



LAND TOUR

## ESSENCE OF NEW ZEALAND

2024 – 2025

NZCA20



20 days / 19 nights Land Tour



Christchurch to Auckland

## ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



## CHRISTCHURCH TO AUCKLAND

20 days / 20 nights Land Tour

DAY 1

### Arrive Christchurch

Once you've arrived in Christchurch, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. Spend the afternoon relaxing before enjoying a Signature Experience, followed by a welcome dinner.



## Signature Experience – Tram Ride Through Christchurch

Step aboard a beautifully restored heritage tram and embark on a private tour of Christchurch. Enjoy drinks and canapés as you spot many of the city's iconic sights. You'll also learn about the regeneration of this vibrant city following the devastating 2010 and 2011 earthquakes.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch

**Daily:** • Dinner

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### DAY 2

## Christchurch, Lake Tekapo/Takapō Aoraki/Mount Cook

Today, you'll traverse the Canterbury plains to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo/Takapō. Later, venture into Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, where you will enjoy a Signature Experience and then embark on a sightseeing activity of your choice.

### Signature Experience – Aoraki/Mount Cook

Journey into Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, a bewildering landscape of towering mountain peaks, alpine herb fields and epic glaciers. See New Zealand's tallest mountain, Aoraki/Mount Cook and stay at the iconic Hermitage Hotel. Dine at the hotel's Alpine Restaurant this evening, indulging in a delicious seasonal menu that incorporates the finest local ingredients.

### Freedom of Choice – Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre

Visit the state-of-the-art Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre and discover the history of the iconic surrounding region. The museum is dedicated to the achievements of the famous mountaineer and explorer Sir Edmund Hillary and his affiliation with Aoraki/Mount Cook.

### Freedom of Choice – Stargazing

Learn all about the stars of the southern sky with an expert astronomer.

### Freedom of Choice – Glacier Explorer Cruise

Step aboard a MAC boat for an up-close encounter with stunning icebergs on the terminal lake of the Tasman Glacier (summer months only).



**Signature Experience:**

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Freedom of Choice:**

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Stay:** Aoraki/Mount Cook, The Hermitage Hotel, in a room with alpine views

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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**DAY 3**

**Aoraki/Mount Cook, Dunedin**

Set out along the shores of Lake Pukaki to Oamaru. Continue to Koekohe Beach to view the unusual spherical-shaped Moeraki Boulders/Kaihinaki. Arrive in Dunedin in the late afternoon and enjoy time at leisure before dinner.

**Stay:** Distinction Dunedin Hotel

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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**DAY 4**

**Dunedin, Te Anau**

This morning, discover the history of Larnach Castle and its beautiful gardens on a guided tour. Situated on the stunning Otago Peninsula, it is New Zealand's only castle and dates back to 1871. Afterwards, enjoy breathtaking scenery as you travel to the lakeside settlement of Te Anau. Tonight, a sensational Signature Experience awaits.

**Signature Experience – Taste of Fiordland Dinner**

Delight in a delectable Taste of Fiordland dinner this evening at the exceptional MacKinnon Restaurant & Explorer Bar. With a menu that has been carefully crafted to showcase the South Island's regional cuisine, you'll savour mouth-watering local fare made from the finest artisan produce.

**Stay:** Two Nights: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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**DAY 5**

**Te Anau**



Waking in Te Anau this morning, decide how to spend your day thanks to our range of Freedom of Choice activities on offer.

### **Freedom of Choice – Te Anau Glowworm Caves**

For a truly magical underground experience, journey into caves lit by thousands of glowworms. The tiny creatures guide the boat's path through the dark interior.

### **Freedom of Choice – Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise**

Explore the beauty of this vast fiord on a cruise and soak up the serenity of this untouched wilderness area.

### **Freedom of Choice – Fiordland Jet Boat Ride**

Take a jet boat down the Waiau River and across Lake Manapouri to the ancient forests inside Fiordland National Park, where you'll have time to explore.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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## **DAY 6**

### **Te Anau, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, Queenstown**

This morning, travel through the Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys as you wind down the Milford Road. Continue your journey into Fiordland National Park and arrive at Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, where you will cruise along the full length of the fiord during a spectacular Signature Experience. Afterwards, Queenstown awaits.

### **Signature Experience – Milford Sound/Piopiotahi Cruise**

A cruise through Milford Sound/Piopiotahi draws you into a magical world of snow-dusted mountains, breathtaking scenery and engaging wildlife. Edge close to tumbling waterfalls and colonies of seals and penguins, all beneath the ramparts of mighty peaks that rise sheer from the water as they stretch to the vast sky above.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Three Nights: Millennium Hotel Queenstown

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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## DAY 7

### Queenstown

Today, discover Queenstown your own way with an included Freedom of Choice sightseeing activity. Later, choose where to enjoy dinner with our Freedom of Choice dining options and savour the tantalising tastes of New Zealand's celebrated South Island.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – 'The Lord of the Rings' 4WD Safari

Discover why this beautiful landscape was chosen to portray Middle-earth in 'The Lord of the Rings' on this sensational 4WD safari. Visit several breathtaking locations where the iconic motion picture trilogy was filmed.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Wine Tour

Embark on a personalised sightseeing tour of New Zealand's southernmost wine region, as you indulge in tastings from various wineries.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Skippers Canyon

Enjoy an exciting 4WD adventure following the Shotover River Valley. Admire rocky cliffs, sheer drops and breathtaking river gorges along the way.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Million Dollar Cruise

Glide across the mystical waters of Lake Wakatipu, keeping your eyes peeled for local bird life, as well as enormous trout that swim in the lake's waters.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Dart River Wilderness Jet

A wilderness jet boat journey on the glacier-fed Dart River takes you deep into Mount Aspiring National Park, which is part of the larger World Heritage Site of Te Wahipounamu. Here, your guide will share fascinating insights into the area's rich history.

#### Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Best of Queenstown

Gaze in wonder at the beauty of New Zealand's adventure capital on this spectacular tour. Take in panoramic views of Queenstown, visit the charming township of Arrowtown and explore Gibbston, home to the world's first commercial bungee jump location. Enjoy a wine tasting at a local winery and to top it all off, relax during a scenic boat cruise on Lake Wakatipu.

#### Freedom of Choice – Walter Peak

Cruise aboard a vintage steamer to Walter Peak High Country Farm to enjoy a lavish BBQ dinner featuring succulent meats expertly prepared on the rotisserie and grill, vegetables, a selection of salads and bread. And be sure to leave room for dessert.



### **Freedom of Choice – Stratosfare Restaurant**

Take a magical gondola ride up to the Stratosfare Restaurant on Bob's Peak overlooking Queenstown. Feast on an extensive range of New Zealand and international cuisines while enjoying uninterrupted views over Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables.

### **Freedom of Choice – Fergburger**

This cult burger house achieved worldwide fame in 2015 when its burgers were crowned the world's best in a travel article on the website of news giant CNN. The best burgers in New Zealand, no doubt. The world? You be the judge.

### **Freedom of Choice – Finz Restaurant**

Finz Seafood & Grill offers casual, relaxed waterfront dining right in the heart of Queenstown. Finz is a bustling bistro, where you can enjoy fresh seafood daily and other dishes in a fabulous location.

### **Freedom of Choice – Your Hotel Restaurant**

Enjoy a contemporary fusion of local and international cuisine at your hotel.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 8

## **Queenstown**

Immerse yourself in beautiful Queenstown with a full day at leisure. You may like to enjoy a relaxing stroll along the tranquil shores of Lake Wakatipu, or perhaps take part in the thrill of a lifetime in this adventurous city.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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DAY 9

## **Queenstown, Franz Josef/Waiau**

Skirt the shores of Lake Wānaka and Lake Hāwea before crossing Haast Pass on your journey to Franz Josef/Waiau where a Signature Experience awaits.

### **Signature Experience – Franz Josef/Waiau**



Drive through Westland Tai Poutini National Park and see the dramatic surrounds of the Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. Tonight, you will stay at the luxurious Te Waonui Forest Retreat, located on the edge of the Franz Josef/Waiau village. Relax and unwind amid the lush rainforest and breathtaking scenery, before enjoying a four-course degustation fine dining experience.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Franz Josef/Waiau, Te Waonui Forest Retreat

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 10

## Franz Josef/Waiau, TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch

Today, travel aboard the TranzAlpine train on your Signature Experience.

### Signature Experience – TranzAlpine Train

Experience the romance of rail travel aboard the TranzAlpine train. Admire ever-changing landscapes and spectacular gorges as you journey through the famous Southern Alps and alongside the Waimakariri River on one of the world's most scenic rail routes.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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DAY 11

## Christchurch, Kaikōura & Blenheim

This morning, follow the East Coast to Kaikōura

, before traversing the Marlborough region to Blenheim. Tonight, enjoy a Signature Experience at your hotel.

### Signature Experience



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## Highlights of Marlborough Dinner

Indulge in the finest flavours as you savour a Highlights of Marlborough dinner at your hotel's restaurant. Local chefs will present each dish before you, showcasing a superb menu that has been thoughtfully paired with exquisite wines from the region. The fusion of quality local produce and multi-ethnic influences has helped shape New Zealand's food and wine culture as among the best in the world.

### Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Two Nights: Blenheim, Scenic Hotel Marlborough

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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## DAY 12

### Blenheim

Enjoy your selected Freedom of Choice sightseeing activity today.

#### Freedom of Choice – Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre

Take a guided tour of this world-class historic aircraft centre, which includes Sir Peter Jackson's World War I collection.

#### Freedom of Choice – Seafood Odyssey Cruise

Soak up the beauty of the Marlborough Sounds on a relaxing afternoon cruise while sampling fresh local seafood, including salmon and Greenshell mussels.

#### Freedom of Choice – Half-Day Wine Tour

This wonderful tour takes you right into the heart of Marlborough wine country. With visits to several of the region's premier wineries, you'll end this tour feeling like a true wine connoisseur.

### Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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## DAY 13

### Blenheim, Picton, Wellington





Today starts with a Signature Experience. This afternoon, take part in a fascinating sightseeing tour of Wellington.

### **Signature Experience – Interislander Ferry**

Take the iconic Interislander ferry from Picton on the South Island to Wellington on the North Island. Enjoy stunning views of the Marlborough Sounds before cruising across Cook Strait and into the serene waters of Wellington Harbour.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** InterContinental Wellington

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 14

## **Wellington, Napier**

Today you'll drive through the Rimutaka Ranges en route to the coastal city of Napier, where you will enjoy a Signature Experience.

### **Signature Experience – Napier Art Deco Tour**

Discover the city of Napier and enjoy a guided walking tour of this beautiful art deco city, rebuilt in the era's style after the devastating Hawkes Bay earthquake in 1931. Explore the city's streets and learn about the iconic and unique features of art deco design, as well as the history behind each building. Marvel at the intricate detailing, vibrant colours and fascinating stories of this town frozen in time.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Napier, Scenic Te Pania Hotel

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 15

## **Napier, Taupo & Rotorua**

Today, journey through Esk Valley and



Te Pōhue

, stopping at the charming town of Taupō. Later, travel to Rotorua and enjoy a Signature Experience.

### **Signature Experience – Te Pā Tū °**

Enjoy a feast of Māori delicacies and performance of haka, song and storytelling at Te Pā Tū (Māori Village). Over a magical evening, you will be welcomed with a haka pōwhiri (cultural welcome) and then be treated to further captivating performances while enjoying seasonal canapés, chef selected aperitifs and a seasonal three-course dinner.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Two Nights: Pullman Rotorua

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 16

## **Rotorua**

This morning, discover the beauty of Rotorua as you enjoy your chosen sightseeing activity. The evening is yours at leisure to explore further.

### **Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Rotorua Icons**

Embark on a Rotorua adventure. Experience the lively Agrodome Farm Show and visit The National Kiwi Hatchery before heading to the incredible natural geothermal wonder that is renowned for its healing properties, the mineral-rich Te Puia Thermal Reserve.

### **Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Hobbiton Movie Set Tour**

A must for any fan of 'The Lord of the Rings', this tour explores locations where some of the famous movie scenes were filmed. You'll feel as though you're a part of the massive blockbuster trilogy.

### **Freedom of Choice Sightseeing – Eco-Thermal Tour**

Drive through a unique mix of forest and farmland to visit New Zealand's largest boiling mud pool and a series of colourful hot springs at the calming Waiotapu.

### **Freedom of Choice – Wai Ariki Hot Spring and Spa**

Immerse yourself in the rejuvenating geothermal waters of Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa on a Restorative Journey, which draws on age-old Ngāti Whakaue healing practices and Māori culture.



Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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DAY 17

## Rotorua, Auckland

This morning, travel through the dairy farming region of Waikato to Auckland. Upon arrival, enjoy your selected sightseeing activity.

### Freedom of Choice – Auckland Harbour Sailing Cruise

Sail under the Auckland Harbour Bridge, spot volcanic peaks and admire the iconic city skyline from the water aboard a 50-foot monohull sailboat.

### Freedom of Choice – All Blacks Experience

Immerse yourself in a guided encounter that connects you to the history and culture of one of the world's greatest sports teams. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the people who have made the All Blacks such an important part of New Zealand's story.

### Freedom of Choice – W 7A Workshop – Unleashed

Journey behind the cinema curtain with the Academy Award-winning team at Wētā Workshop and see how blockbuster films such as 'The Hobbit' are created.

### Freedom of Choice – Te Wao Nui – The Living Realm at Auckland Zoo

At Auckland Zoo, explore six stunning habitats showcasing the native flora and fauna of New Zealand. See the iconic kiwi, cheeky kea and more than 50 other native species.

### Freedom of Choice – Bush and Beach Wilderness Adventure

Escape the bustle of the city on a half-day tour to Auckland's wild, black sand beaches and lush rainforest. Join an experienced guide and learn about the forest's unique plants and wildlife.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Stay:** Crowne Plaza Auckland

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 18

## Auckland, Bay of Islands

Cross Auckland's Harbour Bridge and travel along the Hibiscus Coast. Stop at Parry Kauri Park to view the large kauri trees and soak up the rich pioneering history of the Northland region. Continue to the stunning Bay of Islands.

**Stay:** Two Nights: Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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DAY 19

## Bay of Islands

Today starts with a Signature Experience, where you will be immersed in the spectacular Bay of Islands region on a cruise. Afterwards, the afternoon is free for you to explore further before a farewell dinner.

### Signature Experience – Bay of Islands Cruise

Enjoy a catamaran cruise to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock. Meander through the inner islands, admiring the sandy beaches and rocky outcrops.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 20

## Bay of Islands, Depart Auckland

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

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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