



NATIONAL TOUR ITINERARY

Day 01 **Auckland – Paihia Via the West Coast (L/D)**

This morning you will board your luxury tour coach at your CBD hotel and travel north to the seaside township of Paihia. Today's journey will have you travelling via the West Coast region including Opononi.

On arrival into the Puhoi area, a stop will be made at the "Art of Cheese" – which is a family owned and operated cheese factory. The Art of Cheese factory produces 7 different blue cheeses, Camembert, Brie, Mascarpone and Creme Fraiche. Blue cheese is the specialty and the following varieties are produced: Bohemien Blue, Gorgonzola, Blue Brie and the latest creation is Kaipara Blue, which is a mild, very creamy blue vein. Here you will enjoy a home-style morning tea including coffee/tea and muffins, before enjoying a short tour of the property including cheese tasting.

You will then reboard the luxury coach and continue the journey north, turning towards the West coast at Brynderwyn. At Matakoho, you will visit the Kauri Museum, before continuing the journey towards the Hokianga harbour via Dargaville & the Waipoua Forest.

On arrival at the village of Omapere you will enjoy a home-style 2 course luncheon at the Copthorne Hokianga Hotel, which has a lovely lawn area that overlooks the sea.

After lunch you will depart Omapere and travel to Paihia via the township of Kaikohe.

On arrival into Paihia, you will be transferred to the **Paihia Beach Resort** for check-in.

In the early evening the group will take a short stroll to the Maritime Building at the Paihia wharf. Here you will board a small water taxi, which will transfer you across to the town of Russell. On arrival at Russell, the group will make its way to the Kamakura Restaurant; here you will enjoy a 3 course set menu style dinner, before returning to Paihia wharf by water taxi.

Day 01

Auckland – Paihia Via the West Coast (L/D) – continued

The natural beauty of the Bay of Islands has to be seen to be believed. It's an aquatic playground lavishly furnished with 144 islands and a myriad of secluded beaches. Every bay, shore and cove has a story to tell. The townships of this historic bay are alive with memories of the area's colourful history. Visitors are welcome to explore the well-preserved relics of the past, both Maori and European. You'll find out why the Bay of Islands is considered to be the birthplace of New Zealand as a bi-cultural nation. You'll also see how Maori culture and lifestyle have adapted to modern times. Wherever you are in the Bay of Islands, it's impossible to escape the lure of the sea. There are almost endless opportunities for immersing yourself in the blue-green world of island and beach.

Distance: Auckland – Omapere, 273kms – 4 ½ hours

Distance: Omapere – Paihia, 89kms – 80kms – 1 ½ hours

Accommodation: Paihia Beach Resort – 2 Nights (1 Bedroom Superior)






Note: Check-in is from 2pm.

Day 02

Bay of Islands (B/D)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

Today you are able to participate in one of the many optional tours such as:

-  Cape Brett hole in the Rock cruise
-  Swim with the Dolphins Cruise
-  Cape Brett hole in the Rock by speed boat
-  ½ Day Guided kayak tour (4hours)
-  ½ Day tour of Kerikeri, featuring entrance to the Mission House and Stone Store Historic buildings.

The afternoon is at your own leisure, until collection time for the inclusive afternoon tour.

Late in the afternoon the group will be transferred to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds by the luxury coach. Here you will enjoy a privately guided tour of the Grounds, explaining the significance of the area to both the Maori and European people of New Zealand. After the tour, the group will be transferred to tonight's dinner venue – the Sugar Boat restaurant to enjoy a 3 course set menu style dinner.

The Sugar Boat restaurant has a varied and interesting history. Initially starting life as one of six "Lighters" built in 1890 by the Chelsea Sugar factory in Auckland. The Lighters were used to transport up to 200 tons of Sugar from an isolated Birkenhead township to the Auckland city wharves, for distribution throughout New Zealand. From around 1955 the vessel became a House boat for artists and potters for the next 15years, it rested on mudflats near the port of Opuia. In the 1970's, the boat was used as a museum of shipwrecks, sitting at the base of the Waitangi Bridge, and remained a museum until 2002.

Day 02

Bay of Islands (B/D) – continued

Today the Tui (the name of the vessel) has been recreated into The Sugar Boat, a stylish cocktail bar and restaurant. The open air bar on top deck is a perfect place to begin your evening with an aperitif. The restaurant is a smart, elegant dining room created in the hold of this original sugar lighter. In the dining tables you will find small relics from it's era as a Museum.

The Driver/Guide will return the group to your accommodation at the end of the evening.

Duration: Tour of Waitangi Treaty Grounds – 1 hour

Accommodation: Paihia Beach Resort – (1 Bedroom Superior)

Day 03

Bay of Islands – Matakana – Mangatawhiri Valley (B/L/D)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning you will reboard the luxury coach and bid the Bay of islands region farewell. You will travel south on State Highway #1, via the city of Whangarei and the towns of Ruakaka, Waipu, Kaiwaka towards the Matakana wine region.

Once in the Matakana region the group will be taken to Ascension Winery. On arrival you will enjoy wine tasting, followed by a 2 course set menu luncheon.

After lunch you will reboard the luxury tour coach and continue the journey south to today's destination of Mangatawhiri Valley, which is situated around 45 minutes south of Auckland City.

On arrival at **Heritage Hotel & Spa Du Vin** you will be checked in.

This evening the group will enjoy a welcome glass of NZ wine and canapés on the lawn area. The lawn area is next to the grape vines, and is surrounded by the beautiful vista of the green hills beyond. The group will then move into a private dining room (Vintage Room) to enjoy a 3 course set menu style dinner.

Distance: Paihia – Matakana, 185kms – 2 ½ hours

Distance: Matakana – Mangatawhiri Valley, 150kms – 1 ¾ hours

Accommodation: Heritage Hotel & Spa Du Vin – 1 Night (Selection Rooms)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning you will reboard the luxury coach and travel along State Highway #2, to connect with the main State Highway #1, heading south. The journey will have you crossing the Bombay Hills, an area known for its light volcanic soil thus popular for market gardening. Continue through the fertile plains of the Waikato district, renowned for its horse studs and dairy farms, to Waitomo in the King Country.

On arrival into the Waitomo District, a visit is made to the Waitomo Caves, with their fascinating limestone formations, first discovered in the 1800's. In the glow-worm grotto you take a boat ride silently along an underground river beneath a canopy of lights made by the minute larvae on the roof above you.

OR

**Alternative to
Waitomo Cave**

You will be transferred to the tour departure point. From here you will be transported to Ruakuri Cave, where you will enter through the drum entrance down a spiral walkway. A world of mystery and intrigue awaits you. Immerse yourself in the Mana of Ruakuri and discover the spirit that connects the land and people. The guided journey will take you deep into the unknown. Crystal cave tapestries will enthrall you in the Drum Passage and as you descend, follow the rumbling sound of the Hidden Waterfall to the bridge where the glowworms illuminate this eerie world. Gaze in wonder at stalactite straws, flowstone and majestic formations that surround you. Continue into the dark corners of Holden's Cavern where the guide will tell you about the local Maori legends and tapu places. Experience a sense of trepidation as you traverse along the Ghost Walk. Let your imagination take hold and feel the spiritual power of the cave.

You then travel to Crosshills in Kio Kio for lunch at a country home and farm. The homestead blends in well with the surrounding countryside, and the English-style garden is a delight to stroll through.

Finally, travel via the Fitzgerald Glade and over the heavily forested Mamaku Ranges to Rotorua, located in the Bay of Plenty.

On arrival at **Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Rotorua** you will be checked in.

This evening the group will be transferred to the Pepper's On the Point Lodge, which is surrounded by the sparkling waters of lake Rotorua. Pepper's on the Point Lake Rotorua, is an 80-year-old mansion that has been extensively refurbished to offer Lodge style accommodation and also casual dining. On arrival you will enjoy a welcome glass of NZ wine and canapés, before moving into the conservatory area. Here you will enjoy a 4 course table d'hôte style dinner, or if the weather is favourable, you will be able to eat on the terrace. The group will then be transferred back to **Novotel Lakeside Hotel** at the end of the evening.

Day 04

Mangatawhiri Valley – Waitomo – Rotorua (B/L/D) - continued

Rotorua is situated on a volcanic rift which stretches in a 200 km (124 mile) line from White Island, off the coast of the Bay of Plenty, to Lake Taupo and the volcanoes of the Tongariro National Park in the Central Plateau of the North Island. Rotorua is a forestry, farming and light industrial centre. The Maori culture in Rotorua contributes greatly to the attractions of this holiday city, where you can enjoy the culture and entertainment of the true Polynesian people.

Distance: Mangatawhiri Valley – Waitomo, 160kms – 2 ½ hours

Distance: Waitomo – Rotorua, 166kms – 2 ¾ hours

Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Hotel – 2 Nights (Lake View Rooms)

Day 05

Rotorua (B/D)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning the group will be transferred from your hotel to the Agrodome complex.

Firstly enjoy an entertaining and educational demonstration on part of New Zealand's primary industry at the Agrodome Sheep Stage show. Sheep shearing and working dogs are included in this one-hour agricultural show. This show lasts approximately 1 hour in duration.

After the Sheep Stage show, the group will experience the Authentic Working Farm Tour at the Agrodome. It is great fun, educational and very entertaining from start to finish! In one hour, you will tour the Agrodome's pure New Zealand farm in all-weather, all terrain vehicles. You will have the opportunity to meet animals of all descriptions, including Romney sheep, beef cattle, red and fallow deer, lamas, alpacas, ostrich and emus. The guided tour shows you all the ins and outs of the 160 hectare farm. Regular stops will be made along the way so that you can have a closer look, plus hand-feed and pet the friendly animals. During the Farm Tour, you will also visit the Pure NZ Organic apple, mandarin orange, olive and kiwi fruit orchard. The group will also stop at the Organic Education Center for kiwifruit wine and honey tasting. 100% pure, 100% New Zealand, not to be missed!

After the tour, you will reboard the luxury coach and be returned to your hotel.

The afternoon is at your own leisure or you may wish to participate in one of the many optional tours such as:

- + Rotorua Sightseeing by Duck
- + 4WD ½ Day Excursion to Mt Tarawera
- + Entrance to the Polynesian Lake Spa
- + Kawarau Jet Rotorua – speed, spin & adrenalin on a lake
- + Full Day Waimangu Round Trip including Morning Tea & Lunch

This evening you will be transferred from your hotel to Te Puia, by your luxury coach.

Then, enjoy a guided tour of the model Maori pa (village site) and close by, the Institute where young Maori are taught the skills of traditional carving. From here, visit the Thermal Reserve to see boiling mud pools and geysers including “Pohutu” (“splashing”), the largest geyser, which plays several times a day.

Later commence your Hangi and Concert.

The ceremony begins with a formal welcome (powhiri), followed by the challenge (wero). You then proceed into the village for the welcoming call followed by a war or haka dance before being welcomed into the meeting house Te Aronui a Rua. After the Speeches of Welcome (whaikorero) enjoy a cultural performance of traditional Maori songs, games and dances by using typical musical instruments and the use of poi and weapons.

At the end of the concert you will be guided into the Hangi house where you will see the lifting of the Hangi (dinner). Well-wrapped food is steam-cooked in baskets in an underground pit. The meal, consisting of wild pork, lamb, seafood and vegetables, is then lifted from the ground and ready for serving.

You are then guided into a typical Marae (sacred courtyard) dining room to enjoy your Hangi dinner whilst being entertained by typical Maori songs. At the end of a wonderful night you will be returned to your hotel by private coach.

Duration: Te Puia Private tour + Hangi & Concert – 4 hours

Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Hotel – (Lake View Rooms)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning you depart your hotel for your coach journey to Napier, travelling through plantations of pine forest to Taupo, a township located on the edge of Lake Taupo. The approach from Wairakei offers spectacular views over the town, lake and distant mountains. En route a stop is made to see the pounding Huka Falls, *hukanui* in Maori meaning a “great body of spray”. See the waters of the Waikato River forced through a narrow gap between rocks at great force.

Your Driver/Guide will then transfer you to a local jetty on Lake Taupo. Here you will board a private vessel to enjoy a 3 hour cruise on lake Taupo including a home-style lunch.

On return to the Jetty you will reboard the luxury coach and continue the journey to today’s destination of Napier. Travel southeast on State Highway 5 to Napier, across the forested pumice land surrounding Napier, across the fertile Esk Valley to Napier.

On arrival into Napier, you will be taken directly to **Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel** for check-in.

05:00pm

In the late afternoon you will reboard the luxury coach to be transferred to the Sileni Wine Estate, here you will enjoy a guided tour along with wine tasting and Olive Oil tasting, followed by a cooking demonstration at the culinary school which is on site, by one of the Restaurant team. He/she will be demonstrating one of the dishes that will be on offer to the group this evening. After the demonstration, the group will be invited to move to the restaurant, where you will be served a 3 course set menu style dinner. At the end of the evening, the Driver/Guide will return the group in the luxury coach to the **Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel**

Sileni Estate: Sileni Estates is a major vineyard and winery development in Hawke’s Bay, New Zealand’s oldest established vineyard area. The first vintage was in 1998 and since then the wines have won world wide acclaim. Sileni Estates is named after the Sileni who featured in Roman mythology alongside Bacchus, the god of wine. They celebrated good wine, good food and good company. Sileni estate boasts a state of the art winery designed to crush over 1500 tonnes of grapes. The Winemaking Team has honed their winemaking skills in Alsace, Bordeaux, Burgundy, California and Chile and Oregon & they strive to maintain high standards in environmentally sustainable viticultural and winemaking practices. Sileni Estates produce hand crafted wines that reflect the unique characteristics of the vineyards.

***Napier** is the centre of the Hawke's Bay region of New Zealand, Napier is renowned for both its Art Deco architecture and also for its wine industry. Said to be one of the warmest regions in the country with warm summers and mild winters. There are many activities from adventure seeking, wine tasting to just browsing around the local art deco shopping areas.*

Distance: Rotorua – Taupo, 80kms - 1 ½ hours

Distance: Taupo – Napier, 143kms – 2 ½ hours

Accommodation: Scenic Circle Te Pania Hotel – 1 Night (1 Bedroom Suite)

Full continental or cooked buffet breakfast will be served at the hotel restaurant this morning.

This morning you depart in your luxury coach for your journey to Wellington traveling via Woodville and Masterton.

A stop is made at the Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre for a visit (entrance fee at your own expense). The reserve forms part of the once magnificent Forty Mile Bush. Remaining forest of rimu, rata and kamahi proved ideally suited, initially, for the care of young Takahe and to ensure their survival. The Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre offers visitors, a unique opportunity to see examples of New Zealand's threatened and endangered wildlife and learn about wildlife conservation.

From Masterton travel south via Carterton and Greytown on State Highway #2 before turning onto highway #53 to the winery town of Martinborough, which is located in the Wairarapa district. The Wairarapa is a well-known area for wine making. Whilst the production from the area may be small, the region has had outstanding international success across a broad range of varieties. Many of New Zealand's finest wines at the ultra-premium end of the market originate from the region.

On arrival at Martinborough, you will stop at Pepper's Martinborough Hotel – here you will enjoy a 2 course set menu style luncheon, in beautiful historic hotel.

Pepper's Martinborough Hotel: Established in 1882, Peppers Martinborough Hotel is a historic retreat offering luxury, boutique accommodation, at the heart of Martinborough Wine Village - one of New Zealand's finest wine destinations. Taking pride of place at the entrance to the square is Peppers Martinborough Hotel. Developer Edmund Buckeridge described it in 1882 as "one of the finest hostelrys ever erected in any inland town in New Zealand." A stopping point for prosperous travelers to and from the South Wairarapa's huge isolated sheep station, its grand façade has been a focal point for the town right from the early days.

After lunch the group will visit local wineries for wine tasting, before continuing onto Wellington.

You will reboard the luxury coach and return along Highway #53, to rejoin State Highway #2. The luxury coach will then climb the Rimutaka Ranges and travel through the mountain pass descending through the Lower and Upper Hutt Valleys to Wellington.

On arrival in Wellington you will be taken directly to the **Duxton Hotel** with the remainder of the day at leisure.


***Wellington**, the capital city of New Zealand lies at the southern end of the North Island. On the shores of a magnificent harbour and surrounded by the rugged beauty of green hills, it is one of the most scenic cities. Some of the best views are obtained from the hilltops especially from Mt Victoria lookout. The newest attraction in the “capital” is New Zealand’s National Museum. Named “Te Papa” (our place) it contains a wealth of information on New Zealand’s past, present and future, many interactive exhibits, multi-media database and fascinating collections. A must see while in Wellington.*

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel Wellington (Club Rooms)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning the group will explore Wellington's favourite food places in this compact city by foot! Known as New Zealand's café capital, Wellington is ideal for our Zest Walking Gourmet tour. Visit a boutique coffee roaster and café. Enjoy tastings at Wellington's best specialist gourmet food stores. Meet owners, baristas, coffee roasters and chefs. Savour a delicious, light, three course tasting lunch with matched New Zealand wines at a top Wellington restaurant or café. On the completion of their morning walking tour, the group will return to their hotel

The afternoon is at your leisure, and you may wish to do one of the following optional activities:

-  Red Rock Seals 4WD Excursion
-  Tour of Karori Wildlife Sanctuary – 2 hour duration
-  Parliament building & Te Papa Museum guided tour

In the early evening the group will reboard the luxury coach, to travel the short distance to tonight's dinner location. On arrival guests will enjoy a glass of NZ wine and a selection of delicious canapés. The group will then sit down to enjoy a sumptuous 3 course set menu style dinner. The Driver/Guide will return the group to your accommodation. 3 glasses of NZ wine per person is included this evening.

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel Wellington

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This you will be transferred by private coach or mini-coach to the Inter-islander ferry terminal to board the Interislander vessel for transfer to the South Island of New Zealand,

The sailing time from Wellington to Picton is roughly 3-hours to cross the Cook Strait. Be sure to remain on deck as the ferry leaves Wellington. The sight of the Marlborough Sounds, with its steep bush clad hills rising out of the sea and the heavily indented coastline, is always memorable.

On arrival at Picton, you are met by your South Island Driver/Guide/guide, who will assist you to your luxury coach.

Join the rest of your group and then depart in your luxury coach for your journey to Nelson and your accommodation.

Upon arrival in Nelson you will be taken directly to your accommodation for the night; the **Monaco Hotel & Resort**.

In the early evening the group will be transferred by your luxury coach from the **Monaco Hotel & Resort** to a well known local restaurant. Here you will enjoy a course set menu style dinner, in elegant surroundings. The Driver/Guide will return the group to your accommodation at the end of the evening.

Nelson: *the region, which is the sunniest in New Zealand, has for many years attracted residents who love to use their imaginations. There are more than 350 working artists and craftspeople living in Nelson, including traditional and contemporary Maori artists. Their work is often inspired by the region's exceptionally beautiful geography - coastal, forest and valley landscapes provide places to wander and dream.*

Distance: Kaikoura – Blenheim, 138kms, 1 ¾ hours
Duration: Blenheim Sightseeing – 3hours
Distance: Blenheim – Picton, 28kms, ½ hour
Distance: Picton – Nelson, 110kms, 2 ¼ hours
Accommodation: Monaco Hotel & Resort – 1 Night (Various Cottages)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant

This morning you will be transported by your luxury coach from Nelson, to Marahau Bay.

Here you will board a private water taxi, for a 1 ½ hour cruise to **Awaroa Lodge**, which is situated in the Abel Tasman National Park area.

On arrival at Awaroa Lodge, you will be welcomed by the Lodge staff.

The remainder of their day is at your own leisure to explore the various walking trails or simply enjoy the ambience of the **Awaroa Lodge** setting.

A 3 course set menu style dinner has been included at the lodge restaurant this evening.

Awaroa Lodge: *Discerning travelers from all over the world appreciate the distinctive architecture and relaxed ambience of Awaroa Lodge. Discover a perfect balance of natural comfort and contemporary style, welcoming hospitality and creative & organic cuisine. At the quiet northern end of Abel Tasman National Park, Awaroa Lodge is the perfect vantage point to explore the famous Abel Tasman Coastal Track - the most beautiful of all New Zealand's 'Great Walks'. The Awaroa Experience is an intrinsic New Zealand Experience. A combination of incredible scenery, warm friendly service, great local food and drink and a restful nights' sleep! Nestled in native bush, Awaroa Lodge is just two minutes from the beach.*

Distance: Nelson – Marahau – 37kms – 45 minutes

Duration: Marahau – Awaroa Lodge by water taxi 1 ½ hours

Accommodation: Awaroa Lodge – 1 Night (Superior Studio Units)

Day 11

Awaroa Lodge – Marahau – Punakaiki (B/D)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning the group will depart Awaroa Lodge by water taxi. On arrival at Marahau you will reboard your luxury coach to begin the journey to the West Coast of the South Island.

You will travel the scenic coast road to Punakaiki, where the rocks take on the extraordinary appearance of a pile of pancakes. The “Pancake Rocks” and their associated blowholes consist of eroded limestone. Reached by a short walk from the main road, the rocks are best visited during an incoming tide and brisk westerly, when the sea surges through the chasms. During your time at Punakaiki you may wish to visit the Punakaiki Visitor Centre, which has interesting displays and an audio-visual that runs for 15-minutes. There is donation applicable to view the audio-visual (own expense).

Thereafter you will be transferred to your accommodation for the night; the **Punakaiki Rocks Hotel**.

A set menu style dinner will be served at your hotel restaurant this evening.

Duration: Awaroa Lodge – Marahau, 1 ½ hours by water taxi
Distance: Marahau – Punakaiki, 256kms, 4 ½ hours

Accommodation: Punakaiki Rocks Hotel – 1 Night (Villa Rooms)

Day 12

Punakaiki - Wanaka (B)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

Today you will continue your journey south to Greymouth and from there over swiftly flowing rivers and through virgin stands of native forest. En route, you pass Hokitika, which is a major centre for the working of greenstone. Hokitika is also the centre of a region that is rich in history and nearby is a wealth of native forests, lakes and river.

Enroute to Wanaka your luxury coach will make a stop at either Fox or Franz Josef to enjoy a glacier walk, before reboarding the luxury coach and travelling to Wanaka. Travelling further south along the rugged West Coast you will enter the tiny community of Haast, located on the coast where the wide Haast River meets the sea.

Day 12**Punakaiki - Wanaka (B) – continued**

OPTIONAL: At Haast you may wish to visit The South West New Zealand World Heritage Visitor Centre (Department of Conservation), at the junction of SH6 and Jackson Bay Road on the southern bank of the Haast River. The centre has information on the area and on nature-related activities (at your own cost.)

From Haast, you will turn inland and traverse State Highway 6, which offers wonderful views of the Southern Alps. The Haast Pass, linking Westland with the Southern Lakes District of Central Otago, is dramatic, providing a sudden contrast between the lush vegetation of the west and dry tussocked Otago landscape. Then descend to Wanaka, following the shorelines of Lakes Wanaka and Hawera.

Upon arrival in Wanaka you will be taken directly to your accommodation for the night; the **Grand Mercure Oakridge**.

Duration: Glacier Walk – 90minutes
Distance: Punakaiki – Fox Glacier, 246kms, 4 hours
Distance: Fox Glacier – Wanaka, 287kms, 6hours

Accommodation: Grand Mercure Oakridge – 1 Night (Superior ROH)

Day 13**Wanaka – Te Anau (B/L/D)**

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning you will reboard your luxury coach to be transferred to the railway station at Kingston. Here you will join the Kingston Flyer for a short journey on this historic steam train.

***The original Kingston Flyer** was a passenger service that operated between Kingston and the Main South Line at Gore from 1878 through to the mid 1950s. It provided a passageway to Queenstown and the surrounding stations, by meeting up with the lake steamers at Kingston Wharf. **Today** The Kingston Flyer operates on a 14km stretch of track and consists of two AB Pacific Class steam locomotives (NZ built). AB 795 dating 1927 was a former Royal Train Locomotive & AB 778 dating 1925. They also have seven steam-heated wooden vintage carriages dating back to 1898.*

10:30am

After the short trip on the Kingston flyer, your Driver/Guide will greet you at Fairlight, where the group will reboard the luxury coach to continue the journey.

At the junction of 3 state highways, lies the “Five Brothers Station”, which is a combination of a café and art gallery. Here you will enjoy a sumptuous 2 course set menu style luncheon.

After lunch, you will reboard the luxury coach and continue to today’s destination of Te Anau.

Day 13

Wanaka – Te Anau (B/L/D) - continued

Upon arrival in Te Anau you will be taken directly to your accommodation for the night; the **Te Anau Hotel & Villas**

In the evening the group will enjoy a set menu style dinner at the hotel.

***Te Anau:** The serene deep waters of Lake Te Anau make up the largest lake in the South Island and second largest in NZ, and are bordered on its western shore by lush virgin forest. The attractive town of Te Anau lies nestled on the edge of this beautiful lake, with a spectacular backdrop of Mt Luxmore and the Murchison mountains. Te Anau provides a full range of services to visitors, and is the closest service base to Milford sound, with a scenic 2 1/2 hour drives from Te Anau to Milford.*

Distance: Wanaka – Kingston, 77kms, 1 ½ hours
Duration: Kingston – Fairlight on the Kingston Flyer – 30minutes
Distance: Fairlight – Te Anau, 190kms, 3 hours

Accommodation: Te Anau Hotel & Villas – 1 Night (Villa Rooms)

Day 14

Te Anau – Milford Sound – Queenstown (B/L/D)

Upon waking you will have a full continental breakfast at your hotel.

A memorable day! You will depart Te Anau for a day of unsurpassed scenery, beginning with a drive through the beech forests of the Eglinton Valley before entering the Hollyford Valley, and descending through the Homer Tunnel into Milford Sound. During your journey, there is time for photo stops and short walks along the way.

On arrival, you will embark on a cruise of Milford Sound, including the hidden mouth of the Sound, towering Mitre Peak and the cascading Stirling Falls. An informative and interesting commentary is provided throughout the cruise with a Gourmet Picnic style lunch on board.

At the end of the cruise, you will be transferred to the Milford Air strip; here you will board a fixed wing aircraft to fly to Queenstown. The flight will be one of most memorable of your lives as you look down on suspended lakes, the fiords and world famous Milford Track. On arrival into Queenstown airport, you will be transferred by luxury sedan cars to the hotel.

On arrival into Queenstown you will check into your accommodation for the night the **Sofitel Hotel**.

In the early evening, the group will meet at a private spot in the **Sofitel Hotel**. Here a representative from one of the well-known wineries will greet you. With the guidance of your winery host, you will have the opportunity to sample 3 or 4 of their Pinot wines, and some of the cheese they make onsite at the winery. Canapés that have been created using some of the local produce will be served, and the chef from the hotel restaurant, will meet with the group, and briefly explain the different canapés that are being served to you that evening.

Day 14

Te Anau – Milford Sound – Queenstown (B/L/D) - continued

After the wine tasting and canapés the group will stroll across from the hotel a short a distance to the steamer wharf, here you will enjoy a 3 course set menu style dinner and at well known Queenstown restaurant. Return to the **Sofitel Hotel** is at your own leisure.

Queenstown, a region of exceptional and diverse beauty, is a leading resort in the South Island, with inveterate world travelers regarding it as one of the premier scenic areas in the world. Backed by steep mountains, Queenstown lies in the curve of Lake Wakatipu at the head of its own small horse-shoe shaped bay. It is the South Island's principal resort, drawing visitors the year round with its lake and mountain scenery, exhilarating climate, changing seasons and wide range of excursion possibilities.

Distance: Te Anau – Milford Sound – 121kms, 2 ¼ hours

Duration: Milford Sound Cruise – 1 ½ hours

Distance: Milford Sound – Queenstown, 40minute flight

Accommodation: Sofitel Hotel – 2 Nights (Deluxe Lake View Rooms)

Day 15

Queenstown (B)

Upon waking you will have a full have the option of an à la carte style breakfast.

Today is at your own leisure and you may wish to participate in an optional activity (extra cost):

- ✚ Dart River Safari Excursion including Light BBQ Lunch
- ✚ ½ Day Skippers Canyon adventure by 4WD
- ✚ Shotover Jet Boat Ride
- ✚ Golf at Millbrook – 18 holes
- ✚ TSS Earnslaw Cruise & BBQ Lunch at Walter Peak Station

This evening will be also be at your own leisure, and you may wish to dine at one of the following highly recommended restaurants (this will be at your own expense):

- ✚ Gantley's Historic Restaurant
- ✚ Boardwalk Restaurant
- ✚ Prime Restaurant
- ✚ The Cow (relaxed dining/Pizzeria)

Accommodation: Sofitel Hotel – (Deluxe Lake View Rooms)

Upon waking you will have a full have the option of an à la carte style breakfast.

Today you will depart in your luxury coach for your journey to Christchurch via Mount Cook. Your journey begins by following the Kawarau River to the township of Cromwell. You then cross the Lindis Pass, which links northern central Otago with Mt. Cook and the Mackenzie Country. This inland route winds through some of the most evocative hill country to be found in New Zealand, with the forever-present Southern Alps splitting the South Island distinctly into west and east. Continue north to Omarama, where a stop will be made at a local establishment for lunch.

The Wrinkly Rams is a fantastic stop for any group of International visitors. It is a combination of a Sheep shearing show, café, art gallery & wine bar. There are a lot of talented artists in the Omarama district and also surrounding districts, and the owners have sourced the best from these artists to show in their purpose built gallery.

The group will reboard your luxury coach after lunch, and continue the journey via the southern most tip of Lake Pukaki, before following the shoreline to Mt. Cook village.

On arrival at Mt Cook you will be checked into your accommodation for the evening; the **Hermitage Hotel**.

A set menu dinner has been selected at the **Hermitage Hotel** restaurant for this evening's meal.

Distance: Queenstown – Omarama – 200kms, 3hours

Distance: Omarama – Mt Cook Village – 91kms, 1 ½ hours

Accommodation: Hermitage Hotel – 1 Night (Aoraki Wing Top 3 Floors)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

This morning you will depart Mt Cook for Christchurch, retracing your route along the shoreline of Lake Pukaki to Lake Tekapo, a turquoise glacial lake. A stop is made at the lake's edge to look at the simple stone Church of the Good Shepherd and the nearby bronze sheep dog.

You will continue through this windswept plateau of rolling tussock country, via the townships of Fairlie and Geraldine.

On arrival into the township of Geraldine, you will be taken to a local lodge; here you will enjoy a 2 course set menu style luncheon in restful surroundings.

Day 17

Mt Cook - Christchurch (B/L/D) - continued

On completion of lunch, you will reboard your luxury coach, and continue the journey north. The route takes you across the patchwork quilt Canterbury Plains to Christchurch city.

On arrival into Christchurch you will be checked into your accommodation for the evening; the **Heritage Hotel**.

Later in the evening, the group will be transferred by the Driver/Guide from the **Heritage Hotel** to **Le Bon Bolli** restaurant. Here you will enjoy a 3 course set menu style dinner, before being returned by your luxury coach to the hotel.

Le Bon Bolli: is the most awarded restaurant in Christchurch. Le Bon Bolli Restaurant is themed to turn of the century Paris. The restaurant features an exciting, cozy brasserie down stairs with an elegant fine dining restaurant up stairs.

Distance: Mt Cook Village – Geraldine, 187kms, 3hours

Distance: Geraldine – Christchurch - 138kms, 2 ¾ hours

Accommodation: Heritage Hotel – 1 Night (1 Bedroom suites)

Day 18

Depart Christchurch (B)

Upon waking you have the choice of a full continental or cooked buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant.

You will be transferred from your hotel to the Christchurch International Airport, by private limousine service.

Please check out of your hotel by the official checkout time.

END OF SERVICES



Combined North & South Island tour

- ❖ Costs, per person, in New Zealand dollars, including GST of 12.5%
- ❖ Valid for travel from 01 November 2007 – 30th April 2008

INCLUDED:

- ✚ ACCOMMODATION: On a share twin basis, as specified in the itinerary.
- ✚ Breakfast at your hotel (17), Lunch (10), Dinner (11)
- ✚ ENTRANCE FEES: General sightseeing as specified in the itinerary; Art of Cheese, Kauri Museum, Return ferry from Paihia to Russell, Waitangi Treaty grounds tour, Wine Tasting at Ascension Winery, Waitomo Caves tour, Te Puia Privately guided tour followed by Maori Cultural performance and Hangi style dinner, 3hour Cruise on lake Taupo, Wine Tasting at 2 local Martinborough Wineries & Wellington Gourmet Walking Tour.
- ✚ ENTRANCE FEES: General sightseeing as specified in the itinerary; Art of Cheese, Kauri Museum, Return ferry from Paihia to Russell, Waitangi Treaty grounds tour, Wine Tasting at Ascension Winery, Waitomo Caves tour, Te Puia Privately guided tour followed by Maori Cultural performance and Hangi style dinner, 3hour Cruise on lake Taupo, Wine Tasting at 2 local Martinborough Wineries & Wellington Gourmet Walking Tour, Ferry from Wellington – Picton, Wine tasting at 3 wineries in Blenheim, return water taxi to/from Awaroa Lodge, Fox Glacier Terminal Walk, ride on the Kingston Flyer, Milford Sound Cruise and scenic flight Milford to Queenstown (seat in plane basis)
- ✚ Transfer from Wellington Hotel to Ferry Terminal by private vehicle.
- ✚ Transfer from the Queenstown Airport to Sofitel Hotel by private vehicle.
- ✚ GST: Government Goods & Services Tax of 12.5%. Subject to change.
- ✚ HOTEL PORTERAGE
- ✚ LIMOUSINE SERVICE for pickup from Auckland International Airport and for departure from Christchurch International Airport

EXCLUDED:

- ✚ DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES.
- ✚ ADDITIONAL BEVERAGES with Meals, such as wines, beers, fruit juices.
- ✚ ENTRANCE FEES, TOURS AND MEALS WHERE NOT SPECIFIED, or where stated as Optional
- ✚ TIPS AND GRATUITIES
- ✚ ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE: such as telephone calls, tips, gratuities, laundry etc.
- ✚ AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX: Currently NZ\$25.00 per person if departing from Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington, payable in cash in New Zealand Dollars.

GREEN REALM TRAVEL:

- ✚ Reserves the right to amend certain components of a touring day to enhance the experience of the guest and if it is operationally necessary.