

GREAT JOURNEYS[®]
NEW ZEALAND

BESPOKE RAIL JOURNEYS

Great Journeys New Zealand - experts in crafting
tailor made packages in Aotearoa



ABOUT US

Experience a picture-perfect journey through the heart of Aotearoa with Great Journeys New Zealand.

With the ability to take your custom group on their very own, specialised journey across Aotearoa, our journeys encompass iconic places to visit between Auckland and Queenstown. Working with our attraction and accommodation partners along the way – our team can curate a custom journey that fits your needs (or wildest dreams). You dream it - we organise it for you.

Great Journeys New Zealand is built on 150 years of rail experience and thousands kilometres of scenic rail. Our story begins with the rich heritage of rail travel in New Zealand, a journey integral to the growth of our communities and the shaping of our society.

Our custom group journeys go beyond transportation; they are immersive experiences that foster human connection. Through authentic, meaningful interactions, we offer narratives that engage, entertain, and enlighten our guests in genuine hospitality and care.

We seamlessly integrate our journeys with local attractions, enabling our guests to effortlessly experience the best of New Zealand. Our staff, embodying our signature Manaakitanga, are dedicated to making every guest feel welcome and cherished. Our stops are opportunities to engage with local communities. We enhance our onboard services by collaborating with local partners, offering our guests a comprehensive and authentic experience of New Zealand's culture and hospitality.

“

MANAAKITANGA (SHOWING RESPECT AND CARE FOR OTHERS) WE MAKE EVERY GUEST FEEL WELCOME AND CHERISHED AS SOON AS THEY STEP ONBOARD

”



Scan here
or speak to our knowledgeable
Travel Centre team about
building your custom itinerary

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Auckland

Raglan

Waitomo

Hamilton

National Park

Ohakune

Wellington

Picton

Blenheim

Kaikōura

Greymouth

Hokitika

Franz Josef

Christchurch

Milford Sound

Queenstown

- Scenic train
- Ferry
- Coach
- Day trip

TRANSPORT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

RAIL



NORTHERN EXPLORER, COASTAL PACIFIC, TRANZALPINE

WATER



ROAD



AIR



FLY BACK OPTION

SCENIC CLASS

A comfortable and relaxing way to see New Zealand.

SCENIC PLUS

An elevated experience sharing unique flavours of the land.



Air-conditioned carriages



Comfortable seats



Open air viewing carriage



Dedicated carriage



Food onboard

Food available for purchase

Degustation menu



Dedicated hosts



Captivating story telling



INTERISLANDER FERRY



MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTERS



MILFORD SOUNDS GA8 Airvan



PICTON MAILBOAT



MITSUBISHI ROSA



GRAND CESSNA CARAVAN



HAAST SAFARI JET BOAT



SCANIA COACHES



HELICOPTER Franz Josef





OUR PEOPLE

Learn more about our people - Steve and Toni.



Experienced



Passionate



Local



Reliable



Meet Steve, Our Knowledgeable Tour Guide

With over 25 years in the tourism industry, I've held diverse roles across agencies and tour operators, shaping my understanding of its dynamics and client expectations. My journey spans from travel consultancy and guiding to product development and sales, specialising in adventure, educational, and group travel. Having explored 60+ countries across various travel styles, from backpacking to luxury, I bring a wealth of firsthand experience complemented by qualifications in tourism and media. Currently pursuing environmental studies, I'm committed to sustainable tourism practices.

“Guiding isn't just a job—it's a passion.”

Sharing stories and connecting with travellers is immensely rewarding; it doesn't feel like work at all. Over the years, I've witnessed a shift in group tours from large, impersonal gatherings to smaller, more interactive experiences where friendships often blossom. At Great Journeys New Zealand, I've led tours that start with strangers and end with lasting connections, thanks to shared experiences and mutual interests. Looking ahead, I'm excited about our new food and wine tours, which promise deeper regional immersion without overwhelming schedules. These tours reflect our commitment to providing enriching and memorable travel experiences.



Meet Toni, Premium Service Leader for Scenic Plus service

For me, hospitality and premium customer service aren't just a career—they're my passion. From my beginnings as a qualified chef to discovering my true calling in front-of-house and customer service, I've dedicated my career to managing hotels, restaurants, special events, and catering. My expertise includes classic silver service and Gueridon cooking, always striving to deliver that extra touch of attentiveness, whether in dining, travel, or everyday experiences.

Each day brings new scenery, diverse weather, and a wonderful variety of people, including our Great Journeys New Zealand family. Our commitment to outstanding service, delicious local food and beverages, and the breathtaking views outside your carriage ensures that every moment is special. Seeing our guests leave with big smiles, heartfelt appreciation, and even hugs is incredibly rewarding.

As someone who proudly embraces both Maori and Irish heritage, I love sharing aspects of our culture, language, and legends from Aotearoa New Zealand. With our beautiful new Scenic Plus carriage, I'm excited to introduce you to Te Reo and enrich your journey with a touch of our vibrant heritage.

“I look forward to welcoming you aboard and making your experience unforgettable!”

DESTINATIONS

Our journeys take you to some of the most interesting corners of Aotearoa New Zealand.

NE Northern Explorer **CP** Coastal Pacific **TA** TranzAlpine



Auckland - New Zealand's biggest city, also known as the City of Sails is famous for its fabulous restaurants, bars and cafés. The harbour offers not only amazing views, but is also a starting point to travel to Hauraki Gulf islands.



Waikato / Waitomo - A world-renowned area, famous for its glowworms and extensive subterranean landscape. Hamilton is a home to stunning Botanical Gardens, with themed gardens ranging from Renaissance to traditional Maori styles.



National Park/Ohakune - Home to three active volcanoes and the most dramatic landscapes, Tongariro National Park was awarded UNESCO World Heritage for both its cultural significance to the Māori people, as well as its outstanding natural features.



Wellington - The world's coolest little capital! Surrounded by nature and fuelled by creative energy, Wellington is a compact city with a powerful mix of culture, history, nature and cuisine. Wellington is also a getaway to the South Island, offering a regular ferry crossing across the Cook Strait.



Picton - The heart of the Marlborough Sounds, this picturesque port town is home to great cafés, restaurants, galleries and specialty shops. Sitting at the top of Marlborough wine growing region, home to world-renown Sauvignon Blanc.



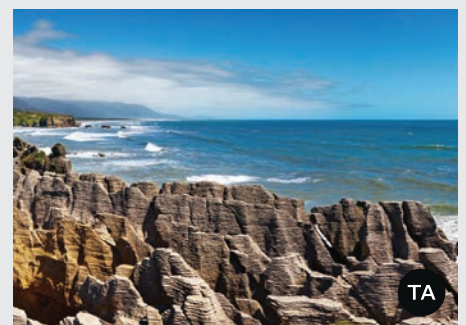
Kaikōura - the picturesque coastal town of Kaikōura is the perfect place for coastal walks, marine life and tucking into a plate of crayfish. A truly special experience in the region is marine mammal encounters – whales, fur seals and dolphins live permanently in the coastal waters.



Christchurch - the South Island's largest city, combining urban regeneration and innovation with heritage, culture and exhilarating activity. Think street art and innovative projects, a bustling hospitality scene and established green spaces.



Arthur's Pass - climbing to more than 700 metres through Arthur's Pass National Park, is the highest and most spectacular pass across the Southern Alps. It's a great place to explore nature and spot a cheeky local bird, Kea.



West Coast/Greymouth - is a town with a history of jade hunting, gold mining and dramatic landscapes. Sample local beer before discovering what the wild West Coast has to offer, from mountain biking, rafting to hiking and fly fishing.

ACTIVITIES

Explore a range of activities available. More are available upon request.

FOR NATURE LOVERS

Waitomo glowworm cave tours

Guided tour of Hamilton Gardens

Paua pearl tour with paua tasting

Whale watching tour

FOR FOOD AND WINE LOVERS

Scenic Plus train ride

Wine tasting (various locations)

Visit to Ayreburn winery

Degustation dinner at Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific and TranzAlpine

ACTIVE HOLIDAYS

Punakaiki loop track

Whale Watching

Guided walking tour

Okarito Boat Eco Tours

NORTH ISLAND ITINERARIES

With so many options to choose from, it's hard to know where to start. Here are a couple of sample itineraries to show what we can do.

Escape to the Forgotten World

3 Days - Auckland to Wellington

DAY 1

Northern Explorer and beyond

Depart the City of Sails in the morning, travelling across the Waikato Plains and humble towns. Enjoy lunch onboard the scenic train.



DAY 2

A Forgotten World

Enjoy a fascinating tour of the Forgotten World on rail carts through this remote, rugged and sparsely settled landscape. Travel over 25 bridges and a series of 10 tunnels, constructed by hard-working pioneers. Ploughman's lunch will be provided, as well as a tour to Lauren's Lavender farm. A shuttle will take you back to Taumararua at the end of the day to enjoy a dinner at the accommodation.



DAY 3

Rejoin a scenic train ride

Start the day with breakfast at your accommodation, before rejoining the scenic train to Wellington, NZ's cool little capital.



Custom option of North Island

DAY 1

Auckland

Start your trip in the City of Sails, explore many dinner options and shopping options

DAY 2

Auckland → Hamilton

Enjoy a guided tour of the Hamilton Gardens and Raglan Sunset Cruise



DAY 3

Hamilton

Explore Waitomo Glowworm Caves

DAY 4

Hamilton → Ohakune

Relax on Northern Explorer train



DAY 5

Ohakune

Explore Tongariro National Park

DAY 6

Ohakune → Wellington

Continue the journey on Northern Explorer train to the capital of NZ



SOUTH ISLAND ITINERARIES

South Island Highlights

6 Days - Christchurch to Queenstown

DAY 1

Explore Christchurch

Get to know the city starting with a guided walking tour, followed by a special dinner aboard the Tramway as it travelled through the CBD. Relax for the night in a comfortable accommodation in a convenient location.



DAY 2

Wild West Coast

Travel to Greymouth aboard TranzAlpine scenic train. Upon your arrival you'll be taken to Punakaiki to enjoy the views before an evening of free time. Spend the night in Punakaiki.



DAY 3

Nature

Start your day with Punakaiki Loop Track, before heading to Franz Josef, where you'll stay for the night. Dinner and beautiful memories are included.



DAY 4

Mountains and views

Enjoy Haast River Safari experience in the morning, after this you will start making a lovely journey by coach to Queenstown.



DAY 5

Incredible food

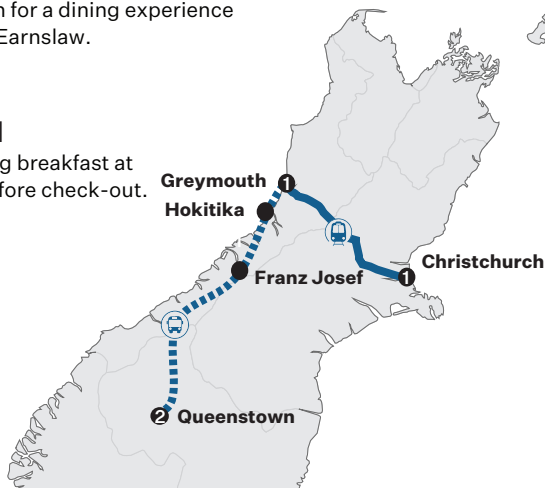
Head to Arrowtown for sightseeing and a bit of shopping, once you get hungry it's time to check out Ayreburn winery for an incredible meal. Back to Queenstown for a dining experience on the TSS Earnslaw.



DAY 6

Farewell

Enjoy a filling breakfast at the hotel before check-out.



Custom option of South Island

DAY 1

Christchurch

Welcome to the Garden City, enjoy a tour of the main attractions and dinner in the evening



DAY 2

Coastal Pacific train (Scenic Plus) → Picton

Indulge in Marlborough Wine tour



DAY 3

Picton → Kaikōura

Start the day with Paua Pearl farm tour, followed by Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus experience to Kaikōura, followed by group dinner



DAY 4

Kaikōura → Christchurch

Dolphin Encounter tour, followed by Coastal Pacific train to Christchurch



DAY 5

Christchurch → West Coast

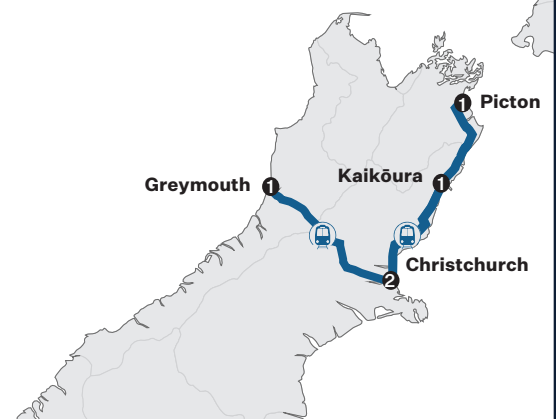
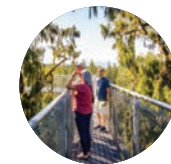
Enjoy TranzAlpine Scenic Plus train, followed by West Coast Cultural Experience



DAY 6

West Coast → Christchurch

Start the day with Punakaiki Walk and Treetop walk, and enjoy a relaxing journey back to Christchurch on TranzAlpine in the afternoon





Knight of Fire, Maria Tsopanaki & Dimitri Mavinis, United Kingdom

WE CAN CATER FOR



BUSINESS / CORPORATE GROUPS

Host a productive conference on scenic trains, ideal for team building and bonding. With beautiful surroundings and uninterrupted focus, stimulate creativity and collaboration among your team. Enjoy onboard amenities, tasty meals, and panoramic views, creating an inspiring atmosphere that enhances productivity and fosters stronger connections.



INCENTIVES, WORK FUNCTIONS

Experience unforgettable work functions amidst breathtaking landscapes aboard our scenic trains. From team-building to corporate events, enjoy unparalleled views while we cater to your every need. Elevate your gatherings with a unique blend of luxury and nature, creating lasting memories for your team.



ANNIVERSARIES / WEDDINGS

Exchange vows amidst Aotearoa's scenic splendour aboard Great Journeys New Zealand train. With majestic mountains and pristine coastlines as your backdrop, celebrate love in a unique and unforgettable way. Plan a romantic journey that begins a lifetime together in style.



SCHOOL / UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Engage in educational discussions amid panoramic views, fostering learning and camaraderie. From coastal journeys to mountain vistas, students experience a blend of relaxation and exploration, creating memorable educational experiences outside the classroom.



EXCHANGE STUDENT GROUPS

Host groups of exchange students for an enriching exploration of New Zealand aboard scenic trains. Experience the country's diverse landscapes in comfort, with educational insights



GOLD CARD HOLDERS / RSA CLUB GROUPS

Experience serene and leisurely travel through New Zealand's stunning landscapes aboard scenic trains, perfect for pensioner groups. Enjoy comfortable seating, breathtaking views, and a relaxed pace, ideal for savouring each moment. Discover the country's beauty with like-minded travellers, creating memorable and tranquil journeys together.



BIRTHDAYS

Celebrate birthdays in style aboard our scenic trains, where every moment is a picturesque journey and every minute is unforgettable. Treat your loved one to a day of luxury and adventure, creating cherished memories along the way.

FAQ

Q. Can airport departure transfer be arranged?

A. Absolutely, we are able to arrange transfer for various group sizes from domestic or international terminals.

Q. Are meals included?

A. Inclusions vary depending on the tour/package chosen, with various breakfast, lunch and dinner options available.

Q. Do you cater for any dietary requirements?

A. Dietary requirements can be catered for, advise team 7 days prior to departure.

Q. Is travel insurance included in the tour/package?

A. It is not included, but we strongly recommend that all travellers have a policy that also covers personal liability, medical, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects.

Q. What time are we required to meet the group each morning?

A. Each tour/itinerary will vary depending on the daily activities. The tour director will provide this info day by day.

Q. Can you assist with any visa enquires?

A. Unfortunately, we cannot assist with any visa enquires.

Q. What should the guests bring on tour?

A. On your journey, you may bring 1x 23kg checked bag, 1x cabin luggage less than 7kg as well as a small handbag. We highly recommend packing a small bag or handbag filled with essentials to take aboard the trains. Suitcases will be securely stored in the dedicated luggage carriage onboard the trains.

- ✓ Credit/debit card or cash (for anything additional you wish to purchase in the Scenic Café)
- ✓ A jacket (for the open-air viewing carriage)
- ✓ Mobile phone (selected seats have USB ports for charging devices)
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Medication/inhaler

Q. Will there be any free time?

A. There will be free time on each tour, but will vary depending on the itinerary

Q. Is there a minimum or maximum number of guests custom group tours can be booked for?

A. We are happy to accommodate any number of guests on custom tours, there is no minimum or maximum number.

Q. Do I need to check in my luggage?

A. All wheeled cabin bags, large bags, backpacks and suitcases will be checked into our Luggage Carriage. Please pack a small bag with everything you'll need for the day. To check in your luggage, simply attach luggage labels to your bags, drop them off at the Luggage Carriage, retain the label stub for reference, and collect your bags from the Carriage at your destination.

Q. What is the baggage allowance?

A. Luggage allowances for Scenic Class and Scenic Plus passengers include: 1 large checked bag, 1 cabin bag, 1 small bag or handbag, and 1 small infant bag (if applicable). Scenic Plus passengers have an additional large checked bag allowance. All bags have specific weight and volume restrictions.

Q. Can I come if I'm vision impaired?

A. If you are visually impaired and need assistance, then our staff are trained and happy to help you get on board and enjoy the journey.

Q. Can I come if I'm hearing impaired?

A. All our scenic train carriages are fitted with hearing loops. To activate your built-in transformer, select the 'T' switch on the hearing aid. The hearing loop will boost the PA sound levels within the carriages.

Q. How much walking is required?

A. As long as you're comfortable walking for up to 15 minutes, you should be well-prepared for our tours.

Q. What is the standard of accommodation?

A. Depending on a tour, accommodation varies between 3.5 star to 5 star hotels.

Q. Do I have to pay more if I want a room to myself?

A. All our tour bookings are based on shared twin accommodation. If you prefer a private room, a single supplement will apply..

Q. Can you book pre or post tour accommodation for me?

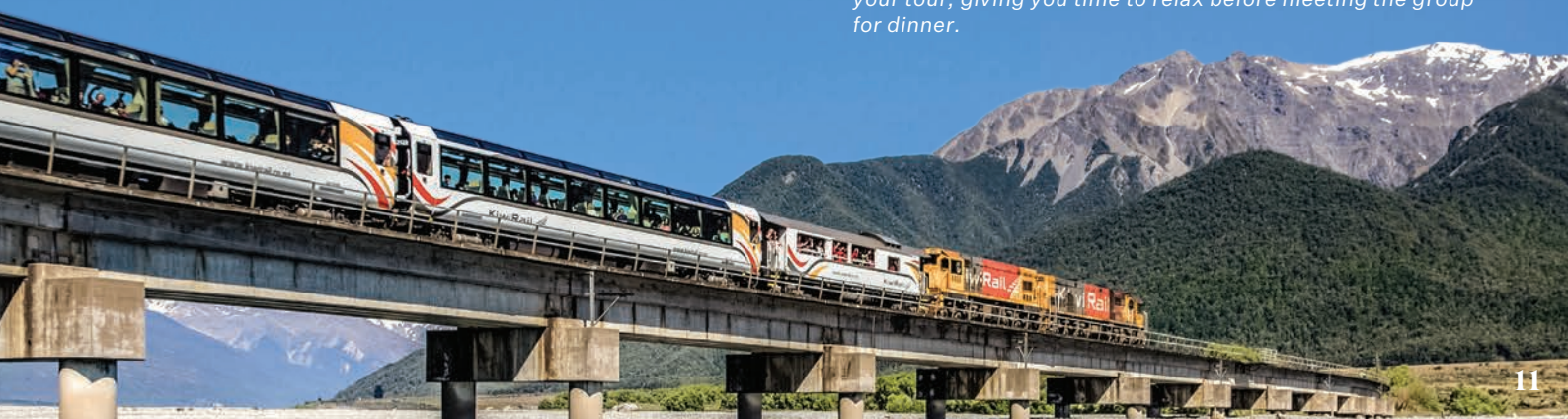
A. Please talk to our helpful team directly about booking pre or post-accommodation. Just reach out to our team via travelcentre@greatjourneysnz.com.

Q. Are arrival and departure transfers included on tour?

A. Arrival transfer is not included in the tour, but can be booked at an additional cost. Departure transfer is included in Signature tours only.

Q. What time should I arrive on the first day of tour?

A. We recommend arriving in the afternoon of the first day of your tour, giving you time to relax before meeting the group for dinner.





CONTACT US

Talk to us today to help bringing your
vision to reality



travelcentre@greatjourneysnz.com



0800 872 467
(+64 4 495 0775 International)

or speak to our trade team