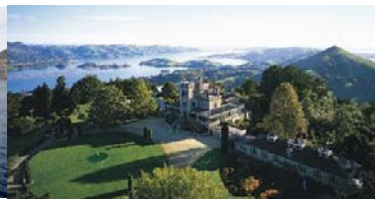
NEW ZEALAND RAIL, CRUISE & COACH HOLIDAY

19 days / 18 nights



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (D)
On arrival into Auckland you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel.

Stay: overnight at Grand Millennium Hotel

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)
Enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakohe to enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum. Travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British.

Stay: 2 nights at Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands

DAY 3: Bay of Islands (Free Day) (B)
Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free and you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,L,D)
This morning travel aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Keep an eye out for bottlenose and common dolphins before returning to Paihia. Enjoy a picnic lunch before travelling south via Whangarei, call into the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree before arriving into Auckland's north shore. You will see stunning views of Rangitoto Island, Auckland Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf.

Stay: overnight at Spencer on Byron

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (B,D)
This morning travel to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop and on return to Glenbrook Station, morning tea will be served. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout.

Stay: 2 nights at Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Room)

DAY 6: Rotorua (B,SD)
Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a luge ride! Next stop is the Agrodome for an action packed hour of farming entertainment and education that's unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before travelling to Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert.

DAY 7: Rotorua - Wellington (B,D)
Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and then continue south to the capital city of Wellington.

Stay: 2 nights at James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor

DAY 8: Wellington (B)
A highlight this morning will be time to explore Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum with exhibits that embrace both Maori and European views. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon and this evening is also free to explore Wellington's lively food scene.

DAY 9: Wellington - Kaikoura - Christchurch (B,D)
This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that showcases the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side and the rugged scenic coastline on the other. Travel through numerous tunnels and across several bridges before departing the train in Kaikoura. Travel south by coach through some of finest farmland area's to the garden city of Christchurch.

Stay: 2 nights at Hotel Distinction Christchurch

DAY 10: Christchurch (B)
Today visit the International Antarctic Centre, designed to provide an informative account of life in Antarctica. This is followed by an introductory city tour of Christchurch. This afternoon includes a journey on board the Christchurch Tram at your leisure, one of Christchurch's leading attractions. This evening is free to explore the local cuisine.

DAY 11: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass - Franz Josef (B,D)
This morning board the TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before arriving at the township of Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Stay: overnight at Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

DAY 12: Franz Josef - Queenstown (B)
See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, a year round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

Stay: 2 nights at Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront

DAY 13: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)
Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown. Your Tour Guide and Coach Captain are available to assist with the many options available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a gourmet barbecue dinner which the chef will prepare in front of you at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano on your return cruise.

DAY 14: Queenstown - Milford Sound Overnight Cruise (B,D)
This morning travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via Te Anau to Milford Sound and board the *Milford Mariner* for your amazing overnight cruise. There is plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife - you're bound to encounter seals and if you're lucky maybe dolphins and penguins. As evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared freshly by the onboard chef.

Stay: overnight aboard *Milford Mariner*

DAY 15: Milford Sound - Te Anau (B,D)
Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) to explore more of the fiord. Return back to the wharf to meet your coach and enjoy the scenic drive to Te Anau. This afternoon enjoy a cruise across Lake Te Anau to visit the Glow Worm Caves where you will admire the incredible limestone caverns, waterfalls and mystery of the Glow Worm Grotto.

Stay: overnight at Hotel Distinction Luxmore (Deluxe Room)

DAY 16: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,SD)
Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin. After time for lunch board the Silver Fern railcar for a journey along spectacular clifftops overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Blueskin Bay. On return to Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station, board the coach for an informative city tour. Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.

Stay: 2 nights at Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

DAY 17: Dunedin (B,D)
This morning travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Enjoy time to wander around this Garden of International Significance followed by a delicious Devonshire Tea. Return to the city for some free time. You might choose to board The Taieri Gorge Limited for a journey through spectacular scenery only accessible by rail (optional).

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,SD)
This morning visit Olveston Historic Home, containing treasures from a bygone era before travelling to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your new found friends.

Stay: overnight at Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

DAY 19: Depart Christchurch (B)
Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

Meals: (B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

To book call Grand Pacific Tours 1300 828 145