

# terrano<sup>va</sup> tours

## 17 Day Grand New Zealand Round Trip

### Day 1 – Arrive Christchurch

Arrive in Christchurch where you will meet your tour guide at the hotel and enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant. A transfer to your first hotel can be arranged at an additional cost. Rooms are available from 3:00 PM.  
Meals: Dinner

### Day 2 - Christchurch – Arthur's Pass National Park – Hokitika – Fox Glacier

Today, embark on a scenic mountain tour: travel by coach from the Canterbury Plains over the Porters Pass into the alpine Arthur's Pass National Park and onward to the lush West Coast of the South Island. The diverse landscape is stunning. (Optional pre-booked alternative: A panoramic train ride on the TranzAlpine Express from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass.) The rich greenery of the vegetation reflects the high rainfall of the West Coast. In Hokitika, the centre of greenstone (jade) craftsmanship, observe skilled artisans turning raw stones into beautiful keepsakes. Continue south along the West Coast, passing former gold rush towns like Ross and Harihari. Enter the Westland National Park, home to glaciers, rare birds like the endemic kea parrots, and stunning natural scenery. Witness a striking natural phenomenon at Franz Josef Glacier, where gray meltwater streams flow through lush rainforest. Optional: Take a helicopter flight over glaciers and mountain peaks, weather permitting. Overnight near Fox Glacier in the village of the same name. (Approx. 450 km)

Meals: Breakfast

### Day 3 - Fox Glacier – Mount Aspiring National Park – Arrowtown – Queenstown

Journey through dense rainforests before crossing Haast Pass, the divide between the lush West Coast and the dry grasslands of Central Otago. Marvel at the serene shores of Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea before reaching Arrowtown, a charming former gold-mining village. From here, it's a short drive to Queenstown, where your hotel is booked for two nights. (Approx. 390 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 4 – Full Day at Leisure in Queenstown

Spend the day in Queenstown, set amidst majestic mountains and Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy a variety of optional activities: a romantic cruise aboard the historic steamship TSS Earnslaw, a gondola ride up Bob's Peak for panoramic views, or hiking along scenic trails. For thrill-seekers, Queenstown is New Zealand's adventure capital, offering adrenaline-pumping activities.

Meals: Breakfast

### Day 5 - Queenstown – Milford Sound – Te Anau

Visit the iconic Milford Sound. First, travel through to Te Anau, a lakeside town at the edge of Fiordland National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue through pristine wilderness to the Homer Tunnel and descend via winding roads to Milford Sound. Enjoy a cruise to the fjord's opening to the Tasman Sea, marvelling at its dramatic beauty. Return to Te Anau for the night. (Approx. 410 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 6 - Te Anau – Dunedin

Travel through South Otago's fertile farmlands to Dunedin, a lively university town with Scottish heritage. Explore Victorian architecture reflecting its prosperity during the gold rush era. Overnight in Dunedin. (Approx. 300 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 7 - Dunedin – Oamaru – Omarama

Drive along the East Coast to Moeraki to see the enigmatic Moeraki Boulders on the beach. Continue through the Waitaki Valley to Omarama, your destination for the day. (Approx. 240 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 8 - Omarama – Lake Ohau – Lake Tekapo – Christchurch

Travel through the sparsely populated Mackenzie Country, stopping for views of Mount Cook (Aoraki) on clear days. Visit Lake Tekapo, where you can optionally take a scenic flight over the Southern Alps. Afterward, journey through pastoral landscapes to Christchurch, where a city tour reveals its recovery and modern transformation after past earthquakes. (Approx. 350 km)

Meals: Breakfast

#### **Day 9 - Christchurch – Kaikoura – Blenheim**

Travel north along the coast to Kaikoura, renowned for whale watching. Optional: Join a whale-watching boat tour, weather permitting. Continue to Blenheim in the heart of the Marlborough wine region. (Approx. 310 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 10 - Blenheim – Picton – Wellington**

A short drive to Picton precedes a ferry crossing to the North Island. Sail through the picturesque Marlborough Sounds, Cook Strait, and into Wellington. Upon arrival, enjoy a city tour of New Zealand's capital. (Approx. 50 km + ferry)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 11 - Wellington – Lake Taupo – Rotorua**

Travel through the Manawatu region to the volcanic Central Plateau. Visit Lake Taupo and arrive in Rotorua, a geothermal and cultural hub. In the evening, enjoy a Maori cultural performance and traditional hangi feast. (Approx. 460 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 12 - Free Day in Rotorua**

Explore Rotorua at your leisure. Optional: Visit Hobbiton, the preserved movie set from The Hobbit trilogy.

Meals: Breakfast

#### **Day 13 - Rotorua – Waitomo Caves – Auckland**

Visit Te Puia - the Whakarewarewa Thermal Park, where geysers and mud pools are accompanied by Maori cultural demonstrations. Continue to Waitomo to explore the glowworm caves. End the day in Auckland. (Approx. 340 km)

Meals: Breakfast

#### **Day 14 - Auckland – Bay of Islands**

Travel north to the subtropical Bay of Islands. Enjoy a boat tour featuring the "Hole in the Rock" and visit Urupukapuka Island. Overnight in Paihia. (Approx. 240 km)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **Day 15 - Free Day in the Bay of Islands**

Optional: Take a full-day tour to Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach.

Meals: Breakfast

#### **Day 16 - Bay of Islands – Waipoua Forest – Auckland**

Return via the West Coast, stopping at the Waipoua Forest to see ancient kauri trees. Visit the Kauri Museum in Matakoho before arriving in Auckland. (Approx. 345 km)

Meals: Breakfast

#### **Day 17 – Depart Auckland**

The tour concludes after breakfast. Optional airport transfers available.

Meals: Breakfast

**Hotels**

Christchurch	Ibis Hotel Christchurch ***+
Fox Glacier	Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier ***
Queenstown	Holiday Inn Express ***+
Te Anau	Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau ***+
Dunedin	Dunedin Leisure Lodge ***
Omarama	Distinction Herit. Gateway Hotel ***
Blenheim	Scenic Hotel Marlborough***+
Wellington	Bay Plaza Hotel Wellington ***
Rotorua	Distinction Hotel Rotorua ***+
Auckland	Travelodge Auckland ****
Bay of Islands	Kingsgate Hotel Bay of Islands ***+

**We would be delighted to customise the itinerary to ensure it perfectly matches your clients' requirements, whether that means adjusting the schedule, changing hotels, or incorporating any additional regions/sightseeing/activities. Our goal is to create a personalised experience that exceeds your clients' expectations. We are happy to make modifications as required to ensure the tour is unforgettable. Please contact us at [info@terranovatours.co.nz](mailto:info@terranovatours.co.nz) if you would like to start creating a tailor-made itinerary for your clients.**