

Kauri

23 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS

FROM £5,290



Join us for an adventure like no other – a three-week Small Group Journey. Experience the breath-taking scenery of snow-capped Alps, wander through tropical rainforests and relax on wide, sandy beaches. Learn how this beautiful land has been shaped by ancient volcanoes and southern seas, by Maori warriors and colonial settlers. Friendly local guides share their cultural, historical and ecological expertise as you travel with us throughout Aotearoa – ‘the land of the long white cloud’.

PRICES FROM £5,290

Single supplement

from £1,790

These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,100 (see page 21).

INCLUDES

■ Comfortable touring in 16-seater vehicle

■ Services of our Driver-Guide and, where applicable, Local Experts

■ 22 nights’ accommodation in quality hotels

■ 22 breakfasts

■ 1 lunch

■ 4 evening meals

■ Sightseeing & entrance fees listed opposite under Experiences Included

For a full list of dates and prices please refer to our website www.silverfernholidays.com/smallgroupjourneys

1. View from Mount Maunganui
2. Tamaki, Rotorua
3. We make time for plenty of stops
4. Scenic Hotel Franz Josef
5. Shotover Jet, Queenstown

ITINERARY

Day 1 Auckland
Haere mai – welcome! Arrive in Auckland and take some time to orientate yourself in this vibrant city before the tour starts.
M Social, Auckland

Day 2 Auckland to Bay of Islands
Heading north, we pause to marvel at a remnant of ancient Kauri forest from an elevated walkway. At Paihia we enjoy a guided visit to the birthplace of the nation, the fascinating Waitangi Treaty Grounds. We arrive in Russell, the first capital city of New Zealand, by ferry.
Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell (2 nights)

Day 3 Bay of Islands **YOUR CHOICE**
Today, the choice is yours. Either travel by special coach along amazing 90 Mile Beach to sacred **Cape Reinga** (also includes lunch) OR enjoy a cruise towards **Cape Brett Lighthouse** and the Hole in the Rock, with the chance of dolphin-spotting, before a guided tour of historic Russell.

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland
We return to Auckland to discover its vibrant harbourside, charming village neighbourhoods and panoramic views, before a guided tour of the excellent Auckland Museum to learn more about Pacific culture.
M Social, Auckland

Day 5 Auckland to Coromandel by Boat
Wave goodbye to the City of Sails as we cross the Hauraki Gulf by ferry to the Coromandel Peninsula. On landing, we take a narrow-gauge railway trip before our coach delivers us to beautiful Mercury Bay.
Oceans Resort, Whitianga (2 nights)

Day 6 Explore the Coromandel
If the tide is right, scoop your own ‘spa’ pool out of the sand at Hot Water Beach, before walking to beautiful Cathedral Cove. A water taxi takes us to Hahei, then we travel to Cooks Beach, where the *Endeavour* dropped anchor in 1769. Now you can choose to take a ferry ride to Whitianga and walk to the hotel, or travel back with our driver.

Day 7 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua
We turn inland and stretch our legs on an easy bush walk before arriving at the geothermal centre of North Island, which is also the heart of Maori culture. Our private tour of Te Puia includes bubbling mud, indigenous art and kiwi conservation.
Prince’s Gate Hotel, Rotorua (2 nights)

Day 8 Rotorua **YOUR CHOICE**
Either explore **Waimangu Volcanic Valley** on foot and by boat to experience this ever-changing landscape close-up, OR Tolkien fans may take a trip to the **Hobbiton™ Movie Set**. This evening, we all experience an amazing Maori welcome and Hangi (feast).

Day 9 Rotorua to Napier
Pausing at mighty Lake Taupo, we head to Hawke’s Bay on the east coast for a walking tour of Art Deco Napier. This evening, we enjoy the best of New Zealand cuisine (with a glass of wine) at the Mission Estate Winery.
Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier

Day 10 Napier to Wellington
Driving through the Wairarapa ranges we arrive in the breezy capital city, known for its creative industries and great coffee! We take the cable car from Kelburn before visiting Te Papa, one of the world’s top museums.
James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

Day 11 Wellington to Nelson
All aboard the Interisland Ferry to navigate the Cook Strait to South Island! Back on our coach, we pause for a wine tasting in Marlborough before arriving in Nelson, known for its arts and crafts and artisan food culture.
Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson (2 nights)



Day 12 Abel Tasman National Park **YOUR CHOICE**
The best way to discover this pristine coastal wilderness is by boat and on foot. Today’s included options are: a **half-day cruise** around this jewel-like coast, OR a **cruise followed by one of two self-guided beach and bush walks**.

Day 13 Nelson to Punakaiki
We travel through enchanting Nelson Lakes National Park on the Buller Gorge road, carved through virgin forest by 19th century miners, to arrive at Punakaiki to see its extraordinary rock formations.
Punakaiki Resort

Day 14 Punakaiki to Fox Glacier
Pause in the gold rush town of Hokitika, before heading to glacier country. The Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers flow almost to sea level, making them unusually accessible. Viewing options include helicopter flights (at own cost).
Distinction Hotel, Fox Glacier

Day 15 Fox Glacier to Wanaka
After a photo-opportunity at mirror-like Lake Matheson, we take the Haast Pass river road deep into the Southern Alps and Mt Aspiring National Park to the lakeside resort of Wanaka.
Edgewater Resort, Wanaka (2 nights)

Day 16 Wanaka **YOUR CHOICE**
Nature lovers may take a **lake cruise to a conservation island with an eco-guide** to discover native birds like the flightless Buff Weka OR you can choose to enjoy a **scenic 4WD adventure to a high country farm** above the lake.

Day 17 Wanaka to Te Anau
Travelling via historic Arrowtown, beneath the Remarkables range of mountains and along the shore of Lake Wakatipu, we arrive at the gateway to Fiordland National Park: Te Anau.
Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau



Day 18 Te Anau to Milford Sound to Queenstown
The journey there, through rainforest, is as spectacular as the destination: Milford Sound! Top this with a memorable cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea (picnic lunch on board) before ending the day in Queenstown.
Scenic Suites, Queenstown (2 nights)

Day 19 Queenstown
This sophisticated resort offers something for everyone. The day is free for you to be a thrill-seeker or a wine-taster, to ride a gondola or cruise on a vintage steam ship: the options (at own cost) are endless!

Day 20 Queenstown to Mt Cook to Twizel
With the Southern Alps on our left, we cross Otago and travel beside lovely Lake Pukaki before driving up to Mt Cook Village, where Sir Edmund Hillary climbed his country’s highest peak before going on to conquer Everest. Overnight at Twizel.
Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel

Day 21 Twizel to Lake Tekapo to Canterbury Plains **YOUR CHOICE**
We visit a friendly homestead to try our hand at making New Zealand’s famous Pavlova. Suitably refreshed, there’s time for a photo beside milky-blue Lake Tekapo. Choose a **small-town hotel** with restaurant, OR (in small groups) a **rural Homestay** for a home-cooked meal and overnight with a local family.
Hotel/Homestay

Day 22 Ashburton to Christchurch
Post-earthquake Christchurch mixes colonial charm with cutting-edge architecture, re-inventing itself in typical Kiwi style. ‘Edwardian’ boatmen take us for a punt on the River Avon before we hop on a tram. Our farewell dinner features the best of local cuisine.
Distinction Hotel, Christchurch



Day 23 Depart Christchurch
Sadly, our trip ends after breakfast. We transfer you to the airport for your flight, or ask us to extend your stay with tailor-made arrangements by car or TranzAlpine rail.

EXPERIENCES INCLUDED

- Entry to Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Journey along 90-mile Beach – OR – take a dolphin-spotting and Hole in the Rock cruise
- A scenic cruise from Auckland to the Coromandel Peninsula
- Narrow-gauge railway journey through native Coromandel bush
- Visit Hot Water Beach and photogenic Cathedral Cove
- A private guide around a geothermal valley with geysers, mud pools and hot springs
- Visit Waimangu Volcanic Valley – OR – experience *Hobbiton™* Movie Set
- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- Enjoy a wine tasting and evening meal at Mission Estate in Napier
- Travel on Wellington’s famous Cable Car and visit Te Papa museum
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough’s premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Visit world-famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki
- See native birds on a conservation island – OR – take a scenic 4WD adventure in Wanaka
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breath-taking Milford Sound
- Enjoy true Kiwi hospitality with morning tea at a local home on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Relax as you’re guided along Christchurch’s Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt