

**17 Day Explorer Tour**

# **NEW ZEALAND**

**South Island - North Island & BAY OF ISLANDS**



**Departs: Sunday 12th March 2023**

Also Includes:

FLIGHTS TO/FROM New Zealand  
FREE Pickup from Most Major Towns  
Transfers to/from Melbourne Airport  
All Breakfasts & Most Dinners



**Call: 03 5862 1833**

[www.cardwells.com.au](http://www.cardwells.com.au)

# 17 Day Explorer NEW ZEALAND

Departs: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Price: \$6,345 per person, based on Twin Share  
(Single Supplement \$1,740)

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Haggis Ceremony & Gift \* Larnach Castle \* Milford Sound Cruise & Lunch \* \*Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- \* Lakes District Museum \* TranzAlpine Rail Journey \* \* Cruise on the Interisland Ferry
- \* Introduction to Te Papa, NZ's National Museum \* Skyline Rotorua Gondola & Luge Ride \* Agrodome
- \* Thermal Mud Pools & Geysers \* \* Traditional Maori Hangi & Concert \* Dolphin/Hole in the Rock Cruise \* Kauri Museum \*
- \* Sky Tower \* City sights tour of Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington & Auckland

## TOUR INCLUDES

- |                                       |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ◆ Transfers to/from Melbourne Airport | ◆ Departure Tax from Australia        | ◆ All Admission fees, sightseeing |
| ◆ Return Airfare Melbourne to NZ      | ◆ Luxury 5 Star Coach Travel          | Tours & Cruises as per itinerary  |
| ◆ Name Badge                          | ◆ Quality Accommodation Twin / Dbl    | ◆ Several Stopovers               |
| ◆ Fully Inclusive, No Hidden Extras   | ◆ Cooked Breakfasts as per itinerary  | ◆ Crew with extensive experience  |
| ◆ Top Deck – Milford Sound Cruise     | ◆ 3 Course Dinners or Specialty Meals | and knowledge of New Zealand.     |
| ◆ Travel Guide (1 per room booked)    | ◆ Private Lounge – Interisland Ferry  |                                   |

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner (SD) Specialty Dinner

### DAY 1: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Home – Melbourne (D)

Today we board a Cardwell's Vehicle and head to Melbourne where we stay overnight before catching an early morning flight. Accommodation: The Park Royal Hotel, Tullamarine.

### DAY 2: 13<sup>th</sup> March Melbourne – Christchurch (B,D)

On arrival into Christchurch, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening, meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions. Hotel: Heartland Hotel Cotswold or similar

### DAY 3: 14<sup>th</sup> March Christchurch – Omara (B,D)

After an introductory city sights tour depart Christchurch and travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, The Church of the Good Shepherd and the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available (time and weather permitting, optional) to enjoy a scenic flight over the Southern Alps before travelling to Omarama. Hotel: Heritage Gateway Hotel

### DAY 4: 15<sup>th</sup> March Omarama - Dunedin (B,SD)

Depart Omarama and see Lake Benmore, before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. Continue south to Dunedin and enjoy a city sights tour followed by some free time. Tonight, a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special Haggis Ceremony and gift.

Hotel: Dunedin Leisure Lodge – A Distinction Hotel

### DAY 5: 16<sup>th</sup> March Dunedin - Te Anau (B,D)

This morning travel out 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. Farewell Dunedin and travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland and your overnight stay. Today you may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional). Hotel: Distinction Luxmore Lake Te Anau

### DAY 6: 17<sup>th</sup> March Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown (B,L)

Depart Te Anau for a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon travel to Queenstown, overlooking magical Lake Wakatipu. Spend the next two nights at this year-round resort which offers a wide range of activities and attractions. This evening is free, you may choose to dine at one of the many fine restaurants. (2 night stay) Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Queenstown Lakefront

### DAY 7: 18<sup>th</sup> March Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown at leisure. Your Coach Captain and Tour Leader are available to assist with the many optional activities available, including the thrill of a jet boat ride, a heritage tour to Skippers Canyon or to get up close to a Kiwi bird. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a delicious gourmet barbecue dinner featuring a menu of seasonal, fresh

and locally sourced food at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano as you cruise back to Queenstown. Hotel: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Queenstown Lakefront

**DAY 8: 19<sup>th</sup> March** **Queenstown - Arrowtown – Fox Glacier** **(B,D)**

Travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via the Haast Pass to the mighty West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to the township of Fox Glacier. Time is available to experience a scenic flight (weather permitting, optional) over the spectacular glaciers. Hotel: Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier

**DAY 9: 20<sup>th</sup> March** **Fox Glacier - Arthur's Pass - Christchurch** **(B,D)**

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone Factory. Continue into Arthur's Pass and board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. View rivers and valleys as you travel through the Waimakariri Basin, over massive viaducts and through the patchwork farmlands of the Canterbury Plains. On arrival into the elegant city of Christchurch, your coach will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Hotel: Heartland Hotel Cotswold or similar

**DAY 10: 21<sup>st</sup> March** **Christchurch - Picton - Wellington** **(B,D)**

Travel along the East Coast to the seaside village of Kaikōura. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you travel through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine. Continue to Picton, where you will board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait to Wellington. (2 night stay) Hotel: Ibis Wellington

**DAY 11: 22<sup>nd</sup> March** **Wellington** **(B)**

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour which showcases the history and culture on show. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also free to choose your own dining arrangements. Hotel: Ibis Wellington

**DAY 12: 23<sup>rd</sup> March** **Wellington - Taupo - Rotorua** **(B,D)**

Depart Wellington and view the snow-capped peaks of Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro as you travel to Lake Taupo. Visit the spectacular Huka Falls then travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua. (2-night stay) Hotel: Sudima Lake Rotorua

**DAY 13: 24<sup>th</sup> March** **Rotorua** **(B,SD)**

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a thrilling luge ride! Next stop is Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is unlike anything you've seen before. Visit Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. Enjoy some free time this afternoon. This evening experience an entertaining Māori Hāngi and Concert. Hotel: Sudima Lake Rotorua

**DAY 14: 25<sup>th</sup> March** **Rotorua - Auckland - Bay of Islands** **(B,D)**

This morning depart Rotorua and travel north via Auckland. Continue via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy an introduction to the Bay of Islands, location of the signing of the treaty between the Māori tribes and the British. (2 night stay) Hotel: Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge

**DAY 15: 26<sup>th</sup> March** **Bay of Islands** **(B,D)**

Today you will explore the scenic beauty of the Bay of Islands aboard a luxury catamaran. Cruise to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock, keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. Return to Paihia for a free afternoon where a range of optional activities are available or you may choose to relax and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the waterfront. This evening is also free, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

Hotel: Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge

**DAY 16: 27<sup>th</sup> March** **Bay of Islands - Auckland** **(B,D)**

Depart the Bay of Islands this morning and travel via Whangarei and Dargaville to Matakōhe. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum before continuing to Auckland for a city sights tour. This evening enjoy a final dinner with your newfound friends.

Hotel: Rydges Auckland

**DAY 17: 28<sup>th</sup> March** **Auckland - Melbourne** **(B)**

Time to say goodbye. You'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Melbourne where you will be met by a Cardwell's representative and returned to your respective destinations after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

**Deposit: \$250 per person**  
**Balance Due Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023**

Please return the "**Booking & Fitness Form**" (which advises us of your telephone number and any special dietary & room requirements) with a **photocopy of your Passport** (this enables us to reconfirm all your details for your Travel Documents).

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **\*THIS TOUR WILL BE OPERATED BY GRAND PACIFIC TOURS\***

**Not Included in Fare:** \* Optional Sightseeing, Morning & Afternoon Teas, Lunches and Drinks. \* Passport Fees.

**Pocket Money:** Be sure to allow for the items not included in tour fare.

**Cancellation Policy:** Notice given 90 days or more \$500.00 Per Person administration fees &/or all monies paid on your behalf will not refunded – Under 85 days or once tour has departed No Refund given.

**Fares & Itineraries:** All fares in this brochure are quoted in Australian Dollars. Fares may be updated to international fluctuations or changes in the tour components. New Zealand Goods & Service Tax is included in the Fare. However, policy changes by rail/air/sea operators or changes in Government duties or taxes are outside the control of Grand Pacific Tours. All fares and other discounts travel arrangements maybe subject to availability of seats/berths, as determined by transport companies. No increases apply once full fare is paid. Tour duration count the days of departure and day of return include connecting travel time. Fares shown make no allowance for extra accommodation or transfers necessitated by en-route stop-overs caused by rail/air schedules, strikes or other reasons. Receipt of deposits and subsequent payments by your travel agent does not constitute receipt of monies by us.

There is no liability on our part in any respect of any monies paid to your Travel Agent unless we notify you (by way of booking Confirmation advice or Payment Receipt Advice) that monies have been received by us. Cardwell's Coach Travel reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking or to refuse to carry any passenger where payment has not been received, or the right to accept wait-listed passengers over those failing to finalize in the prescribed time.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is not included, but we highly recommend. Please call us for a free quote! There is also a level of COVID-19 cover in some policies.

**Itinerary Changes:** Itineraries, tours, cruises maybe changed with or without notice due to road or weather conditions, strikes, non-performance by a supplier or any other reason. **Air/Sea/Rail – Carrier Indemnity:** The involvement of the Australian Domestic Airlines or Air New Zealand, TT Lines or the Railways of Australia which may be used in some tours is in the capacity of Carriers only. These Carriers play no part in our tour planning and shall not be responsible for any statements or literature relating to the transport arrangements.

**Seat Rotation:** To enable everyone to enjoy a similar seating, passengers will change seats daily during the course of the tour.

**Luggage Allowance:** Each traveler is entitled to travel with ONE suitcase on tour measuring (length + width + depth) no more than 150cm (59"). Ultimate Small Group Touring travelers may bring up to TWO suitcases if airline ticket permits. Weight limits also apply to luggage due to Occupational Health and Safety issues. The maximum suitcase weight allowed is 23kg (50lbs). If a traveler brings more than the allocated limit of luggage, any additional arrangements made to get their luggage to the final destination, will be at their own expense. Please be aware that oversized or overweight luggage may be refused to be carried by coach companies. Each traveler is supplied with a Grand Pacific Travel Bag for personal and small items which can be carried on the coach when travelling. The travel bag is designed to carry a maximum of 6kg (13lbs). Due to limited space on board the coach, please ensure carry-on bags are approximately (length + width + depth) 81cm (32") with a maximum weight restriction of 6kg (13lbs). All luggage carried is entirely at the travelers' risk, Grand Pacific tours takes no responsibility for accidental damage or loss. **Force Majeure:** If by any means of any event of force majeure (which shall include terrorism, pandemic or any cause or event outside our control) we shall be delayed in or prevented from performing our obligations, then such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed a breach or entitle damages claim. Our obligations shall be suspended whilst such event of forced majeure continues.

**COVID-19 Disclaimer:** Grand Pacific has compiled the content of all tour itineraries based on the knowledge that all accommodation and attraction suppliers will be fully operational by September 2022. If for any reason the component of a tour is not available at the time of touring, a replacement or refund will be provided. Any refund amount is based on Grand Pacific negotiated pricing and not retail prices. **GUARANTEED DEPARTURES:** Grand Pacific has been highly regarded for the promotion of guaranteed departure dates for 25 years. In the current COVID-19 travel climate, circumstances beyond our control could still affect the running of individual tours, including border closures and their impact on required minimum numbers to operate. Please refer to our Travel Updates information attached for a full outline of the COVID-19 Disclaimer that forms part of our Terms and Conditions. Tour information is subject to change at any time.

**Crew Members:** Cardwell's staff will drop you off at your first nights' accommodation. When you arrive into Christchurch you will be met by Grand Pacific Staff. Grand Pacific crew members will assist you while the tour is being conducted. When you are dropped off at the airport in Auckland you will be picked up at Melbourne Airport by Cardwell' staff. There will be no Crew members going through the airport with you. But there will be plenty of airport staff to assist you with anything that is concerning you.

**Accommodation Information:** Grand Pacific endeavours to utilise the most suitable hotels available in each location to ensure travellers enjoy a consistent level of cleanliness, comfort and service. In more remote locations, hotel standards and facilities may differ to city hotels. As hotel allocations are booked in advance, room upgrade requests are not permitted. Should the hotels on tour change for any reason, we will endeavour to ensure that the alternative hotel is of an equivalent standard.

**Single Travellers willing to Twin Share:** If you are travelling alone but willing to share, a twin share room can be provided with a person of the same gender and this will entitle you to travel at the twin share price. Special room requests are not permitted on this basis. It is your duty to disclose any medical or other conditions that may prevent you from being a suitable rooming partner (such as use of CPAP machine) and you must accept that compatibility with your rooming partner cannot be guaranteed. If at any time during the tour you consider your rooming partner unsuitable, we will endeavour to arrange single accommodation (room standard may differ) for you for the remainder of the tour, subject to availability and at your own cost. We accept no responsibility for the suitability of the allocated rooming partner. Single travellers sharing a room will also be required to sit together and adhere to the seat rotation plan.

**Dietary Requests:** Grand Pacific limit special dietary requests to Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Lactose Intolerant, Diabetic and any life-threatening allergies (whereby the traveller carries an EpiPen). These requests will be forwarded to the hotel and /or attraction suppliers but cannot be guaranteed and does not constitute a term of your contract with us. Tour meal options may be limited. As a volume group tour operator, contracting specific menus which range from Buffet to A-la-carte, the logistics of arranging meals meeting the correct criteria over an extended touring itinerary can be challenging and cannot be guaranteed to meet the expectations of the traveller(s). Therefore, religious dietary requests (Hindu Vegetarian, Kosher, Halal) cannot be accommodated. Any further intolerances needing to be managed are the responsibility of the traveller. Airlines have restricted dietary conditions which vary, all requests should be discussed with your Travel Agent at the time of booking.

#### **For Reservations & Information Contact:**



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In conjunction with Grand Pacific (TTA33500)