



Great Journeys of New Zealand - Signature Captivating Coast Tour 2026/2027

A luxurious and scenic experience, begin with a cruise by ferry through Wellington Harbour and across Cook Strait to the magnificent Marlborough Sounds. From here, you'll pass through vineyards to sip world-class wine among the Marlborough vines. Journey along the Pacific Coast to Kaikōura aboard the Coastal Pacific train and spend the day surrounded by wildlife in Kaikōura. Your final leg is again aboard the Coastal Pacific train, meandering alongside secluded beaches on your way to Christchurch.



Starts in: Wellington
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 Length: 7days / 6nights
 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: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
 Included: Marlborough Wine Tour
 Included: Omaka Aviation Museum
 Included: Water Taxi Cruise through Marlborough Sounds
 Included: Paua Pearl Farm Tour
 Included: Coastal Pacific Train
 Included: Dolphin Encounter Experience
 Included: Hop-on Hop-off Tram
 Included: Christchurch City Walking Tour
 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners



Day 1



Explore Wellington

Welcome to Wellington - New Zealand's capital city! Wellington is known for its world-class dining, great coffee and eccentric shops. After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Wellington has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to get cultured at Te Papa Museum or grab a drink at one of the many quirky bars on Cuba Street. You may even fancy a ride on the cable car. After an exciting day on the town, your tour will officially begin as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director at this evening's welcome reception.

Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2



Cook Strait Ferry Crossing to Marlborough

This morning you will say poroporoaki ki te motu raki (good-bye to the North Island) as you sail to the South Island, crossing the Cook Strait on the Interislander ferry. As the shores of the North Island slowly disappear, settle down in the comfy seats in the Premium Lounge. Treat yourself to a mimosa and enjoy a hearty seafaring breakfast, but save some room for morning tea! On your journey across Cook Strait you may spot pods of dolphins playing in the wake or, if you are very lucky, whales. Don't spend all your time inside - as you enter the stunning Queen Charlotte Sound, enjoy the views as you cruise past the remnants of whaling stations, remote working sheep farms, pristine native bush and mussel farms. Admire the beauty of this coastal paradise as you arrive into the gateway of the South Island, Picton. Once in Marlborough, indulge in a gourmet experience as you journey through the renowned Marlborough region, savoring a three-course lunch menu at Allan Scott Wines Bistro, accompanied by a glass of wine with your main meal.

Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3



Aviation & the Marlborough Sounds

After breakfast, take a short trip to the world-renowned Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre - home to one of the most significant private collections of WWI and WWII aircraft and memorabilia. The museum's immersive exhibits, brought to life with the help of Weta Workshop, make this a must-see experience for history and aviation enthusiasts alike. Later, board a scenic water taxi into the Marlborough Sounds, where your accommodation awaits nestled in the natural serenity of a Marlborough Sounds resort. After check-in, enjoy free time to explore - relax in a hammock, take a walk through native bush, or kayak in the calm waters of the bay.

Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4



Marlborough to Kaikoura on the Coastal Pacific Train

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of the Pāua Pearl Farm Tour, where innovation meets tradition along New Zealand's scenic coastline. After a 45 minute cruise to the outer Marlborough Sounds, begin your journey with a warm welcome and morning tea, followed by a guided tour through the hatchery and growing tanks where these iridescent treasures are nurtured. Learn about the fascinating process of cultivating pāua pearls, then indulge in a tasting of fresh, locally harvested pāua - an ocean delicacy. Board the Coastal Pacific Scenic Train and relax as the train glides 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! Once in Kaikōura, the evening will be yours to enjoy some iconic kai moana (seafood) at one of the quaint restaurants before enjoying your luxurious ocean-front hotel.

Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5



Kaikoura to Christchurch on the Coastal Pacific Train

Set out on an unforgettable Dolphin Encounter in Kaikōura, where the ocean comes alive with the playful energy of wild dusky dolphins. Cruise along the stunning coastline as knowledgeable guides share insights into these intelligent marine mammals. Watch as pods leap, spin, and interact in their natural habitat - or elevate your adventure with the option to upgrade and swim alongside them for a truly immersive and exhilarating experience. After this outstanding experience, we're sure you will be feeling peckish. Head to the beach to sample some iconic New Zealand food - you can't go wrong with the humble Kiwiana fish and chips. Work off the deep-fried delights by wandering through the wonderful array of local artisan stores and souvenir shops.

Gather again for the next leg of your journey. Late afternoon, board the Coastal Pacific for the Scenic Plus experience, treating yourself to unparalleled vistas as you glide along the coastline. Revel in dinner and drinks, included with your Scenic Plus package, as you unwind and soak in the breathtaking scenery.

Your accommodation: 4-4.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6



Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the gateway to South Island exploration, beautifully blends cutting-edge innovation with 19th-century Anglican Gothic Revival architecture. While the city is often remembered for the 2011 earthquake, today it stands as a vibrant, multicultural hub with a strong sense of renewal and creativity. Your day begins with the convenience of the Hop-On Hop-Off Tram, a charming way to navigate the central city and discover its highlights at your own pace. Enjoy a custom walking tour with your Great Journeys New Zealand guide, who will bring the city's stories, landmarks, and hidden gems to life. Explore must-see attractions like the Riverside Markets, Punting on the Avon, the Gondola, and the tranquil Botanical Gardens. Along the way, uncover a variety of boutique cafés tucked into laneways and side streets. This evening, unwind and reflect on your discoveries over a beautifully curated dinner at Earl, one of Christchurch's most acclaimed dining spots, known for its relaxed elegance and refined seasonal cuisine.

Day 7



Depart Christchurch

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast at your hotel. You will be transferred to Christchurch Airport for your departing flight.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Guided Coach & Train Tours
Starts: Wellington
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 7
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 2	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 3	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 4	4-4.5 Star Hotel
Day 5	4-4.5 Star Hotel