



# New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

27 days from only £5,995 per person

New Zealand is a land of unique beauty and distinctive landscapes, whose two main islands offer sub-tropical rainforest and unspoilt beaches, ancient volcanoes and geothermal geysers, rolling pastoral scenery, rugged mountain ranges and fathomless fiords.

Distant Journeys' touring holidays are always conducted at a leisurely pace, and our 27-day itinerary offers the ultimate in relaxed travel; a tour of both North and South Islands including three wonderfully scenic rail journeys.

Travel on the Northern Explorer from Hamilton to Wellington, through the Tongariro National Park; on South Island we board KiwiRail's Coastal Pacific to journey from Picton to Christchurch, and finally we enjoy one of the world's great rail journeys from Christchurch to Greymouth via the Southern Alps, on board the TranzAlpine.

Each rail journey offers stunning scenery at every turn, so sit back, relax and take in New Zealand's magnificent landscapes from the comfort of your seat on this fabulous touring holiday.



## 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
- 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 £387 per person
- Dinner in Rotorua
- Barbecue lunch at Walter Peak, Queenstown

### Incredible rail journeys

- The Northern Explorer
- The Coastal Pacific
- The TranzAlpine

### 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
- Cruise the Cook Strait
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Cruise on Milford Sound

### On the ground

- Services of an experienced Tour Manager and 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.





Northern Explorer



Tane Mahuta

# New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands

## 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 wonderful 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. **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

For those flying with Qantas & Emirates, there is a change of aircraft in Australia. If travelling with Singapore Airlines, the flight is direct to Auckland. On arrival, we are transferred to the centrally located Sudima Auckland City Hotel for the first two nights of our New Zealand adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 6: Auckland

This morning we explore Auckland, taking in the natural beauty of Waitemata Harbour and the numerous volcanic hills dotting the landscape. We also visit fashionable Parnell Village, and bustling Viaduct Harbour area with its many waterside bars and restaurants. The remainder of our day is free to relax or further explore Auckland. A trip to enjoy the views of Auckland and its harbour from the top of the southern hemisphere's tallest building, Sky Tower, is highly recommended. **Breakfast included**

## Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We journey north from Auckland, crossing the city's imposing Waitemata Harbour Bridge, into a landscape of rolling hills and farmland. In the afternoon we explore Northland's Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, home to gigantic kauri trees, the most famous of which is Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest'. A stop is made in Omapere, where the panoramic views of the spectacular sand dunes and Tasman Sea are truly magnificent. Our journey ends in Paihia, gateway to the Bay of Islands, and our next three nights at either the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands. **Breakfast included**



Auckland





Pohutu Geyser, Rotorua



New Zealand Fern



Coastal Pacific

# New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 8 to 16: Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Wellington - Christchurch - Franz Josef

## Day 8: Bay of Islands

### Tour Highlight

This morning we board our catamaran as we go in search of dolphins which inhabit the deep-sea fishing grounds around the Bay of Islands. We explore the spectacular scenery of Red Head Passage, Cape Brett and Piercy Island before our skipper safely navigates through the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. On the return journey, there's an opportunity to purchase a public ferry ticket and visit the picturesque township of Russell to learn more about its history as a lawless trading centre of the 19th century. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity to visit Waitangi National Reserve, where Maori and British chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty in 1840, is a fascinating way to spend a few hours. **Breakfast included**

## Day 9: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Our day has been left at leisure to further explore the beautiful Bay of Islands. For many this provides a great opportunity to visit New Zealand's northern tip at Cape Reinga, where the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea collide. This fabulous full day excursion also includes a journey along Ninety Mile Beach in a custom-built coach that moves effortlessly over the terrain of sandy beaches, rugged roads and quicksand streams. **Breakfast included**

## We recommend

### Cape Reinga

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



## Day 10: Rotorua, 2 nights

A full day travelling from the Bay of Islands to Rotorua, the centre of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and renowned for its geothermal landscapes. 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

This morning we tour some of Rotorua's most famous sights, including its tudor-inspired Bath House. We explore Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve and its spouting geysers, bubbling mud pools and hissing fumaroles. During our free afternoon you may wish to take a scenic flight over Mount Tarawera or visit the world-renowned Polynesian Thermal Pools. **Breakfast included**

## Day 12: Wellington, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

Departing Rotorua, we cross the Mamaku Ranges and arrive into Hamilton where we board the Northern Explorer for our rail journey to Wellington. We view spectacular scenery through our carriage's panoramic windows, including rocky coastlines, river gorges, dense forest, rolling green farmland, quaint towns and the spectacular peaks of Tongariro National Park. We also experience an amazing feat of railway engineering as we wind our way through the Raurimu Spiral. We arrive into Wellington early in the evening and transfer to the Rydges Hotel, for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

## Day 13: Wellington

Wellington is New Zealand's capital city, beautifully located within a hook-shaped harbour and surrounded by mountains. The city's downtown area is relatively compact, making it easy to explore its many theatres, galleries and museums on foot. This morning's orientation tour features the key sights within the city, such as the government buildings and Parliament House, as well as enjoying wonderful views of the city and its picturesque harbour from the top of Mount Victoria. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity to explore Wellington further. A visit to Te Papa (New Zealand's national museum) is highly recommended. **Breakfast included**

## Day 14: Christchurch, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

We leave Wellington this morning and board our ferry, and cruise across the Cook Strait to New Zealand's South Island. Dolphins and sea birds can often be seen playing in the waters, and the scenery is truly magnificent as we enter Queen Charlotte Sound and reach South Island. In Picton, we board KiwiRail's Coastal Pacific train, and from the comfort of our reclining seats, we are in prime position to view lush native bush, soaring mountains, pretty coastal towns and the roaring Pacific Ocean, as we wind our way along this truly stunning coastline. On arrival in Christchurch, we transfer to the Distinction Hotel Christchurch, located in the heart of the city, for a two night stay. **Breakfast included**

## Day 15: Christchurch

This morning, we discover Christchurch on an orientation tour, and witness its remarkable development since its devastating earthquake in 2011. Later we journey to the Waipara Valley, whose warm and dry summers, followed by cool autumn nights, make this region perfect for growing olives, lavender, hazelnuts and grapes. We explore this pretty area and sample its cool climate wines during a tasting and lunch in one of its wineries. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 16: Franz Josef, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we experience South Island's striking natural landscapes in all their glory as we journey between Christchurch and Greymouth on the TranzAlpine. Considered to be one of the greatest rail journeys in the world, we cross the patchwork fields of the Canterbury Plains, travel the edges of the ice-fed Waimakariri River, view miles of native beech forest and traverse the Southern Alps. Leaving the epic backdrop of the Southern Alps in our wake, we arrive into Greymouth on the west coast, where our coach will be waiting to take us to Shantytown Heritage Park, to learn more about the area's gold rush in the late 1800's. We continue south to Westland National Park, and the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier, which will be our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

## We recommend

### Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

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







TSS Earnslaw



Milford Sound



Otago Peninsula

# New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 17 to 25: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Christchurch

## Day 17: Franz Josef

A relaxing day to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef and the surrounding area at our leisure. Our Tour Manager will arrange a journey to Franz Josef Glacier, where those who wish may take a short stroll through rainforest to view the glacial valley. For those who want to experience a spectacular aerial view of the glacial valley and the nearby Alpine peaks, there is an opportunity to take an optional scenic helicopter flight. Timings of the helicopter flights are flexible to allow for the best weather conditions and visibility.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 18: Queenstown, 4 nights

South Island's spectacular scenery never fails to impress. Today's journey takes us over the Haast River Bridge and onwards via Clark Bluff and the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, to the Central Otago region. In the late afternoon, we arrive into Queenstown, situated within one of the most naturally stunning landscapes of New Zealand, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by incredible mountains. Our next four nights are spent at the conveniently located Copthorne Lakefront Hotel. **Breakfast included**

## Day 19: Queenstown

This morning, we visit nearby Arrowtown, a picturesque town which has lovingly preserved its heritage of two very different goldrush communities – Chinese and European. It's a lovely place to explore on foot, with a well-preserved avenue lined with galleries, craft shops and cafes. We return to Queenstown and join the iconic TSS Earnslaw for a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm. Overlooking Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown's alpine landscapes, Walter Peak is a wonderful place to enjoy a barbecue lunch within the homestead's sweeping lakeside grounds. On returning to Queenstown, the remainder of our day is at leisure. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 20: Milford Sound

### Tour Highlight

This morning we take a scenic journey to Fiordland National Park for what will undoubtedly be one of the tour's main highlights. The pot of gold at the end of the Milford Highway is the incredible Milford Sound, where we enjoy a breathtaking cruise. The scale of Milford's glacier-carved scenery may only be appreciated from the water, where cruise ships and kayakers are dwarfed by towering peaks rising from the glittering water. The focal point for so many photographs is Mitre Peak, arguably the most dramatic mountain to appear from the fiord's indigo waters. When the rain falls, dozens of waterfalls cascade into the calm waters below. There is also a good chance of sighting dolphins, fur seals and penguins. We return to Queenstown later this afternoon. **Breakfast included**

## Day 21: Queenstown Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to enjoy our glamorous alpine setting as we please. From gentle wine-tasting tours in Central Otago to incredible walking trails, exhilarating jet boat rides and four-wheel drive excursions, there are so many ways to enjoy Queenstown's beautiful scenery. Whatever you choose to do – enjoy! **Breakfast included**

## Day 22: Dunedin, 2 nights

After a hearty breakfast, we say goodbye to Queenstown. Enjoy wonderful scenery today as we travel through the Central Otago region, often referred to as New Zealand's fruit bowl, with its many orchards and fruit plantations lining the hillsides. Our journey takes us via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994, and the former gold-mining settlements of Cromwell and Roxburgh. Later in the afternoon, we arrive at Dunedin, considered the country's architectural heritage capital, thanks to its lovingly restored Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Enjoy two nights at the Scenic Hotel Southern Cross. **Breakfast included**

## Day 23: 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 then visit Otago Peninsula for a wildlife cruise. Enjoy uninterrupted views of the world's only mainland colony of royal albatross. We may also encounter sea lions, blue penguins and Hector's dolphins. We return to Dunedin in the afternoon and the remainder of the day is ours to spend as we please. **Breakfast included**

## Day 24: Christchurch, 2 nights

The final part of our journey in New Zealand takes us north as we return to Christchurch. A stop is made in Moeraki to view a collection of huge spherical boulders which are scattered along a beautiful stretch of beach. Maori legend says that the boulders are gourds washed ashore from a voyaging canoe called Araiteuri that was wrecked when it made landfall a long time ago. Scientists have discovered the boulders are actually calcite concretions, created about 65 million years ago, which have been raised from the seabed and uncovered one by one by the elements. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streets. We arrive at the Distinction Hotel in Christchurch, where we spend our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

## Day 25: Christchurch Freedom Day

A free day to spend as we please. Christchurch is a lovely city to discover, with the Riverside Markets, Christchurch Botanic Gardens and many galleries and cafes within easy strolling distance. Alternatively, an excursion to the nearby historic village of Akaroa is highly recommended. The scenic journey takes us via the stunning Banks Peninsula to the former French settlement of Akaroa, with its harbourside streets lined with arts and craft stores. We join a nature cruise around the harbour which features majestic scenery and an opportunity to discover the rare and playful Hector's dolphins, native fur seals, penguins and many seabirds. **Breakfast included**

### We recommend

#### The charming township of Akaroa

Cruise the fertile waters in search of Hector's dolphins and enjoy lunch by the popular waterfront .







Maori greeting



Bangkok



Singapore

# New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 26 to 27: Christchurch - UK

## Day 26: Depart Christchurch

We depart New Zealand for our journey home. All flights will require a connection en-route to the UK, which will be dependent on your choice of airline, stopover, flight availability and your preferred UK airport. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 27: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our UK arrival, bringing to an end our New Zealand adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining the New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea 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

22 October 2023	£6,395 per person
12 November 2023	£6,395 per person
17 December 2023*	£6,895 per person

## 2024 Departures

07 January 2024	£6,495 per person
28 January 2024	£6,495 per person
18 February 2024	£6,395 per person
03 March 2024	£6,395 per person
14 April 2024	£5,995 per person

\* This departure operating over Christmas and New Year, is a slightly altered itinerary and includes a celebratory meal on Christmas Day. Please call for details.

## Prices

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

## Single occupancy supplement

£1,595.

14 April 2024 £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 £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

