

ITINERARY:

14-B, Breakfast, 3-L, Lunch, 8-D, Dinner

Day 01 November 14, 2022 **Auckland arrive**

On arrival make your way to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Copthorne Hotel or similar

Note: Transfers to your hotel can be arranged on request and at your expense.

Day 02 November 15, 2022 **Auckland sightseeing (B,D)**

This morning a half-day sightseeing tour of Auckland - the 'City of Sails' by coach. Your tour explores the lively Viaduct Basin then travels along Tamaki Drive, which runs east past peaceful sheltered bays to Auckland's most expensive real estate. Enjoy the panoramic city and harbour views from Bastion Point, home to the Sir Michael Savage Memorial and visit the Auckland Domain. Your afternoon and evening at leisure. Before leaving the harbour, join your group for an early evening Welcome Dinner at the Harbourside Grill.

Meals: Breakfast, Welcome Dinner

Overnight: Copthorne Hotel or similar

Day 03 November 16, 2022 **Auckland to Rotorua (B,D)**

Today travel south from Auckland to Rotorua. Set on the shores of Lake Rotorua, this popular tourist town has the most energetic thermal activity in the country with bubbling mud pools, gushing geysers, beautiful coloured hot springs and terrace formations created by mineral water. Rotorua has a large Maori population whose cultural activities are world-renowned.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Ibis Hotel, (standard room) Rotorua or similar

Day 04 November 17, 2022 **Rotorua sightseeing (B,D)**

This morning enjoy a half-day city tour of Rotorua. Included in your sightseeing tour are visits to Te Pulg and the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where you can view mighty geysers, boiling mud pools, and the traditional arts and culture of the Maori People. Visit the thermal area of Waiotapu, one of the world's most colourful thermal areas. See the Artist's Palette where different minerals form areas on the pool surface, view the tiny bubbles surfacing in the champagne pool and walk down alongside the silica terrace to see the Bridal Veil Falls as well as other thermal activity. This evening you will be treated to a traditional Hangi (feast) and Maori Concert. Experience the warmth of the Maori people during an evening of ceremonial rituals, powerful cultural performances, storytelling and Hangi feasting. Enter the pre-European Maori village, witness the earth being scraped carefully away from the hangi pit and enter their ancestral Meeting House to relax as their family entertain you with a powerful cultural performance before dining on the traditional hangi buffet dinner cooked the traditional Maori way in an earth oven.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Ibis Hotel, (standard room), Rotorua or similar

Day 05 November 18, 2022 **(B,D) Rotorua to Christchurch (Flight not included)**

Transfer to the Rotorua Airport for your domestic flight from Rotorua to Christchurch. *(Flight costs are not included. Pricing is not available until November 2021 at that time the price of the air will be added to your invoice.)*

On arrival your group will be met by your guide and coach. Before checking into your hotel you will experience a sightseeing tour of Christchurch.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Ibis Hotel (standard room), Christchurch or similar

Day 06 November 19, 2022 **Christchurch (B,L)**

This morning enjoy your 'Triple Combo' in Christchurch which includes a pass for the Christchurch Tram - step back in time to a grand era of transport, the Christchurch Tram is a unique, elegant

and environmentally friendly way to see the city. This quality experience combines the heritage of the trams with the culture of the Garden City. The Tram circuit encompasses the city sights including New Regent Street, Cathedral Junction, Cathedral Square, Avon River, Art Gallery Centre, Arts Centre, Canterbury Museum and The Botanic Gardens. The tram drivers provide a live commentary throughout the journey, identifying points of interest, historic architecture, various activities and places to shop and eat, making the tram ride an informative and entertaining experience. Also included today is a relaxing Punt ride along the Avon River where an Edwardian-dressed Punter will guide you through the rebuilding of the city centre of Christchurch, on board a classic Punt. Your third inclusion is the Christchurch Gondola, situated on the Port Hills of Christchurch City. The summit Station of the Gondola provides spectacular panoramic views from its elevation at 550 metres (1500 feet) above sea level. The Gondola is located on the edge of Christchurch just fifteen minutes from the heart of the City. Today lunch is included at the Red Rock Cafe. After lunch depart by coach on a sightseeing tour of Christchurch, stopping on the way for some free time to shop, or just enjoy a coffee and the architecture, at The Tannery - a boutique-shopping emporium, on the banks of the Heathcote River in Woolston.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch at Red Rock Cafe

Overnight: Ibis Hotel (standard room), Christchurch or similar

Day 07 November 20, 2022 **Christchurch / Arthurs Pass/ Franz Josef by train (B,D)**

Board the Tranz Alpine Rail for a scenic rail journey through the heart of the mighty Southern Alps to Greymouth on the West Coast. Cross the fertile Canterbury Plains then wind through the gorge of the Waimakariri River and climb into Arthur's Pass National Park. From the valleys of the snow-capped mountains, descend into the lush rainforests of Westland, to conclude the journey at the town of Greymouth. Drive south along the West Coast with the Tasman Sea to the west and the Southern Alps rising steeply to the east to the town of Hokitika. Time permitting, visit the greenstone factory at Hokitika where a local jade like stone highly prized by pre-European Maori is crafted into exquisite jewellery. Continue south through forests and farmland, with views of the Alps to the east and the Tasman Sea to the west, to the village of Franz Josef. The huge rivers of snow and ice of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers flow from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps almost to sea level, which is unusual in a temperate climate.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at your hotelrec

Overnight: Scenic Hotel, Franz Josef (standard room) or similar

Day 08 November 21, 2022 **Franz Josef (B)**

This morning join a relaxing, interpretive guided walk to the Franz Josef Glacier, which is the perfect opportunity to learn the role of the ice flow in shaping this remarkable landscape. Your guide will take you up alongside the mighty Waiho Riverbed following the glacier's path of retreat. Here you will learn about the glacier's history, see what is left behind by this majestic giant and learn the legend of *Ka Roimata o Hinehukatere*. Near the terminal face you will cross over the public barriers and after a brief climb you will be rewarded with spectacular views of the rapidly changing terminal face of the glacier. *Duration 3 hours. Please note the trip does not go on the ice - complimentary admission to the Glacier Hot Pools is included.* This afternoon is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Franz Josef Scenic Hotel (standard room) or similar

Day 9 November 2022 **Franz Josef (B)**

Today is at leisure. Enjoy the optional experiences offered or rest. This is your day.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Franz Josef, Scenic Hotel

Day 10 November 2022 **Franz Josef to Queenstown (B,D)**

Time to view the glacier in its spectacular setting amidst the rainforests before continuing south along the coast enjoying spectacular views of the Tasman Sea before turning inland and following the mighty Haast River towards the Haast Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps. Once over the Pass the scenery changes dramatically as the road descends past the waters of Lake Wanaka and Hawea and into Central Otago. Continue past stone fruit orchards and through the rock hewn Kawarau Gorge to Queenstown. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at your hotel
Overnight: Heartland Hotel, Queenstown or similar

Day 11 November 2022 **Queenstown (B,L)**

This morning depart the hotel for a full day sightseeing tour of Queenstown and the surrounding area. Take a unique breath-taking ride through dramatic and narrow canyons, and hold on tight to the Shotover Jet. Visit historic Arrowtown, a quaint village set on the banks of the Arrow River that was once a rip-roaring gold rush town. Time here to sample some of the cafes, galleries and boutiques or you may wish to take a walk to the historic Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. Next visit the Stoker Room in Cromwell for a banquet lunch served on Oak Staves with wine pairing. This afternoon also see the Edith Cavell Bridge spanning the narrow canyon of the rugged Shotover River: pretty Lake Hayes and the Kawarau Bridge to see the daredevils bungee jumping from the original AJ Hackett site. Join a guided tour of the vineyard and winery, competing the experience with a tasting in the caves. Travel 76 metres underground into the Gibbston Valley Wine Cave. The rocky schist walls within the cave are lined with barrels of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay still reaching their prime.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Overnight: Heartland Hotel, Queenstown or similar

Day 12 November 2022 **Queenstown to Te Anau (B,D)**

Leaving Queenstown we skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake to Te Anau. Explore a mysterious underground world of rushing water, before drifting in silent darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of thousands of glow-worms. Your excursion commences with a scenic cruise across Lake Te Anau to the western side of the lake. On arrival there is time to view informative displays of Cavern House before your guides invite you to accompany them underground in small groups. As you explore by path through silent darkness to the glow-worm grotto. The delicate incandescence of thousands of tiny glow-worms is a magical sight. On conclusion return to Te Anau by launch. The rest of the day is at leisure

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner at your hotel
Overnight: Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau

Day 13 November 2022 **Milford Sound Day Tour (B,L)**

Travelling along the shores of lake Te Anau you reach the beautiful Eglinton Valley climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach Milford Sound where you will enjoy a scenic cruise of the fjord. Enjoy a picnic lunch while cruising the fjord. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls. From Milford Sound you return to Te Anau. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, (picnic) Lunch
Overnight: Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau

Day 14 November 2022 **Te Anau to Queenstown (B,D)**

Depart and travel across rolling farmland then north through the quaint settlements of Mossburn, Athol and Garston then travel along the shores of Lake Wakatipu enjoying spectacular views before reaching Queenstown. This afternoon is at leisure.

This evening ride the scenic aerial gondola to enjoy a sumptuous farewell buffet dinner at Skyline's Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar, Queenstown's most spectacular location high above the city on Bob's Peak.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner at Skyline's Stratosfare Restaurant
Overnight: Heartland Hotel, Queenstown

Day 15 November 2022 **Depart Queenstown (B)**
(transfer to the airport not included, international flight not included)

Farewell to New Zealand!

Transfer to the airport is not included. Arrangements will be made at your request and at your expense for the airport transfer.

This is the end of our services until we are once again, *Going Places Together!*