

05 – 16/18  
NOVEMBER  
2026



# NEW ZEALAND- NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS

## Day 1 – Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Nov- Arrival Auckland

We arrive in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, set between two beautiful harbours and known as the "City of Sails."

After meeting our coach we take a short orientation drive through the city as we make our way to our centrally located hotel, Sudima Auckland City.

Once checked in there will be a little time to settle in or enjoy a short stroll nearby before we gather together for dinner.

**Overnight:** Sudima Auckland City

**Meals Included:** Dinner

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## Day 2 – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov- Auckland Highlights

This morning we explore some of Auckland's highlights, beginning with a visit to Mount Eden (Maungawhau) where we enjoy panoramic views across the city and harbour.

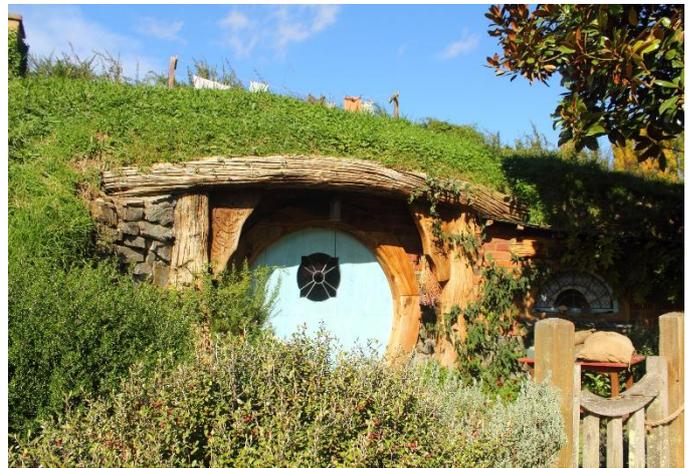
We continue to the revitalised Viaduct Harbour and Wynyard Quarter waterfront, where there will be time to wander along the marina, explore the shops and cafés, and soak up the lively harbour atmosphere.

This afternoon, we'll enjoy a scenic cruise on Auckland Harbour, taking in stunning views of the city skyline and surrounding islands from the water. This evening we visit the iconic Sky Tower for spectacular views over the city.

For those feeling particularly adventurous there is the option of the SkyWalk or SkyJump — although simply enjoying the view with a drink in hand may prove the more popular choice! Dinner tonight is at Orbit 360° Restaurant, where the revolving dining room provides wonderful views over the city.

**Overnight:** Sudima Auckland City

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner



### Day 3 – Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov- Auckland to Hamilton via Hobbiton

This morning we leave Auckland and travel south through the green farmland of the Waikato region.

Along the way we visit the famous Hobbiton Movie Set, where we join a guided tour through the village of the Shire, seeing the Hobbit holes, gardens and familiar filming locations from *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

We then continue to the riverside city of Hamilton, located in the heart of the Waikato region. During the afternoon we visit the beautiful Hamilton Gardens and have time to explore the Waikato Museum and Art Gallery.

We check into the Distinction Hamilton Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

**Overnight:** Distinction Hamilton Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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#### Day 4 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov- Raglan & West Coast

Today we travel west through rolling countryside to the coastal town of Raglan, overlooking a beautiful harbour and the dramatic Tasman Sea coastline.

Raglan is famous for its surf culture and relaxed atmosphere, often compared to Byron Bay in earlier decades.

After arriving in Raglan we visit a working dairy farm, where we gain an insight into one of New Zealand's most important industries and see firsthand how modern dairy farming operates.

We then visit the beautiful Bridal Veil Falls, where a short forest walk takes us to viewing platforms overlooking the impressive 55-metre waterfall.

We also take in views from Te Toto Gorge Lookout, visit Ngarunui Beach, stroll around the historic Raglan Wharf, and enjoy time to explore the town's galleries, cafés and quirky shops.

Later this afternoon we return to Hamilton, hopefully resisting the temptation to try surfing the Tasman Sea waves.

**Overnight:** Distinction Hamilton Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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#### Day 5 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov- Northern Explorer to Wellington

We enjoy a leisurely start this morning before boarding the Northern Explorer train for one of New Zealand's most scenic rail journeys.

For early risers there are a couple of options before departure — perhaps a walk along the Waikato River, or a visit to the Classics Museum (opening at 8.00am) for those interested in vintage cars and memorabilia.

We then board the Northern Explorer and settle in for our journey south through the heart of the North Island. Along the way we pass through rich farmland, volcanic

landscapes and remote rural countryside, with ever-changing scenery outside our panoramic windows.

As we approach the lower North Island the train hugs the coastline along the Kapiti Coast, offering beautiful views across the Tasman Sea before arriving in Wellington.

We arrive at 6.25pm, where we transfer to our accommodation at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor.

After settling in we gather for a later dinner in the hotel.

**Overnight:** James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Day 6 – Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Nov- Wellington & Interislander Ferry to Marlborough

This morning we spend some time exploring Wellington, New Zealand's compact and vibrant capital city.

Often described as the country's cultural heart, Wellington is known for its lively café scene, harbour setting and impressive national institutions. We will take in some of the city's highlights before making our way to the ferry terminal.

Late morning we board the Interislander Ferry for the 3½-hour crossing of Cook Strait to the South Island. The journey itself is one of the highlights of travelling between the islands, particularly as we cruise through the stunning waterways of the Marlborough Sounds.

Upon arrival in Picton we continue the short distance to Blenheim, located in the heart of the famous Marlborough wine region.

We check into the Marlborough Riverside Hotel, our home for the next three nights with dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Marlborough Riverside Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner



### Day 7 –Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov- Marlborough Region

Today we explore the beautiful Marlborough region, famous for its sunshine, vineyards and seafood.

Our first stop is the charming harbour town of Havelock, known as the greenshell mussel capital of the world. Situated at the meeting point of the Pelorus and Kaituna Rivers, it's the perfect place to enjoy the relaxed pace of life in the Marlborough Sounds. There will be time to stroll around the waterfront and perhaps sample some of the fresh local seafood.

This afternoon we experience another of Marlborough's highlights with a wine tasting at Saint Clair Family Estate, one of the region's well-known wineries and producers of excellent Sauvignon Blanc.

After returning to Blenheim we enjoy a relaxed evening together at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Marlborough Riverside Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

## Day 8 –Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Nov- Marlborough Sounds & Blenheim

We begin the day with a cruise through the spectacular Marlborough Sounds, an intricate network of sheltered waterways that together cover more than 1,500 kilometres of coastline.

Departing from Picton Harbour, we cruise through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound, taking in the peaceful inlets, forested hills, crystal-clear waters and secluded bays that make this area so special.

Back on land we visit the acclaimed Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, home to one of the world's most impressive collections of First and Second World War aircraft and displays.

Later in the afternoon we enjoy a visit to the renowned Cloudy Bay Vineyard, one of the wineries that helped put Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc on the world map.

This evening we dine at Gramado's Restaurant & Bar, located on the banks of the Taylor River.

**Overnight:** Marlborough Riverside Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Day 9 –Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Nov- Marlborough to Greymouth

This morning there is the opportunity for an optional scenic flight over the Marlborough Sounds, offering a spectacular aerial perspective of the winding waterways and forested peninsulas.

Later we depart Blenheim and begin our journey across the South Island toward the West Coast.

Today's drive takes us through some magnificent scenery as we travel south to St Arnaud, located beside the beautiful alpine waters of Lake Rotoiti in Nelson Lakes National Park.

Continuing through Murchison, we cross the rugged Lewis Pass, surrounded by native forest and mountain landscapes, before descending toward the wild coastline of the Paparoa National Park region.

We arrive in Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast.

Our accommodation tonight is the Ashley Hotel.

**Overnight:** The Ashley Hotel

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 10 – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov- West Coast & TranzAlpine to Christchurch

This morning we explore a little more of the West Coast as we travel south to the historic town of Hokitika, once one of the centres of New Zealand's gold rush. Here we visit the Hokitika Tree Top Walk, where a boardwalk suspended around 20 metres above the forest floor offers a unique perspective of the surrounding rainforest canopy.

There will also be time to wander through Hokitika's arts and craft shops, many featuring local pounamu (greenstone) carvings and handmade jewellery for which the region is well known.

We then return to Greymouth, where there will be time for lunch. Options include the well-known Monteith's Brewery, a West Coast institution and a popular place to sample local food and craft beer.

Later we board the TranzAlpine train for one of the world's great rail journeys, travelling across the Southern Alps from the rugged West Coast to the Canterbury Plains.

The journey takes us through dramatic mountain landscapes, deep river valleys and spectacular alpine scenery before descending onto the wide plains surrounding Christchurch.

On arrival we transfer to our accommodation at the Novotel Cathedral Square, our home for the next two nights.

**Overnight:** Novotel Cathedral Square Christchurch

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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## Option 1 – Christchurch Finale (12 Day Tour)

### Day 11 –Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov- Christchurch

This morning we begin with a leisurely walking tour of Christchurch with a local guide, learning about the city's history and its remarkable rebuild following the earthquakes. We then visit the beautiful Christchurch Botanic Gardens, located beside the Avon River, where there will be time to explore the gardens and enjoy the peaceful surroundings before lunch.

This afternoon we visit the International Antarctic Centre, where interactive displays bring to life New Zealand's role in Antarctic exploration.

Later there will be free time to explore Christchurch at your own pace. Options include visiting the Christchurch Art Gallery, taking a ride on the Christchurch Gondola for sweeping views across the Canterbury Plains, or simply relaxing before our final evening together.

This evening, we enjoy our farewell dinner.

**Overnight:** Novotel Cathedral Square Christchurch

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 12 –Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Nov- Christchurch & Departure

This morning we visit the Canterbury Museum, one of New Zealand's most important regional museums, which showcases the natural, cultural and social history of the Canterbury region.

A highlight of our visit is the Quake City exhibition, which tells the powerful story of the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Through personal stories, artefacts and multimedia displays we learn about the devastating impact the earthquakes had on the city and its people, as well as the extraordinary resilience shown by the community during the recovery and rebuilding that followed.

Following our visit there will be time to enjoy some of Christchurch's attractions.

Options include the hop-on hop-off heritage tram, which circles the central city with 17 stops along the way, browsing the lively Riverside Markets, or perhaps enjoying a gentle punt along the Avon River.

Later we transfer to the airport for our late afternoon flight home, bringing our New Zealand journey to a close.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast

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## Option 2 – Extended South Island (14 Day Tour)

### Day 10 – As Above

### Day 11 – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Nov- Christchurch to Queenstown

Today we enjoy another spectacular day of South Island scenery as we travel south to Queenstown, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful destinations in New Zealand.

Our journey takes us through the wide-open landscapes of the Canterbury Plains before reaching the brilliant turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, one of the most photographed locations in the country.

Continuing south we travel alongside the magnificent Lake Pukaki, with views toward Aoraki / Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. Our route then takes us through the towns of Twizel and Omarama, before crossing the Lindis Pass and descending toward the historic gold-mining settlement of Arrowtown.

By late afternoon we arrive in Queenstown, nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by the dramatic peaks of the Southern Alps.

Our accommodation for the next two nights is the Ramada Queenstown Central.

**Overnight:** Ramada Queenstown Central

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 12 – Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Nov- Queenstown

This morning we travel up to the aptly named Remarkables, where we enjoy spectacular views over Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu and the surrounding alpine scenery.

From here we continue to the Skyline complex, where we take the gondola down into Queenstown, enjoying another stunning perspective as we descend toward the lakeside township.

The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore Queenstown at your own pace. There are countless options, ranging from the very adventurous to the wonderfully relaxed. Activities include scenic flights, skydiving, jet boating, golf, lakefront walks, or perhaps some excellent shopping in the town centre.

Later in the afternoon we regroup for a memorable evening aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw, the century-old steamship that cruises across Lake Wakatipu.

Our cruise takes us to Walter Peak High Country Farm, where we enjoy a delicious BBQ dinner at the Colonel's Homestead, along with a glimpse of life on a traditional New Zealand farm.

**Overnight:** Ramada Queenstown Central

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

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### Day 13 – Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Nov- Queenstown to Christchurch

Today we begin our return journey north, travelling through more beautiful South Island scenery.

Our route takes us through the historic towns of Oamaru and Timaru along the picturesque East Coast, offering wonderful coastal views as we travel north.

By late afternoon we arrive back in Christchurch, where we return to the Novotel Cathedral Square.

This evening we gather for our farewell dinner in the hotel, reflecting on our New Zealand journey together.

**Overnight:** Novotel Cathedral Square Christchurch

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 14 –Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov- Christchurch & Departure

This morning we enjoy a brief highlights tour of Christchurch, learning more about the city's remarkable transformation following the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

We then visit the beautiful Christchurch Botanic Gardens, located beside the Avon River, before continuing to the impressive Canterbury Museum, which explores the natural and cultural history of the region. A highlight is the Quake City exhibition, telling the powerful story of the earthquakes and the resilience of the people who rebuilt their city.

After lunch at the lively Riverside Markets, we visit the Christchurch Art Gallery and take in views of the harbour area before transferring to the airport for our late afternoon flight back to Sydney.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast

#### Pricing

14 Day Tour- Cost per person based on 20 passengers: \$9,495

12 Day Tour- Cost per person based on 20 passengers: \$8,495

Single supplement: +\$2,055

This includes flights, rail journeys, all experiences, meals, accommodation, and tastings as listed in the day-by-day itinerary.