



Grand Pacific 19 Day Signature Rail, Cruise & Coach

Experience the romance of rail travel, the majesty of cruising and the luxury of Premium Economy coach travel on this activity-packed tour. Visit the "best of attractions" in New Zealand including scenic rail journeys onboard the Coastal Pacific Rail Journey and the world-renowned TranzAlpine Rail Journey. Relax on picturesque cruises, featuring an overnight cruise on the beautiful Milford Sound. The tour includes stays in the Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown and Dunedin.

**** Note for those travelling on 19th March 2027 departure:**

As the TranzAlpine Train is not operating on the noted tour departure dates, a reduction for the missed inclusion will be applied at the time of final payment, in case scheduling changes.

The above also applies for the Coastal Pacific Train, which will not be operating on 28th April 2027 departure. **

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Christchurch
Length: 19days / 18nights
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
plus much more...

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations

Day 1



On arrival into Auckland, you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a complimentary pre-dinner drink when you meet your Tour Leader and travelling companions for dinner.

Staying in Hotel Grand Millennium Auckland

- 5 Star Accommodation

Superbly located in the very heart of cosmopolitan Auckland, close to Queen Street and Viaduct Harbour with some of the city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment venues at your doorstep. Each room offering style, space and wonderful Auckland City views from the floor to ceiling windows. Rooms have a king bed or two double beds, and a separate bath and shower.

Day 2



Enjoy a city tour of Auckland, dubbed the 'City of Sails', before travelling to Matakōhe 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 indigenous Māori tribes and the British settlers.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights)

- 4 Star Accommodation

Any time of year is ideal for escaping to the Bay of Islands in the 'Winterless North', and this property, situated at the entrance to the seaside town of Paihia, is the perfect resort-style retreat.

The island-influenced architecture with expansive sub-tropical gardens, water features, extensive guest facilities and easy walking access to Paihia's main local attractions makes this 4-star Hotel a standout.

Day 3



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, you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

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Day 4



This morning cruise through the beautiful Bay of Islands to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Piercy Island, or as it is popularly known, the 'Hole in the Rock'. Keep an eye out for dolphins and other marine life. Upon return to Paihia, travel south via Whangarei, before returning to Auckland. This evening is free to explore the many eateries surrounding your hotel.

Staying in Hotel Grand Millennium Auckland

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Day 5



This morning, visit Hamilton Gardens, Waikato's most visited attraction and one of New Zealand's most unique garden experiences. Explore themed gardens inspired by different cultures and eras, including the Sung Dynasty Chinese Scholar's Garden, Italian Renaissance Garden, and Indian Char Bagh Garden. Enjoy lunch and free time to further explore these world-renowned gardens before continuing to Rotorua, renowned for its geothermal activity and rich Māori culture.

Staying in Hotel Pullman Rotorua (2 nights)

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Situated in the heart of the city and moments away from the lakefront, Pullman Rotorua is the perfect base to explore the region's geothermal paradise.

A Pullman stay is an entire experience with 130 luxurious rooms and suites, energising gym, vibrant dining and a chic bar. Pullman is surrounded by surreal scenery and iconic attractions. Discover shooting geysers, bubbling mud pools, natural hot springs and magical forests.

Experience a contemporary open-plan room design inspired by the region's geothermal origins. Windows let in the daylight and views overlooking the vibrant city. The room features a plush Pullman king-size bed and local artwork.

Day 6



Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a thrilling luge ride! Next stop is the Agrodome for an action-packed hour of farming entertainment and education that is 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 Māori Hāngi and Concert.

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Day 7



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 continue south to New Zealand's capital city, Wellington.

Staying in Hotel James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (2 nights)

- 4 Star Accommodation

The James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor presents an engaging selection of rooms, thoughtful amenities and gracious hospitality from the heart of Wellington's city centre. Recently refurbished this leading accommodation and venue provider is located on The Terrace in New Zealand's thriving capital city nearby to all major attractions. You will stay in rooms which are located on the higher floors and showcase contemporary furnishings, deluxe bathrooms with walk-in showers and Antipodes amenities.

Day 8



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. This afternoon ride the Wellington Cable Car to Kelburn Station where you can explore the Cable Car Museum or stroll through the Botanic Gardens. This evening is also free to explore Wellington's lively food scene.

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Day 9



This morning board your ferry and enjoy the scenery as you travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Join the Coastal Pacific, a truly spectacular rail journey that follows a thin wedge of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Kaikōura Ranges. Meet your coach in the fishing village of Kaikōura for the journey to the garden city of Christchurch.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel (2 nights)

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Standing amongst the buzz of the rejuvenated Cathedral Square, the Distinction Christchurch Hotel is an urban escape combining sophisticated smarts and familiar warmth, only a few minutes' walk from the Avon River, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch Casino and Cashel Mall. This 11 storey, 4.5 star hotel offers elegant rooms which combine luxury and relaxation for all holidaymakers. These spacious air-conditioned hotel rooms include the latest technology as well as double glazed windows to ensure a restful night's sleep. An ensuite bathroom with shower over bath and complimentary Distinction toiletries.

Day 10



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 leisure. This evening is free to explore the local cuisine.

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Day 11



This morning board the TransAlpine, renowned as 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. 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.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

- 4 Star Accommodation

Only a breath away from the spectacular Franz Josef Glacier, in the heart of the village and edge of the Westland World Heritage Park, lies the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier offering everything you need to explore this dramatic region in style and comfort. The professional and friendly staff pride themselves on making your stay enjoyable and comfortable.

Day 12



See the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants.

Staying in Hotel Millennium Hotel Queenstown (2 nights)

- 4 Star Plus Accommodation

Right in the heart of the action, Millennium Hotel Queenstown is just minutes from Queenstown central shopping and entertainment district, Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown Gardens. Millennium Hotel Queenstown is a 4-star plus and Enviro-Gold Qualmark rated hotel. All rooms at Millennium Hotel Queenstown are designed for complete relaxation with its inviting bed and cosy ambience, it's a good nights rest for sure.

Day 13



Today is a free day to explore Queenstown. Your crew will assist with the many optional activities available. 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.

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Day 14



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. There are opportunities to explore the shoreline by tender boat or kayak (swimwear required) - or to simply relax on board. As evening falls enjoy a delicious carvery buffet prepared freshly by the onboard chef.

Staying in Overnight Milford Mariner

- This overnight cruise through the heart of Fiordland provides astonishing views and the ultimate Milford Sound adventure. Departing from the Milford Sound wharf in the late afternoon and accompanied by a specialist nature guide explaining the history and geology of the area. This cruise style is relaxed, allowing 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 too.

Day 15



Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) to explore more of the fiord. Return to the wharf to meet your coach and enjoy the scenic drive to Te Anau where you will enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may like to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves (optional).

Staying in Hotel Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau

- 4 Star Accommodation

Conveniently located in the heart of Te Anau's town shopping centre and a short stroll from the South Island's largest lake - Lake Te Anau. Escape into the serene surroundings of Distinction Luxmore Hotel before heading out to explore the world-famous beauty of Fiordland including Milford Sound. Stay in rooms which are well appointed and modern with a Fiordland interior design theme. The hotel offers an excellent standard of service and the team at Distinction Luxmore will make your stay in Te Anau comfortable and enjoyable.

Day 16



Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin, famous for its stunning Edwardian and Victorian architecture dating back to the gold rush of the 1800s. Enjoy a city tour of New Zealand's oldest university city.

Staying in Hotel Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (2 nights)

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Positioned in the heart of the city and just blocks from the Octagon, Scenic Hotel Dunedin City is within walking distance of many of the city's main attractions, great restaurants and shopping centres. This stylish hotel has a fresh contemporary design, with clean lines and dramatic features softened by natural elements such as timber and neutral tones. The attention to style, quality, convenience and service is evident throughout the hotel.

Day 17



Travel along the picturesque Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle. On a guided tour you will hear the tragic and scandalous tales which make up the castle's history. Enjoy a delicious Devonshire Tea and take time to wander through this Garden of International Significance. Return to Dunedin for some free time. Optional activities to consider include a wildlife excursion to observe animals in their natural habitat or a guided tour of Olveston Historic Home, containing a wealth of treasures of a bygone era.

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Day 18



Today travel to the small town of Oamaru, famous for its limestone architecture before continuing to Christchurch. This evening enjoy a pre-dinner drink and reminisce on memories shared with your new friends at the farewell dinner.

Staying in Hotel Distinction Christchurch Hotel

- 4.5 Star Accommodation

Standing amongst the buzz of the rejuvenated Cathedral Square, the Distinction Christchurch Hotel is an urban escape combining sophisticated smarts and familiar warmth, only a few minutes' walk from the Avon River, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch Casino and Cashel Mall. This 11 storey, 4.5 star hotel offers elegant rooms which combine luxury and relaxation for all holidaymakers. These spacious air-conditioned hotel rooms include the latest technology as well as double glazed windows to ensure a restful night's sleep. An ensuite bathroom with shower over bath and complimentary Distinction toiletries.

Day 19



Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Guided Coach Tour
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	19
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary