



Taieri Gorge

17 Day New Zealand Rail Experience



TranzCoastal

Day 5 – Rotorua/Wellington

This morning travel through the Waikato and onto Te Kuiti to meet The Overlander train for your journey into Wellington. The Overlander will take you past the Central North Island ski towns of National Park and Ohakune. You also see fantastic views of New Zealand farmland, the volcanic plateau, Mount Ruapehu, the world famous Raurimu Spiral, and stunning river gorges all from the large panoramic windows or open air viewing decks allowing you the best possible views.

West Plaza Hotel (2 nights)

Day 6 – Wellington

You have a full day at leisure in New Zealand's capital city well known for its arts and culture. Your options include exploring Te Papa, Museum of New Zealand, a number of food and walking tours of the capital as well as a day trip to Martinborough the small but famous wine growing region incorporating two local train journeys and a wine tasting tour. Your Coach Captain will be happy to provide advice on the options.

Day 7 – Wellington/Christchurch

Join the Interislander Ferry for a scenic cruise to the South Island with views of the City and its hillside suburbs. Cross Cook Strait into the sheltered waters of Queen Charlotte Sound, bush clad hillsides remote bays and isolated holiday homes. It's time to join the TranzCoastal train for a spectacular journey to Christchurch, travel south through Blenheim before you skirt the coast into Kaikoura where the mountains meet the sea then onto Christchurch arriving early evening.

Holiday Inn on Avon (1 night)

Day 1 – Arrive Auckland

Welcome to New Zealand! Kirra Tours will greet you at the airport, with transport waiting to take you to your hotel.

Rydges Hotel (1 night)

Included Sightseeing

- Entry to Agrodome
- Entry to Skyline Skyrides & Luge Ride
- Entry to Rainbow Springs Park
- Entry to Te Puia Thermal Reserve
- Interislander Ferry Crossing
- Entry to Te Anau Glowworms Caves
- Milford Sound Cruise & Lunch
- Macraes Mine Tour & Lunch
- Scottish Haggis Ceremony
- Entry to Larnach Castle & Gardens
- Christchurch Tram Ride

Train Inclusions

- Driving Creek Railway
- The Overlander
- The TranzCoastal
- The TranzAlpine
- The Seaside
- Taieri Gorge Railway

Dinner Highlights

- Mitai Maori Cultural Performance & Hangi Meal
- Skyline Skyride & Dinner Queenstown

Day 2 – Auckland/Coromandel (Tairua)

Travel south out of the city and through the rolling farmland and Bombay Hills before reaching the Coromandel Peninsula. Continue up the Western coast of the peninsula to reach Coromandel Town and the Driving Creek Railway. Experience this unique hour long journey through replanted native Kauri forests. The track includes 2 spirals, 3 short tunnels and 5 reversing points to reach the top and Eyefull tower providing panoramic views across the island studded Hauraki Gulf. Rejoin your coach for the journey across to the eastern side of the peninsula stopping at Hot Water Beach before continuing on to Tairua.

Pacific Harbour Motor Lodge (1 night)

Day 3 – Coromandel (Tairua)/Rotorua

A sightseeing tour encompasses the cultural and scenic highlights of the area. Visit the Agrodome to see a display featuring New Zealand's various sheep breeds and a sheep shearing demonstration. Take the spectacular Skyline Skyride for superb views over city, lake and mountains and for those wanting just a little excitement try a Luge ride with our compliments – enjoy the thrill. Stroll through Rainbow Springs Park and see pools of rainbow and brown trout and native birds including the Kiwi. At the completion of the tour (mid afternoon) there will be time for optional activities – shopping, trout fishing or a dip in a thermal pool. This evening you will experience a Mitai Maori Cultural performance followed by a traditional Hangi (meal) which will include a selection of traditionally prepared meats and vegetables plus more conventional dishes.

Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (2 nights)

Day 4 – Rotorua

This morning visit Te Puia for the Whakarewarewa Geothermal Valley, the Maori Arts and Crafts Centre and Thermal Reserve with its boiling mud, silica terraces and famous Pohutu Geyser. You will have the remainder of the day at leisure to experience Rotorua and the many activities available such as a Mt Tarawera 4WD tour, Off Road adventure or simply soak in the thermal pools.



Overlander on viaduct



The Seaside

Day 8 – Christchurch/Greymouth/Fox Glacier

Depart Christchurch on board the TransAlpine train across the broad expanse of the Canterbury Plains then inland through gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River and then climb through to the Southern Alps before descending through lush rain forest into the West Coast and Greymouth. Meet your coach to continue your journey past remote farms, dense native bush and landlocked lakes to arrive in Fox Glacier. Time permitting this afternoon you can take an optional guided walk to the terminal face of the glacier or alternatively a helicopter flight with snow landing or a walk to nearby Lake Matheson.

Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier (1 night)

Day 9 – Fox Glacier/Queenstown

Follow the rugged coastline then inland across the Alps and the Haast Pass to the impressive bush lands of the Aspiring National Park skirting the shores of Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea to arrive in Wanaka. Continue through this picturesque region that has a fascinating history of early settlement and gold mining to arrive in Queenstown. Dinner tonight is at the Skyline Restaurant, where both the dining and the views are unsurpassed.

Rydges Hotel (2 nights)

Day 10 – Queenstown

A free day to explore the delights of this alpine resort at your leisure. Your Coach Captain will happily advise on the many sightseeing activities available. We recommend the world famous Shotover Jet Boat ride, take the Gondola high above Queenstown, a 4WD tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon along with an abundance of other options or alternatively browse through the many shops and cafes.

Day 11 – Queenstown/Te Anau

This morning travel south through the lush farming country to arrive in Te Anau where you will be at leisure, perhaps a visit to the Shadowlands cinema or a stroll along the lakefront prior to an early dinner, its your choice your Coach Captain will be happy to provide advice on the options. This evening cruise across Lake Te Anau to explore the under-ground world of rushing water and drift beneath the luminous shimmer of thousands of glowworms, an unforgettable sight.

Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)

Day 12 – Te Anau/Milford Sound/ Invercargill

A highlight of any New Zealand tour. Follow the Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys where the beech forests reach right to the roads edge and mighty snow capped peaks tower above, pass the Homer Tunnel and descend into the Cleddau Canyon to reach majestic Milford Sound dominated by Mitre Peak. A scenic launch cruise takes you right to the open sea and shows such highlights as the Bowen and Stirling Falls (a picnic lunch is included with the cost of your cruise). Following your cruise join your coach to continue through to New Zealand's southern most city; Invercargill.

Ascot Park Hotel (1 night)

Day 13 – Invercargill/Catlins Coast/ Dunedin

Heading north travel through the spectacular Catlins region, a true hidden gem, then onto the southern agricultural towns of Gore and Balclutha to arrive in Dunedin. There is time this afternoon to explore the Scottish city of Dunedin and the peninsula. This evening prior to dinner, you will be treated to a traditional Scottish Haggis Ceremony, complete with piper, address to the Haggis and gift.

Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (2 nights)

Day 14 – Otago Railroad to Gold Day Excursion

Today experience an exciting new day excursion with Taieri Gorge Railway firstly joining The Seaside Train, taking in Dunedin's picturesque harbour side suburbs and rail causeway, Mihiwaka hill climb, intriguing history and spectacular cliff-top coastal scenery en route to Palmerston, a busy highway town. Upon arrival join your tour to Macraes Mine, visit heritage mining sites including a complete battery stamper. View the gigantic Fraser's open cast pit and the CAT maintenance base along with enormous trucks and excavators. Also included is the Otago Fish and Game hatchery as well as the historic village of Macraes and see the churches, stables and agricultural machinery of a bygone era. Finish the day off by joining the Taieri Gorge Railway at Pukerangi travelling through the rugged and spectacular Taieri River Gorge, through tunnels and steep viaducts which were carved over 100 years ago before concluding in Dunedin (a two course lunch & afternoon tea are included in your tour today).



Taieri Gorge



Mitai Maori Warriors in a war canoe

Day 15 – Dunedin/Mt Cook Village

Visit Larnach Castle & Gardens for a guided tour and morning tea, the Southern Hemisphere's only castle with its superb gardens. Travel north from Dunedin, see bush clad hillsides, tidal estuaries and a rocky coastline, view the unusual Moeraki Boulders then explore Oamaru. Follow the Waitaki Valley, passing several hydro lakes, pass the milky blue waters of Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook National Park and village through to the Mt Cook Village.

You may wish to explore the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre or take a walk into the valley or simply relax and soak up the views of Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.

The Hermitage Hotel (1 night)

Day 16 – Mt Cook Village/Christchurch

This morning we highly recommend (optional) flightseeing with Air Safaris to explore Aoraki Mt Cook National Park and the Westland World Heritage Parks from the air. At Lake Tekapo view the Church of the Good Shepherd and Collie Dog memorial before continuing through Burkes Pass to the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch. This afternoon join the Christchurch Tramway for a circuit of the city centre showcasing the central city highlights and districts.

Holiday Inn on Avon (1 night)

Day 17 – Christchurch/Home

Today it is goodbye to your new found friends. You will be transferred to Christchurch Airport in ample time to join your flight.

Departure Dates & Pricing

Year Round \$4,450pp

RE1	Wed, 22 Sep 10	Fri, 08 Oct 10
RE2	Wed, 10 Nov 10	Fri, 26 Nov 10
RE3	Wed, 02 Mar 11	Fri, 18 Mar 11
RE4	Wed, 30 Mar 11	Fri, 15 Apr 11

Supplements

Breakfast (16) Supplement add	\$385
Dinner (13) Supplement add	\$535
Single Room Supplement add	\$1,415