



**GREAT JOURNEYS  
NEW ZEALAND**  
AOTEAROA BY TRAIN

## **Classic | Cities and Coastal Highlights Tour Auckland to Christchurch. 10 days**

### **Day 1 Auckland**

Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand's City of Sails! Auckland is known for its multicultural hub of food, music, arts, and culture.

After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Auckland has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the Sky Tower or go shopping along bustling Queen Street. You may even fancy a drink in one of the charming bars or eateries of Vulcan Lane.

Your tour officially begins as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director this evening for a welcome reception.

#### **Accommodation**

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation(1 night)

#### **Meals Included**

A welcome drink is included in tonight's reception.

#### **Activities**

Welcome Reception

### **Day 2 Auckland - Ohakune**

#### **The Northern Explorer Scenic Train A Scenic Journey to Ohakune**

Today you will marvel at rural New Zealand's lush landscapes from the comfort of your seat on board the Northern Explorer scenic train journey. From the green pastures of the Waikato to the icy mountain streams of Ruapehu, you won't want to miss a moment. If you are interested in culture and history, be sure to listen to the audio



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### Day 3

### Ohakune, Ruapehu & Tongariro National Park

commentary as you cross historic viaducts and traverse up the Raurimu Spiral, an engineering marvel. This experience is one like no other.

Enjoy an elevated experience as you visit the volcanic plateau. Learn about Tongariro National Park which is home to three volcanic mountains and recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

At the base of this geological wonder is Ohakune, 'the carrot capital of New Zealand', where you'll stay the next two nights to experience your chosen adventure.

#### Accommodation

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

#### Meals

Breakfast

#### Activities

- Northern Explorer Scenic Train Experience
- Mini excursion to view expansive views across the volcanic landscape

### Discover Tongariro National Park

Today is free for you to discover one of the region's many exciting excursions. Choose from the optional activities on offer and personalise your perfect holiday. Perhaps you will hop aboard a rail cart journey or join a horse trekking experience that takes you along expansive hills, mountains, rivers and into native forest.

If you're after an active day, why not explore Ohakune's historical cycle trail? Rent e-bikes and discover old viaducts, tunnels, old settlers' camps and reclaimed native forests along the Old Coach Road!

#### Accommodation

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)



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**Day 4  
Ohakune to Wellington**

**Meals**

Breakfast

**The Northern Explorer Scenic Train**

After breakfast, we begin our day by travelling from National Park to Mt Ruapehu. You won't want to leave this mini excursion to Middle Earth without a panoramic photo in hand!

Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, you will wave goodbye to this UNESCO World Heritage Site as you settle into your uber-comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to acquire the best views from the train.

As you glide through rich green farmland and past a dramatic coastline, indulge in afternoon tea while drinking in the views. All too soon the train will arrive into Wellington leaving the picturesque Porirua Harbour behind you.

Arriving at Wellington Railway Station, you are just a stone's throw from downtown, the Beehive and Parliament Buildings. Welcome to New Zealand's Capital City! You won't want to waste a moment of time after checking into the hotel - your evening is free to explore this award-winning cultural and culinary capital from Queen's Wharf to Cuba Street and beyond.

**Accommodation**

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

**Meals**

Breakfast, **Afternoon tea aboard the train**

**Activities**

Northern Explorer Scenic Train

**Day 5  
Wellington – New Zealand's Capital**

**Explore Wellington**

The perfect day does exist – and it includes exploring



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### Day 6

#### Wellington to Blenheim

Wellington!

Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining our Wellington City introduction tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafes, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Get cultured at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, or visit Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary to surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest. You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings to botanic gardens and much more...the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience.

Enjoy dinner tonight with your fellow travellers and Tour Director.

#### Accommodation

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

#### Meals

Breakfast, Dinner

#### Activities

- Wellington City Introduction Tour
- Group Dinner

### Crossing the Cook Strait

#### Adventure to the South

This morning you will say poroporoaki ki te motu raki (good-bye to the North Island) as you sail to the South Island, crossing the Cook Strait on the Interislander Ferry. As the shores of the North Island slowly disappear, enjoy a hearty seafaring breakfast on board.

Around midday, you will be spoiled with captivating harbour views as you enter the Queen Charlotte Sound. Admire the beauty of this coastal paradise as you arrive at the gateway of the South Island, Picton. Step off the Interislander Ferry and join your next world-class experience onboard a Marlborough Wine Tour!



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**Day 7**  
**Blenheim to Kaikōura**

**Accommodation**

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (1 night)

**Meals**

Breakfast

**Activities**

- Interislander Ferry
- Marlborough Wine Tour

**The Coastal Pacific Scenic Train**

After enjoying a delightful breakfast, the morning is yours to explore.

You'll hear the hoot of the Coastal Pacific train as it pulls in, to bring you on yet another scenic experience. This time – along the rugged coastline of the South Island. On this train journey, you will glide across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless voyage of breath-taking beauty. Keep an eye out for the fur seals lazing on the rocks!

Once in Kaikoura, the evening will be yours to enjoy some iconic kai moana (seafood) either at the sublime Sudima Kaikoura or at one of the popular restaurants.

**Accommodation**

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (1 night)

**Meals**

Breakfast

**Activities**

Coastal Pacific Scenic Train Experience

**Day 8**  
**Christchurch**

**Explore Kaikōura**

Today will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will have the opportunity to go whale watching! Enjoy today's optional thrill of an up-close encounter with the world's largest-toothed predator, the Giant Sperm Whale, who live in the waters of Kaikoura year-round.



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Want to get an aerial experience of the wildlife? Why not request a plane ride to capture the true grandeur of it all?

Whether you have decided to go whale watching or swimming with the dolphins and seals, we're sure you will be feeling peckish. Head to the hub of the action on the main street to sample some iconic New Zealand food - you can't go wrong with the humble Kiwiana fish and chips. Work off the deep-fried delights by wandering through the wonderful array of local artisan stores and souvenir shops.

In the late afternoon, your journey will continue, once again, on the Coastal Pacific Train en route to Christchurch, or "The Garden City". The spectacular scenery won't cease to amaze as you journey south through the rolling hills and extensive plains. Enjoy the relaxing journey with a glass of wine in hand.

### **Accommodation**

3 - 3.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights)

### **Meals**

Breakfast, Dinner on train

### **Activities**

Coastal Pacific Scenic Train Experience

## **Day 9**

### **Kaikōura to Christchurch**

### **Explore Christchurch**

Christchurch, the hub for South Island exploration is also a wonderful city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican 'gothic revival' architectural influence. Often remembered for its earthquake in 2011, the city is rebuilding itself as a multi-cultural haven. So, without further delay, jump on the historic tram to learn the history, tales and culture of Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Enjoy your free time as you explore the Arts Centre, Quake City Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, and Botanical Gardens. Ride on the city tram to uncover Christchurch's great history or relax as you punt on the Avon River. There is also a multitude of delicious cafes tucked into quaint side streets we're sure you will love. If you are in



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the mood for something different, set off for Akaroa, an 'incroyable' French coastal settlement just an hour and half from the city centre.

Dinner awaits as you join your fellow travellers one last time. Enjoy a wonderful evening of conversation with your new friends before departing tomorrow.

### **Accommodation**

3.5 - 4 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

### **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Dinner

### **Activities**

- Christchurch Tram City Tour
- Farewell Dinner

## **Day 10** **Christchurch**

Your journey will end after enjoying breakfast at your hotel.

Not ready to leave Christchurch? Reach out to our Travel Centre to pre-organise your extended stay.

### **Meals**

Breakfast

### **Activities**

Transfer to airport