

ADVENTUROUS NEW ZEALAND- 19 NIGHTS/20 DAYS

Travelling by train offers a fresh perspective on the beautiful country of New Zealand, often transporting you through regions inaccessible to cars or coaches. Our adventure includes five stunning daytime rail journeys in combination with a tour of the country's many scenic and city highlights. Cross the magnificent Southern Alps aboard the world famous Tranz Alpine, keep a look out for whales from the TranzCoastal, discover the best of the North Island from the Overlander, take a trip back in time at the Glenbrook Vintage Railway and appreciate the majesty of Taieri Gorge as its historic train crosses viaducts and traverses tunnels carved by hand.

Day 1 : Arrive Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand largest city. Arrival In Auckland. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 2 Auckland

Today we take a comprehensive tour of this sophisticated modern city, bounded by two harbors, the Waitemata and Manukau, which has one of the most stunning city landscapes. Our first stop is to the summit of an extinct volcanic cone, Mount Eden, which affords panoramic vistas of the whole region, and One Tree Hill, where the 'Father of Auckland' Sir John Logan Campbell lies. We continue to Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter, where you will be able to learn more about this fascinating frozen continent and its wildlife. Our morning concludes with a stroll through Parnell Village, a favorite shopping area with its quaint Victorian-style shops, boutiques and restaurants.

Day 3 Auckland

Auckland provides a wealth of plentiful parks, dozens of white sandy beaches shaded by the Pohutukawa trees and dotted along the coastline are secluded offshore islands. Today you are free to make your own explorations of this convivial city where on a clear day the panoramic views from the Sky Tower, with its glass- fronted lifts, is worthy of a visit. For those who wish to venture further, why not experience a day trip to the stunning Bay of Islands.

Day 4 Auckland, Rotorua

We travel to the Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a ride on a restored steam train before continuing to Rotorua, where we check in at the Holiday Inn (formerly known as the Heritage Hotel). This afternoon we take a guided walking tour of Whakarewarewa Thermal Village to share the knowledge and rich cultural heritage of the Maori people as well as seeing boiling mud pools and erupting geysers. This evening we participate in a Maori hangi with traditional entertainment.

Day 5 Rotorua

Today we stroll through Rainbow Springs, set in delightful surroundings of native habitat, where natural pools are home to hundreds of brown and brook trout and where the New Zealand

icons, the elusive Kiwi and Tuatara may be seen. We continue to the Agrodome for an interesting farm show where the skills of mustering, shearing, milking and the use of sheep dogs are demonstrated. The remainder of the day is free to relax or enjoy any of Rotorua's other attractions. Close to the Bath House are the Polynesian Pools where a soak in one of the warm steamy mineral pools is highly recommended to relieve you of any aches and pains.

Day 6 Rotorua, Wellington

At Otorohanga we board the Overlander train and travel south to New Zealand's capital, Wellington, situated on the most southerly point of the North Island. Spend the day at leisure. Overnight stay at the Hotel.

Day 7 Wellington

This morning we take an all encompassing tour which includes viewing the Parliament Buildings. The tour concludes with a cable car ride to Kelburn, where breathtaking views of the blue bowl of the harbour can be seen.

Day 8 Wellington, Picton, Nelson

This morning we transfer to the comfortable inter-island ferry to journey across magnificent Cook Strait before entering the tranquil waters of Marlborough Sound through the Tory Channel. On arrival in Picton we disembark and board our coach for the fishing-town of Nelson, where the Mediterranean-like climate lends itself to the successful growth of apple and kiwi fruits and the whole of the national crop of hops is grown. Wood carving, pottery and painting are a few of the crafts carried out in this area and this afternoon we follow the trail of some of them. Later in the day we check-in at the Hotel for your two night stay.

Day 9 Nelson

A day at leisure for you to enjoy relaxing in the hotel or exploring the town of Nelson. The region is home to a large community of working artists, wineries and micro- breweries. Enjoy wandering through the historical streets of the town where it is possible to visit and shop at the local artist's studios and galleries. In the evening, you may choose to dine at one of the waterfront restaurants which serve delicious locally caught seafood.

Day 10 Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch

Blenheim, situated on the Wairau Plain, is New Zealand's most important wine growing region and establishment of the Montana vineyards in the late 1960s, which is our first stop today. We then join the TranzCoastal train which winds its way along the Kaikoura coast and as whales congregate close to the shore you may have a glimpse of these fascinating mammals. Early evening arrival in Christchurch with its distinct English elegance, colonial architecture and impressive spires. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 11 Christchurch

This morning we travel to the quaint township of Lyttelton perched on the hillside overlooking the harbour. Besides the marine bird life and penguins you are likely to espy, undoubtedly the highlight of the cruise is the sighting of the Hector's dolphins, the smallest and rarest in the world.

Day 12 Christchurch, Punakaiki

An early morning transfer to board the train for one of the great rail journeys of the world. The TranzAlpine, with its panoramic windows, departs from the hub of the south and weaves its way across the vast and flat Canterbury Plains before ascending into the Southern Alps, where spectacular alpine and river scenery unfolds, to Greymouth. Here we re-board our coach and travel north to Punakaiki to see the unusually formed Pancake Rocks and blowholes, a vivid display of the effect of the ocean on limestone rocks. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 13 Punakaiki

Shanty town lies a few kilometres south of Greymouth and here you will take a short nostalgic journey and steam experience along the tranquil Infants Creek railway, through delightful native bush where you can see a working saw-mill and a Gold Claim, where you can pan for gold. Hokitika, known for its greenstone (New Zealand jade) is our next stop today before travelling to the Westland National Park with its alpine peaks, lakes and forests. This is home to two of New Zealand's most impressive glaciers, the Franz Josef and Fox - unique in their location in the midst of a rainforest and close to the Tasman Sea. After an enjoyable day, overnight stay at hotel.

Day 14 Franz Josef Glacier

Today we experience the remarkable coastal scenery before heading inland to Mount Aspiring National Park. The Haast Pass links the glacier renowned region with the Southern Lakes of Otago, providing dramatic contrasts from lush vegetation to arid tussocked landscape. We continue our day passing the glacial lakes of Wanaka and Hawea before arriving to the Hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 15 Queenstown

Today is at leisure in Queenstown, New Zealand - the Southern Hemisphere's premier four season lake and alpine resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown's stunning scenery is inspiring and revitalizing. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 16 Queenstown, Milford Sound, Te Anau

An incomparable highlight is a journey into Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound, once described by Rudyard Kipling as the "eighth wonder of the world" and we continue to this captivating region. A cruise on the Sound, dominated by Mitre Peak, and out to sea is an unforgettable experience. The Distinction Te Anau Hotel provides a relaxing ambience for your stay this evening. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 17 Te Anau, Dunedin

This morning we depart for the glorious city of Dunedin with its rich Scottish heritage and strong University influence. Dunedin's history and its wildlife are the common areas of interest for travellers to the city. However, there is also a growing arts and culture scene, the Cadbury Chocolate Factory, beautiful gardens, parks, walking tracks. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 18 Dunedin

This morning we enjoy a scenic harbour cruise during which we may have the opportunity for wildlife sightings. This cruise is followed by a visit to the Albatross Centre. We return to Dunedin and this afternoon take a trip on the Taieri Gorge Railway, an experience never to be forgotten. The dramatic scenery unfolds with precipitous escarpments and graceful viaducts spanning giant ravines, where you will be in awe of the workmanship of the pioneers of bygone days. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 19 Dunedin, Christchurch

This morning we return to Christchurch, stopping off en route to view the Moeraki Boulders. These are huge, spherical stones up to three metres in diameter, which are formed in ancient sea floor sediments and scattered over the sandy beaches. On arrival in Christchurch, you will be transferred to the Holiday Inn City Centre after which you are free to meander through the streets in the convivial and relaxed atmosphere, where punting on the River Avon depicts a very English way of life. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 20 Christchurch,Auckland- India

Today we transfer to Christchurch Airport for your flight to Auckland.

Preferred Hotel

Destination	3* Hotel	4* Hotel	5* Hotel
Auckland	Auckland City Hotel	Sky City Hotel	Rendezvous Hotel
Rotorua	Ibis Rotorua	Heritage Rotorua	Novotel Rotorua
Wellington	Bay Plaza	James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel	Holiday Inn Wellington
Nelson	Grand Mecure Nelson Monaco	Grand Mecure Nelson Monaco	Rutherford Hotel Nelson
Christchurch	Ibis Christchurch	Grand Chancellor	Heritage Hotel
Punakaiki	Punakaiki Resort	Punakaiki Resort	Punakaiki Resort
Franz Josef	Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier	Senic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier	Senic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier