

Grand Pacific 19 Day Ultimate Rail, Coach & Cruise

Experience the romance of rail travel, the majesty of cruising and the luxury of coach on this all-inclusive small group holiday. Includes an overnight cruise in Doubtful Sound and two nights in the Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Wellington, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch.

**** Note for those travelling on 16th March, 15th April and 5th May 2027 departures: As the TranzAlpine Train is not operating on the noted tour departure dates, a reduction for the missed inclusion will be applied at the time of final payment, in case scheduling changes. The above also applies for the Coastal Pacific Train, which will not be operating on 24th April and 5th May 2027 departures. ****



Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 19days / 18nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

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| Includes: All coach transport | Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations |
| Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring | Included: Coastal Pacific Train |
| Included: Professional Coach Captain | Included: Complimentary pre-dinner welcome drink |
| Included: Wellington Cable Car | Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds |
| Included: Visit National Kiwi Hatchery | Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm |
| Included: TranzAlpine Train | Included: Te Puia traditional Maori hangi & concert |
| Included: Te Puia geothermal valley | Included: Te Papa Museum of New Zealand |
| Included: Rotorua Skyline Gondola and Luge Ride | Included: Larnach Castle |
| Included: Lakes District Museum | Included: International Antarctic Centre |
| Included: Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise | Included: Cruise to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock, Bay of Islands |
| Included: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry | Included: Christchurch Tram |
| : 18 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 10 dinners, 3 special dinners | |

Day 1



On arrival into Auckland you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink as you meet your travelling companions.

Staying in Hotel Crowne Plaza Auckland

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Nestled in the vibrant heart of downtown Auckland, Crowne Plaza Auckland offers a truly magnificent experience infused with kiwi charm. Explore the enchanting 'city of sails' from the inside out thanks to the great location. After an exciting day of sightseeing, retreat to the comfort of your spacious room, meticulously designed to cater for the modern traveller.

Day 2

Board the luxurious Ultimate Coach and enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakoho to enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the Treaty between the indigenous Māori tribes and the British settlers.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights)

- 4 Star Accommodation

Any time of year is ideal for escaping to the Bay of Islands in the 'Winterless North', and this property, situated at the entrance to the seaside town of Paihia, is the perfect resort-style retreat.

The island-influenced architecture with expansive sub-tropical gardens, water features, extensive guest facilities and easy walking access to Paihia's main local attractions makes this 4-star Hotel a standout.

Day 3

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

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Day 4

This morning you will explore the scenic beauty of the Bay of Islands. Cruise to Cape Brett and the famous 'Hole in the Rock', keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. On return to Paihia, travel south, returning to Auckland. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

Staying in Hotel Crowne Plaza Auckland

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

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Day 5

This morning travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train including a delightful morning tea. Depart Glenbrook and travel through the magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit the National Kiwi Hatchery, where you'll learn about Kiwi, their native environment and what makes them truly iconic the world over.

Staying in Hotel Regent of Rotorua (2 nights)

- 5 Star Accommodation

The Regent of Rotorua is an exquisitely designed oasis of understated elegance located in the Rotorua city centre, featuring contemporary decor with a touch of opulence. The rooms offer a taste of glamour including king beds, leather headboards, sumptuous linens and down pillows/duvet.

Day 6

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua where spectacular views are on offer. There is also time for a thrilling luge ride! Enjoy some leisure time in the geothermal capital before travelling to Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Māori Hāngi and Concert.

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Day 7

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and then continue south to NZ's capital city, Wellington.

Staying in Hotel InterContinental Wellington (2 nights)

- 5 Star Accommodation

Adjacent to Wellington's waterfront, InterContinental Wellington is the most centrally located and experienced global five-star hotel in New Zealand's capital city. It is the seamless and personal service of the team that makes your Wellington accommodation and travel experience truly memorable. In your room you will enjoy an enriching stay featuring walk-in showers, with handheld and rain shower heads, digital lighting controls and much more. Feel rejuvenated in the morning after a tranquil night's sleep on your king bed inspired to uncover the New Zealand capital.

Day 8

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your Ultimate Coach for an extensive city tour. This afternoon ride the Wellington Cable Car to Kelburn Station where you can explore the Cable Car Museum or stroll through the Botanic Gardens. This evening is at leisure.

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Day 9

This morning board the Interislander Ferry and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that follows a thin wedge of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Kaikōura Ranges. Meet your Ultimate Coach in the fishing village of Kaikōura for the journey to the garden city of Christchurch.

Staying in Hotel The George (2 nights)

- 5 Star Accommodation

The George Christchurch typifies luxury at every level. Located in the heart of Christchurch and within close proximity to the picturesque Hagley Park and River Avon. The only luxury 5-star boutique hotel in Christchurch with a one-to-one staff to guest ratio, guaranteeing impeccable service. The modern, soothing and relaxing rooms provide everything for a memorable visit with sumptuously comfortable beds and furnishings, elegant white tiled bathrooms, generous toiletries, and room amenities to ensure you will have the most blissfully comfortable stay.

Day 10

Today visit the International Antarctic Centre designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This is followed by an introductory city tour of Christchurch. This afternoon includes a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at your leisure. This evening is free to enjoy one of the many eateries near your hotel.

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Day 11

This morning board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your Ultimate Coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before continuing via Franz Josef to the township of Fox Glacier where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Staying in Hotel Te Weheka Retreat

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Nestled beneath the towering Southern Alps on the stunning West Coast of New Zealand sits the Te Weheka Retreat offering luxurious hotel accommodation in one of the world's most ruggedly beautiful environments. Te Weheka Retreat's rooms are beautifully appointed. They feature their own private balcony, luxurious bedroom and lounge area and spacious ensuite bathroom with a separate shower and bath. Escape into the peaceful ambiance of your spacious room and breathe in the fresh alpine air from your own balcony.

Day 12

See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south along the West Coast. Continue via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving at Arrowtown to visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue to picturesque Queenstown, a year-round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free, and you may choose to dine out at one of the many fine restaurants.

Staying in Hotel Rendezvous Heritage Queenstown (2 nights)

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Queenstown, New Zealand's mountain playground, is one of the great alpine regions of the world and the charming Rendezvous Heritage Queenstown Hotel calls this place home - the resort offers a hotel experience certain to leave you breathless.

Set on the scenic slopes of Ben Lomond Mountain, Rendezvous Heritage Hotel Queenstown offers an alpine charm. Crafted from centuries-old schist stone and cedar, this comfortable and sophisticated Queenstown hotel is the perfect place to relax.

Unwind in a room where timeless charm meets contemporary comfort with all the essentials thoughtfully considered making every stay feel effortlessly relaxed.

Day 13

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown with many optional activities available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner featuring a menu of seasonal, fresh and locally sourced food at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown.

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Day 14

Today travel to Manapouri. Enjoy lunch as you cruise across this glacial lake. A short ride over the Wilmot Pass brings you to the boarding point to join the Fiordland Navigator for an amazing overnight experience. As you cruise through the pristine beauty of Doubtful Sound, naturalist guides will provide commentary and point out the resident wildlife. There are opportunities to explore the shoreline by tender boat or kayak (swimwear required) - or to simply relax on board. When evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared by the onboard chef.

Staying in Overnight Fiordland Navigator

- Doubtful Sound is unspoiled, unmatched and unforgettable. You will create some lifelong memories as the Fiordland Navigator takes you through the ultimate Doubtful Sound experience. As you cruise through some of NZ's most stunning scenery, knowledgeable nature guides will provide commentary. There are opportunities to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender boat – or to simply relax on board. As evening falls, you will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner prepared by the onboard chef and served in the dining saloon. Mingle with fellow travellers, savour some of the fine wines and if the skies are clear, enjoy some stargazing. The next day explore other parts of the fiord.
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Day 15

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back to Deep Cove for the trip to Manapouri. Return to the wharf and meet your Ultimate Coach for the journey to Te Anau where you will enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

Staying in Hotel Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

- 4 Star Accommodation

Surrounded by extensive, colourful gardens and a short stroll to the spectacular Lake Te Anau, this elegant 4 star hotel and villa accommodation sets the tone for your stay in one of the world's most breathtaking regions. You will stay in a spacious and superbly appointed room.

Day 16

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, famous for its stunning Edwardian and Victorian architecture dating back to the gold rush of the 1800s. Enjoy a city tour of New Zealand's oldest university city.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Dunedin Hotel (2 nights)

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

2024 Travellers Choice Winner and ranked in the top 20 of all hotels in NZ on TripAdvisor. The Distinction Dunedin Hotel is elegant,

luxurious and located in the rejuvenated and vibrant Warehouse Precinct in the heart of the city. The ideal combination of style and functionality. These air-conditioned Dunedin Studios offer a cloud-like super king bed and modern ensuite bathroom with a luxurious dual fixture walk-in rain shower plus complimentary Distinction toiletries.

Day 17

Travel along the picturesque Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle. On a guided tour you will hear the tragic and scandalous tales which make up the castle's history. Indulge in an Ultimate High Tea served in the Grand Ballroom, followed by time to stroll through this Garden of International Significance. Return to Dunedin for some free time. Optional activities to consider include a wildlife excursion to observe animals in their natural habitat or a guided tour of Olveston Historic Home, containing a wealth of treasures from a bygone era. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Dunedin Hotel

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

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Day 18

This morning travel to the city of Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue north to Pleasant Point Museum and Railway for a short rail experience followed by lunch and time to explore the preserved heritage of the South Canterbury railway. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with selected beverages and your newfound friends.

Staying in Hotel The George or similar

- 5 Star Accommodation

The George Christchurch typifies luxury at every level. Located in the heart of Christchurch and within close proximity to the picturesque Hagley Park and River Avon. The only luxury 5-star boutique hotel in Christchurch with a one-to-one staff to guest ratio, guaranteeing impeccable service. The modern, soothing and relaxing rooms provide everything for a memorable visit with sumptuously comfortable beds and furnishings, elegant white tiled bathrooms, generous toiletries, and room amenities to ensure you will have the most blissfully comfortable stay.

Day 19

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts: Auckland
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 19
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary