

Kauri

23 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS

FROM £7,369



Join us for an adventure like no other – a three-week Small Group Journey. Experience the breath-taking scenery of snow-capped Alps, wander through tropical rainforests and relax on wide, sandy beaches. Learn how this beautiful land has been shaped by ancient volcanoes and southern seas, by Maori warriors and colonial settlers. Friendly local guides share their cultural, historical and ecological expertise as you travel with us throughout Aotearoa – ‘the land of the long white cloud’.

PRICES FROM £7,369

Single supplement	from £2,395
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These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,800 (see page 21).

INCLUDES

- Comfortable touring in 16-seater vehicle
- Services of our Driver-Guide and, where applicable, Local Experts
- 22 nights in 4★+ accommodation
- 22 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 evening meals
- Sightseeing & entrance fees listed opposite under Experiences Included

For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys

- 1. View from Mount Maunganui
- 2. Good times on tour
- 4. Scenic Hotel Franz Josef
- 4. Shotover Jet, Queenstown

ITINERARY

- Day 1 Auckland**

Haere mai – welcome! Arrive in Auckland and take some time to orientate yourself in this vibrant city before the tour starts.
M Social or Fable, Auckland
- Day 2 Auckland to Bay of Islands**

Heading north, we pause to marvel at a remnant of ancient Kauri forest from an elevated walkway. At Paihia we enjoy a guided visit to the birthplace of the nation, the fascinating Waitangi Treaty Grounds. We arrive in Russell, the first capital city of New Zealand, by ferry.
Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (2 nights)
- Day 3 Bay of Islands YOUR CHOICE**

Today, the choice is yours. Either travel by special coach along amazing 90 Mile Beach to sacred **Cape Reinga** (also includes lunch) OR enjoy a cruise towards **Cape Brett Lighthouse** and the Hole in the Rock, with the chance of dolphin-spotting, before a guided tour of historic Russell.
- Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland**

We return to Auckland to discover its vibrant harbourside, charming village neighbourhoods and panoramic views, before a guided tour of the excellent Auckland Museum to learn more about Pacific culture.
M Social or Fable, Auckland
- Day 5 Auckland to the Coromandel Peninsula**

Wave goodbye to the City of Sails as we travel to the Coromandel Peninsula and a scenic drive to Whitianga in Mercury Bay.
Oceans Resort, Whitianga (2 nights)
- Day 6 Explore the Coromandel**

If the tide is right, scoop your own ‘spa’ pool out of the sand at Hot Water Beach, before walking to beautiful Cathedral Cove. A water taxi takes us to Hahei, then we travel to Cooks Beach, where the *Endeavour* dropped anchor in 1769. Now you can choose to take a ferry ride to Whitianga and walk to the hotel, or travel back with our driver.
- Day 7 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua**

We turn inland and stretch our legs on an easy bush walk before arriving at the geothermal centre of North Island, which is also the heart of Maori culture. Our private tour of Te Puia includes bubbling mud, indigenous art and kiwi conservation.
Millennium Hotel or Royal Palms (2 nights)

- Day 8 Rotorua YOUR CHOICE**

Either explore **Waimangu Volcanic Valley** on foot and by boat to experience this ever-changing landscape close-up, OR Tolkien fans may take a trip to the **Hobbiton™ Movie Set**. This evening, we all experience an amazing Maori welcome and Hangi (feast).
- Day 9 Rotorua to Napier**

Pausing at mighty Lake Taupo, we head to Hawke’s Bay on the east coast for a walking tour of Art Deco Napier. This evening, we enjoy the best of New Zealand cuisine (with a glass of wine) at the Mission Estate Winery.
Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier
- Day 10 Napier to Wellington**

Driving through the Wairarapa ranges we arrive in the breezy capital city, known for its creative industries and great coffee! We take the cable car from Kelburn before visiting Te Papa, one of the world’s top museums.
James Cook Grand Chancellor or Wellington Double Tree by Hilton
- Day 11 Wellington to Nelson**

All aboard the Interisland Ferry to navigate the Cook Strait to South Island! Back on our coach, we pause for a wine tasting in Marlborough before arriving in Nelson, known for its arts and crafts and artisan food culture.
Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson (2 nights)
- Day 12 Abel Tasman National Park**

Enjoy a morning cruise exploration of New Zealand’s smallest National Park. View world-famous Split Apple Rock, New Zealand Fur Seals, golden sands, and the turquoise waters of Anchorage, Bark Bay.
- Day 13 Nelson to Kaikoura YOUR CHOICE**

Depart Nelson and drive through vineyards surrounding Blenheim in the Marlborough Wine Country. From here travel south down the stunning eastern coastline to Kaikōura – where the mountains meet the sea. Today you have the choice of two excursions:
Whale Watch Cruise: Take a 2-hour Whale Watch cruise experience, aboard a modern catamaran for an exciting, close-up encounter with Giant Sperm Whales in their natural environment.
Wings over Whales: Gain an aerial perspective during a “flightseeing” tour on the world of whales and dolphins in Kaikōura’s stunning marine environment, from the comfort of a high fixed-winged aircraft for unobstructed viewing.
Sudima Hotel, Kaikōura



- Day 14 Kaikoura to Christchurch**

The road south follows the wild coastline, affording constantly changing seascapes and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Then descend into the rolling farmland of North Canterbury, to Christchurch. This afternoon we join punting boatmen, for a relaxing cruise along the River Avon through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Afterwards, enjoy a journey in style onboard a beautifully restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch’s city centre.
Distinction Hotel, Christchurch
- Day 15 Christchurch to Fox Glacier**

From Christchurch, traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous TranzAlpine rail journey to the West Coast, with a stop at Arthurs Pass National Park. Pass through historic towns reaching Hokitika and its galleries specialising in pounamu (greenstone) jewellery and art works. Continue south to Franz Josef, then on to the small remote village of Fox.
Te Weheka Fox Glacier
- Day 16 Fox Glacier to Wanaka**

After a photo-opportunity at mirror-like Lake Matheson, we take the Haast Pass river road deep into the Southern Alps and Mt Aspiring National Park to the lakeside resort of Wanaka.
Edgewater Resort, Wanaka (2 nights)
- Day 17 Wanaka YOUR CHOICE**

Nature lovers may take a **lake cruise to a conservation island with an eco-guide** to discover native birds like the flightless Buff Weka, or you can choose to enjoy a **scenic 4WD adventure to a high-country farm** above the lake.
- Day 18 Wanaka to Te Anau**

Depart Wānaka, with your first stop to visit historic Arrowtown. Continue your journey to reach Lake Te Anau gateway to Fiordland National Park. On arrival



- in Te Anau, discover the wild beauty of Fiordland by jet boat and visit a 220-acre working farm and meet a local farmer to gain insight into New Zealand’s agricultural heritage, enjoy a sheep-shearing and dog-mustering demonstration.
Distinction Luxmore, Te Anau
- Day 19 Te Anau to Milford Sound and Queenstown**

The journey there, through rainforest, is as spectacular as the destination: Milford Sound! Top this with a memorable cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea (picnic lunch on board) before ending the day in Queenstown.
Scenic Suites Queenstown (2 nights)
- Day 20 Queenstown**

Queenstown is New Zealand’s most famous adventure resort. Try white-water rafting and high wire thrills or relax on a classic steamship cruise (at own cost). The day and evening are yours to do as much or as little as you please.
- Day 21 Queenstown to Mount Cook**

Today we approach the Southern Alps via the Approach the Southern Alps via the Kawarau Gorge and Central Otago, driving alongside Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook Village, the nearest vehicle access to awesome Aoraki Mt Cook.
Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel
- Day 22 Mount Cook to Christchurch**

Head down the Tasman Valley from Mount Cook and on to Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, where the window behind the altar frames an astonishing view of the lake. Then across the high country’s tussock plains, through Fairlie and Geraldine to the ‘Garden City’ of Christchurch.
Distinction Hotel, Christchurch
- Day 23 Depart Christchurch**

Haere ra! Farewell from New Zealand. We take you to the airport for your flight home or set you on the way on the next stage of your holiday.

EXPERIENCES INCLUDED

- Entry to Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Journey along 90-mile Beach – OR – take a dolphin and Hole in the Rock cruise
- A private guide around a geothermal valley with geysers, mud pools and hot springs
- Visit Waimangu Volcanic Valley – OR – experience Hobbiton™ Movie Set
- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- Enjoy a wine tasting and evening meal at Mission Estate in Napier
- Travel on Wellington’s famous Cable Car and visit Te Papa Museum
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough’s premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Enjoy a whalewatch experience from the sea -OR- from the air.
- Relax as you’re guided along Christchurch’s Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt
- Enjoy a journey in style onboard a restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch’s city centre.
- Experience one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world across the Southern Alps on the Tranz Alpine train
- See native birds on a conservation island – OR – take a scenic 4WD adventure in Wanaka
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Discover the wild beauty of Fiordland by jet boat
- Gain an insight into Kiwi farming methods on a visit to a Southland farm
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breath-taking Milford Sound