

Pohutukawa

20 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
FROM £6,945



This Small Group Journey takes you to some of our favourite places and spaces in the North and South Islands, discovering fantastic coastlines and immersing you in Maori culture and history. Explore the geothermal wonders of Rotorua’s bubbling mud pools and boiling geysers and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Abel Tasman National Park with opportunities to swim in its turquoise lagoons.

PRICES FROM £6,945

Single supplement

from £2,140

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
- 19 nights in 4★+ accommodation
- 19 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. Mount Cook National Park
- 2. Geothermal area, Rotorua
- 3. Christchurch tram
- 4. Art Deco Napier

ITINERARY

- Day 1 Auckland**
After we meet and greet you, you are free to relax. The hotel is a great central base.
M Social or Fable, Auckland
- Day 2 Auckland to 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 3 Coromandel Peninsula**
If the tide is right, scoop a ‘spa’ pool on Hot Water Beach, then walk to beautiful Cathedral Cove. Rejoin our vehicle to make for lovely Cooks Beach, named after the first European to land in New Zealand. From here, either catch the ferry to Whitianga and walk to our hotel OR travel back with your driver.
- Day 4 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua**
Head inland, pausing at the Okere River before arriving in Rotorua: not only New Zealand’s geothermal hot spot, but a thriving Maori centre. We receive a warm welcome at Te Puia, discover mud pools and steam vents, as well as the arts of weaving, carving and tattooing.
Millennium Hotel or Royal Palms (2 nights)
- Day 5 Rotorua YOUR CHOICE**
A choice between:
Waimangu Volcanic Valley – the 1886 eruption of Mt Tarawera was devastating, but created a new geothermal valley of boiling craters and jewel-coloured lakes for us to walk through.
Visit Middle Earth – *Hobbiton™* This farmland film-set is a treat for Tolkien fans: our guide explains how it became *The Shire™*.
This evening we all visit a Maori village, receiving a formal welcome (powhiri) and discovering indigenous culture through dance and song, followed by a Hangi feast.
- Day 6 Rotorua to Napier**
South to Lake Taupo and across the Tongariro plateau to Napier. How did this seaside town come to rival Miami for its Art Deco style? Our guided walk reveals all. Napier is also at the heart of North Island’s vineyards, and this evening’s treat is dinner at its oldest winery, Mission Estate.
Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier

- Day 7 Napier to Wellington**
Travel across the rural Wairarapa to windy Wellington, the seat of New Zealand’s Parliament. The Kelburn Lookout offers a great view, before we take the Cable Car down to visit Te Papa.
James Cook Grand Chancellor or Wellington Double Tree by Hilton
- Day 8 Wellington to Nelson**
Like *HMS Endeavour* 250 years before, we cruise through Queen Charlotte Sound to South Island. On disembarking, we pause in Marlborough for a wine-tasting at one of the country’s premier cellars. Our base for the next two nights is sunny Nelson.
Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson (2 nights)
- Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park**
Paradise found! Abel Tasman National Park is a mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons, sheltered by forested ranges to the south. Enjoy a morning cruise exploration to view world-famous Split Apple Rock, New Zealand Fur Seals, golden sands, and the turquoise waters of Anchorage, Bark Bay, and Tōtaranui Beach. Following the cruise, travel back to Nelson where you conclude your day.
- Day 10 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 11 Kaikoura to Christchurch**
The road south follows the wild coastline, affording constantly changing seascapes and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean before turning inland and climbing the Hundalee Ranges. Then descend into the rolling farmland of North Canterbury before entering the city of Christchurch. This afternoon we join punting boatmen, for a relaxing cruise in flat-bottomed punts 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 12 Christchurch to Fox Glacier**
From Christchurch, traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous TranzAlpine rail journey to Arthurs Pass. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps and to Greymouth on the West Coast. Pass through historic towns reaching Hokitika and its galleries specialising in pounamu (greenstone) jewellery and art works. Continue south to Franz Josef Glacier the small remote village of Fox.
Te Weheka Retreat, Fox Glacier
- Day 13 Fox Glacier to Wanaka**
We take the Haast River road deep into Mt Aspiring National Park. The atmosphere lightens as we reach Lake Wanaka, reflecting mountain peaks that in winter offer skiing, in summer hiking.
Edgewater Resort, Wanaka (2 nights)
- Day 14 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 15 Wanaka to Te Anau**
Traverse the Crown Range Road to visit historic Arrowtown. Journey through a glacial-formed valley that is now farmland, to reach Lake Te Anau, the largest freshwater lake in the South Island and gateway to Fiordland National Park. On arrival in Te Anau, discover the wild beauty of Fiordland by jet boat. Visit a 220-acre working support farm and meet a local farmer to gain insight into New Zealand’s agricultural heritage and enjoy a sheep-shearing and dog-mustering demonstration.
Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau



- Day 16 Te Anau to Queenstown**
Today’s journey is one of the most scenic you can make on four wheels! On arrival at Milford Sound, we board a comfortable vessel to cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea: keep an eye open for seals and dolphins. Our return journey ends in Queenstown.
Scenic Suites Queenstown (2 nights)
- Day 17 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 18 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 19 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 20 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

- Visit Hot water beach and photogenic Cathedral Cove
- 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