departure. Instead the scenic journey will be made by coach.

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,395.

12 April 2024 £1,295.

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

