

# Essence of New Zealand

Christchurch to Auckland

2019-20

20 Days

From \$9,895 NZD

pp

Trip Code: NZCA20

## Trip Highlights



### Discover the Bay Your Way

Explore the Bay of Islands with your choice of activity. Home to 144 islands, there is no lack of discovery options.



### Stunning Fiord Cruise

Cruise enchanting Milford Sound, which is set deep in Fiordland National Park.



### TranzAlpine Train

Enjoy the views on one of the world's greatest rail journeys as you travel across New Zealand's Southern Alps.

## Travel & Accommodation



### New Zealand's Finest Flavours

Savour a Highlights of Marlborough Dinner. Each dish showcases the best the region has to offer paired with local wines.



### A Taste of Culture

Immerse yourself in Maori culture with the traditional flavours of a Hangi feast.



### Iconic Hotels and Resorts

Stay in luxury hotels including the Te Waonui Forest Retreat in Franz Josef and The Hermitage in Mount Cook.

## Inclusions

- Travel with a maximum of 40 guests
- 19 breakfasts and 14 dinners
- Enriching Signature Experiences and Freedom of Choice Inclusions
- APT Tour Director, plus expert local guides

### TRIP NOTES

- Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change
- Te Waonui Forest Retreat is subject to seasonality
- Ask us about pre and post accommodation
- Prices are for land only. Flights not included

# Map & Itinerary



## Signature Experiences

Designed Exclusively for APT guests

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

These once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - SIGHTSEEING

Personalise your holiday with a choice of included sightseeing options sure to leave you with lifelong memories

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - DINING

Choose from a variety of included dining options sure to tantalise the tastebuds of every guest

DAY

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## Arrive Christchurch

On arrival, be met at the airport and transfer to your hotel where you have the afternoon to relax. Enjoy a Welcome Drink and Dinner tonight.

**Stay:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch

**Daily :** ● Dinner

DAY

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## Christchurch, Mt Cook

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Journey into Mt Cook National Park to view Australasia's highest mountain, Aoraki (Mt Cook).

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

You may like to join a guided nature walk. Alternatively, during the summer months, board a MAC boat and discover icebergs on the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake. Perhaps visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, including a visit to the planetarium and a stargazing session with an astronomer.

Traverse the Canterbury plains to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo. This afternoon, choose your Freedom of Choice Sightseeing experience.

**Stay:** Mt Cook, The Hermitage Hotel, in a room with alpine views

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Mt Cook, Dunedin

Set out along the shores of Lake Pukaki to Oamaru. Continue to Koekohe Beach to view the unusual spherical-shaped Moeraki Boulders. Arrive in Dunedin this afternoon and enjoy time at leisure before dinner.

**Stay:** Distinction Dunedin Hotel

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Dunedin, Te Anau

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

You may choose to visit Olveston House, or take a lovely ride on the Taieri Gorge Railway. Those who enjoy a beer may choose to visit Speight's Brewery. Alternatively, either discover an albatross colony, or take a wildlife tour along the spectacular Otago Peninsula.

Wake up this morning in Dunedin, where you may begin your day with your choice of sightseeing activity. Afterwards, absorb the breathtaking scenery as you travel to the lakeside settlement of Te Anau.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Te Anau

### **FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing**

Perhaps you may like to explore an underground network of limestone caves, lit by thousands of glow worms. Alternatively, you may prefer to set off on a wilderness cruise on Doubtful Sound. Or, take an exciting jet boat ride along the Upper Waiau River.

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Decide how to spend your day in Te Anau thanks to our Freedom of Choice activities on offer to you today.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

DAY

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## Te Anau, Milford Sound, Queenstown

### **SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE**

Continue to Milford Sound where you will cruise along the full length of this fiord deep within Fiordland National Park.

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Along Milford Road, wind down the Eglinton and Hollyford valleys, then travel through the Homer Tunnel to be met by the sight of Mitre Peak. After, travel to Queenstown.

**Stay:** Three Nights, Queenstown, Millennium Hotel or similar

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Queenstown

### **FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing**

Movie buffs may like to visit key The Lord of the Rings filming locations. Meanwhile, thrillseekers may enjoy an exhilarating ride on the Shotover Jet Boat through the narrow Shotover River Canyons, a Skippers Canyon adventure or an exciting 4WD tour through the region. Others may prefer a leisurely cruise on Lake Wakatipu, a picturesque bike ride through the surrounding vineyards, or a wine tour.

### **FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Dining**

Select from a number of restaurants during a Freedom of Choice Dining evening.

Today you can discover Queenstown your own way with the included Freedom of Choice sightseeing activities available. Later, choose where to dine.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Queenstown

Immerse yourself in beautiful Queenstown with a full day at leisure. You may like to take a relaxing stroll along the tranquil shores of Lake Wakatipu, or take part in the thrill of a lifetime in this adventurous city.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

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## Queenstown, Franz Josef Glacier

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Cross Haast Pass into Westland Tai Poutini National Park, home to the Franz Josef Glacier.

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Skirt the shores of lakes Wanaka and Hawea.

**Stay:** Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Or similar)

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Franz Josef Glacier, TranzAlpine Train, Christchurch

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Join New Zealand's famous TranzAlpine train and experience one of the world's greatest rail journeys.

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Travel through deep gorges, river valleys and across the Southern Alps all the way to Christchurch.

**Stay:** Rydges Latimer Christchurch

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Christchurch, Kaikoura, Blenheim

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Traverse the Marlborough region to Blenheim, where you will savour New Zealand's finest flavours with a Highlights of Marlborough Dinner. Each dish showcases superb local artisan produce, with each dish perfectly paired to wines from this stunning region.

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Follow the east coast to Kaikoura. Later, take in a special and unique Signature Experience.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Blenheim, Scenic Hotel Marlborough

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Blenheim

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Perhaps embark on a tour of the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, enjoy the sheer beauty of Marlborough Sounds during a greenshell mussel cruise, or choose to visit some of the region's best wineries.

Tailor your day with a choice of an included sightseeing option.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

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## Blenheim, Picton, Wellington

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Cruise across Cook Strait on the Interislander ferry.

Traverse the stunning waters of Marlborough and Queen Charlotte sounds while taking in breathtaking surrounds. This afternoon, take part in a fascinating city sights tour of Wellington.

**Stay:** InterContinental Wellington

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner



DAY

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## Wellington, Napier

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

On arrival in Napier, discover the city on an Art Deco tour.

Drive through the Rimutaka Ranges en route to Napier.

**Stay:** Napier, Scenic Te Pania Hotel

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Napier, Taupo, Rotorua

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Enjoy the dance, music and culture of the Māori people during a traditional Hāngī feast.

Journey through Esk Valley and Te Pohue, stopping at the charming town of Taupo. Travel to Rotorua, then tonight enjoy a special Signature Experience.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Millennium Hotel Rotorua, located on beautiful Lake Rotorua

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY

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## Rotorua

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Perhaps enjoy a sheep show at the Agrodome followed by a kiwi encounter and a visit to Te Puia Thermal Reserve. Choose to visit Wai-O-Tapu; experience Middle-earth during a tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set; or explore Redwood Treewalk with a Māori guide.

Select from a range of activities today. The evening is yours at leisure to further explore.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

DAY  
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## Rotorua, Auckland

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Perhaps cruise on Waitemata Harbour; head off on a Waiheke Island wine and olive tasting tour; explore the Auckland Museum; get up close to marine life at Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium; or set off into the Waitakere Rainforest.

Travel through Waikato farmland to Cambridge and Auckland. Choose from a range of included sightseeing activities today.

**Stay:** Auckland, Crowne Plaza

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

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## Auckland, Bay Of Islands

### SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Step aboard a catamaran and enjoy a cruise to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock.

Continue north to the Bay of Islands.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands

**Daily :** ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY  
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## Bay Of Islands

### FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Go sailing on a tall ship; embark on a dolphin-watching cruise; ferry to Russell; or visit Cape Reinga.

Choose your Freedom of Choice sightseeing activity today.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

DAY  
20

## Bay Of Islands, Depart Auckland

Travel from the Bay of Islands back to Auckland where your tour will conclude.

**Daily :** ● Breakfast

