

Grand Pacific 19 Day Ultimate Showcase

Discover the "must-see attractions" of New Zealand's North and South Islands on this small group holiday. Experience a blend of culture and cosmopolitan living in the North, then be in awe of the majestic beauty of the South. Visit some lesser-known regions such as the Art Deco city of Napier and the wine-producing region of the Wairarapa as well as the popular TranzAlpine, Milford Sound and other locations of interest.

**** Note for those travelling on 13th May and 14th October 2026, and 3rd 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. ****

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:

- Includes: All coach transport
- Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
- Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Included: TranzAlpine Train
- Included: Te Puia geothermal valley
- Included: Rotorua Skyline Gondola and Luge Ride
- Included: Larnach Castle
- Included: Kauri Museum
- Included: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Included: Agrodome
- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Included: Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm
- Included: Te Puia traditional Maori hangi & concert
- Included: Te Papa Museum of New Zealand
- Included: Milford Sound Cruise & Lunch
- Included: Lakes District Museum
- Included: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Included: City sights tours
- : 18 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 11 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, depart Auckland and travel to Matakoho for a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British.

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 at leisure, 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 including an island visit. 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 via Whangarei before returning to Auckland. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

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Day 5

This morning embark on a city sights tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails'. Depart Auckland and travel through the picturesque countryside to Hobbiton for a buffet lunch. A guided tour of the 12-acre set, will take you past whimsical Hobbit Holes, the Mill and into the Green Dragon Inn. You can now venture beyond the door and into an authentic Hobbit Hole interior for a fully immersive experience.

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! Next stop is Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time this afternoon 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

Depart Rotorua and travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Huka Falls and Lake Taupo. Continue to Napier known as 'The Art Deco Capital', where the most comprehensive collection of art deco buildings in the world can be found. Board the Hawke's Bay Express and hear informative commentary on the city's fascinating history. Enjoy some free time this afternoon to explore the city.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Te Pania

- 4 Star Accommodation

Hawke's Bay is one of the first places in the world to see the light each day and the Scenic Hotel Te Pania is one of the most recognisable hotels in Napier, boasting design awards for its style and service, situated on the premium waterfront location on Marine Parade. The hotel's slender curved form echoes the shape of the bay. A fresh, contemporary style hotel that is only a short stroll from Napier's main art deco style street and is located in close proximity to many of Napier's attractions.

Day 8

Travel south this morning into Wellington for a city tour of the nation's capital which will highlight the history and culture on show here. At Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, there is time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances.

Staying in Hotel InterContinental Wellington

- 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 9

This morning board the Interislander Ferry and experience the comfort and intimate setting of the Premium Lounge. Enjoy breakfast as you travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Board your Ultimate Coach for the southbound journey along the rugged coastline, offering breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, to Kaikōura.

Staying in Hotel Sudima Kaikōura

- 5 Star Accommodation

The Kaikōura District has the most breath-taking scenery in the country with a stunning coastline, a dramatic peninsula and some of the South Island's highest mountains. With its superb location on the shoreline, Sudima Kaikōura is a short walk from the town's centre. This state-of-the-art new waterfront hotel has outstanding facilities. As always, you can expect that special Sudima service. They take care of the little things, so you're all ready for a big day – of sightseeing.

Day 10

This morning enjoy a leisurely start in this seaside village, where the mountains meet the sea. Kaikōura is renowned as one of the best places to see Sperm whales and other marine mammals. There is an opportunity to take a scenic flight to view the year-round population of Sperm whales (optional, weather permitting). Continue onto the garden city of Christchurch for an orientation tour.

Staying in Hotel The George

- 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 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 into picturesque Queenstown, a year-round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is at leisure, 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. You may wish to enjoy the thrill of a jet boat ride or a heritage tour of the scenic Skippers Canyon. 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

Enjoy a leisurely start this morning before travelling to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village where you visit the Lakes District Museum.

Continue to Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

Staying in Hotel Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas (2 nights)

- 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 15

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy lunch onboard. This afternoon return to Te Anau where some free time is available. You might like to cap off your Fiordland experience by watching the breathtaking film, Ata Whenua - Shadowland, which screens at the Fiordland Cinema (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 through Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, known as the 'Edinburgh of the South' and enjoy a city tour. Continue along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle, where you'll hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy a delicious Ultimate High Tea, along with time to wander around this Garden of International Significance.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Dunedin Hotel

- 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

Farewell Dunedin and travel to Oamaru famous for its limestone. Follow the Waitaki River and see Lake Benmore as you travel to Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak.

Staying in Hotel The Hermitage Hotel

- 4 Star Accommodation

Nestled in the stunning Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, The Hermitage Hotel is surrounded by awe-inspiring glaciers, sparkling terminal lakes, rushing rivers, and the towering Aoraki/Mt Cook, Australasia's tallest peak at 3,724 metres. This iconic hotel boasts a range of exceptional restaurants and bars, along with 164 well-appointed rooms. Whether you're here for adventure or relaxation, The Hermitage provides the ultimate gateway to explore one of New Zealand's most spectacular landscapes.

Day 18

This morning marvel at Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available to enjoy a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the Southern Alps. Continue to Lake Tekapo and view the brilliant turquoise water, the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue before arriving in Christchurch. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner including selected beverages with your new found 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