

# Essence of New Zealand

## Christchurch to Auckland

20 days / 19-night Classic Journey

**Visit** 20 places

Sparkling bays, volcanic lakes, pristine sounds, ancient rock formations and legendary cool-climate wines – this is New Zealand. From the South Island to the North Island, it's hard not to lose yourself within some of the Land of the Long White Cloud's oldest cities. And the best part? You have twenty enthralling days of discovery where everything is taken care of.

**Below** Aoraki Mt Cook National Park



## Signature Experiences

- ☆ Discover Australasia's highest peak in Aoraki Mt Cook National Park.
- ☆ Cruise pristine Milford Sound.
- ☆ Embark on an impressive rail adventure aboard the TranzAlpine train.
- ☆ Surrender your taste buds to a three-course dining experience in the Marlborough region.
- ☆ Cruise across Cook Strait on the Interislander ferry.
- ☆ Immerse yourself in Napier's Art Deco surrounds on a guided tour.
- ☆ Experience true Māori culture at a traditional Hāngī Feast.
- ☆ Enjoy a nature-spotting cruise in the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett.



### Key

- ☆ Signature Experiences
- Ⓜ Freedom of Choice
- BD Breakfast Dinner

#### Day 01: Arrive Christchurch

We'll meet you on arrival and transfer you to your hotel. See the city sights of Christchurch on board a heritage tram over drinks and canapes. **D**

Stay: Rydges Latimer Christchurch.

#### Day 02: Christchurch, Aoraki Mt Cook

Ⓜ Today you'll traverse the Canterbury plains to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo, before journeying into Aoraki Mt Cook National Park to view Australasia's highest mountain, Aoraki (Mt Cook). This afternoon, you may join a guided nature walk. Alternatively, during the summer months, board a MAC boat and discover icebergs on the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake. Perhaps visit the Sir Edmund

Hillary Alpine Centre; or experience stargazing with an astronomer at a planetarium. **BD**

Stay: Aoraki Mt Cook, The Hermitage Hotel, in a room with alpine views.

#### Day 03: Aoraki Mt Cook, Dunedin

Set out along the shores of Lake Pukaki to Oamaru. Continue to Koekohe Beach to view the unusual spherical-shaped Moeraki Boulders. Arrive in Dunedin late afternoon and relax before dinner. **BD**

Stay: Distinction Dunedin Hotel.

#### Day 04: Dunedin, Te Anau

Ⓜ Begin your day with your choice of sightseeing activity. You may choose to visit Olveston Historic House. Those who enjoy a beer might head to Speight's Brewery. Alternatively, discover the history of Larnach Castle, nestled on the stunning Otago Peninsula. Afterwards, absorb the breathtaking scenery as you travel to the lakeside settlement of Te Anau. **BD**

Two Nights: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas.

#### Day 05: Te Anau

Ⓜ Waking in Te Anau this morning, decide how to spend your day thanks to our range of Freedom of Choice activities on offer. Perhaps you may like to explore an underground network of limestone caves, lit by thousands of glow worms. Alternatively, you may prefer to set off on a wilderness cruise on Doubtful Sound. Or, you might take an exciting jet boat ride along the Upper Waiau River. Spend this evening at leisure to reflect on your day. **B**

#### Day 06: Te Anau, Milford Sound, Queenstown

☆ This morning, wind down the Milford Road, through the Eglinton and Hollyford valleys. Have your cameras ready as you then travel through the Homer Tunnel, to be eventually met by the sight of Mitre Peak, one of the most photographed peaks in the country. Continue to Milford Sound where you will cruise along the full length of this fiord deep within Fiordland National Park. After, Queenstown awaits. **BD**

Three Nights: Millennium Hotel Queenstown.

### Trip Overview

Day	Destination	Included Highlight	Day	Destination	Included Highlight
01	Christchurch	Arrival	11	Blenheim	Highlights of Marlborough Dinner
02	Aoraki Mt Cook	Freedom of Choice	12	Blenheim	Freedom of Choice
03	Dunedin	Moeraki Boulders	13	Wellington	Interislander ferry
04	Te Anau	Freedom of Choice	14	Napier	Art Deco Tour
05	Te Anau	Freedom of Choice	15	Rotorua	Hāngī Feast
06	Queenstown	Milford Sound cruise	16	Rotorua	Freedom of Choice
07	Queenstown	Freedom of Choice	17	Auckland	Freedom of Choice
08	Queenstown	Day at leisure	18	Bay of Islands	Kauri Museum
09	Franz Josef	Franz Josef	19	Bay of Islands	Hole in the Rock cruise
10	Christchurch	TranzAlpine train	20	Auckland	Farewell





Above Queenstown / Right Rotorua

#### Day 07: Queenstown

🚗 Today discover Queenstown your way. Movie buffs can visit key Lord of the Rings filming locations. Meanwhile, for the thrillseekers, a Skippers Canyon adventure for an exciting 4WD tour through the region. Others may prefer a leisurely cruise on Lake Wakatipu, or a wine tour. This evening, the choice is yours again, as you select from a number of restaurants to dine at. **BD**

#### Day 08: Queenstown

Wake this morning in beautiful Queenstown, and immerse yourself in this cosmopolitan city with a full day at leisure. You may like to take a stroll along the shores of Lake Wakatipu, or take part in the thrill of a lifetime in the country's 'adventure capital'. **B**

#### Day 09: Queenstown, Franz Josef

🌟 Today you'll skirt the shores of lakes Wanaka and Hawea, before crossing Haast Pass into Westland Tai Poutini National Park. Continue to Franz Josef, where you will take in the dramatic terrain and surrounds of picturesque Franz Josef. Later, arrive at your luxury eco-resort in time for a delicious four-course dinner. **BD**

Stay: Franz Josef, Te Waonui Forest Retreat.

#### Day 10: Franz Josef, TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch

🌟 Seize the day and board New Zealand's famous TranzAlpine train to experience one of the world's greatest rail journeys. Enjoy stunning views as you pass by the striking patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, and travel through deep gorges and river valleys. Follow the Waimakariri River and travel across the Southern Alps all the way to South Island's largest city, Christchurch. **B**

Stay: Rydges Latimer Christchurch.

#### Day 11: Christchurch, Kaikoura, Blenheim

🌟 This morning, follow the east coast to Kaikoura, before traversing the Marlborough region to Blenheim. Here, prepare to indulge in the finest flavours as you savour a Highlights of Marlborough Dinner. An exciting experience, the unique fusion of quality produce and ethnic influences have helped shape New Zealand's food and wine culture as one of the best in the world. Tonight, local chefs will present each dish before you, showcasing superb local artisan produce, perfectly paired with wines from the region. **BD**

Two Nights: Blenheim, Scenic Hotel Marlborough.

#### Day 12: Blenheim

🚗 Today, perhaps embark on a tour of the Omas Aviation Heritage Centre; enjoy the sheer beauty of Marlborough Sounds during a greenshell mussel cruise; or choose to visit some of the region's best wineries. **B**

#### Day 13: Blenheim, Picton, Wellington

🌟 This morning, cruise across Cook Strait on the Interislander ferry, through the stunning waters of Marlborough and Queen Charlotte sounds. This afternoon, take part in a fascinating city sights tour of Wellington. **BD**

Stay: InterContinental Wellington.

#### Day 14: Wellington, Napier

🌟 Today you'll drive through the Rimutaka Ranges en route to Napier. On arrival, discover the city on an Art Deco tour. **BD**

Stay: Napier, Scenic Hotel Te Pania.

#### Day 15: Napier, Taupo, Rotorua

🌟 Today, journey through Esk Valley and Te Pohue, stopping at the charming town of Taupo. Later, travel to Rotorua, where this evening you'll immerse yourself in Māori culture at a Hāngī Feast and performance. **BD**

Two Nights: Millennium Hotel Rotorua.

#### Day 16: Rotorua

🕒 This morning, it's time to explore Rotorua on your selected sightseeing activity. Perhaps enjoy a sheep show at the Agrodome followed by a visit to Te Puia Thermal Reserve; choose to visit Wai-O-Tapu; see some of the sets from the Lord of the Rings movies. The evening is yours at leisure to further explore. **B**

#### Day 17: Rotorua, Auckland

🕒 Travel to Auckland and take in the city sights on a guided tour. Later, choose from a range of activities including a cruise on Waitemata Harbour; a unique All Blacks rugby experience; a visit to Auckland Zoo; wonder at Weta Workshop; or escape to Auckland's wild, black sand beaches and lush rainforest. **BD**

Stay: Auckland, Crowne Plaza Hotel.

#### Day 18: Auckland, Bay of Islands

🕒 Today, you'll cross Auckland's Harbour Bridge and travel along the Hibiscus Coast, stopping at the Kauri Museum for an insight into the pioneering history of the region. **BD**

Two Nights: Bay of Islands, Scenic Hotel.

#### Day 19: Bay of Islands

🕒 Begin your day with a nature-spotting cruise aboard a catamaran to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock. Meander through the inner islands, admiring the sandy beaches and rocky outcrops. **B**

#### Day 20: Bay of Islands, Depart Auckland

After breakfast, travel to Auckland where your New Zealand adventure concludes. We say goodbye before we transfer you to the airport for your flight. **B**



**All-inspiring.  
All taken care of.  
Always.**

Experiences in 16 destinations.  
Freedom of Choice inclusions in seven locations.  
Finest dining – a total of 32 meals.  
19 nights hand-picked accommodation.  
Services of an APT tour director and driver.  
Return airport transfers and portage.

Trip from **\$8,995** per person twin share

Dates and Prices (A\$)	Twin From	Solo From
<b>20 Days Christchurch to Auckland (NZCA20)</b>		
<b>2020</b> January <b>9, 25</b> ; February <b>8, 13, 29</b> ; March <b>21</b>	\$9,395	\$12,395
April <b>2</b> ; September <b>19</b>	\$8,995	\$11,895
<b>2020/2021</b> October <b>3, 24</b> ; November <b>14</b> ; December 5, 19 January <b>2, 16, 30</b> ; February <b>6, 13, 27</b> ; March <b>13</b>	\$9,395	\$12,595
April 3; May 15; September <b>11</b>	\$8,995	\$11,995

Please note: Prices listed are indicative and may not be available on all departure dates listed. Prices are seasonal and are subject to change. Bold dates indicate Guaranteed Departures. Prices are fully inclusive of all sightseeing, entrance fees, cruises, meals as specified and accommodation. Itinerary effective 3 October 2020 – 11 September 2021. Tours departing outside these dates follow a different itinerary – enquire for details. See pages 60-61 for all other terms and conditions.

For the most up-to-date prices and Superdeal savings,  
visit [aptouring.com.au/NZCA20](http://aptouring.com.au/NZCA20)