



The Very Best of New Zealand

28 days from only £5,595 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. Arguably the highlight of the tour is an unforgettable morning cruise on Milford Sound.

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 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 portage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £408 per person
- Dinner in Te Anau
- Lunch in Rotorua

Unforgettable experiences

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

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 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.



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo



Lambs



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 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

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

Day 5: Christchurch, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, flights will transit in Australia. The Singapore Airlines flight is direct from Singapore. On arrival into Christchurch we transfer to the centrally located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, 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 throughout 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 and continue to view the key landmarks of the city centre. From here we visit 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. Our first stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand’s best preserved Victorian streets. Later, we visit 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, Overnight

We say goodbye to Dunedin this morning. We drive through Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge and pass through fresh, green farm scenery as we continue through Gore and Lumsden to Te Anau, the largest of South Island’s many lakes. After checking in to the Distinction Hotel and Villas our afternoon and evening are free to spend as we please in this pretty lakeside setting. Perhaps take a scenic walk to Te Anau Bird Sanctuary to discover some of the country’s fascinating species, such as the flightless takahe, the kaka and the morepork. Alternatively, you may wish to take this opportunity to enjoy a short screening of ‘Ata Whenua’ or Shadowland, which perfectly showcases the exhilarating and utterly stunning scenery of Fiordland, or explore the beautiful limestone passages of Te Anau glow worm caves. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Milford Sound & Queenstown, 3 nights Tour Highlight

Today is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour as we enjoy a morning cruise on spectacular Milford Sound. It’s an early start as we journey along the Milford Highway, stunning scenery surrounding us, into the heart of Fiordland National Park where we board our vessel. Cruising in the peaceful stillness of the morning allows us to truly appreciate the beauty of Milford Sound, where towering cliffs and peaks rise from the sparkling waters. The most-photographed of these is mighty Mitre Peak, soaring more than a kilometre straight out of the sea.

Waterfalls cascade into the calm waters of the fiord and lush rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Milford Sound is also a haven for wildlife, with sightings of dolphins, fur seals and penguins always possible, as well as a myriad of bird life. After a truly memorable experience, we travel through high country landscapes and trout fishing rivers to Queenstown. Our home for the next three nights is the four-star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Queenstown

This morning, we visit 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. Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lakefront and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. The afternoon has been left free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand’s most glamorous alpine resort. There is 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**



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown



Franz Josef Glacier

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Queenstown - Franz Josef - Nelson

Day 12: 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. Alternatively, follow Queenstown's wine trail, an enjoyable day excursion of wine tasting and sightseeing. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: 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 Hawea and Wanaka. 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 home for the next two nights is the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. **Breakfast included**

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: 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 and the Rutherford Hotel. **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-side cafés. On our Freedom Day, 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 award-winning wineries. **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 Distant Journeys and hope to use them in the future.

Mr & Mrs Buck, West Yorkshire



Abel Tasman National Park



Wellington



Napier



Bay of Islands

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 17 to 26: Wellington - Napier - Rotorua - Bay of Islands - Auckland

Day 17: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning we journey from Nelson to Picton, and in the afternoon 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 the Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, where we spend the next two nights.

Breakfast included

Day 18: 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 will 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. Our 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 19: Napier, Overnight

This morning our journey continues north via the Kapiti coast and Hastings 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 20: 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, the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture. We arrive at the Distinction Hotel where we stay for two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Rotorua Day

This morning, we explore some of Rotorua's most famous sights, including its tudor-inspired bath house. We continue to Te Puia, home to Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, to view its spouting geysers, bubbling mud pools and hissing fumaroles. We enjoy a lunch inspired by traditional Maori methods and attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance - The Haka. During our free afternoon you may wish to take a scenic flight over Mount Tarawera or visit the Polynesian Thermal Pools. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 22: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We travel north this morning, 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 or Copthorne Hotel will be our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Bay of Islands cruise

Tour Highlight

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of our 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. We 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-sea fishing waters it's not uncommon to see dolphins and schools of fish. The return trip travels via 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, we 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 24: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Today we 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 also 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 25: 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. Be prepared 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 26: 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. We are able to see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, which dominates the horizon. Visit the stylish Viaduct Harbour, which has played host to many America's Cup celebrations. As the afternoon has been left free for us to enjoy however we 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 are truly breathtaking. **Breakfast included**



Sentosa Island



Maori carving



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 27 to 28: Auckland - UK

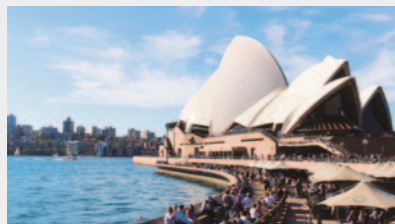
Day 27: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Auckland 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 28: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport, bringing to an end our incredible 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 a tour of Australia with The Very Best of New Zealand tour 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

08 October 2023	£5,995 per person
29 October 2023	£5,995 per person

2024 Departures

07 January 2024	£6,195 per person
28 January 2024	£6,195 per person
11 February 2024	£6,095 per person
10 March 2024	£6,095 per person
28 April 2024	£5,595 per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,695.

28 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

