



Great Journeys of New Zealand - Classic Cities & Coastal Highlights Tour (Northbound)

Embark on a spectacular adventure showcasing the very best of Aotearoa's North and South Islands. Starting in Christchurch, this journey takes you through vibrant cities, breathtaking coastlines, and cultural landmarks. Highlights include the serene Marlborough Sounds, the wine-rich regions of Blenheim and Martinborough, and the cosmopolitan charm of Wellington. Travel north to enjoy scenic rail journeys, premium coach travel, and expert local guides, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience.



Starts in: Christchurch
 Finishes in: Auckland
 Length: 10days / 9nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 3 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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included: Coastal Pacific Train
 Included: Interislander Ferry
 Included: Introducing Te Papa Museum Tour
 Included: Northern Explorer Scenic Train
 Included: Northern Explorer Scenic Train from National Park to Auckland
 Included: Waiheke Hop-on Hop-off Wine & Dine
 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners



Day 1



Welcome to Christchurch

Welcome to Christchurch - New Zealand's Garden City! The largest city in the South Island, Christchurch is known for its historical earthquake in 2011 and how it rebuilt itself into a charming, multicultural city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican influence. After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Christchurch has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to wander through the enticing stalls at Riverside Market or explore the botanical gardens before heading to the art gallery, museums and other city attractions. Your journey will officially begin as you join your fellow travelers and Tour Director at this evening's welcome dinner.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2



Christchurch to Kaikoura on the Coastal Pacific Train

Your train journey departs Christchurch on route to Kaikōura. Enjoy breakfast on board as the smell of aromatic coffee dances through the carriages. In a few short hours, you will step foot into marine wildlife paradise. Kaikōura has a range of exciting activities to choose from. Will you seek the whale watching, albatross, or dolphin encounter, or simply peruse the local artisan and gift shops? The rest of the day is yours to explore.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3



Kaikoura to Blenheim on the Coastal Pacific Train

After breakfast, your Tour Director will guide you back to the Kaikōura Railway Station to board the Coastal Pacific train for the next leg of your journey. Relax and let the train glide you across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breath-taking beauty. Keep an eye out for the fur seals lazing on the rocks! This afternoon you'll arrive into your final South Island destination. Soak up the views and maybe even join a wine tour to enjoy delicious wine amongst the vines. Listen to passionate wine makers describe the history and processes of these flavorful grapes. The evening is free for you to explore.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4



Adventure to the North - Crossing Cook Strait

This morning you'll say good-bye to the South Island as you sail towards the capital. Crossing Cook Strait on the Interislander Ferry, the South Island shores will slowly disappear as you enjoy a hearty seafaring lunch onboard. Spoiled with harbour views, admire the coastal paradise as you glide through the scenic Queen Charlotte Sound and arrive into Wellington. Step off the Interislander Ferry and start your North Island adventure by exploring Wellington city.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5



Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist - and it includes exploring Wellington! Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining a Te Papa Introduction Tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafes, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary is just around the corner where you can surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest. You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings, botanic gardens and more, the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience. Dinner awaits as you join your fellow travelers once again to tell them about the exciting places you have discovered.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6



Wellington to Ohakune on the Northern Explorer Train

Today you'll be heading north aboard the Northern Explorer Train to explore Tongariro National Park. Sit back and relax while the smooth train travels along the Kāpiti Coast. You won't want to get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to get the best view of the fantastic scenery. Upon arrival into the national park, the afternoon is free for you to experience all the outdoor activities Ohakune has to offer.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7



Discover Ohakune, Ruapehu or Tongariro National Park

Today is free for you to discover one of the region's many exciting excursions. Choose from the optional activities on offer and personalise your perfect holiday. Perhaps you will enjoy a hot tub soak, or a meander along the lazy river. If you're after an active day, why not explore Ohakune's historical cycle trail? Rent e-bikes and discover old viaducts, tunnels, old settlers' camps and reclaimed native forests along the Old Coach Road!

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8



A Scenic Journey to Auckland onboard the Northern Explorer

After a charming morning exploring the local shops and cafés of Ohakune, you will once again board the Northern Explorer train heading north to Auckland. Along the way you'll wind down the historic Raurimu Spiral and traverse the Central Plateau with its three iconic volcanic mountains dominating the desert plains of Tongariro National Park. Soar over the icy mountain streams of Ruapehu and traverse into the Waikato, famous for its dairy farming and green pastures.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9



Explore Auckland and Waiheke Island

Begin your day with a delightful breakfast at the hotel before embarking on an indulgent day out on Waiheke Island. Enjoy the freedom of hopping on and off as you please with your included ferry and bus tickets, departing hourly from the Downtown Ferry Terminal. Explore the picturesque Waiheke Island at your leisure, with buses ready to whisk you away to the next scenic spot half-hourly from the island's ferry terminal. After a day of sipping and sightseeing, choose any return ferry back to Auckland, ensuring you're on time for a memorable farewell dinner with your guide at one of Auckland's renowned restaurants.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10



Depart Auckland

Your journey will finish after breakfast. You will be transferred to Auckland Airport for your departing flight.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Guided Coach & Train Tours
Starts: Christchurch
Finishes: Auckland
Tour length: 10
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 2	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 3	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 4	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 5	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 6	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 7	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 8	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 9	3-3.5 Star Hotel