

New Zealand rail, cruise and coach

Depart Cairns 26th March at 2.25PM arrive Brisbane 4.35PM – Qantas
Depart Brisbane 26th March at 6.00PM arrive Auckland 12.05AM – Qantas

Commence the following tour with Grand Pacific Tours from Auckland on the 26th March and ending in Christchurch on the 13th April

Itinerary

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (D)

On arrival into Auckland, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel Grand Millennium Auckland

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

Enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakohē to enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands or similar (2 nights)

DAY 3: Bay of Islands (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,D)

This morning cruise through the beautiful Bay of Islands aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piery Island, or as it is popularly known, the 'Hole in the Rock'. Upon return to Paihia, travel south via Whangarei, call into the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree before returning to Auckland.

Hotel Grand Millennium Auckland

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (B,D)

This morning travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop and on return to Glenbrook Station, morning tea will be served. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand-feed rainbow trout.

Hotel Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Plus Room. 2 nights)

DAY 6: Rotorua (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. 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's unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time 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.

DAY 7: Rotorua - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and then continue south to the capital city of Wellington.

Hotel James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (Executive Room. 2 nights)

DAY 8: Wellington (B)

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. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon and this evening is also free to explore Wellington's lively food scene.

DAY 9: Wellington - Christchurch (B,D)

This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that showcases the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side and the rugged scenic coastline on the other travelling through numerous tunnels and across several bridges. Enjoy a two-night stay in the garden city of Christchurch.

Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 10: Christchurch (B)

Today visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This is followed by a city tour of Christchurch. This afternoon includes a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at leisure, one of Christchurch's leading attractions. This evening is free to explore the local cuisine.

DAY 11: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass - Franz Josef (B,D)

This morning board the TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before arriving at the township of Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

DAY 12: Franz Josef - Queenstown (B)

See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, a year-round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

Hotel Millennium Hotel Queenstown or similar (2 nights)

DAY 13: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day to explore Queenstown. Your Coach Captain and Tour Leader will assist with the many optional activities available. 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.

DAY 14: Queenstown - Milford Sound Overnight Cruise (B,D)

This morning travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via Te Anau to Milford Sound and board the Milford Mariner for your amazing overnight cruise. There is plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife - you're bound to encounter seals and if you're lucky maybe dolphins and penguins. As evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared freshly by the onboard chef.

Overnight Milford Mariner

DAY 15: Milford Sound - Te Anau (B,D)

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) to explore more of the fiord. Return to the wharf to meet your coach and enjoy the scenic drive to Te Anau where you will enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

Hotel Distinction Luxmore Hotel (Deluxe Room)

DAY 16: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,D)

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin. At Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station, board The Taieri Gorge Limited for a journey through spectacular scenery only accessible by rail. On arrival at Pukerangi, meet your coach for the journey back to Dunedin.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Southern Cross (2 nights)

DAY 17: Dunedin (B,SD)

This morning travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander around this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Devonshire Tea. Return to Dunedin for a city tour followed by some free time. Optional activities you might be interested in include a tour of Speights Brewery or the chance to see wildlife in their natural habitat. Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,SD)

This morning visit Olveston, a prosperous merchants' home from the turn of the century before travelling to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your new found friends.

Hotel Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

DAY 19: Depart Christchurch (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

Depart Christchurch 13th April at 7.10AM arrive Brisbane 7.55AM – Qantas

Depart Brisbane 13th April at 9.40AM arrive Cairns 12.00PM – Qantas

Cost per person \$7924.00 and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- 19 day tour including breakfast daily, 14 dinners and sightseeing as per itinerary