

Grand Pacific 17 Day Signature Festive Season

Starting in Christchurch you will first head south through Mt Cook to Queenstown for a very festive Christmas before meandering your way along the west coast, famous for glaciers, greenstone and the TranzAlpine Scenic Railway. Passing back through Christchurch you are on your way to the North Island and heading for a New Years celebration in Rotorua. Steeped in natural and cultural history, Rotorua is certainly one of the trips highlights. Finally, experience the beauty of the Bay of Islands, Auckland and head home after a magical holiday.



Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Auckland
 Length: 17days / 16nights
 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
- Includes: Professional Coach Captain
- Includes: Wellington City Tour
- Includes: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm
- Includes: Thermal mud pool and geysers guided tour
- Includes: Te Puia geothermal valley
- Includes: Rotorua Skyline Gondola and Luge Ride
- Includes: Larnach Castle
- Includes: Kauri Museum
- Includes: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Includes: Christchurch City Tour
- Includes: Agrodome
- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Includes: Auckland City Tour
- Includes: Complimentary pre-dinner welcome drink
- Includes: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Includes: TranzAlpine Train
- Includes: Te Puia traditional Maori hangi & concert
- Includes: Te Papa Museum of New Zealand
- Includes: Milford Sound Cruise & Lunch
- Includes: Lakes District Museum
- Includes: Dunedin Orientation Tour
- Includes: Christchurch Tram
- Includes: Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
- : 16 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 10 dinners, 2 special dinners

Day 1



On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink when you meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions for dinner.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel (2 nights)

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Standing amongst the buzz of the rejuvenated Cathedral Square, the Distinction Christchurch Hotel is an urban escape combining sophisticated smarts and familiar warmth, only a few minutes' walk from the Avon River, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch Casino and Cashel Mall. This 11 storey, 4.5 star hotel offers elegant rooms which combine luxury and relaxation for all holidaymakers. These spacious air-conditioned hotel rooms include the latest technology as well as double glazed windows to ensure a restful night's sleep. An ensuite bathroom with shower over bath and complimentary Distinction toiletries.

Day 2

This morning visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. Afterward embark on a city tour of Christchurch discovering its rich history and culture. This afternoon, enjoy a leisurely ride aboard the Christchurch Tram. This evening is free to explore Christchurch's culinary scene.

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Day 3

Depart Christchurch and travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available to enjoy a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the Southern Alps before travelling to Twizel.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Mackenzie Country

- 4 Star Accommodation

Located in the heart of the Mackenzie region, a unique area of New Zealand's South Island where mountains meet the riverbeds sits a true country oasis. The Distinction Mackenzie Country features natural stonework and architecture that beautifully reflects and compliments the surrounding landscape. The hotel offers comfortably furnished guest rooms all featuring their own private balcony or patio from which to soak in the glorious mountain views. Featuring natural stone, roaring fires and expansive lawns, the Distinction Mackenzie Country is the ultimate place to unwind after a day experiencing the activities and sights the region has to offer.

Day 4

Depart Twizel and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue south to Dunedin and enjoy a city sights tour followed by some free time.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

- 4 Star Accommodation

The Scenic Hotel Southern Cross is Dunedin's largest and most established hotel boasting rooms and suites with modern

style, convenience and exceptional service. Just a short walk from the Octagon, railway station and close to Otago university, this perfectly located stylish inner city accommodation has everything you need for a relaxing and memorable stay.

Day 5

This morning travel out along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy a delicious Devonshire Tea and take time to wander around this Garden of International Significance. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland and your overnight stay. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

Staying in Hotel Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau

- 4 Star Accommodation

Conveniently located in the heart of Te Anau's town shopping centre and a short stroll from the South Island's largest lake - Lake Te Anau. Escape into the serene surroundings of Distinction Luxmore Hotel before heading out to explore the world-famous beauty of Fiordland including Milford Sound. Stay in rooms which are well appointed and modern with a Fiordland interior design theme. The hotel offers an excellent standard of service and the team at Distinction Luxmore will make your stay in Te Anau comfortable and enjoyable.

Day 6

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. This afternoon travel to Queenstown, overlooking magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year-round resort which offers a wide range of activities and attractions.

Staying in Hotel Millennium Hotel Queenstown (2 nights)

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Right in the heart of the action, Millennium Hotel Queenstown is just minutes from Queenstown central shopping and entertainment district, Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown Gardens. Millennium Hotel Queenstown is a 4-star plus and Enviro-Gold Qualmark rated hotel. All rooms at Millennium Hotel Queenstown are designed for complete relaxation with its inviting bed and cosy ambience, it's a good nights rest for sure.

Day 7

Merry Christmas! Today board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Enjoy a gourmet Christmas lunch and the best of NZ's high-country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. Reboard the TSS Earnslaw and enjoy a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown. This evening is free to dine at leisure.

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Day 8

Travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the mighty West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Franz Josef. Time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

- 4 Star Accommodation

Only a breath away from the spectacular Franz Josef Glacier, in the heart of the village and edge of the Westland World Heritage Park, lies the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier offering everything you need to explore this dramatic region in style and comfort. The professional and friendly staff pride themselves on making your stay enjoyable and comfortable.

Day 9

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue into Arthur's Pass and board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains. On arrival into the elegant city of Christchurch, your coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel.

Staying in Hotel Sudima Christchurch Airport

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Christchurch is a popular gateway to New Zealand's spectacular South Island. This immaculate Hotel situated at the Airport is an ideal base for those who are visiting Christchurch. This 4-star hotel is well equipped to make your stay comfortable.

Day 10

Travel along the East Coast to the seaside village of Kaikōura. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you travel through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine. Continue to Picton, where you will board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds to Wellington.

Staying in Hotel James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (2 nights)

- 4 Star Accommodation

The James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor presents an engaging selection of rooms, thoughtful amenities and gracious hospitality from the heart of Wellington's city centre. Recently refurbished this leading accommodation and venue provider is located on The Terrace in New Zealand's thriving capital city nearby to all major attractions. You will stay in rooms which are located on the higher floors and showcase contemporary furnishings, deluxe bathrooms with walk-in showers and Antipodes amenities.

Day 11

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 coach for an extensive city tour which showcases the history and culture on show. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also free to choose your own dining arrangements.

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Day 12

Depart Wellington and view the snow-capped peaks of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro as you travel to Lake Taupo. Visit the spectacular Huka Falls then travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua.

Staying in Hotel Pullman Rotorua (2 nights)

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Situated in the heart of the city and moments away from the lakefront, Pullman Rotorua is the perfect base to explore the region's geothermal paradise.

A Pullman stay is an entire experience with 130 luxurious rooms and suites, energising gym, vibrant dining and a chic bar. Pullman is

surrounded by surreal scenery and iconic attractions. Discover shooting geysers, bubbling mud pools, natural hot springs and magical forests.

Experience a contemporary open-plan room design inspired by the region's geothermal origins. Windows let in the daylight and views overlooking the vibrant city. The room features a plush Pullman king-size bed and local artwork.

Day 13

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. 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. Visit Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. Enjoy some free time this afternoon. This evening experience an entertaining Māori Hāngi and Concert.

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Day 14

This morning depart Rotorua and travel north via Whangarei to the Bay of Islands. This afternoon 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 15

Today you will cruise through the beautiful Bay of Islands to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piercy Island, or as it is popularly known, the 'Hole in the Rock'. Keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life before returning to Paihia for a free afternoon. A range of optional activities are available, or you may choose to relax and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the waterfront. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

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Day 16

Depart the Bay of Islands this morning and travel via Whangarei to Matakoho. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum before

continuing to Auckland for a city sights tour. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink and reminisce on memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner.

Staying in Hotel Sudima Auckland City

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Sudima Auckland City is a 4.5-star hotel in the heart of the city. It's conveniently located within easy walking distance of Auckland's bustling shopping, arts, dining and entertainment. Sudima Auckland City's central location makes it a perfect base for exploring Auckland city and beyond.

Day 17

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: Guided Coach Tour
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Auckland
Tour length: 17
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary