

NEW ZEALAND

SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS & TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS



Our welcome to your New Zealand

**SILVER FERN HOLIDAYS
IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN
NEW ZEALAND.**

**THE LAND OF THE
LONG WHITE CLOUD –
AOTEAROA IN THE MAORI
LANGUAGE – HAS BEEN
OUR PASSION FOR 25 YEARS.**

We have hiked through native bush, swum with dolphins, eaten hangi with the locals and helped with the grape harvest.

We have driven gravelled tracks and taken scenic rail journeys. We have seen the sun rise on Poverty Bay, and watched it set behind the mighty peak of Aoraki Mount Cook. We have made our beds under the stars as we've walked some of the country's best coastal tracks and slept in beach-side batches in the early days before the welcome spread of luxury lodges and boutique B&B's.

We want nothing more than to share this passion with you and help you to create your own amazing memories of New Zealand. Travel alone, as a couple or with friends. Let us help you plan a totally tailor-made trip to suit your budget. Or join a few like-minded travellers – no more than 16 people – on one of our unique Small Group Journeys.

A Silver Fern holiday promises an experience like no other and we look forward to sharing the very best of New Zealand with you.

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FINANCIAL SECURITY & QUALITY ASSURANCE

ATOL

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL Protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is 5305.



Land Only Holidays

Are covered by a bond secured with ABTA.



Silver Fern Holidays

is a member of
The Association of
Independent Tour Operators.



Silver Service Guaranteed

100% TAILOR MADE ITINERARIES

Either over the phone, or in our Kiwi Lounge in Southwell, we'll chat with you, answer all your questions and talk you through our recommendations, allowing your individual preferences and requirements to shape the outline and finer details of your holiday, there's no 'one size fits all' approach here!

Tailor-made doesn't always have to mean expensive, in fact, because we offer such a broad range of accommodation and travel options, we're able to arrange a holiday to suit most budgets and make sure that your experiences and adventures offer the very best in value for money.

UNRIVALLED FLEXIBILITY

Because we offer both Independent travel and our unique Small Group Journeys, you have even more flexibility at your fingertips.

We're able to offer a combination of both types of travel for your holiday. If you wish to start your holiday off on a Small Group Journey to allow you to find your feet before picking up a car and exploring independently, that's fine.

Similarly if you choose to finish off your trip by joining a tour so you can really relax for the last leg of your adventure, we can arrange that for you too.

We also understand that lots of our travellers have friends or family in New Zealand who are looking forward to a visit, so just let us know and we'll be happy to factor this into your itinerary.

24/7 SUPPORT IN THE UK AND ON THE GROUND IN NZ

We have a team 'on the ground' in New Zealand, so whatever happens, whatever time of the day or night you need us, we're here for you.

We'll ensure you have all the contact details you need to get in touch with our teams in both countries so should the need arise you know exactly where to go for help or advice.

This service starts from the day you book your holiday with us, right until you're safely back in the UK, giving you all the peace of mind you need to ensure you don't have to worry about a thing while you're away.

EXPERT ADVICE

We think we can call ourselves experts because we've not only visited New Zealand, but we've lived there, worked there and travelled the length and breadth of the country on more than one occasion too!

We've tried out the activities we recommend, spent the night in our handpicked accommodations (and enjoyed the first class breakfasts they offer!) and travelled on the boats, buses and trains that we include in our itineraries, so you can be assured of honest, upfront advice from the word go.

We firmly believe that this first-hand experience is what ensures you have an unforgettable holiday, from your very first contact with us, right through to your return onto home soil.

TRULY AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Because we know New Zealand so well, and because we've been working with the local guides and small businesses there for so many years, we're able to offer in depth, 'real' New Zealand experiences that you simply won't discover if you holiday with anyone else, and you certainly won't find in a guide book!

We can suggest what we call 'close-up' experiences that add magic to your trip. A Maori legend told by a direct descendant; a lesson in fly-fishing on one of the best trout lakes in the world; a soak in a spring warmed by geothermal activity; trying your hand at sheep shearing before dinner with a farmer and his family.

It's true that New Zealand has become one the world's top travel destinations, but there are still many wonderful hidden treasures and secrets it holds - you just have to know where to look to find them, and luckily, we do!

We'll happily share our secrets with you, just don't tell too many other people!!



1. Queen Charlotte Track
2. Seafood selection, Whitianga Marina
3. Staff welcome, Doubtful Sound overnight cruise

IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE'S SHORT ON TIME, WE TAKE THE OPPOSITE APPROACH.

WE SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW YOU, SO WE CAN ENSURE THAT YOUR TRIP IS PERFECTLY TAILORED TO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE.



Trains, planes, automobiles... & more

THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO FORM OF PRIVATE HIRE OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAT WE CANNOT ARRANGE FOR YOU.

We can book a comfortable car from Auckland airport that you can hand back in Wellington, or a 4x4 in Queenstown to take you over the Southern Alps. A motorhome combining accommodation with wheels may appeal, but do try one out in Britain first to ensure you're happy driving a larger vehicle.

New Zealand's rail system is one of the world's most scenic, from the TranzAlpine over Arthur's Pass to the Edwardian ingenuity of the single-track Raurimu Spiral down the Tongariro plateau and we can arrange rail passes for both. You'll notice that our suggested itineraries often include some travel by train. Not only does this give you a break from driving, but it also allows you to fully appreciate the landscapes and enjoy travelling through some parts of the country that aren't accessible by road.

If you would like someone else to take on the route-planning, choose one of our unique Small Group Journeys and discover New Zealand in the company of one of our local driver-guides and no more than 16 travellers in total.

And of course, all your travel arrangements within New Zealand are tailor-made for you, including internal flights which may save time. To date, there has been no travel request that we have been unable to satisfy, but we invite you to put us to the test!

1. Bay of Islands
2. TranzAlpine train
3. Mount Cook flight
4. Interislander ferry





Kiwi hospitality to suit your style

"The accommodation you organised was superb, particularly the B & Bs in Wanaka (location and hosts), Queenstown (food) and Fox Glacier (view)."



WHATEVER YOUR PREFERENCE, WE CAN MAKE A PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION.

In 25 years of travelling around New Zealand we have slept in hundreds of beds from simple motels to luxurious lodges, as well as basic baches, the Kiwi name for a seaside holiday shack. Whatever your preference, we can make a personal recommendation.

To save time and shoe leather when sightseeing and seeking evening entertainment, we'll often recommend well-appointed, centrally located hotels in the larger cities and towns such as the Grand Millennium in Auckland and the Novotel in Queenstown.

In resorts popular with New Zealanders as well as international travellers, apartments are a great-value choice with the bonus of a fully equipped kitchenette and laundry room so that you can cook at home and catch up with some washing. The Quest Apartments in Napier are a good example.

'Boutique' is an over-used word in the hospitality industry, but whether you choose a hotel, lodge or guest-house in New Zealand you can expect a genuine welcome and personal service. We have spent a great deal of time seeking out small friendly and memorable places to stay that reflect the warm hospitality the country has become so well known for, and we look forward to introducing you to them.

And when you're travelling through the lush pastures of the Waikato or the tussock plains of Otago, there is nothing like a home-cooked meal around a farmhouse table, with wide-ranging conversation, tips on local sights and even a chance to help out with the livestock!



1. Farmstay, Te Awamutu
2. Edenhouse, Nelson
3. The Bay House, Westport
4. The Boot, Nelson



He aha te mea nui?

THIS MAORI SAYING ASKS 'WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD?' AND ANSWERS 'HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA, HE TANGATA' TRANSLATED AS 'IT IS PEOPLE, IT IS PEOPLE, IT IS PEOPLE'.

"We loved the interaction with locals everywhere we went, it made our trip much more interesting and enjoyable."

We could not agree more: the people of New Zealand make a significant contribution to your holiday and it is one reason why we have our own office in Hamilton.

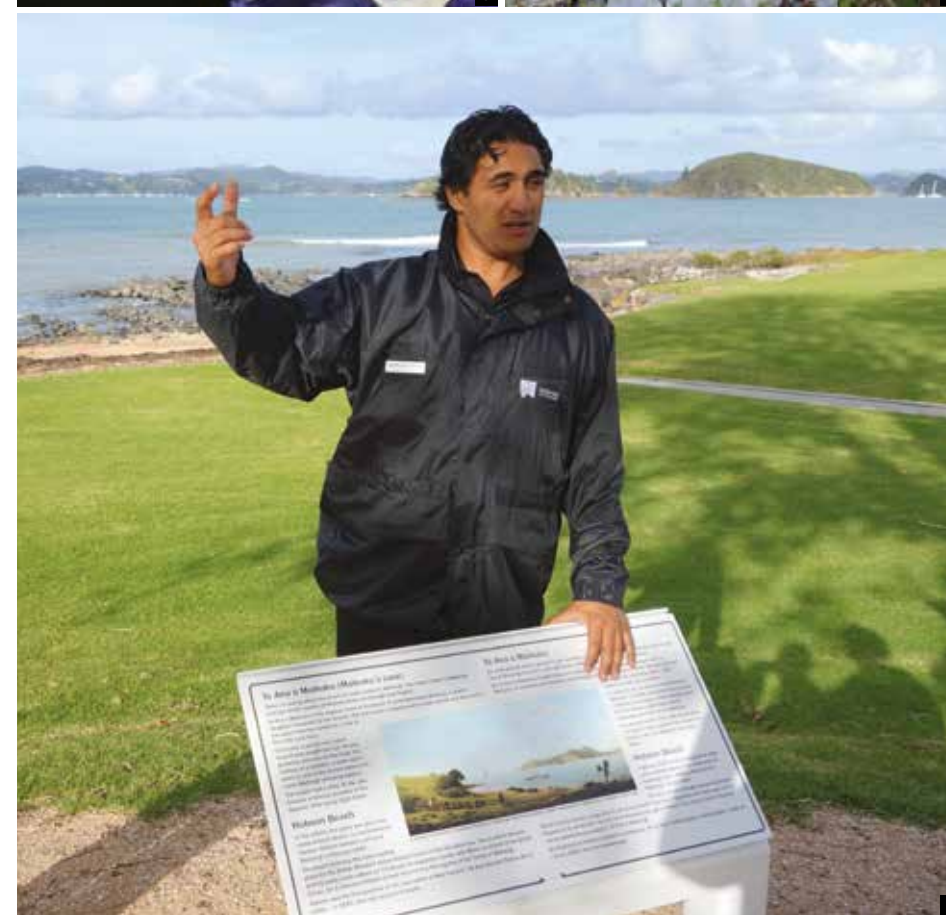
Because in 25 years we have built close relationships with local guides, indigenous tourism projects and on-the-ground experts in an effort to remove the invisible wall between tourist and local, and enhance your travels with unique experiences.

Our guides are proud Kiwis, whether their heritage is Maori, Pakeha or a mix of cultures. The country is also enhanced by recent immigrants drawn by the beautiful environment and open society that New Zealand offers.

So whether you ask us to arrange a guided walk in the bush, book a farmstay in Mackenzie country, or recommend a winery in Hawkes Bay, you can be sure of a warm welcome from a genuine local.

You'll often find, as you travel with us, that locals will extend their warm hospitality to you so be open to the antique-shop owner who invites you in for tea, the café owner who shares their favourite recipe with you or the B&B host who invites you to a beach BBQ. All of these serendipitous experiences make your holiday unique to you and ensure some extra special memories to take home with you

1. Philip at Te Papa, Wellington
2. Pam, Art Deco guide, Napier
3. Milford Sound Cruise
4. Grace, Milford Track guide
5. Caroline and Suzie, Criffel Peak View, Wanaka
6. Waitangi Treaty Grounds guide
7. Russell, boat captain, Marlborough Sounds
8. Aran and Reana, Whangarei Visitor Centre



Freedom of the Road

NEW ZEALAND IS A JOY TO EXPLORE INDEPENDENTLY.

Similar in size to the UK, the North and South islands pack more variety into their land mass than almost anywhere on earth, and each day reveals a new experience, whether you drive a hire car, take the train, fly between the islands or dovetail one of our Small Group Journeys with independent arrangements.

The itineraries on the following pages are just a guide and summarise our favourite places, sights and experiences. Any or all of them may be enjoyed as part of your independent touring itinerary. So browse our recommendations, highlight places you want to visit and things you want to do, and get in touch with us: together we can create an unforgettable holiday that's unique to you.

For a New Zealand tour covering both islands, as a rule of thumb consider spending a third of your time on North Island and two-thirds on South Island, because the most iconic landscape features are located in the south.

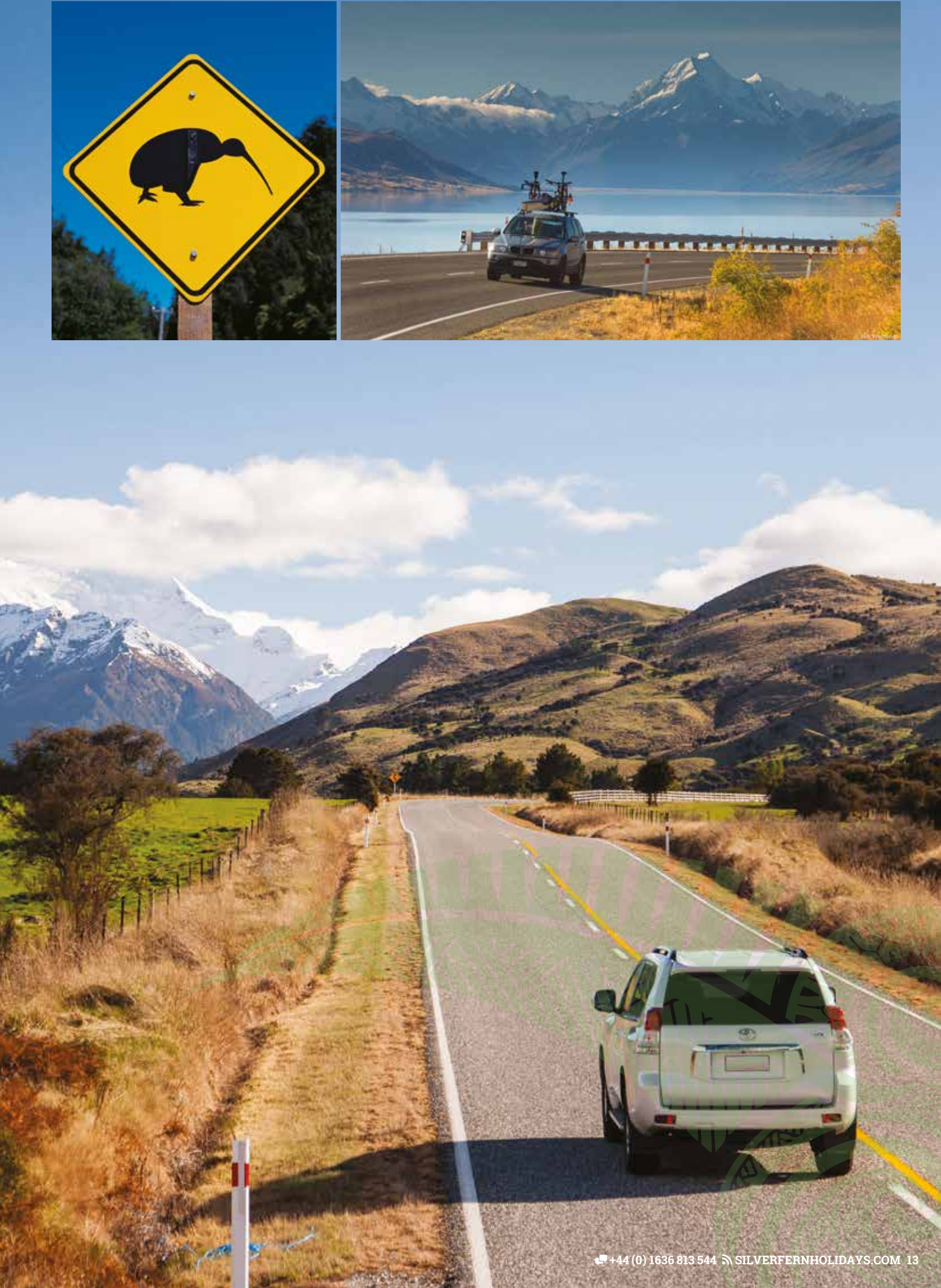
If your time in New Zealand isn't restricted, so much the better! We suggest additional days in Abel Tasman National Park and Fiordland if you want to truly discover these wonderfully scenic regions. The township of Wanaka and the city of Dunedin are other options.

Bird watchers and kiwi fans may want to go the extra mile (literally) with a flight to Stewart Island for sightings of the Stewart Island Brown Kiwi and Southern Tokoeha. For whale-watching, take a day excursion from Christchurch to Kaikoura to view the amazing mammals on a three hour marine adventure in the Pacific.



NORTH ISLAND	
Auckland to Paihia	4 hrs
Auckland to Coromandel	2 hrs 20mins
Auckland to Mount Maunganui	3 hrs
Auckland to Rotorua	3 hrs 30mins
Auckland to Waitomo Caves	3 hrs
Waitomo Caves to Rotorua	2 hrs 15mins
Mount Maunganui to Rotorua	1 hr
Whangamata to Rotorua	1 hr 30mins
Rotorua to Taupo	1 hr 30mins
Taupo to Napier	2 hrs
Taupo to Tongariro	1 hr 30mins
Rotorua to Gisborne	4 hrs
Rotorua to Napier	3 hrs 30mins
Rotorua to Wellington	6 hrs 30mins
Taupo to Wellington	5 hrs 30mins
Napier to Wellington	4 hrs 30mins
Wellington to Picton – on the Interislander ferry	3-4 hrs

SOUTH ISLAND	
Picton to Nelson	1 hr 30 mins
Nelson to Greymouth	4 hrs 30 mins
Picton to Christchurch	5 hrs
Picton to Kaikoura	2 hrs 30 mins
Kaikoura to Christchurch	2 hrs 30 mins
Christchurch to Greymouth	4 hrs
Christchurch to Mount Cook	5 hrs
Mount Cook to Queenstown	3 hrs 45 mins
Greymouth to Franz Josef	2 hrs 30 mins
Franz Josef to Wanaka	4 hrs
Franz Josef to Queenstown	5 hrs
Queenstown to Invercargill	3 hrs
Queenstown to Dunedin	4 hrs
Queenstown to Te Anau	2 hrs 20 mins
Fiordland to Dunedin	3 hrs
Dunedin to Christchurch	5 hrs
Dunedin to Mount Cook	4 hrs 15 mins
Invercargill to Dunedin	3 hrs





Complete New Zealand

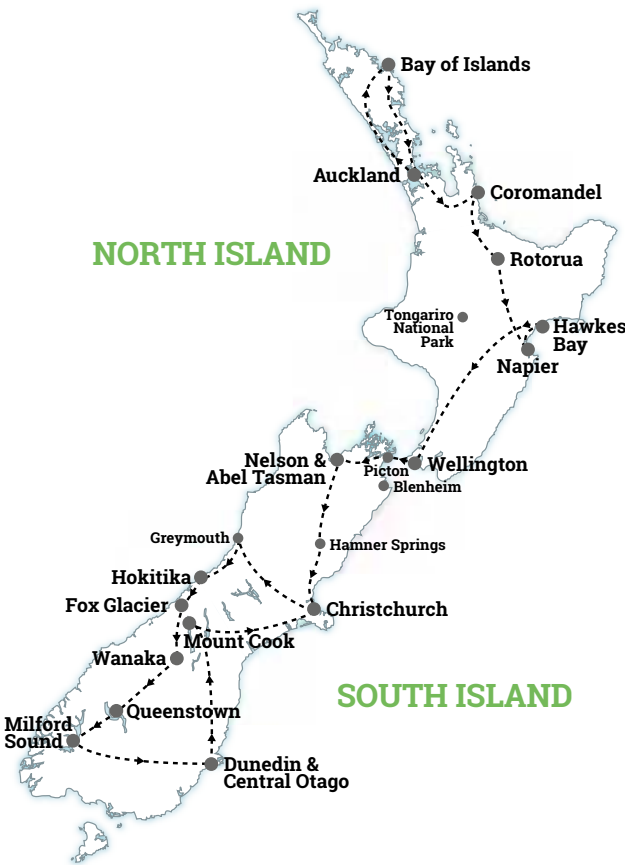
27 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

FROM £3,995

- CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES**
- Our suggestions**
- Walk trails through Rotorua's spectacular Redwood forest
 - Take a guided winery tour in Hawkes Bay to sample some of the country's best Chardonnays
 - Visit Weta Workshop in Wellington, home to an array of Lord of the Rings memorabilia
 - Electro bike along the traffic free cycle path out of Queenstown to Jack's Point
 - Try your hand at gold panning in Arrowtown
 - Experience a sleepover like no other aboard the Milford Mariner
 - Enjoy a coffee or lunch at one of the great cafés or restaurants that line the waters edge at Akaroa Harbour

- 1. Mount Maunganui
- 2. Fox Glacier
- 3. Friendly Kea
- 4. Silver Fern travellers, Wanaka

This is the ultimate Independent itinerary combining outstanding hotel and boutique bed & breakfast accommodation with unforgettable scenic highlights and experiences. Dig your very own spa pool on Hot Water Beach in the Coromandel and board the TranzAlpine train in Christchurch for one of the world's greatest rail journeys.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Auckland
Haere mai – welcome! We greet your flight and take you straight to your hotel. The rest of your day is at leisure. Head up the Sky Tower for great views across the city, or explore the vibrant downtown waterfront.

Day 2 Auckland
A day to explore the islands of the Hauraki Maritime Gulf; take the ferry to Rangitoto Island and walk up to the summit for 360° views or head to the conservation island of Tiritiri Matangi to see rare native birds such as the Takahe and the Kokako.

Day 3 Auckland to Bay of Islands
Collect your rental vehicle and drive north on the Hibiscus Coast Highway and on to the Waipoua Forest to learn about the ancient kauri trees, including 'the lord of the forest' Tane Mahuta. Follow the path of the Ngapuhi Iwi warriors to the Flagstaff battlegrounds and on to the pretty seaside town of Paihia.

Day 4 Bay of Islands
Cruise to Cape Brett and the 'hole in the rock', head out into the bay with a chance to swim with dolphins, and learn a little more of local village Russell's rip-roaring past on a guided tour.

Day 5 Bay of Islands to Coromandel Peninsula
Visit the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where the treaty between Maori tribes and British settlers was signed in 1840. Head south, through the Waikato to the Miranda Shorebird Centre to learn about some of New Zealand's most fascinating birdlife.

Day 6 Coromandel
Dig your own spa pool at Hot Water Beach, or wander along the beach to Cathedral Cove to view the naturally formed archway on the beach, one of the most photographed sites in the country.

Day 7 Coromandel to Rotorua
On to the thermal wonderland of Rotorua. Visit Te Puia, with its geothermal valley and Maori Arts and Crafts Institute. In the evening enjoy a cultural experience that culminates with a traditional Maori Hangi for your evening meal.

Day 8 Rotorua to Napier or Tongariro National Park
Travel south to Taupo, nestled on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake, stopping at Huka Falls before continuing through to the township.



From here drive to Napier, an Art Deco town with a fascinating history and wonderful architecture. The town is also the gateway to the Hawkes Bay wine country. Alternatively enjoy time in Tongariro National Park.

Day 9 Hawkes Bay
We recommend leaving the car at home today, and hiring bikes to make the most of the winery tours and tastings that are a must in the area. Head out to Te Mata Peak to enjoy the beautiful panoramic views out across the mountain ranges.

Day 10 Napier to Wellington
Drive through the Wairarapa and over the winding Rimutaka Hill to arrive into Wellington, 'The Coolest Little Capital in the World' according to the Lonely Planet Guides.

Day 11 Wellington
Spend the day exploring New Zealand's compact capital city. Take the cable car up to the Kelburn lookout and wander back down through the Botanic Gardens, stopping off for tea in the Lady Rosewood Garden. Alternatively, immerse yourself in history and culture at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum.

Day 12 Wellington to Picton to Nelson
Return your rental vehicle and board the Interislander Ferry for the cruise across the Cook Strait and through the scenic Queen Charlotte Sound to the South Island. Arrive into Picton and take a coach across the top of the South Island to Nelson, your base for the next two nights.

Day 13 Abel Tasman National Park
Transfer by coach from Nelson to Kaiteriteri for a cruise into the heart of Abel Tasman National Park. Walk the most varied section of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track, along a path that weaves through Manuka groves to the long golden sands of Anchorage beach. Return to Kaiteriteri by boat then on to Nelson by coach.

Day 14 Nelson to Christchurch
Depart Nelson by coach travelling via The Lewis Pass to the pretty inland spa town of Hamner Springs an on to the city of Christchurch.

Day 15 Christchurch to Greymouth to Hokitika
Board the TranzAlpine train for one of the world's greatest rail journeys through the splendour of the Southern Alps to the west coast. Travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River to Arthur's Pass before continuing on to Greymouth. Collect your rental car and drive down the west coast to Hokitika, famed for its gold mining heritage.

Day 16 Hokitika to Fox Glacier
Travel to the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers and take a walk to the terminal face. Enjoy a guided heli-hike or sightseeing flight to experience the glaciers close up. Drive to Lake Matheson for superb reflections of Mount Cook and the Tasman glacier. Remember to bring your camera!

Day 17 Fox to Wanaka
Drive through the stunning Haast Pass and into Mount Aspiring National Park. Arrive into Wanaka and enjoy views of the lake that reflect the mountain peaks that in winter offer superb skiing.

Day 18 Wanaka
Enjoy lakeside walks, or an exhilarating jet boat trip on the Matukituki River, guaranteed to set the pulse racing! Relax in the evening at Cinema Paradiso, with its comfy sofas and a classic Morris Minor to sit in to view the latest releases.

Day 19 Wanaka to Queenstown
Today it's an easy drive over the Crown Range to Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure playground and South Island's busiest resort. Spend the afternoon exploring this action packed little town.

Day 20 Queenstown
Take a short drive out to Arrowtown, or ride up the Skyline Gondola for panoramic views of the area. Local wineries welcome visitors for tastings and tours and the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw is an unforgettable way to discover Lake Wakatipu.

Day 21 Queenstown to Milford Mariner overnight
Journey by coach through stunning valleys and past the 'mirror' lakes to reach Milford Sound. Board the Milford Mariner to cruise the Sound, learning about its geology, flora and fauna from the on-board expert, before anchoring in a sheltered cove. Absorb the beauty from a seat on deck, or kayak closer to Milford's mystery.

Day 22 Milford Sound to Dunedin
Drive along the shores of Lake Te Anau and through the sheep farming heartland of South Island and on to the city of Dunedin.

Day 23 Otago Wildlife Excursions
Take a trip out to the Otago Peninsula to see the Royal Albatross at Taiaroa heads, and the Little Blue Penguins that nestle in sandy burrows on the beaches. In the city itself, the railway station is a stunning example of the city's fabulous architecture.

ACCOMMODATION

In Auckland your 4-star accommodation is in a stylish, centrally located hotel. In the Bay of Islands stay in a well-appointed bed & breakfast with views to the native bush and bay areas.

On the Coromandel your bed & breakfast offers wonderful coastal views and in Rotorua your overnight is in a lakeside hotel.

Stay with friendly hosts close to the wineries of Hawkes Bay and in Wellington your accommodation is a central four star hotel.

On South Island your first nights will be in Nelson at a hotel in a riverside setting with small welcoming bed & breakfasts completing the picture through the rest of the South Island.

All accommodation subject to availability at the time of booking.

Day 24 Dunedin to Mount Cook
Head north along the coast, stopping to view the extraordinary Moeraki Boulders, before heading inland to Mount Cook National Park. Drive along the western shore of Lake Pukaki with its intensely blue glacier-fed waters.

Day 25 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 on across the high country's tussock plains, through Fairlie and Geraldine to the 'Garden City' of Christchurch.

Day 26 Christchurch
Today explore Christchurch. Enjoy a guided walking tour and learn how the city is reclaiming its place as the premier city on South Island after the devastating earthquakes of 2011. Take a short drive out to the Port Hills for excellent walks, or to the French settlement and harbour town of Akaroa.

Day 27 Depart Christchurch
After breakfast return your rental vehicle to Christchurch International airport to board your homebound flight via Auckland.

PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £3,995
Tour and flight	from £4,995
Single supplement prices available on request	
Price includes: Return flights from London Heathrow in economy class – included in 'tour and flight' prices only Meet and greet by your Silver Fern representative at Auckland International Airport Transfers by private car as specified 26 nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis Sightseeing as specified (excludes close up options, unless you choose to pre-book these) Intermediate 1.6 litre manual/automatic rental car with unlimited kilometre and daily insurance	



Grand Tour of New Zealand

25 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

FROM £3,735

- CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES
- Our suggestions
 - Climb the Sky Tower for panoramic views of Auckland - the SkyWalk or SkyJump are optional!
 - Swim with dolphins in the warm waters of the Bay of Islands
 - Walk through the stunning Waimangu Thermal Valley in Rotorua
 - Enjoy lunch or a coffee at one of the excellent bakeries in Greytown, Wairarapa
 - Cruise or walk in the stunning Abel Tasman National Park
 - Visit the fascinating Hokitika Museum
 - Heli-hike on Fox Glacier
 - Experience a trip like no other aboard the Milford Mariner

- 1. Auckland Harbour Bridge
- 2. Waimangu Thermal Valley
- 3. Silver Fern travellers, Abel Tasman National Park
- 4. Franz Josef Glacier

Very much the Grand Tour encompassing the sub-tropical Bay of Islands, the wine region of Hawkes Bay, (or the volcanic central area of North Island), Abel Tasman National Park, the wild West Coast and the alpine splendours of the southern South Island.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Welcome to New Zealand
Arrive at Auckland International Airport where you will be welcomed to New Zealand and transferred by private car to your hotel, which is located in the heart of the city.
Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the 'City of Sails'.

Day 2 Auckland
Start the day with a leisurely breakfast before taking a ferry out to the pretty seaside town of Devonport with its beautiful views and fabulous cafés.
Alternatively head out to Rangitoto Island and walk up to the summit for amazing 360° views of the Hauraki Maritime Gulf or visit the conservation island and wildlife sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi.

Day 3 Auckland to Bay of Islands
Collect your rental car and drive north over the Auckland Harbour Bridge, along the Hibiscus Coast Highway to the seaside town of Paihia in the beautiful Bay of Islands.
Enjoy an afternoon cruise to the 'hole in the rock' and the opportunity to swim with dolphins if you wish, or take a ferry over to the historic village of Russell.

Day 4 Bay of Islands
After breakfast join a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty House and grounds – it was here, in 1840 that the historic document was signed between Maori chiefs and British settlers, forming the nation of New Zealand.

Day 5 Bay of Islands to Waikato Farmstay
After breakfast at your accommodation travel south through Auckland City and into the farmlands of the Waikato Valley.
Arrive at your farmstay and enjoy a tour of the property and perhaps a chance to feed the animals before sharing an evening meal with your hosts.

Day 6 Waikato Farmstay to Rotorua
Explore the geothermal wonderland of Te Puia and see Maori craftsmen demonstrating weaving, carving and other traditional skills in the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute there.
This evening experience Maori culture with a traditional ceremony, cultural performances and hangi meal.

Day 7 Rotorua to Hawkes Bay or Tongariro National Park
Head south via Huka Falls to Taupo, New Zealand's largest inland lake, with time to have lunch and explore the town.



Continue on the Thermal Explorer Highway through the Eskdale Valley and into Hawkes Bay.
Alternatively enjoy time in Tongariro National Park.

Day 8 Hawkes Bay
After breakfast spend the day exploring Napier, the Art Deco capital of New Zealand. Take a guided walking tour to learn about how the town was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake in 1931.
In the afternoon, take a wine tour guided by a local expert and visit some of the many boutique wineries the area is famous for.

Day 9 Hawkes Bay to Wellington
Travel south through the farmlands of central Hawkes Bay and the Wairarapa into Wellington, the capital city and seat of Parliament.
Walk down Cuba Street with its eclectic mix of cafés, boutiques and bars, or spend the afternoon immersing yourself in New Zealand culture and history in Te Papa, the outstanding National Museum.

Day 10 Wellington to Picton to Nelson
Return your rental vehicle and board the Interislander Ferry for a three and a half hour cruise to Picton. Take a coach to Nelson, the sunniest region in New Zealand, famed for its easy lifestyle and vibrant arts scene.

Day 11 Abel Tasman National Park
This morning transfer by coach from Nelson to Kaiteriteri to board your cruiser into the heart of Abel Tasman National Park. Choose to stay on board or disembark at idyllic Medlands Beach to walk the most varied section of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track, around the spectacular Torrent Bay estuary to the golden sands of Anchorage beach. Return to Kaiteriteri by boat then to Nelson by coach.

Day 12 Nelson to Christchurch
Depart Nelson by coach travelling via The Lewis Pass to the pretty inland spa town of Hamner Springs and on to the city of Christchurch.

Day 13 Christchurch to Hokitika
Board the TransAlpine train in Christchurch for a scenic rail journey through the splendour of the Southern Alps to the west coast. Enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as you travel alongside the Waimakariri River to Arthur's Pass before continuing on to the town of Greymouth.
Collect your rental car and drive down the west coast to the town of Hokitika, famed for its gold mining heritage.

Day 14 Hokitika to Fox Glacier
After breakfast continue south through the native rainforest of the Southern Alps mountain range to the small township of Fox Glacier.
Take a walk to the glacier and around the beautiful Lake Matheson. We can arrange an ice hiking adventure, or book you onto a scenic flight to see the glacier close up.

Day 15 Fox Glacier to Wanaka
Today travel south through the ever-changing scenery of the Haast Pass across the Southern Alps, around the shores of Lake Hawea and into the charming town of Wanaka in Mount Aspiring National Park.
Spend the afternoon exploring the town's galleries, cafés and craft studios or take a walk around the shores of the lake and dine at one of the many highly rated restaurants.

Day 16 Wanaka
Spend the day at leisure today. Take a short drive out to the Matukituki Valley to view the Rob Roy Glacier, or enjoy an exhilarating river cruise on Lake Wanaka. Alternatively visit the magical Mou Waho Island nature reserve, where guide Chris Riley will introduce you to the unique landscapes and diverse flora and fauna of the island.

Day 17 Wanaka to Te Anau
Travel across Central Otago, around the shores of Lake Wakatipu and across Southland to Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland National Park.
Enjoy a short walk around the lake or cruise to the western shores and visit the glow-worm caves.

Day 18 Milford Sound Day Excursion
Journey by coach from Te Anau into Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. Stop at the Mirror Lakes to see the near perfect reflections of the mountains before arriving in Milford Sound.
Cruise the Sound, past Mitre Peak and on to the Tasman Sea. Enjoy the stunning scenery of cascading waterfalls and dense rainforest and learn about the marine life that inhabits these waters.

Day 19 Te Anau to Queenstown
Travel to Queenstown, 'Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere', nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu.

Day 20 Queenstown
Stroll the town's lovely gardens, cruise Lake Wakatipu on the 100 year old steamship TSS Earnslaw, or choose from a host of adrenalin activities from bungee jumping and rafting to off-road tours into nearby Skippers Canyon and Arrowtown.

ACCOMMODATION

In Auckland your 4-star accommodation is in a stylish, centrally located hotel. In the Bay of Islands stay in a well-appointed bed & breakfast accommodation with views to the native bush and bay areas.

A warm reception awaits you at your farmstay in Cambridge or Te Awamatu where you'll share your evening meal with the family.

In Rotorua your overnight is in a lakeside hotel and in Hawkes Bay, you'll stay with friendly hosts at a charming bed & breakfast.

To Wellington for a stay in a central 4-star hotel and on South Island your first nights will be in Nelson at a hotel in a riverside setting.

Small welcoming bed & breakfasts complete the picture through the South Island.

All accommodation subject to availability at the time of booking.

Day 21 Queenstown to Mount Cook
Drive through the grape growing region of Central Otago and alongside the shores of Lake Pukaki into Mount Cook National Park.

On a clear evening, explore the southern sky with an expert astronomy guide and take a close look at distant galaxies.

Day 22 Mount Cook
Visit the Sir Edmund Hilary Alpine Centre and take the Hooker Valley track walk for panoramic views of Mount Cook.

Day 23 Mount Cook to Christchurch
Travel to Tekapo stopping at the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd, which has stunning views from the altar window across the lake to the mountains.
Continue through the rural communities of Fairlie and Geraldine then across the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

Day 24 Christchurch
Following 2011's devastating earthquakes, the 'Garden City' is fast-rebuilding, blending old with new to reclaim its place as the premier city on South Island. A guided tour with a local is a must.
Take a short drive out to the Port Hills for great walks, or a little further afield is the French settlement of Akaroa with its pretty harbour and holiday feel.

Day 25 Depart New Zealand
After breakfast transfer to Christchurch International Airport to return your rental vehicle and board your flight home.

PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £3,735
Tour and flight	from £4,735
Single supplement prices available on request	
Price includes: Return flights from London Heathrow in economy class – included in 'tour and flight' prices only Meet and greet by your Silver Fern representative at Auckland International Airport Transfers by private car as specified. 24 nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis. Sightseeing as specified (excludes close up options, unless you choose to pre-book these) Intermediate 1.6 litre manual/automatic rental car with unlimited kilometre and daily insurance	



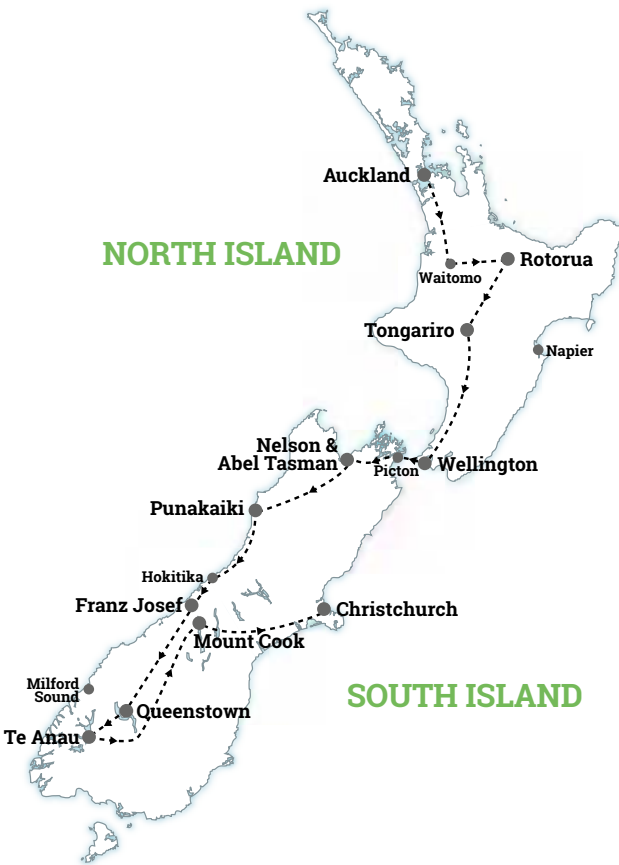
The Best of New Zealand

19 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

FROM £3,595

- CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES**
- Our suggestions**
- Take a day trip from Auckland to the volcanic island of Rangitoto or to the conservation island of Tiritiri Matangi
 - Visit the fascinating Rotorua museum, housed in a former Bathhouse
 - Enjoy a Hangi, a traditional Maori feast
 - Tramp the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, New Zealand's finest one day walk
 - Cruise the breathtaking Abel Tasman coastline
 - Take a flight around Mount Cook
 - Explore Milford or Doubtful Sound on a Nature and Wildlife Cruise

See the best of New Zealand in three weeks from the thermal splendours of Rotorua, and the contrasting landscapes of Tongariro National Park on North Island to the majestic alpine scenery of Fiordland and vibrant arts scene of Nelson in the south, with some unforgettable experiences en route.



- 1. Te Puia, Rotorua
- 2. Pelorus Mail Boat, Havelock
- 3. Chateau Tongariro
- 4. Emerald Pool, Tongariro

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Auckland
We greet you on arrival and take you to your city-centre hotel where you can relax for the rest of the day and spend time exploring the 'City of Sails'.

Day 2 Auckland
A great start to your Auckland sightseeing is to ascend the Sky Tower: the SkyWalk or SkyJump are optional! Nearby Queen Street is the main strip, and the Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki is well worth a visit. Colonial architecture and good shopping can be enjoyed in the 'villages' of Parnell and Ponsonby. Complete your day with a waterfront dinner in the newly-developed Wynyard Quarter.

Day 3 Auckland to Waitomo to Rotorua
Collect your rental vehicle and drive south for a visit to the Waitomo glow-worm caves before being welcomed by your hosts at a farmstay near Rotorua. Your hosts will extend their hospitality to you with a farm tour followed by a delicious home-cooked dinner and a cosy night's stay.

Day 4 Rotorua
Explore the stunning scenery, sparkling lakes and countless geothermal attractions that make Rotorua such a popular destination. The museum set in the Bathhouse at Government Gardens tells the touching story of the Maori Battalion in WW2 and is well worth taking time to visit. We can recommend a hangi if you wish to eat Maori-style this evening.

Day 5 Rotorua to Tongariro National Park
Heading south out of Rotorua, take a couple of hours to discover the 'champagne pool', 'artist's palette' and the Lady Knox Geyser at Wai O Tapu Geothermal Park. Stop off in Taupo for lunch before driving into Tongariro National Park, a beautiful area of volcanic peaks.

Day 6 Tongariro National Park or Napier
Described as the finest one day walk in New Zealand, the Tongariro Crossing is a spectacular full day traverse of the 'saddle' between Mount Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Shorter walks to Taranaki Falls, Silica Lakes and Tama Lakes are also possible, and there's an all-weather golf course. Take a well-earned soak in a natural hot pool at nearby Tokaanu. Alternatively visit the Art Deco town of Napier.



Day 7 Tongariro to Wellington
Travel south through the country towns of Bulls and Levin to Wellington, 'the coolest little capital in the world' according to the Lonely Planet Guide. Leave your car at the Wellington depot and relax at your hotel before dinner and an evening stroll through Civic Square to a Queens Wharf eatery.

Day 8 Wellington
Wellington is small enough to get your bearings on a guided walking tour before exploring independently. Take the cable car up to the Kelburn lookout for great city and harbour views and walk down through the Botanic Gardens, stopping for afternoon tea in the Rose Garden.

Day 9 Wellington to Picton to Nelson
Board the Interislander Ferry to cruise through the Marlborough and Queen Charlotte Sounds to Picton where you join your coach for the journey to Nelson, lucky enough to hold the title of the sunniest town in New Zealand!

Day 10 Abel Tasman National Park
Paradise Found! Abel Tasman National Park is a mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons, which you can explore on a cruise along the coastline, with opportunities for wild swimming, kayaking and easy walking through sub-tropical bush and along golden beaches. The stunning natural beauty of the area makes it a real highlight of any trip to New Zealand.

Day 11 Nelson to Punakaiki
Collect your rental vehicle and drive inland towards Murchison, a scenic route through the Buller Gorge to Westport, where you can take a walk on the rocky Cape Foulwind Walkway – with viewing platforms to see the fur seal colony, shearwaters and penguins. Follow the rugged coast to Punakaiki and the extraordinary blowholes at Dolomite Point.

Day 12 Punakaiki to Franz Josef
Easy driving down the west coast to Hokitika, where you should pay a visit to the excellent museum and a selection of art and craft co-operatives. Call in at the Stella Cafe for some home cooking. Arrive in Franz Josef mid-afternoon for walks to the glacier or a helicopter flight – and landing – on the ice itself.

Day 13 Franz Josef to Queenstown
Early morning is the best time for beautiful reflections of the Mount Cook mountain panorama in the still, deep waters of Lake Matheson. Then head up over the Haast Pass into Mount Aspiring National Park and on to Queenstown.

Day 14 Queenstown
So much to do, so little time! Stroll the town's lovely gardens, cruise Lake Wakatipu on the 100 year old steamship TSS Earnslaw or choose from a host of adrenalin activities from bungy jumping and rafting to off-road tours to Skippers Canyon and Arrowtown.

Day 15 Queenstown to Milford Sound and Te Anau
There is only one road into Milford Sound, but the coach trip through Fiordland is rewarded by the breathtaking beauty of waterfalls pouring into the Sound, with Mitre Peak behind. Overnight in the lakeside town of Te Anau.

Day 16 Queenstown to Mount Cook
Drive through Mackenzie Country to follow the shores of Lake Pukaki to Mount Cook Village. Short walks to Kea Point or into the Hooker Valley offer wonderful views of the mountains. Return to the nearby township of Twizel for your overnight stay.

Day 17 Mount Cook to Christchurch
Make an early stop at Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, where the window behind the altar frames an astonishing view of the lake. Then take a scenic drive across the tussock plains through Fairlie and Geraldine to Christchurch.

Day 18 Christchurch Sightseeing
Following 2011's devastating earthquakes, the Garden City is fast-rebuilding, blending old (the Botanic Gardens, River Avon and the electric Tram) with new (the extraordinary temporary Cathedral, the Re:START Mall and countless pop-up bars and restaurants) to reclaim its place as the premier city on South Island. A guided tour with a local is a must.

Day 19 Depart Christchurch
After breakfast transfer to Christchurch International Airport for your flight home. Alternatively, have a chat with us about dovetailing your Independent itinerary with one of our Small Group Journeys to extend your time in New Zealand.

ACCOMMODATION

In Auckland your 4-star plus accommodation is in a stylish centrally located hotel, near the shops, restaurants, and waterfront. In Rotorua opt for a night at a farmstay for some real kiwi hospitality followed by a stay at a lakeside hotel and in Tongariro National Park your overnights are in a lodge at the base of Mount Ruapehu.

In Wellington you'll stay in a luxury boutique bed & breakfast, and in Nelson enjoy a two night stay at a hotel with a lovely riverside setting. Charming bed & breakfasts await you in Hokitika, Franz Josef Glacier and Queenstown – each with their own unique character. All are family owned and offer a warm welcome.

At Twizel, stay in a country inn, and in Christchurch, a comfortable, historic landmark home close to Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.

All accommodation subject to availability at the time of booking.

3

4

PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £3,595
Tour and flight	from £4,595
Single supplement prices available on request	
Price includes: Return flights from London Heathrow in economy class – included in 'tour and flight' prices only Meet and greet by your Silver Fern representative at Auckland International Airport Transfers by private car as specified 18 nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis Wellington – Picton Interislander Ferry Sightseeing as specified (excludes close up options, unless you choose to pre-book these) Intermediate 1.6 litre manual/automatic rental car with unlimited kilometre and daily insurance	



South Island Spectacular

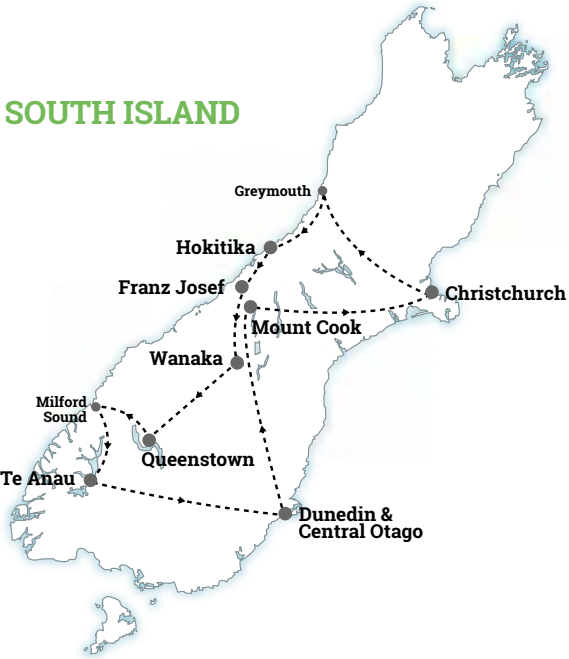
14 DAYS SOUTH ISLAND

FROM £3,199

- CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES**
- Our suggestions**
- Embark on a guided Franz Josef heli-hike into the dramatic alpine landscape
 - Head to the Matukituki Valley in Mount Aspiring National Park for a superb day walk to the Rob Roy Glacier
 - Blow your mind with a visit to Puzzling World in Wanaka
 - Help with the reforestation of Mou Waho Island and plant a tree as part of their conservation project
 - Explore Milford Sound on a Nature or Wildlife Cruise like no other on the Milford Mariner
 - Enjoy spectacular scenery for aboard the Taieri Gorge Railway in Dunedin
 - Experience a taste of French Colonial past on a day trip to Akaroa from Christchurch
 - Get closer to nature and swim with seals and dolphins or go whale spotting in Kaikoura

- 1. Soft pedalling, Queenstown
- 2. Wanaka River Journeys
- 3. Hermitage, Mount Cook
- 4. Re:START, Christchurch
- 5. Taieri Gorge Railway, Dunedin
- 6. Whale watching, Kaikoura

SOUTH ISLAND



ITINERARY

- Day 1 Arrive Christchurch**
We meet your flight and transfer you to your hotel. Today is free for you to get your bearings and explore the 'Garden City' of Christchurch.
- Day 2 Christchurch to Greymouth to Hokitika**
Board the TranzAlpine train for one of the world's great rail journeys, across the Southern Alps to the west coast.
- Arrive in Greymouth and collect your rental vehicle for an afternoon drive along the rugged coastline to Hokitika. This gold mining era town still has a frontier feel: open artists workshops offer carved jade and other Maori crafts, and the museum is highly recommended.
- Day 3 Hokitika to Franz Josef**
Travel to Westland National Park, which extends from the rugged beaches of the west coast to the stunning snow-capped Southern Alps.
- Walk the trail to the glacier or wow yourself with a scenic flight over the rivers of ice: you can even land on the snow-field at the top!
- Day 4 Franz Josef to Wanaka**
Drive past Fox Glacier and on to Lake Matheson, on a clear day you're rewarded with unforgettable reflections of the Mount Cook range in the still waters. Continue south over the Haast Pass into Mount Aspiring National Park. Arrive in Wanaka and enjoy a lakeside walk or a stroll around this pretty town. We recommend booking a table for dinner at Relishes restaurant.
- Day 5 Wanaka**
Board a paddle boat or lake cruiser to explore Lake Wanaka, or drive to the delightful Glendhu Bay for easy walks and beautiful views.
- Relax in the evening at Cinema Paradiso, a classic movie theatre with an interesting choice of seating!
- Day 6 Wanaka to Queenstown**
An easy drive over the Crown Range through orchards and farmlands to Queenstown, New Zealand's adventure playground and South Island's busiest resort.
- Day 7 Queenstown**
There are experiences and activities to suit every thrill-level and budget in and around Queenstown. Hire a bike to explore local routes that are part of New Zealand's National Cycle Trail. Throw yourself off a bridge whilst tied to a piece of elastic: this is the home of bungee jumping! Jet-boating on



- the Shotover and Kawarau rivers is popular: the steamship TSS Earnslaw on Lake Wakatipu is a more stately option.
- Day 8 Queenstown to Milford to Te Anau**
It is almost impossible to visit South Island and not make the pilgrimage to Milford Sound, one of the most remotely beautiful places in the world. Most visitors opt for a coach trip to get there to avoid the challenging drive deep into Fiordland National Park. On your return, overnight at Te Anau.
- Day 9 Te Anau to Dunedin**
Roll through New Zealand's sheep farming heartland through Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, for city sightseeing. We suggest a visit to the city's Railway Station to admire the architecture: Ale drinkers might like to take a tour of the Speights Brewery.
- Day 10 Otago Wildlife Excursions**
Head out onto the Otago Peninsula to see Royal Albatross at Taiaroa Head, while on Allans Beach you may be lucky enough to see yellow-eyed penguins, fur seals and sea lions.
- Day 11 Dunedin to Mount Cook**
Time to head north along the coast road, but pause at the Moeraki Boulders, calcite formations 65 million years old. Turn inland to Mount Cook National Park where you can enjoy a short walk to Kea Point or walk further along the Hooker Valley for wonderful views of this alpine panorama. Overnight in Mount Cook.
- Day 12 Mount Cook to Christchurch**
Stop at the church of the Good Shepherd at Lake Tekapo, one of New Zealand's most photographed spots. Then cross the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch where you return your rental vehicle.
- Day 13 Christchurch**
This most English of New Zealand cities suffered a succession of terrible earthquakes in early 2011. Christchurch is re-inventing itself with typical Kiwi spirit and exciting new sights include the 'cardboard' cathedral and Re:START shopping mall in re-purposed shipping containers. A guided tour of the city will help you to understand the past including the beautiful Botanic Gardens and the present and future hopes for the city.
- Day 14 Depart Christchurch**
After breakfast transfer to Christchurch International Airport for your flight home.



ACCOMMODATION

At Mount Cook stay at the Hermitage Complex.

Charming bed & breakfasts await you in Hokitika, Fox Glacier, Wanaka and Queenstown – each with their own unique character. All are family owned and offer a warm welcome.

In Christchurch stay in a comfortable, historic landmark home close to The Botanic gardens and Hagley Park.

All accommodation subject to availability at the time of booking.

PRICES	
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Tour only	from £3,199
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Single supplement prices available on request	
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Tour with us



SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

OUR ESCORTED TOURS ARE JUST THAT – OURS – CREATED BY US, EXCLUSIVELY FOR OUR GUESTS. NOT ONLY ARE OUR ITINERARIES UNIQUE, BUT WE CHOOSE TO TOUR WITH NO MORE THAN 16 PEOPLE WHICH MEANS THAT OUR SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS OFFER AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES TO GET CLOSE TO THE REAL NEW ZEALAND.

Silver Fern Holidays' escorted tours are very special, not only because our itineraries are different, but because we take a very different approach to touring. So instead of a standard 'coach tour' you can enjoy a flexible, in-depth, comfortable, good-humoured and unforgettable journey.

We have named each itinerary after a native tree or flower, many of which you may encounter while travelling with us.

Our 'master journey' we call Tana Mahuta, the Mighty Kauri, a superb 21 day tour that packs in the maximum number of unforgettable experiences. If you don't have 21 days to spare, or if you wish to combine an escorted journey with tailor-made arrangements, then pick one of our shorter tours which join and leave the main tour during our three week adventure through New Zealand.





WHY CHOOSE A SILVER FERN SMALL GROUP JOURNEY?

SMALL GROUPS

Our 16-seater vehicles are agile enough to explore roads less-travelled, approaching New Zealand's most beautiful sights – both iconic and hidden gems – from a different angle. We can get off the beaten track just as easily as we can cruise Highway 1. Our vehicles are also very comfortable, with good legroom, headroom and picture windows so you can see where you're going, but we don't want you to experience New Zealand through plate glass, so we take every opportunity we can to get you off the coach!

GREAT LEADERS, EXPERT GUIDES

Perhaps it is because it is a small country on the other side of the world that the first question visitors are often asked is 'what do you think of our country?' Kiwis are passionate about showing visitors the best of

New Zealand so not only are our hand-picked leaders safe drivers in all conditions, but they are also happy personalities, full of knowledge, enthusiasm, insights and practical advice. At some points we meet up with a local guide to add his or her expertise to enhance your experience. These include Kiwis who are wildlife, eco, geothermal or Maori specialists with whom you can engage on a personal level.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

With a small group we can be more flexible about each day's timetable, creating opportunities for surprise encounters and time for stops en route. So if someone spots a Takehe we can stop for a photo; if there's a new exhibition at a museum we can linger longer and if it's 90 degrees in the shade we can cool down at the beach before we hit the road again.

Our itineraries range from 10 to 21 days so there's one to suit you, and we are also flexible enough to top and tail any tour with tailor-made arrangements to fit in with your individual requirements.

GOOD COMPANY

In a group of no more than 16 it is easy to find common ground with like-minded travellers and at the same time enjoy a variety of dinner table conversations. Our small group size also means we can dispense with 'coach tour' admin like asking you to wear a name badge, and good manners and good humour are more important to us than strict time-keeping. Discovering New Zealand in this way is a very special experience, with the potential for serendipitous surprises, a lot of laughs and perhaps new friends for life.

GETTING CLOSE-UP

Because we are few in number, we can go places and see things that are simply not practical for 'coach tour' groups of 40 or more. So while we include all the 'must-see' sights in our itineraries, we also add smaller-scale adventures that only a small group can experience. You'll never forget your first sight across Auckland harbour, or of Aoraki/Mount Cook, but your happiest memories may well be of our guided walk through the Waimangu Valley, comparing wine notes in Hawkes Bay or enjoying a leisurely lunch in a Coromandel cafe.

HOSPITALITY

Our itineraries include a wonderful mix of hotels, lodges and home-stays along the way, because we are not confined to using mass-market hotels. Sometimes we choose a large city hotel because of its central location, but wherever

possible we opt for smaller, family-run properties with their own character, including carefully hand-picked B&B's, local farms and sheep stations so that you can enjoy some real Kiwi hospitality.

GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

All our tour dates are guaranteed departures, whether we travel with two or four passengers, or a full complement of 16, so you can make your international travel plans accordingly, without concerns as to whether your holiday will go ahead.





Tane Mahuta

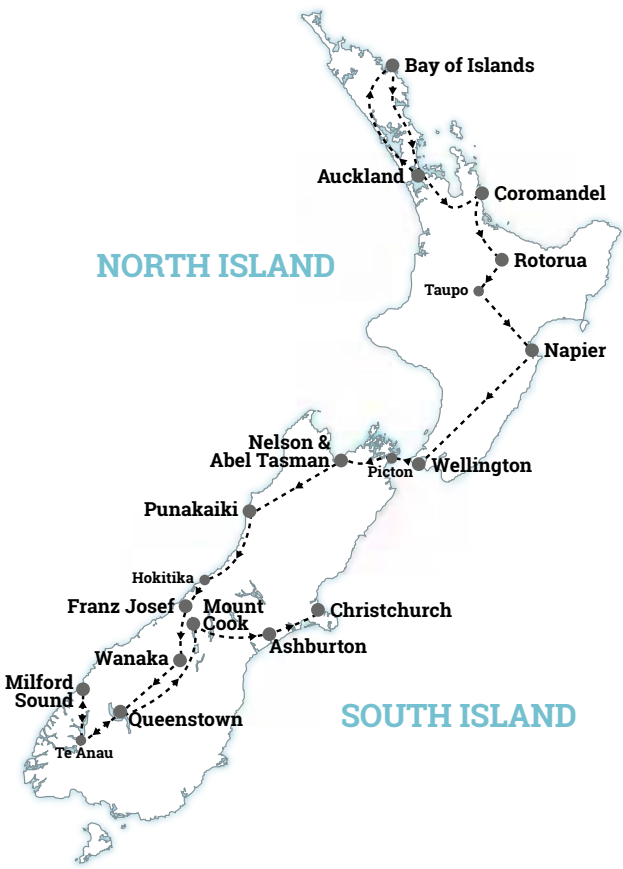
21 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

Auckland – Kauri Country – Bay of Islands – Coromandel – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington
Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park – Punakaiki – Glacier Country – Wanaka – Milford
Sound – Queenstown – Aoraki Mount Cook – Christchurch

FROM £5,590

- CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES
- Enjoy a taste of true kiwi hospitality as you’re welcomed into a family home on a farm stay overnight experience
- Take part in a Maori cultural experience and join in a Haka in Rotorua
- Discover the history of the colourful Art Deco town of Napier on a guided walking tour
- MUST SEE INCLUSIONS
- Cruising and walk a section of the stunning Abel Tasman National Park
- Journeying through the majestic Milford Sound accompanied by a specialist nature guide - a unique experience.
- Visiting the Miranda Shorebird Centre to learn about some of New Zealand’s amazing migratory birdlife
- Exploring Te Puia, a geothermal wonderland

- 1.View from Mount Maunganui
- 2.Haka, Rotorua
- 3.Shotover Jet, Queenstown
- 4.Ice dance, Mount Cook
- 5 Scenic Hotel Franz Josef



ITINERARY

- Day 1 Auckland **B**
- Haere mai – welcome! Arrive into Auckland and spend the afternoon and evening getting to know the ‘City of Sails’ and your fellow travellers.
- Grand Millennium Hotel
- Day 2 Auckland to Bay of Islands **B**
- Leaving Auckland behind, we travel up Northland’s west coast to the Waipoua Forest, where our Maori guide leads us deep into the forest to see Tane Mahuta, the largest kauri tree in the world.
- In the afternoon we head east to the pretty seaside town of Paihia.
- Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 3 Bay of Islands **B**
- We start the day in Russell with a guided tour where we learn about this pretty little town’s rip-roaring past, when drunken sailors earned it the name, ‘the hell hole of the Pacific’.
- Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the area on foot or take a dolphin cruise in the spectacular Bay of Islands.
- Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 4 Bay of Islands to Coromandel Peninsula **B**
- A morning visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where the treaty between Maori tribes and British settlers was signed in 1840.
- Later we head south, driving through the lush farmland of Waikato to the Firth of Thames, where we stop to visit the Miranda Shorebird Centre.
- Pacific Harbour Lodge
- Day 5 Explore the Coromandel Peninsula **B**
- Visit Hot Water Beach, and take a walk to the marine reserve of Cathedral Cove.
- We recommend lunch under the fruit trees at Colenso Cafe, where the local chef may share the secret of pavlova with you!
- Pacific Harbour Lodge
- Day 6 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua **B**
- Travel south on the Pacific Coast Highway to Rotorua. Here we visit the excellent Rotorua Museum, and take a trip to Te Puia, an active geothermal site, and the centre for indigenous arts and crafts and a Kiwi conservation project.
- Distinction Hotel Rotorua
- Day 7 Rotorua **B D**
- This morning we walk through the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, and hear about the volcanic eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886 which destroyed the world-famous ‘Pink & White’ silica terraces.



- Later, we’ll spend time at a local Marae to listen to ancient legends and learn about Maori lifestyles today.
- An evening Maori cultural concert and traditional Maori meal end the day in style.
- Distinction Hotel Rotorua
- Day 8 Rotorua to Napier **B D**
- Today we head south, past Huka Falls to Lake Taupo where we have time for lunch. We arrive in Napier mid-afternoon and take a guided walking tour of this fabulous Art Deco city.
- The area is also well loved for its fabulous wines so this evening our treat is a dinner with a glass of wine at the Mission Estate Winery.
- Masonic Art Deco Hotel
- Day 9 Napier to Wellington **B**
- This morning we travel south through the Wairarapa to arrive in the country’s capital city Wellington.
- Spend the afternoon sightseeing, and take the cable car up to the Kelburn lookout before walking back down through the Botanic Gardens and enjoying tea in the Lady Rosewood Garden.
- Visit Te Papa, the National Museum, to learn more about the culture and history of New Zealand.
- James Cook Chancellor Hotel
- Day 10 Wellington to Nelson **B**
- We board the Interislander Ferry across the Cook Strait and through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound to Picton. On arrival, travel to the delightful town of Nelson, our base for two nights.
- In the afternoon we stretch our legs along on a section of the Centre of New Zealand Walkway.
- Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 11 Abel Tasman National Park **B**
- Paradise found! Abel Tasman National Park is a mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons sheltered by forested ranges to the south. We board a small cruiser for a day of exploration, with native wildlife a highlight of our scenery.
- Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 12 Nelson to Franz Josef **B**
- Today travel inland following the Buller River gorge, emerging at Westport for a short walk on the coastal path to Cape Foulwind where we may see fur seals, sooty shearwaters and blue penguins.
- In the afternoon we reach Westland National Park, where ice meets rainforest at the foot of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. We base ourselves in laid-back Franz Josef township for ease of access to the slowly moving ‘river’ of ice.
- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

- Day 13 Franz Josef to Wanaka **B**
- After a morning stroll around Lake Matheson, with its stunning reflections of the mountains we head up over the Haast Pass along the river road, deep into Mt Aspiring National Park.
- Arriving at Wanaka there’s a choice of lakeside strolls with a stop to quench our thirst at the much photographed Cardrona Pub.
- Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 14 Wanaka to Te Anau **B**
- This morning there is time to relax, you may wish to take a jet boat ride up the Matukituki River or take the opportunity to enjoy one of New Zealand’s best half day walks – The Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain Trail.
- Later we head to Te Anau, gateway to the magnificent Fiordland National Park.
- Distinction Te Anau
- Day 15 Te Anau to Milford Sound **B**
- We take the coach into Milford Sound. A beautifully scenic route, with plenty of opportunities for photo taking. Enjoy a morning walk in the National Park with an experienced nature guide followed by a cruise on Milford Sound.
- Distinction Te Anau
- Day 16 Te Anau to Queenstown **B**
- Leaving Fiordland National Park behind, we take a short journey via Kingstown and Lake Wakitipu to Queenstown ‘Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere’ and our base for the next two nights.
- Novotel Queenstown
- Day 17 Queenstown **B**
- A day at leisure to relax or explore. Thrill-seekers may zip-line from Bob’s Peak, get drenched on a Shotover jet-boat ride or go white-water rafting.
- Those seeking a more relaxed option may choose to discover Lake Wakatipu with a cruise on the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw up to Walter Peak Station.
- Novotel Queenstown
- Day 18 Queenstown to Mount Cook National Park **B**
- Today we drive north via Arrowtown, a historical goldmining settlement and on to Twizel. We overnight near Mount Cook home to the country’s highest peak.
- Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel
- Day 19 Mount Cook **B D**
- A beautiful drive along Lake Pukaki to The Hermitage, our starting point for a choice of easy walks along the Hooker Valley trail for a close up of the majestic Mount Cook.

- Later, we drop you off in smaller groups at three or four farms around Ashburton, where your hosts will extend their hospitality to you to with a farm tour followed by a delicious home-cooked dinner and a cosy night’s stay.
- Rural Homestay
- Day 20 Ashburton to Christchurch **B D**
- This most English of New Zealand cities suffered a succession of terrible earthquakes in 2011. Christchurch is reinventing itself with typical Kiwi spirit and exciting new projects including the cardboard cathedral and RE:Start Shopping Mall in repurposed shipping containers. A guided tour will help you understand the present and future hopes for the city.
- This is the final part of our journey together so tonight we relax over a farewell dinner that showcases the best of New Zealand food and wine.
- Chateau On The park
- Day 21 Depart Christchurch **B**
- If you are leaving New Zealand today, after breakfast we transfer you to Christchurch Airport for your flight home. Alternatively we can extend your stay in Christchurch for a few days or arrange onward independent touring by car or TransAlpine train.
- Either way, we must say farewell, and waving you off with amazing memories of your time in New Zealand.



PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £5,590
Tour and flight	from £6,590
Single supplement	from £1,550
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	



Pohutukawa

19 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

Auckland – Coromandel – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington – Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park – Punakaiki – Glacier Country – Wanaka – Milford Sound – Queenstown – Aoraki Mount Cook – Ashburton – Christchurch

FROM £5,210

CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES

Take the 20 minute walk up to the terminal Face of Franz Josef Glacier to see the river of ice

Dig your own Hot Pool at Hot Water Beach in the Coromandel

Cruise on Lake Rotomahana in the Waimangu Volcanic valley, created in 1884 by the huge eruption of Mount Tarawera

MUST SEE INCLUSIONS

Visiting the Miranda Shorebird Centre to get close to some of New Zealand’s amazing migratory birds

Listening to traditional stories of Ranganui the sky Father and Papatuanuku at a Maori Meeting House in Rotorua

Boarding a small cruiser for a day of exploration in Abel Tasman National Park

Taking a walk up the Hooker Valley to see the Mighty Mount Cook – the highest mountain in the Southern Hemisphere – close up

- 1. Mount Cook National Park
- 2. Art Deco, Napier
- 3. Kelburn Cable Car, Wellington
- 4. Geothermal area, Rotorua
- 5 Local Bed & Breakfast

This Small Group Journey takes you through some of our favourite places and spaces in the North and South Islands, discovering fantastic coastlines and immersing you in Maori culture and history.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Auckland
Welcome to New Zealand! You will receive a warm welcome on arrival into Auckland International Airport. We meet you from your flight and take you to your hotel to freshen up.
The rest of the day is yours to explore or rest at your leisure.
Grand Millennium Hotel

Day 2 Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula B
Our tour begins as we leave Auckland and drive south to the Firth of Thames to stop at the Miranda Shorebird Centre where you will learn about the amazing annual migrations of wrybills, godwits and shorebirds that in summer travel the 10,000km in their journey south from the Arctic Circle.
Later, arrive in Tairua harbour, where pacific-island-style chalets are our home for the night.
Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 3 Coromandel Peninsula B
Take a walk to the marine reserve of Cathedral Cove, one of the most picturesque spots in the Coromandel.
Enjoy the golden beaches – it’s not every day you can dig your own spa pool to relax in as you can on Hot Water Beach!
There are plenty of relaxing spots to enjoy a leisurely lunch under the shade of the local fruit trees.
Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 4 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua B
Travel through the Bay of Plenty en route to Rotorua where our first stop is the excellent Rotorua Museum, situated in a former bathhouse.
We spend the afternoon at Te Puia where guides will share stories and give you an insight into this fascinating geothermal area.
Distinction Hotel Rotorua

Day 5 Rotorua B D
This morning we visit the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, and take a guided walking and cruising tour to learn more about the history of this fascinating region.
We also travel to a local Marae (Maori meeting house) to listen to some ancient legends and learn about Maori lifestyle today. An evening Maori cultural concert and traditional hangi meal end the day in style.
Distinction Hotel Rotorua



Day 6 Rotorua to Napier B D
Take in the crashing waters of Huka Falls and the vastness of Lake Taupo, the largest freshwater lake in New Zealand, before heading on to the Art Deco town of Napier.
We’ll take a guided walking tour of the city, before enjoying an evening treat of dinner with a glass of wine at Mission Estate Winery
Masonic Art Deco Hotel

Day 7 Napier to Wellington B
We continue south through the rolling hills of the Wairarapa to arrive in Wellington.
Spend the afternoon sightseeing with a visit to the Beehive, Wellingtons fondly nicknamed parliament building, and a short ride up to the Kelburn lookout in the iconic red cable car.
Te Papa, the National Museum is an absolute must see during your time in the city.
James Cook Chancellor Hotel

Day 8 Wellington to Nelson B
We board the Interislander Ferry to cross the Cook Strait and travel through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound to Picton. On arrival we drive to Nelson, officially the sunniest town in New Zealand.
Enjoy an easy walk on the Centre of New Zealand Walkway to enjoy the stunning views of the area.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park B
Paradise found! Abel Tasman’s shimmering waters and golden beaches make it a real high point to any trip to New Zealand. We board a small cruiser to explore, with opportunities for swimming and walking.
Walkers can take an easy 4-hour hike through the sub-tropical bush to Torrent Bay and its beautiful turquoise lagoon to re-join our cruiser for the trip home.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 10 Nelson to Franz Josef B
Today travel inland following the Buller River gorge, emerging at Westport for a short walk on the coastal path to Cape Foulwind where we may see fur seals, sooty shearwaters and blue penguins.
In the afternoon we reach Westland National Park, where ice meets rainforest at the foot of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. We base ourselves in laid-back Franz Josef township for ease of access to the slowly moving ‘river’ of ice.
Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

Day 11 Franz Josef to Wanaka B
After a morning stroll around Lake Matheson, with its stunning reflections of the mountains we head up over the Haast Pass along the river road, deep into Mt Aspiring National Park.
Arriving at Wanaka there’s a choice of lakeside strolls with a stop to quench our thirst at the much photographed Cardrona Pub.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 12 Wanaka to Te Anau B
This morning there is time to relax, you may wish to take a jet boat ride up the Matukituki River or take the opportunity to enjoy one of New Zealand’s best half-day walks – The Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain Trail.
Later we head to Te Anau, gateway to the magnificent Fiordland National Park
Distinction Te Anau

Day 13 Te Anau – Milford Sound B
We take the coach into Milford Sound. A beautifully scenic route, with plenty of opportunities for photo taking. Enjoy a morning walk in the National Park with an experienced nature guide followed by a cruise on Milford Sound.
Distinction Te Anau

Day 14 Te Anau to Queenstown B
Leaving Fiordland National Park behind, we take a short journey via Kingstown and Lake Wakitipu to Queenstown, ‘Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere’ and our base for the next two nights.
Novotel Queenstown

Day 15 Queenstown B
A day at leisure to relax or explore. Thrill-seekers may zip-line from Bob’s Peak, get drenched on a Shotover jet-boat ride or go white-water rafting. Those seeking a more relaxed option may choose to discover Lake Wakatipu with a cruise on the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw up to Walter Peak Station.
Novotel Queenstown

Day 16 Queenstown to Mount Cook National Park B
Today we drive north via Arrowtown, a historical goldmining settlement and on to Twizel. We overnight near Mount Cook home to the country’s highest peak.
Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel

Day 17 Mount Cook B D
A beautiful drive along Lake Pukaki to The Hermitage, our starting point for a choice of easy walks along the Hooker Valley trail for a close up of the majestic Mount Cook.

WHAT’S INCLUDED
All transport and the services of an excellent tour guide
Accommodation based on two people sharing a double/twin room (single supplement applies)
Entrance fees to places of interest included on your itinerary
The services of local guides where referenced
CULINARY INCLUSIONS
22 Meals Included (18 Breakfasts, 4 dinners)
Enjoy a wine tasting and evening meal at Mission Estate, New Zealand’s oldest winery
Experience an authentic Maori Hangi dinner and learn about Maori culture
Tuck into a delicious home-cooked dinner with your hosts at a farmstay near Ashburton

Later, we drop you off in smaller groups at three or four farms around Ashburton, where your hosts will extend their hospitality to you to with a farm tour followed by a delicious home-cooked dinner and a cosy night’s stay.
Rural Homestay

Day 18 Ashburton to Christchurch B D
Enjoy a drive through the Canterbury Plains as we set off for Christchurch, New Zealand’s ‘Garden City’. Take a tour of the city and stroll through Hagley Park or hire a kayak or paddle boat to enjoy the gardens from the peaceful setting of the River Avon.
This is the final part of our journey together so tonight we relax together over a farewell dinner that showcases the best of New Zealand food and wine.
Chateau on the Park

Day 19 Depart Christchurch B
If you are leaving New Zealand today, we transfer you to Christchurch Airport for your flight home after you have enjoyed your final kiwi breakfast. Alternatively we can extend your stay in Christchurch for a few days or arrange onward independent touring by car or TranzAlpine train.



PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £5,210
Tour and flight	from £6,210
Single supplement	from £1,491
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	



Kowhai

17 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

Auckland – Kauri Country – Bay of Islands – Coromandel – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park – Punakaiki – Glacier Country – Wanaka Milford Sound– Queenstown

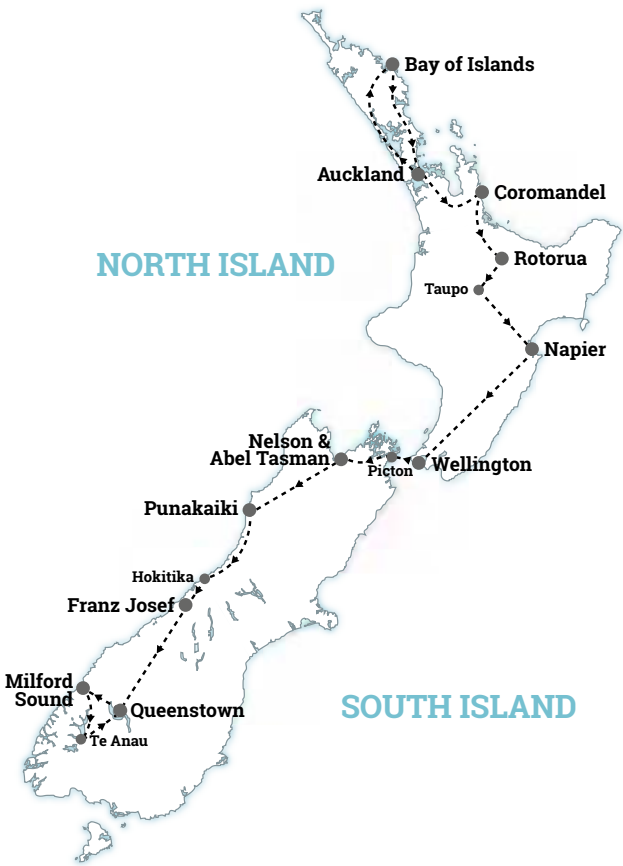
FROM £4,694

CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES

- Take a dolphin cruise in the Bay of Islands - or enjoy an even closer encounter and swim with them!
 - Take a tour of the historic town of Russell, the first European settlement in New Zealand
 - Try your hand at Mau Rakau (stick fighting) or Raranga (weaving) as part of a unique cultural experience in Rotorua
- ### MUST SEE INCLUSIONS
- Walking a section of the stunning Abel Tasman Coastal Track with its mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons
 - Learning more about the history of New Zealand with a tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds
 - Taking the easy stroll to Dolomite Point in Punakaiki to see the fascinating pancake rocks close up

- 1. Abel Tasman National Park
- 2. Paku Hill, Tairua
- 3. Glaciers guided trek
- 4. Weta Cave, Wellington
- 5 Local Bed & Breakfast

Explore the wide sandy beaches of the Coromandel coastline; dip your toes in the azure blue waters of Abel Tasman National Park after a guided hike through the sub-tropical bush, and journey deep into Fiordland National park to cruise on Milford Sound – one of our all-time ‘must do’ experiences on a trip to the South Island.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Auckland **B**
Haere mai – welcome! We meet you from your flight and take you straight to your hotel in the heart of Auckland city centre. Later, relax and explore, or meet your driver guide for an early evening stroll.
Grand Millennium Hotel

Day 2 Auckland to Bay of Islands **B**
Travel up Northland’s west coast skirting Kaipara Harbour and following the Kaihu River to the Kai Iwi Lakes and the primeval forest of Waipoua, where we take a guided walk through the forest and meet the mighty Tane Mahuta – the largest kauri tree in the world.
In the afternoon we head east to tranquil Paihia, the ‘jewel of the Bay of Islands’.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 3 Bay of Islands **B**
We start the day in Russell with a tour led by a resident historian to learn about this town that was the country’s first sea port and its first European settlement.
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the area or take a cruise with an opportunity to swim with dolphins (weather permitting!).
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Coromandel Peninsula **B**
This morning we visit the beautiful site of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where Maori chiefs first signed their agreement with the British settlers: the Treaty of Waitangi.
Heading south we make a stop at the Miranda Shorebird Centre to learn about the amazing annual migrations of birds that travel south from the Arctic Circle for the summer months.
Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 5 Explore the Coromandel Peninsula **B**
The white sandy beaches and laid back holiday vibe make the Coromandel a relaxing pace to spend the day. Take time to relax and dig out your very own ‘spa’ pool at Hot Water Beach.
In the afternoon, we take a walk to Cathedral Cove with its naturally formed archway, sparkling blue-green waters and sandy beaches that make it one of the most photographed beaches in New Zealand.
Pacific Harbour Lodge



Day 6 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua **B**
Travel south on the Pacific Coast Highway to Rotorua, the centre of New Zealand’s geothermal activity and Maori heritage.
During our time in Rotorua we visit the excellent museum, and spend the afternoon at Te Puia, home to the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute, a live Kiwi enclosure and the world-famous Pohutu Geyser.
Distinction Hotel

Day 7 Rotorua **B D**
This morning we walk through the fascinating Waimangu Volcanic Valley, the world’s youngest geothermal system, home to steaming volcanic craters and dramatic thermal activity.
In the evening we experience an authentic cultural experience, and try our hands at Mau Rakau (stick fighting) or Raranga (weaving) before indulging in a traditional hangi meal to end the night in style!
Distinction Hotel Rotorua

Day 8 Rotorua to Napier **B D**
Take in the crashing waters of Huka Falls on our way to Lake Taupo, the largest freshwater lake in New Zealand, surrounded by the mighty peaks of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. Take time to explore the bustling township of Taupo.
Later arrive in Napier and take a guided walking tour of this fabulous Art Deco city.
The area is also well loved for its fabulous wines so this evening we enjoy a tour and dinner at the Mission Estate Winery.
Masonic Art Deco Hotel

Day 9 Napier to Wellington **B**
This morning we travel south through the rolling countryside of the Wairarapa to Wellington, New Zealands capital city.
Enjoy a walking tour of the city, where your guide will introduce you to the culture, history and sights of the ‘Coolest little capital in the world’.
A visit to Te Papa is also highly recommended to learn more about New Zealand, the shaping of its land, the spirit of its people and its special wildlife and landscapes.
James Cook Chancellor Hotel

Day 10 Wellington to Nelson **B**
Board the Interislander Ferry to travel across the Cook Strait to arrive in Picton
This afternoon we drive to the delightful town of Nelson to walk a stroll along a section of the Centre of New Zealand Walkway that winds alongside the Matai River.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 11 Abel Tasman National Park **B**
Paradise found!! Abel Tasman National Park’s golden beaches, glittering waters and world famous coastal track are a highlight of any trip to New Zealand. We board a small cruiser to spend the day exploring the region.
Choose to relax on board or take an easy 4-hour hike through the coastal forest to Torrent Bay and its beautiful tidal lagoon to rejoin the cruiser for the trip home.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 12 Nelson to Franz Josef **B**
Today travel inland following the Buller River gorge, emerging at Westport for a short walk on the coastal path to Cape Foulwind where we may see fur seals, sooty shearwaters and blue penguins.
In the afternoon we reach Westland National Park, where ice meets rainforest at the foot of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. We base ourselves in laid-back Franz Josef township for ease of access to the slowly moving ‘river’ of ice.
Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

Day 13 Franz Josef to Wanaka **B**
After a morning stroll around Lake Matheson, with its stunning reflections of the mountains we head up over the Haast Pass along the river road, deep into Mt Aspiring National Park.
Arriving at Wanaka there’s a choice of lakeside strolls with a stop to quench our thirst at the much photographed Cardrona Pub.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 14 Wanaka to Te Anau **B**
This morning there is time to relax, you may wish to take a jet boat ride up the Matukituki River or take the opportunity to enjoy one of New Zealand’s best half day walks – The Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain Trail.
Later we head to Te Anau, gateway to the magnificent Fiordland National Park.
Distinction Te Anau

Day 15 Te Anau to Milford Sound **B**
We take the coach into Milford Sound. A beautifully scenic route, with plenty of opportunities for photo taking. Enjoy a morning walk in the National Park with an experienced nature guide followed by a cruise on Milford Sound.
Distinction Te Anau



WHAT’S INCLUDED
All transport and the services of an excellent tour guide
Accommodation based on two people sharing a double/twin room (single supplement applies)
Entrance fees to places of interest included on your itinerary
The services of local guides where referenced
CULINARY INCLUSIONS
18 Meals Included (16 Breakfasts, 2 dinner)
Enjoy dinner and wine at Mission Estate Winery in Napier
Taste true tradition at a Maori Hangi Meal in Rotorua

Day 16 Te Anau to Queenstown **B**
Leaving Fiordland National Park behind, we take a short journey via Kingstown and Lake Wakitpu to Queenstown ‘Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere’ and our base for the next two nights.
Novotel Queenstown

Day 17 Depart Queenstown **B**
We retrace our journey along the shore of Te Anau whose calm waters reflect the Franklin mountain peaks, and roll through sheep country and back into Queenstown.
If you have time before your departure, you may choose to enjoy some time in Queenstown today, picking up last minute souvenir’s or perhaps squeezing in a skydive (!) before we transfer you to the airport ready for your flight home.



PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £4,694
Tour and flight	from £5,694
Single supplement	from £1,478
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	



Rimu

15 DAYS NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS

Auckland – Coromandel – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington – Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park – Punakaiki – Glacier Country – Wanaka – Milford Sound – Queenstown

FROM £4,430

CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES

- Dig your own ‘spa’ pool at Hot Water Beach
- Get close to The Lost World film site aboard the Rainforest Train in Charleston
- Spot fur seals and sooty shearwaters on Cape Foulwind
- Discover Lake Wakitipu on the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw

MUST SEE INCLUSIONS

- Cruising, swimming and walking in Abel Tasman National Park
- Peeking inside some of the interiors of the fabulous Art Deco styled buildings on a walking tour of Napier
- Getting up close to the Franz Josef Glacier in Westland National Park
- Exploring sixty hectares of geothermal wonderland at Te Puia

- 1. Kayaking, Abel Tasman National Park
- 2. Geothermal area, Rotorua
- 3. Wine tasting, Napier
- 4. Te Papa, Wellington
- 5 Local Bed & Breakfast



Join us for this Small Group Journey to explore the highlights of the North and South Islands. Unleash your adventurous spirit in the adrenaline capital of Queenstown, cruise Milford Sound and make the most of the abundance of walking opportunities the country has to offer as you travel through New Zealand’s fabulous landscapes.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Auckland B
Haere mai – welcome to New Zealand! We greet your flight and take you straight to your hotel: very central and with easy access to the many attractions Auckland has to offer. Meet your driver-guide for an early evening stroll.
Grand Millennium Hotel

Day 2 Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula B
From Auckland we drive south through the lush farmlands of the Waikato to the Firth of Thames where we meet Keith Woodley and his enthusiastic team for a tour of the Miranda Shorebird Centre. Here we learn about the amazing annual migrations of Bar-tailed Godwits and Wrybills, whirling flocks of thousands of shorebirds and the rare geology of shell bank cheniers.
Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 3 Explore the Coromandel Peninsula B
Dig your own spa pool at Hot Water Beach, and take a walk to Cathedral Cove with its water-worn rock formations sparkling against the blue-green of the Pacific.
Later, relax and enjoy a leisurely lunch under the shade of the local fruit trees at one of our favourite cafes.
Pacific Harbour Lodge

Day 4 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua B
We take the Pacific Coast Highway to Rotorua where we visit the excellent Rotorua Museum situated in a former bathhouse, and take a trip to Te Puia - not only a fascinating active geothermal site, but also the nation’s centre for indigenous arts and crafts and a Kiwi conservation project.
Distinction Hotel, Rotorua

Day 5 Rotorua B D
This morning take an easy walking tour through the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, to discover more about the eruption of Mount Tarewera in 1886 that destroyed the famous ‘Pink and White’ silica terraces.
A Maori cultural experience and traditional hangi meal are the perfect way to end the day.
Distinction Hotel, Rotorua



Day 6 Rotorua to Napier B D
Journey south, with a stop at magnificent Huka Falls before continuing to Lake Taupo. Weather permitting we will see the peaks of Ruapehu, Ngaruhoe and Tongariro across the lake.
Later we arrive in Napier for a guided walking tour of this colourful Art Deco city and a visit to some of the most iconic sights.
The area is also well loved for its fabulous wines so this evening, our treat is a dinner with a glass of wine at the Mission Estate Winery.
Masonic Art Deco Hotel

Day 7 Napier to Wellington B
This morning we travel south through the Wairarapa, over the Rimutaka Hill to arrive in the country’s capital city Wellington.
Enjoy a ride up to the Kelburn lookout in the cable car and take a gentle stroll back down through the native forests and plant collections of the Botanic Gardens.
We also recommend a visit to Te Papa, New Zealand’s National Museum.
James Cook Chancellor Hotel

Day 8 Wellington to Nelson B
Today take the Interislander Ferry across the Cook Strait to Picton. From there it’s a two hour drive to the delightful town of Nelson, officially the sunniest place in New Zealand and our base for two nights.
In the afternoon we stretch our legs on a path that follows the Matai River on a section of the Centre of New Zealand Walkway.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park B
A highlight of the tour is a trip to Abel Tasman National Park with its golden coves and turquoise lagoons sheltered by forested ranges to the south. We board a small cruiser for a day of exploration, with opportunities for swimming and walking.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 10 Nelson to Franz Josef B
Today travel inland following the Buller River gorge, emerging at Westport for a short walk on the coastal path to Cape Foulwind where we may see fur seals, sooty shearwaters and blue penguins.
In the afternoon we reach Westland National Park, where ice meets rainforest at the foot of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. We base ourselves in laid-back Franz Josef township for ease of access to the slowly moving ‘river’ of ice.
Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

Day 11 Franz Josef to Wanaka B
After a morning stroll around Lake Matheson, with its stunning reflections of the mountains we head up over the Haast Pass along the river road, deep into Mt Aspiring National Park.
Arriving at Wanaka there’s a choice of lakeside strolls with a stop to quench our thirst at the much photographed Cardrona Pub.
Local Bed & Breakfast

Day 12 Wanaka to Te Anau B
This morning there is time to relax, you may wish to take a jet boat ride up the Matukituki River or take the opportunity to enjoy one of New Zealand’s best halfday walks – The Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain Trail.
Later we head to Te Anau, gateway to the magnificent Fiordland National Park.
Distinction Te Anau

Day 13 Te Anau to Milford Sound B
We take the coach into Milford Sound. A beautifully scenic route, with plenty of opportunities for photo taking. Enjoy a morning walk in the National Park with an experienced nature guide followed by a cruise on Milford Sound.
Distinction Te Anau

Day 14 Te Anau to Queenstown B
Leaving Fiordland National Park behind, we take a short journey via Kingstown and Lake Wakitipu to Queenstown, ‘Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere and’ our base for the next two nights.
Novotel Queenstown

Day 15 Depart Queenstown B
This morning we retrace the road out of Fiordland, travelling along the shore of Lake Te Anau back to Queenstown, before transferring you to the airport for your flight home.

WHAT’S INCLUDED
All transport and the services of an excellent tour guide
Accommodation based on two people sharing a double/twin room (single supplement applies)
Entrance fees to places of interest included on your itinerary
The services of local guides where referenced
CULINARY INCLUSIONS
16 Meals Included (14 Breakfasts, 2 dinners)
Enjoy dinner and wine at Mission Estate Winery in Napier
Taste true tradition at a Maori Hangi Meal in Rotorua



PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £4,430
Tour and flight	from £5,430
Single supplement	from £1,321
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	



Mount Cook Lily

13 DAYS SOUTH ISLAND

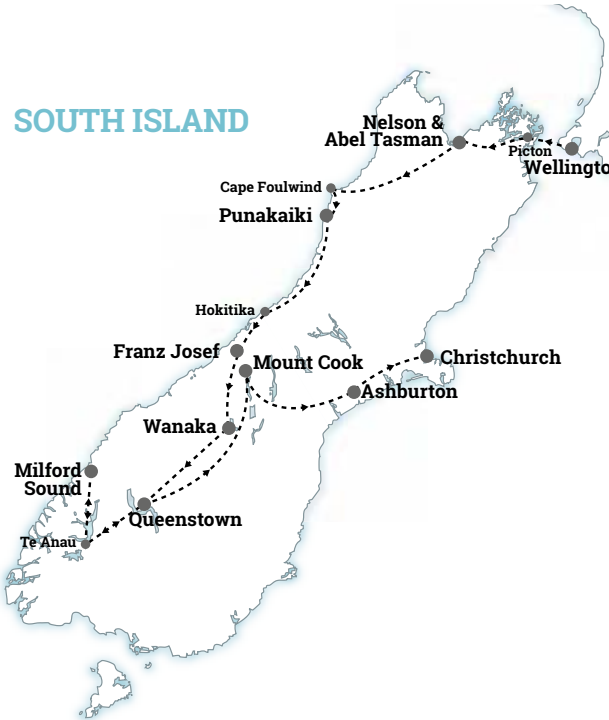
Wellington – Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park – Punakaiki – Glacier Country – Wanaka
Milford Sound – Queenstown – Aoraki Mount Cook – Christchurch

FROM £3,584

CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES

- Catch the rainforest train in Charleston to view the magical glimmer of glow worms in their natural habitat.
 - See the most significant collection of ancient Maori rock art in New Zealand at the Te Ana Maori Rock Art Centre
 - Walk along the Hooker Valley and get close up to the Southern Hemispheres highest peak, Mount Cook
- MUST SEE INCLUSIONS
- Taking a walking tour around Christchurch to see the kiwi ‘can do’ attitude in full swing as the city is rebuilding itself after the 2011 earthquake
 - Enjoying a walk on the Centre of New Zealand walkway in Nelson and taking in the stunning surrounding views
 - Cruising through the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park and walk a section of the world famous Coastal Track

- 1. Milford Sound
- 2. Above Lake Wanaka
- 3. Skyline Restaurant, Queenstown
- 4. Abel Tasman National Park
- 5 Local Bed & Breakfast



ITINERARY

- Day 1 Wellington** **B**
Welcome!
Have a lazy day finding your bearings, wander along Oriental Parade and around the bays, or explore Cuba Street, ‘New Zealand’s Coolest Street’ with its eclectic mix of boutiques, cafes and restaurants. A visit to Te Papa, the National Museum is a must!
James Cook Chancellor Hotel
- Day 2 Wellington to Nelson** **B**
We take the Interislander Ferry through the Marlborough and Queen Charlotte Sounds to Picton. Here we begin our South Island journey with a drive to the delightful town of Nelson. After lunch we take a walk on the Centre of New Zealand Walkway to take in the stunning views of the surrounding landscapes. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free for you to relax and explore this sunny town with its easy lifestyle and vibrant arts scene.
Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 3 Abel Tasman National Park** **B**
The lush coastal forests, sparkling azure waters and golden beaches make this world famous coastal track a highlight of your tour. Board a small cruiser for a day of exploration, with opportunities for swimming and walking. We suggest landing at Bark Bay for an easy 4-hour hike to Torrent Bay and its beautiful tidal lagoon where we re-join our cruiser for the trip home.
Local Bed & Breakfast
- Day 4 Nelson to Franz Josef** **B**
Today travel inland following the Buller River gorge, emerging at Westport for a short walk on the coastal path to Cape Foulwind where we may see fur seals, sooty shearwaters and blue penguins. In the afternoon we reach Westland National Park, where ice meets rainforest at the foot of the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers. We base ourselves in laid-back Franz Josef township for ease of access to the slowly moving ‘river’ of ice.
Scenic Hotel Franz Josef
- Day 5 Franz Josef to Wanaka** **B**
After a morning stroll around Lake Matheson, with its stunning reflections of the mountains we head up over the Haast Pass along the river road, deep into Mt Aspiring National Park. Arriving at Wanaka there’s a choice of lakeside strolls with a stop to quench our thirst at the much photographed Cardrona Pub.
Local Bed & Breakfast



- Day 6 Wanaka to Te Anau** **B**
This morning there is time to relax, you may wish to take a jet boat ride up the Matukituki River or take the opportunity to enjoy one of New Zealand’s best half day walks – The Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain Trail. Later we head to Te Anau, gateway to the magnificent Fiordland National Park.
Distinction Te Anau
- Day 7 Te Anau to Milford Sound** **B D**
We take the coach into Milford Sound. A beautifully scenic route, with plenty of opportunities for photo taking. Enjoy a morning walk in the National Park with an experienced nature guide followed by a cruise on Milford Sound.
Distinction Te Anau
- Day 8 Te Anau to Queenstown** **B**
Leaving Fiordland National Park behind, we take a short journey via Kingstown and Lake Wakitpu to Queenstown, ‘Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere’ and our base for the next two nights.
Novotel Queenstown
- Day 9 Queenstown** **B**
A day at leisure to relax or explore. Thrill-seekers may zip-line from Bob’s Peak, get drenched on a Shotover jet-boat ride or go white-water rafting. Those seeking a more relaxed option may choose to discover Lake Wakatipu with a cruise on the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw up to Walter Peak Station.
Novotel Queenstown
- Day 10 Queenstown to Mount Cook National Park** **B**
Today we drive north via Arrowtown, a historical goldmining settlement and on to Twizel. We overnight near Mount Cook home to the country’s highest peak.
Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel
- Day 11 Mount Cook** **B D**
A beautiful drive along Lake Pukaki to The Hermitage, our starting point for a choice of easy walks along the Hooker Valley trail for a close up of the majestic Mount Cook. Later, we drop you off in smaller groups at three or four farms around Ashburton, where your hosts will extend their hospitality to you to with a farm tour followed by a delicious home-cooked dinner and a cosy night’s stay.
Rural Homestay

- Day 12 Ashburton to Christchurch** **B D**
Christchurch was shaken to its core by the succession of earthquakes at the turn of 2010/11. Many historic buildings were damaged, but the river Avon and its punts, Hagley Park, and the Botanic Gardens are all as beautiful as ever, and during our visit we will embrace the city’s past, present and future. This is the final part of our journey together so tonight we relax together over a farewell dinner that showcases the best of New Zealand food and wine.
Chateau on the Park
- Day 13 Depart Christchurch** **B**
If you are leaving New Zealand today, we transfer you to Christchurch Airport for your flight home after you have enjoyed your final kiwi breakfast. Alternatively we can extend your stay in Christchurch for a few days or arrange onward independent touring by car or TranzAlpine train. Either way, we must say farewell, and wave you off home with amazing memories of your time in New Zealand.
This Small Group Journey can be combined with an Independent tailor-made holiday on North Island.



PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £3,584
Tour and flight	from £4,584
Single supplement	from £930
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	



Koromiko

10 DAYS NORTH ISLAND

Auckland – Kauri Country – Bay of Islands – Coromandel – Rotorua – Napier – Wellington

FROM £2,195

CLOSE UP EXPERIENCES

- Get close to the largest kauri tree in the world in the Waipoua Forest
- Swim with Dolphins in the Bay of Islands
- Experience true Maori culture and traditions at Te Puia
- Take afternoon tea in the Lady Rosewood garden in Wellingtons Botanic Gardens

MUST SEE INCLUSIONS

- Heading up the Skytower in Auckland for fantastic panoramic views of the area
- Enjoying a tour of the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Taking a guided tour around the Mission Estate Winery in Napier - the country's oldest vineyards
- Visiting the excellent Rotorua Museum, housed in a former bathhouse

- 1. Waitangi Treaty House
- 2. Bay of Islands
- 3. Wellington
- 4. Waitangi
- 5. Skydiving, Taupo
- 6. Tane Mahuta
- 7 Local Bed & Breakfast



NORTH ISLAND

This tour takes in the stunning sights of North Island on a journey past ancient kauri trees to the sparkling pacific waters of the Bay of Islands. Further south you'll visit the Art Deco town of Napier and enjoy the wonderful wines of the Hawkes Bay region before arriving in Wellington, 'The coolest little capital in the world'.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Auckland B
Haere mai – welcome! Arrive into Auckland and spend the afternoon and evening getting to know the 'City of Sails' and your fellow travellers. Head up the Sky Tower for great views across the city, or explore the vibrant downtown waterfront. *Grand Millennium Hotel*

Day 2 Auckland to Bays of Islands B
The start of our adventure! We travel up the west coast to the Bay of Islands. En route we take a guided walk into the Waipoua Forest, home to ancient kauri trees and the mighty Tane Mahuta, the king of the forest. We continue to head north to tranquil Paihia, a bustling seaside town in the heart of the bay. *Local Bed & Breakfast*

Day 3 Bay of Islands B
After breakfast we cross to Russell by ferry to meet our guide for an insight into this pretty little town's rip-roaring past, when drunken sailors earned it the name 'the hell hole of the Pacific'. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the area on foot or take a dolphin cruise through the spectacular crystal clear waters. *Local Bed & Breakfast*

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Coromandel Peninsula B
This morning we are welcomed to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where the treaty between Maori tribes and British settlers was signed in 1840. Later we head south to the Firth of Thames where we meet Keith Woodley and his enthusiastic team for a tour of the Miranda Shorebird Centre. *Pacific Harbour Lodge*

Day 5 Explore the Coromandel Peninsula B
A day to explore this glorious region with its golden coastlines and relaxed atmosphere. Walk to the marine reserve of Cathedral Cove (don't forget your camera!) or dig your own spa pool at Hot Water Beach. Under the fruit trees at Colenso Cafe is an ideal spot for a relaxed lunch, chef Carol Whitford may even share the secret of her Pavlova with you! *Pacific Harbour Lodge*



Day 6 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua B
We travel along the Pacific Coast Highway through the beach-side towns of Whangamata and Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty en route to Rotorua. On arrival we visit the excellent Rotorua Museum and in the afternoon we take you to Te Puia, not only an active geothermal site, but also home to the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and a Kiwi conservation project. *Distinction Hotel Rotorua*

Day 7 Rotorua B D
This morning we take a guided walk and cruise across Lake Rotomahana to learn about the eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886, which destroyed the world-famous 'Pink & White' silica terraces. Later we spend time at a local Marae (Maori meeting house) before attending a Maori concert and enjoying a traditional Maori meal known as a 'hangi' in the evening. *Distinction Hotel, Rotorua*

Day 8 Rotorua to Napier B D
Arriving in Napier we take a guided walking tour of this fabulous Art Deco town hearing about some of the local residents who were involved in rebuilding the town after the devastating earthquake of 1931. The area is also well loved for its fabulous wines so this evening we enjoy dinner at The Mission Estate Winery. *Masonic Art Deco Hotel*

Day 9 Napier to Wellington B
Travel south through the Wairarapa to the capital city Wellington for an afternoon sightseeing. We take the iconic red cable car to the Kelburn lookout and walk back down through the Botanic Gardens. Te Papa Museum is an absolute must see during your time in the city, and a perfect chance to learn more about the diverse culture and history of New Zealand. *James Cook Chancellor Hotel*

Day 10 Depart Wellington
If time allows enjoy lunch on the waterfront at Oriental Bay before we transfer you to the airport for your flight home. *This Small Group Journey can be combined with a Independent Tailor-Made South Island Itinerary.*



WHAT'S INCLUDED
All transport and the services of an excellent tour guide
Accommodation based on two people sharing a double/twin room (single supplement applies)
Entrance fees to places of interest included on your itinerary
The services of local guides where referenced
CULINARY INCLUSIONS
11 Meals Included (9 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners)
Enjoy a wine tasting and evening meal at Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest winery
Experience an authentic Maori Hangi dinner and learn about Maori culture

PRICES	
Prices are per person based on twin-share:	
Tour only	from £2,594
Tour and flight	from £3,594
Single supplement	from £794
For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernolidays.com/smallgroupjourneys	

A Walker's Paradise



NEW ZEALAND IS A COUNTRY THAT IS MADE FOR WALKERS.

Wide open spaces, cascading glaciers, and spectacular mountain ranges form a natural paradise for lovers of the great outdoors.

You'll find a wonderful variety of walking opportunities, from relaxed strolls along coastal paths to more energetic treks into alpine environments, from a 'ten minute stretch' to a full day hike (or 'tramp' as it is locally known).

We include a wide selection of walks within our New Zealand Great Walking Tours and also offer the opportunity to undertake one or more of the Guided Great Walks of New Zealand, please refer to our website for more information.

These are usually of three to six days duration, and are led by expert guides through outstanding scenery. They include comfortable accommodation, wholesome meals, and the opportunity to enjoy the experience of a lifetime.

We also offer a wide range of day walks which can be combined with many of our holidays.

1. Hooker Valley, Mount Cook
2. Milford Track
3. Routeburn Track



Cycling Holidays



NGA HAERENGA, THE NEW ZEALAND CYCLE TRAIL

Pedalling through some of New Zealand's most breathtaking scenery must be one of the best ways to immerse yourself in the landscape – through native bush, around pristine lakes, beside glacial rivers and wetlands and along stunning coastlines: a truly exhilarating experience!

Today there's a whole new network of off-the-road trails for you to enjoy and explore, all part of the Nga Haerenga – New Zealand's National Cycle Trail. So switch to two wheels for flat and easy day rides, with great views, on the Hauraki Rail Trail from Thames to Paeroa on the Coromandel, North Island. On South Island you can follow the Queenstown trail around Lake Wakatipu which takes in the Gibbston Wine Area, the former goldmining settlement of Arrowtown and the stunning landscapes of Lake Hayes, Frankton and the Remarkables.

1. Riverside break
2. Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown
3. Through the vineyards, Blenheim

For more energetic cycling or mountain biking, take a ride through the ancient forests on the Timber Trail, Central North Island, or across the open river valleys and gorges of the Old Ghost Road on the West Coast for a reminder of a bygone era and of gold-digging dreams.

There are currently 23 Great Rides the length and breadth of New Zealand, and these day or multi-day tours can be incorporated into any tailor-made holiday.

[Nga Haerenga is an ongoing project, so please refer to our website for updates on newly opened cycle routes.](#)



Special Interest

THERE IS MUCH MORE TO NEW ZEALAND THAN SPECTACULAR SCENERY, GEOTHERMAL WONDERS AND ADRENALIN THRILLS.

1. Skiing in the Remarkables
2. Wharariki Beach, Nelson
3. Bellevue Gardens, Whangarei
4. Hobbiton, Matamata

It also has award winning vineyards, unique wildlife reserves that welcome visitors, exotic flora to discover, great skiing, a thriving film industry and of course, sport: rugby, cricket, golf, and sailing to name but four.

Whatever your personal interest, we'll endeavour to point you in the right direction, suggesting rewarding places to visit during your tailor-made trip. For special interest groups we can also create bespoke touring itineraries.



Getting you there

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

There is a wider-than-ever choice of scheduled airlines, seating classes, fares and routes (west via the USA or east via Asia) to reach New Zealand and we are glad to share our knowledge and secure the best price for your holiday.



And as many of our customers say getting to New Zealand is the easy bit, compared to getting to the check-in desk, we also offer optional services to make your journey run smoothly, such as executive taxi transfers, regional departure add-ons, pre-flight airport hotels and VIP lounge access.

We can also recommend stop-overs in the USA, Asia, the Pacific or Australia so that you arrive in New Zealand rested and ready to make the most of your holiday. When you book a tailor-made package including international flights, not only are all your holiday arrangements ATOL-protected, but we also meet you on arrival in New Zealand to talk you through your holiday and hand over your local travel documents.

Many of our travellers opt to break the flight to New Zealand (allow a day's total flying time) with a stopover in the main gateways of Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Los Angeles or San Francisco. Of course it is also possible to add additional holiday arrangements in Australia, Asia or North America if you are undertaking a trip of a lifetime! Pacific 'paradise' stopovers in Fiji, Hawaii or the Cook Islands are becoming popular. Have a look at some of our stopover suggestions and we'll talk through your preferences with itinerary and accommodation recommendations.

Image credits

We would like to thank Tourism New Zealand, our hoteliers and guides, and staff for the use of images in this brochure.

1. Sydney
2. Dubai
3. Hawaii

