

Grand Pacific 17 Day Ultimate Festive Season

Celebrate the magic of the holidays with the Ultimate Festive Season tour where you'll enjoy panoramic views and first-class service. This itinerary is packed with bucket-list highlights, including the world-famous TranzAlpine Rail Journey through the Southern Alps and a cruise on the majestic Milford Sound. The festive spirit truly shines with a majestic Christmas Day dinner at Larnach Castle in Dunedin and a special celebration ringing in the New Year in Wellington. From the geothermal wonders of Rotorua to the serene Bay of Islands, every detail is meticulously handled. Perfect for those who want to swap the winter chill for a Kiwi summer, this tour offers a stress-free, sophisticated way to create lifelong holiday memories.

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
 Included: Arrowtown Lakes District Museum

 Included: Christchurch Tram
 Included: Introducing Te Papa Museum Tour
 Included: Milford Sound Cruise & Lunch

 Included: Te Puia traditional Maori hangi & concert

 Included: TranzAlpine Train

 Included: Waitangi Treaty Grounds
 : 16 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 8 dinners, 4 special dinners

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included: Agrodome
 Included: Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock Dolphin Cruise
 Included: International Antarctic Centre
 Included: Kauri Museum
 Included: Rotorua Skyline Gondola and Luge Ride
 Included: Thermal mud pool and geysers guided tour
 Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & lunch at Walter Peak High Country Farm, Queenstown
 Included: Larnach Castle and Ultimate High Tea

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 as you meet your travelling companions.

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 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 south to Oamaru, famous for its limestone before arriving into Dunedin.

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 4



Merry Christmas! Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before experiencing an informative city tour of Dunedin including a picnic lunch. This afternoon travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle. On a guided tour you will hear the tragic and scandalous tales that make up the castle's history. Enjoy time to stroll through this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Christmas Dinner in the Grand Ballroom.

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Day 5



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 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 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. This evening is at leisure to dine 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 7



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.

Staying in Hotel Rendezvous Heritage Queenstown

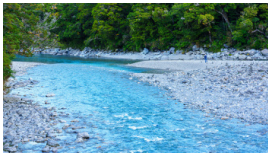
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Day 8



Travel to Arrowtown, an old goldmining village and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Fox Glacier. Next you visit Franz Josef, where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers before arriving at your hotel.

Staying in Hotel Legacy Te Waonui Hotel, Franz Josef

- 5 Star Accommodation

Legacy Te Waonui Hotel, Franz Josef is truly luxurious and can be found in an area of native rainforest which has been carefully preserved. All the guest room balconies look out into the rainforest, which contains mature trees up to 20m high. Guests get a real sense of seclusion and privacy during their stay. Lavishly appointed guest rooms, generously proportioned and featuring the highest standard of room amenities, such as your own personal pillow menu, natural wool mattress underlay and high-speed Internet access.

Day 9



Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue to 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 Ultimate Coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel.

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 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. Travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Wellington. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink to toast the New Year with your fellow travellers.

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 11



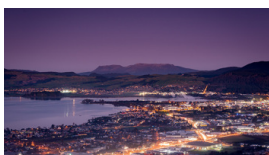
A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your coach for an extensive 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 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 13



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 the Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is unlike anything you've seen before. Free time is available 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 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



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, enjoy a free afternoon where 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 at leisure, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner

cruise (optional).

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands

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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 farewell dinner including selected beverages with your newfound friends.

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 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: Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Auckland
Tour length: 17
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary