

RAIL TOUR

NEW ZEALAND RAIL ADVENTURE

2025 - 2026

NTR15



15 day / 14 night tour



Auckland to Christchurch

ITINERARY



AUCKLAND TO CHRISTCHURCH

15 day / 14 night tour

DAY 1

Arrive Auckland

Arrive in the 'City of Sails', where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy a special Welcome Dinner as you get to know your fellow travellers.

Stay: Two Nights, Sudima Auckland City

Daily: • Dinner

DAY 2

Auckland, Glenbrook Vintage Railway

Today begins with an Insider Experience. Afterwards, return to Auckland by coach.

Insider Experience – Glenbrook Vintage Railway

In a plume of smoke, be magically transported back in time on a journey aboard this beautiful vintage steam train as postcard-perfect vistas sweep past your window. Travel through the spectacular Franklin countryside before stopping at the Pukeoware Depot to explore the workshop, view other historic locomotives and enjoy a morning tea.

Insider Experiences:

These are carefully crafted experiences designed to take your holiday from amazing to extraordinary.

Daily: • Breakfast

DAY 3

Auckland, RailCruising Experience, Rotorua

After breakfast, board your coach and head towards the Mamaku Ranges for a special Insider Experience. In Rotorua, visit Te Puia Cultural Centre and tour the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute before another Insider Experience this evening, where you will savour traditional culture and food.

Insider Experience – Travel Aboard a RailCruiser

Embark on an extraordinary RailCruising journey aboard a self-driven, four-seater, hybrid rail car. Enjoy a rail experience like no other, as you take in unobstructed 360-degree views of the scenery that unfolds before you. Travel through the picturesque Mamaku Ranges near Rotorua, listening to an audio tour as you move along at 20km/h.

Insider Experience – Cultural Immersion in Rotorua

Immerse yourself in a unique evening of Māori culture, and cuisine at Te Puia. Embark on a guided tour through the historical geothermal valley, where you'll explore a stunning landscape of native bush, geysers, and mud pools. Feel the awe-inspiring power of Pōhutu Geyser, the largest geyser in the Southern Hemisphere. Experience an intimate encounter with one of New Zealand's national treasures at their new Kiwi Conservation Centre. That evening, enjoy a Haka pōwhiri (cultural welcome), dance performances and the sharing of a traditional meal of fish,

lamb and vegetables slow-cooked in earth ovens known as Hāngī.

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Stay: Two Nights, Sudima Lake Rotorua
Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 4

Rotorua

Rotorua captures the essence of New Zealand with its geothermal geysers, fascinating Māori culture and rich heritage. Your sightseeing continues with a visit to one of New Zealand's best-loved attractions, the Agrodome. Afterwards, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further or simply relax.

Daily: • Breakfast

DAY 5

Rotorua, Northern Explorer train, Wellington

Disembark in National Park Village where you will rejoin your coach and continue to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

Insider Experience – Board the Northern Explorer train for a scenic journey to the central Volcanic Plateau

Board the Northern Explorer in Otorohanga and embark on a scenic journey southward, across the central Volcanic Plateau. Experience the engineering marvel of the Raurimu Spiral, renowned for its intricate and breathtaking design. Its carriages feature an advanced air-bag system which allows for a smooth and quiet ride. Enjoy uninterrupted views through panoramic, non-reflective windows on the sides and roof.

Insider Experiences:
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Stay: Two Nights, Novotel Wellington
Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 6

Wellington

After breakfast today, head to Featherston to visit the fascinating Fell Locomotive Museum. It is home to the world's only remaining Fell steam locomotive, which dates back to 1877. The locomotive's innovative design allowed it to haul carriages up the steep Rimutaka Incline, using four grip wheels held onto a raised centre rail.

After heading back to Wellington, set off on a sightseeing tour of the city's best-loved landmarks and sights. Later, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to explore the city.

Daily: • Breakfast

DAY 7

Wellington, Picton, Coastal Pacific Train, Christchurch

This morning, enjoy one of the most scenic cruises in the world as you travel aboard the Interislander ferry. Departing from Wellington Harbour, navigate the journey across Cook Strait and through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton on the South Island. Here, you will embark on an Insider Experience. Afterwards, return to your coach to travel to Christchurch.

Insider Experience – Coastal Pacific Train

Skirt the glorious Kaikōura coastline on a journey aboard the Coastal Pacific train. Large panoramic windows and an open-air viewing platform afford unobstructed views of incredible landscapes where the mountains meet the sea.

Insider Experiences:
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Stay: Hotel Elms Christchurch
Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 8

Christchurch, TranzAlpine Train, Fox Glacier

Enjoy an Insider Experience after breakfast this morning, travelling aboard the renowned TranzAlpine train. Upon arrival at Greymouth, you will disembark and travel by coach to the incredible natural surrounds of the Franz Josef/ Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere and Fox Glaciers.

Insider Experience – TranzAlpine Train

Journey across the South Island from coast to coast on this world-famous rail journey. Follow the Waimakariri River and travel across the Southern Alps through striking scenery to the wild West Coast.

Insider Experiences:

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Stay: Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 9

Fox Glacier, Queenstown

Enjoy a day of truly beautiful scenery as you travel to the alpine resort of Queenstown. Known as the country's adventure capital, Queenstown is also renowned for its world-class culinary scene. This evening, you may like to sample some of the region's fresh flavours at one of the many restaurants that are within walking distance of your hotel (own expense).

Stay: Two Nights, Queenstown, Copthorne Hotel & Apartments Queenstown Lakeview 🏠

Daily: • Breakfast

DAY 10

Queenstown

Today starts with an Insider Experience. Then, enjoy lunch at one of the famous Ferg Foods restaurants located in the city centre (Fergburger, Ferg's Bar, Mrs Ferg and Fergbaker). The rest of the day is free for you to spend at leisure. You'll find plenty to see and do in and around Queenstown, from thrilling adventures through to simply relaxing and enjoying the incredible views. Perhaps choose one of our exciting Enhance Your Journey experiences on offer.

Insider Experience – Skyline Queenstown

Ride the Skyline gondola to the top of Bob's Peak, 480 metres above the city. Marvel at the stunning views of Lake Wakatipu, Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and the town sprawling out beneath you.

Enhance Your Journey – Shotover Jet Boat Ride

Those feeling adventurous can head out on a thrilling jet boat ride, roaring through narrow river canyons just centimetres from sheer rock walls.

Enhance Your Journey – Million Dollar Cruise

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

Enhance Your Journey – TSS Earnslaw Cruise

Join the historic steamer TSS Earnslaw on a cruise to Walter Peak Station for dinner, where you will gain an insight into farming life in New Zealand’s high country.

Insider Experiences:
These are carefully crafted experiences designed to take your holiday from amazing to extraordinary.

Enhance Your Journey:
Discover more in hand-picked destinations with these optional select experiences that provide further opportunity to pursue your special interests. Enhance Your Journey experiences are at an additional cost to your tour price.

Daily: • Breakfast • Lunch

DAY 11

Queenstown, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, Te Anau

Follow The Remarkables mountain range and Lake Wakatipu to Fiordland National Park. Here a memorable Insider Experience awaits.

Insider Experience – Milford Sound/Piopiotahi Cruise

Journey through the beautiful Fiordland National Park on your way to magnificent Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Once you arrive, set sail on a cruise along the full length of its pristine waters, basking in all the natural wonders you encounter.

Insider Experiences:
These are carefully crafted experiences designed to take your holiday from amazing to extraordinary.

Stay: Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau
Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 12

Te Anau, Dunedin

Enjoy spectacular scenery today as you drive from Te Anau to the Scottish-inspired southern city of Dunedin.

Stay: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 13

Dunedin, Lake Tekapo/Takapō

Journey north to view the Moeraki Boulders/Kaihinaki. A geological marvel, these large spherical stones were formed around 65 million years ago and can be found along a stretch of Koekohe Beach. Then, continue to Oamaru and visit the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo/Takapō. Later, arrive at your resort.

Stay: Lake Tekapo/Takapō, Peppers Bluewater Resort

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 14

Aoraki/Mount Cook, Christchurch

Journey into Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, where you will enjoy an Insider Experience. Later, head back to Christchurch for a special Farewell Dinner.

Insider Experience – Majestic Aoraki/Mount Cook

Traverse the glorious alpine landscapes of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park and take in the spectacular surrounds as you pass towering mountains and glacier-fed rivers. Stop to admire breathtaking views of Aoraki/Mount Cook, which is New Zealand's highest peak.

Insider Experiences:

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Stay: Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

Daily: • Breakfast • Dinner

DAY 15

Depart Christchurch

Your tour concludes after breakfast with a transfer to the airport.

