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New Zealand Luxury Itinerary – 14 Day Highlighter Premium Escorted Touring in New Zealand



Day 1

You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Then, choose your Freedom of Choice Sightseeing activity. Perhaps take an Auckland city sights tour, or you may prefer to go cruising on Waitemata Harbour and take in the views of Auckland from the water. You may wish to visit fascinating Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium, or enjoy a massage at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This evening, enjoy a special Welcome Dinner.

Day 2

Leaving Auckland, travel south to the Waitomo caves for a guided tour of the underground limestone caverns, including the magnificent Cathedral Cave. Join a silent boat ride and glide through a mystical grotto, lit by thousands of tiny glow worms. Then continue to Rotorua, a centre of Maori culture and famous for its geothermal activity. Sitting on the Volcanic Plateau, this region is home to spurting geysers, hot springs and boiling mud pools. Tonight, enjoy a feast that is cooked in an earth oven known as a hangi pit. You'll also learn about ancient Maori customs and traditions watching entertaining songs and dances, and listening to their tales and legends.



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Day 3

Rotorua is New Zealand's oldest and best-known thermal resort. Here, you can choose from a range of activities, including a 4WD Bush Safari; an eco-thermal tour; a round of golf; a visit to Hobbiton, which was created for the movies of 'The Lord of the Rings'; a visit to the award-winning Rotorua Museum, and more.

Day 4

Follow the Thermal Explorer Highway through the heart of the North Island. View Wairakei Steam Valley, where thermal energy is harnessed at the world's second largest geothermal power plant. See spectacular Huka Falls at the mouth of the mighty Waikato River, and the tranquil setting of Lake Taupo. Cross the vast volcanic plateau of World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park to Wellington, where you'll enjoy a choice of restaurants this evening.

Day 5

Discover the delights of the New Zealand capital with an extended stay. Set off on a sightseeing tour today, taking you to the city's best-loved landmarks, including New Zealand's national museum – Te Papa Tongarewa. Then ride Wellington's iconic Cable Car, gaining a fresh perspective on this coastal city.

Day 6

Step aboard the Interislander ferry to cruise across Cook Strait and through stunning Marlborough Sounds to Picton on the South Island. Rejoin your coach and journey through the renowned vineyard region of Marlborough, admiring the picturesque vineyards as you make your way towards the fishing town of Kaikoura, famous for its whale and dolphin watching. Then, arrive in Christchurch.



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Day 7

This morning, board the award-winning TranzAlpine train for a trip through breathtaking landscapes to Arthur's Pass. Voted one of the top train journeys in the world, the TranzAlpine is known as New Zealand's Great Rail Adventure. Cross the vast patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains before climbing up into the Main Divide. Disembark at Arthur's Pass and continue to Hokitika by coach. Here, you will have the opportunity to see Pounamu (jade) being carved into beautiful jewelry and other items. You'll also view the ancient glacial scenery and take in the rainforest surrounding Franz Josef Glacier, a sweeping shelf of ice, said to be the tears of a Maori princess pining for her lost love.

Day 8

View magnificent scenery today as you travel along the rugged West Coast to Haast and continue to Queenstown. Tonight, choose from four great dining options with our Freedom of Choice Dining.

Day 9

Queenstown is a year-round alpine resort. Today, there is a selection of activities for you to choose from, including a guided tour of local gardens or wineries; a jetboat ride on the Shotover River; a double-decker bus tour; a lake shore forest and bird walk; a 4WD Safari of the Scenes tour, and many more.

Day 10

Today follow the Remarkables mountain range by coach to Fiordland National Park. Journey along Milford Road, one of the world's finest alpine drives, then cruise the full length of tranquil Milford Sound. Later this afternoon, travel to the pretty lakeside town Te Anau.



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Day 11

Travel across the South Island to the east coast and the city of Dunedin, founded in 1848 as a Free Church of Scotland settlement. This afternoon, you can choose from a range of activities. Journey to the Otago Peninsula for a fascinating experience of either the Royal Albatross or Yellow-eyed Penguin colonies. Other options include a visit to Speight's Brewery or a tour of Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only castle.

Day 12

Journey north to see the unusual Moeraki Boulders that lay strewn across Koekohe Beach on the Otago coast. Stop at Oamaru, renowned for its distinctive limestone buildings, then continue inland passing beautiful glacier-fed lakes of incredible color. Arrive in the heart of MacKenzie Country, surrounded by majestic mountain scenery and wide open tussock grasslands. Then, journey into New Zealand's highland and Mt Cook National Park, which was awarded World Heritage status in recognition of its rare natural beauty. View Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain at 12,516 feet above sea level. On arrival, join your selected Freedom of Choice Sightseeing activity, with options including the Glacier Explorer cruise; a guided walk through the national park; or stargazing with an astronomy guide.

Day 13

Travel to Lake Tekapo and visit the picturesque Church of the Good Shepherd. Leaving the High Country, cross the Rakaia River and travel through the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

Day 14

After breakfast, transfer to Christchurch airport for your flight.



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INCLUDES:

- Arrival and departure transfers in New Zealand
- All sightseeing, excursions and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- The services of a dedicated Tour Director and professional Driver
- 13 nights accommodation
- 19 meals included – 13 breakfasts & 6 feature dinners

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore the Waitomo glow worm caves
- Visit Huka Falls and Lake Taupo
- Cruise spellbinding Cook Strait
- Visit the coastal town of Kaikoura
- Ride on the TranzAlpine train through the magnificent Southern Alps
- See mighty Franz Josef Glacier
- Cruise the full length of Milford Sound
- Explore Mt Cook National Park
- Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd