

From South to North

28 DAYS SOUTH & NORTH ISLANDS
FROM £5,195



See all the highlights of the South Island beginning with your trip by train across the Southern Alps to the West Coast and the Glaciers.

Enjoy the Alpine beauty of the Lakes region and Milford Sound, the Mount Cook panorama and cruise the coastline of Abel Tasman National Park before Cross the Cook Strait to North Island to explore the scenic delights of Napier or Tongariro and the thermal wonderland of Rotorua.

Conclude your trip with a relaxing break on the beaches of the Coromandel.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE
A trip on one of the World’s great train journeys from Christchurch to Greymouth.
Walks or flights to the West Coast Glaciers.
Adventures in the scenic Mount Aspiring National Park.
A cruise on the beautiful Milford Sound.
Walks along the Hooker Valley to Mount Cook.
A stay in the rural area of Methven.
Dining out at one of Wellington’s top restaurants.
Whale watching in Kaikoura
Relaxation on the beaches of the Coromandel at the end of your trip.

- 1. Wellington
- 2 Hot Water Beach, Coromandel
- 3 Maori Art, Rotorua
- 4 Glacier Explorers, Mount Cook

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Christchurch
We will meet your flight and transfer you to your hotel today. It is free for you to get your bearings.

Day 2 Christchurch
Explore this most English of cities. Visit Hagley Park, the Botanical gardens and Canterbury Museum; head to the River Avon and into the city to view the award-winning architecture of buildings constructed following the earthquake of 2011.

Day 3 Christchurch to Greymouth and Hokitika
Board the TranzAlpine train for one of the world’s great rail journeys, across the Southern Alps to the West Coast. Arrive in Greymouth and collect your rental vehicle for an afternoon drive along the rugged coastline to Hokitika. Home to 10,000 goldminers in the 1870’s, it’s now very much a West coast town with a name for crafts including jade carving, wood- carving and glass blowing.

Day 4 Hokitika to Fox Glacier
Travel to the stunning snow-capped Southern Alps to the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. Many of our travellers book a thrilling helicopter flight (weather permitting) to fly over the rivers of ice and land on a snowfield.

Day 5 Fox Glacier to Wanaka
Make a morning visit to Lake Matheson, where a clear day rewards you with superb reflections of the Mount Cook range. Continue south through the ever-changing scenery of native rainforest, bush-fringed lakes and wild beaches into the rugged beauty of the Haast Pass. Travel around the shores of glacial Lakes Hawea and Wanaka into the charming township of Wanaka.

Day 6 Wanaka
Sitting on the shores of magnificent Lake Wanaka, the resort township of Wanaka offers gentle lakeside trail walks to more challenging hikes to the Rob Roy Glacier amidst a landscape of snow-capped peaks and long river valleys. The township boasts boutique shops and award-winning restaurants.

Day 7 Wanaka
Choose from some a range of activities that will delight; into the high mountains on a four-wheel drive adventure or across the lake to Mou Waho island, a conservation island where volunteers are re- introducing the weka bird whose feathers adorn Maori cloaks or jet boat the mighty Matukituki river.

Day 8 Wanaka to Te Anau
Travel south, around Lake Wakatipu across Southland to Te Anau. Enjoy a walk beside the lake or a boat trip to visit the glow worm caves.

Day 9 Milford or Doubtful Sound
A memorable day out to one of the Great Sounds in Fiordland World Heritage Park.

Day 10 Te Anau to Queenstown
Drive via Kingston and around Lake Wakatipu to the scenic resort of Queenstown.

Day 11 Queenstown
Surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, the Queenstown region create the perfect backdrop for a stay of adventure, exploration or relaxation.

Day 12 Queenstown to Mount Cook
Drive alongside the shores of Lake Pukaki into Mount Cook National Park.

Day 13 Mount Cook
Sir Edmund Hillary climbed these peaks before his ascent of Everest. Visit the Alpine Centre that bears his name, before following the Hooker Valley Track for superb views of Mount Cook.

Day 14 Mount Cook to Methven
Leave Mount Cook for the short drive to Tekapo, where you can view the aquamarine lake through the windows of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Continue into the hills of Methven or to a high-country farm for an overnight stay.

Day 15 Methven to Kaikoura
Travel up the East Coast with views to the Pacific, before arriving in Kaikoura. Kaikoura is a coastal town known for its abundant wildlife and its sperm whale population. The Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway winds from the town centre to lookout points at Point Kean. Close by, the rock platforms are home to a colony of New Zealand fur seals.

Day 16 Kaikoura to Nelson
Enjoy a Whale Watch experience by modern purpose-built catamaran for an exciting close-up encounter with the Giant Sperm Whale in their natural environment. This afternoon continue north through the Marlborough Wine Country surrounding Blenheim then drive across the top of the South Island to the city of Nelson.



Day 17 Abel Tasman National Park
Transfer by coach from Nelson to Kaiteriteri for a cruise into the heart of Abel Tasman National Park. Walk the most varied section of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track, along a path that weaves through Manuka groves to the long golden sands of Anchorage beach.

Day 18 Nelson to Wellington
Drive across the top of the South Island to Picton and the Interislander ferry terminal. Depart Picton and cruise across Cook Strait to the North Island. On arrival, drive the short distance to your hotel.

Day 19 Wellington
Wedged between bush-clad hills and a splendid natural harbour, Wellington enjoys an incomparable setting of ever-changing moods. Take the cable car to the Kelburn Lookout and walk back down through the Botanical Gardens and walk along the wharf side to Te Papa, the National Museum. In the evening eat out at one of the many restaurants that line the quayside.

Day 20 Wellington to Napier or Tongariro
Leave Wellington for your choice of locations as you head north to the National Park or Northeast to the Art Deco city of Napier.

Day 21 Tongariro National Park or Napier
Napier: Join a wine tasting afternoon in the sun. Or head up to Mata peak for great views of the region.
Tongariro: Often described as the finest one day walk in New Zealand, the Tongariro Crossing is a full day traverse of the ‘saddle’ between Mts Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Shorter walks are also possible.



A round of golf on an all-weather course, or a soak in a natural hot pool are other options.

Day 22 Rotorua
On to the thermal wonderland of Rotorua. Visit Te Puia with its geothermal valley and Maori Arts and Crafts Centre.

Day 23 Rotorua
A popular excursion is out to Waimangu Valley for a leisurely walk through the valley of steaming geysers, mud pools and lakes. In the evening enjoy a cultural experience that culminates with a traditional Maori Hangi for your evening meal.

Day 24 Rotorua to the Coromandel
Today drive up the coastline and to the Coromandel Peninsula. If you wish to visit Hobbiton you can travel via Matamata for a pre-booked visit. We recommend visiting Hot Water Beach to dig a spa pool in the sands (tide-dependent) and lovely Cathedral Cove (steep walk down to the shore).

Day 25 Coromandel
Time to relax in your scenic coastal surroundings.

Day 26 Coromandel to Auckland
Take the Highway north to Auckland and your accommodation in the city close to the attractions and departure point for trips on the harbour.

Day 27 Auckland
A day to explore the city and enjoy a trip to one of the nearby islands of Rangitoto, Tiritiri Matangi or Waiheke. Enjoy a celebratory end of trip meal at the Sky tower restaurant with fine views across the city.

Day 28 Depart New Zealand
Return your rental vehicle to Auckland International airport to board your homebound flight.

ACCOMMODATION

We arrange accommodation that balances quality with location and that we have seen for ourselves. We favour 4-star central hotels in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, with a mix of independent hotels and charming B&Bs elsewhere. Should our preferred accommodation be unavailable, we reserve the right to book an alternative and adjust the tour price up or down accordingly.

If you prefer to stay at boutique hotels and unique lodges, please ask us to quote for a luxury version of this itinerary.

GUIDE PRICES	
LOW SEASON (May-Sep)	from £5,195
SHOULDER SEASON (Oct-mid Dec, Apr)	from £5,295
PEAK SEASON (mid Dec-Mar)	from £5,825
These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,800 (see page 21). Single supplements apply: prices on request.	
Prices are per person based on two travelling/sharing including	
■ Meet & greet at Auckland airport	
■ Private transfer to your Auckland hotel	
■ 27 nights’ accommodation in quality hotels, B&B’s and apartments	
■ Breakfast each day	
■ Intermediate car hire with unlimited kilometres & daily insurance	
■ Traditional Maori Hangi	
■ Interislander ferry travel	
■ TranzAlpine rail tickets	
■ Milford Nature Cruise	
■ Coach & boat trip Nelson/Abel Tasman National Park	