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PANORAMIC NEW ZEALAND

15 DAY PANORAMIC NEW ZEALAND

YOUR LOGO

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PRICE ON REQUEST

This tour explores the Geothermal and Culturally Rich North Island and the contrasting Natural Beauty of the Scenic South Island of New Zealand. We include visits to popular attractions including Waitomo Caves, Geothermal Rotorua, Maori Culture, Napier & Nelson, Tranz Alpine Train journey, Queenstown, the stunning natural beauty of Milford Sound and more. City tours are included in Auckland, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, & Dunedin.

Day 1 ARRIVE AUCKLAND D

Welcome to New Zealand! You are met on arrival at the Auckland International Airport before being transferred to your hotel.

Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Auckland

Day 2 AUCKLAND / WAITOMO / ROTORUA B D

This morning we visit the Auckland Sky Tower – at 328m tall it is one of the tallest buildings in the Southern Hemisphere offering you outstanding views of the Auckland CBD and the surrounding region. Departing Auckland we travel south to the famous Waitomo Caves to view the glow-worm grotto – an underground cavern featuring millions of glow-worms. From Waitomo we travel to the thermal wonderland of Rotorua, the Sulphur City. Rotorua 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. This afternoon we enjoy a relaxing guided walk through Rainbow Springs, a specialist garden featuring New Zealand native flora and fauna including the Iconic New Zealand Native Kiwi Bird.

Distinction Hotel, Rotorua

Day 3 ROTORUA B D

Today is at your leisure. Your Optional Touring Booklet will give you plenty of options on how to spend your time. This evening we are transferred from our hotel to visit Tamaki Maori Village for a Cultural Experience and Hangi Dinner. Experience the warmth of the Maori people during an evening of ceremonial rituals, powerful cultural performance, storytelling & hangi feasting.

Distinction Hotel, Rotorua

Day 4 ROTORUA / NAPIER B D

This morning visit Te Puia – The New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley featuring the famous Pohutu Geyser. Departing Rotorua we travel via New Zealand's largest pine tree forests to Taupo. En-route, we make a visit to the Wairakei Geothermal Steam Field. This was a world-first, generating electricity by tapping a natural steam field then channelling the steam to a nearby power generation plant. Continuing we view the mighty Huka Falls and travel on to the 'Fruit Bowl' of New Zealand, Hawkes Bay – Napier.

Scenic Te Pania Hotel, Napier

Day 5 NAPIER / WELLINGTON B D

Before we depart Napier we take a city sights tour, featuring beautiful Art Deco buildings to give us an insight of why Napier is known as the Art Deco capital of the world. This afternoon we continue south to Wellington where we spend the rest of the day enjoying an informative sightseeing tour, including a visit to Te Papa, (Our Place) New Zealand's national museum.

James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Wellington

Day 6 WELLINGTON / NELSON B D

Today we board the Interislander Ferry from Wellington Harbour out onto the Cook Strait on, the picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound into Picton. We board our coach and drive to Pelorous Bridge, to walk through the Beech and Podocarp Forest and view the many sculptured boulders in the Pelorous River.

We continue on for a tour of Nelson –the first city of New Zealand.

Trailways Hotel, Nelson

Day 7 NELSON / CHRISTCHURCH B D

We travel through the Golden Downs Forest to Murchison through the Maruia Forest over the Lewis Pass then into Hanmer Springs. Time out here for lunch in this lovely alpine village joining the upper reaches of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch where we enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City' also known as "the most English city outside of England", en-route to our accommodation.

Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch

Day 8 CHRISTCHURCH / FRANZ JOSEF B D

From Christchurch we traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous Tranz-Alpine rail journey to Arthurs Pass. We'll travel through the Canterbury Plains and farmland, and on through the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Our train climbs into the Southern Alps where we're met at the village of Arthurs Pass by our coach to continue our journey to the West Coast –stopping in Hokitika where a visit is made to the Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories. Further south we arrive into Westland National Park, the home of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. On arrival, time is available for optional scenic flights, before continuing onto our accommodation for the night.

Scenic Franz Josef Hotel, Franz Josef

Day 9 FRANZ JOSEF / QUEENSTOWN B

Driving towards the southern end of the South Island's West Coast Road, there is a strong sense of entering a primeval land, and a feeling of total isolation. Arriving at Haast, we are surrounded by a landscape of rainforest, wetlands, sand dunes and surf-pounded shingle beaches.

From the Westland National Park we travel through the Haast River valleys and over the Haast Pass to Makaroa and onto the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka.

This afternoon we travel via Cromwell following the Kawarau Gorge Road into Queenstown.

Tonight is free for you to explore the local restaurants, cafes and bars.

Copthorne Lakefront Hotel, Queenstown

Day 10 QUEENSTOWN B D

Today is at leisure. Visit the Remarkable's or Coronet Peak. Experience the thrill of a jet-boat ride along the Shotover or Kawarau Rivers. Perhaps a scenic 4 wheel drive excursion through Skippers Canyon, it's up to you. This evening we take a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel's Homestead.

Copthorne Lakefront Hotel, Queenstown

Day 11 QUEENSTOWN / TE ANAU B D

Leaving Queenstown we skirt the shores of Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand's third largest lake. Travelling via Te Anau we reach the beautiful Eglinton Valley climbing to Homer Tunnel before descending through the spectacular Cleddau Canyon to reach Milford Sound where we enjoy a cruise of the Sound. The Sound is dominated by the grandeur of Mitre Peak and the Bowen Falls. From Milford Sound we return to Te Anau reaching our overnight accommodation.

Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Lake Te Anau

Day 12 TE ANAU / DUNEDIN B D

Departing Te Anau we travel through some of New Zealand's most populated sheep country through to Lumsden and onto Gore before arriving in Dunedin – "the Edinburgh of the South". Upon our arrival into Dunedin we have the opportunity to board an optional train ride - the Taieri Gorge Train Excursion from the historic Dunedin Railway Station for a scenic return train ride into the spectacular Taieri Gorge to Pukerangi.

Scenic Dunedin City Hotel, Dunedin

Day 13 DUNEDIN / OMARAMA B D

This morning take in the sights of this old Scottish City before travelling onto Oamaru and then inland through Benmore and Otematata, to arrive at Omarama.

Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama

Day 14 OMARAMA / CHRISTCHURCH B D

A day for spectacular sights. We head north to skirt the shore of Lake Pukaki to Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. Time is available to enjoy an optional scenic flight over the ancient rivers of ice and the West Coast Glaciers (weather permitting – a highly recommended option). Travelling to Tekapo we witness the magnificent blue waters of Lake Tekapo. Here we visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and the statue of the Collie dog, before travelling the vast Mackenzie Basin, over Burke's Pass through Fairlie, Geraldine, Ashburton and across the Canterbury Plains into Christchurch.

Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch

Day 15 DEPART CHIRSTCHURCH B

Farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you will be transferred from the hotel to Christchurch International Airport for your flight back home.

Important Note

The above itinerary is just a guide and summarises our favourite places, sights and experiences. Any or all of them may be enjoyed as part of a tour.

Have a look at our recommendations, highlight places you wish to include and get in touch with us: together we can create a unique and unforgettable holiday experience.

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