

## 10 Day New Zealand Rail Adventure: Includes Flights!

Auckland - Wellington - Christchurch

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From **\$2,799** Typically \$3,199 ✈️ pp Twin Share

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Return economy airfares to Auckland and Christchurch

9 Nights of quality accommodation

Experience 3 iconic New Zealand rail journeys

Marvel at the beautiful Marlborough Sounds from the Interislander Ferry

2022 & 2023 dates available now!

## Description

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Combining three of New Zealand's greatest rail journeys in one package, with ample free time to enjoy the urban delights of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, this is the trip you've been waiting for. Journey through Tongariro National Park aboard the Northern Explorer train, skirt the Pacific Coast between Christchurch and Picton aboard the Coastal Pacific, feel like you've arrived in Middle Earth on the TranzAlpine train through the Canterbury Plains - and more! A scenic crossing aboard the Interislander Ferry is sure to be another highlight.

Sound like your kind of adventure? Don't miss out - get in touch today.

## Itinerary

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### Day 1

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#### Arrive Auckland

Arrive Auckland and catch a taxi to your hotel for the next 3 nights.

Accommodation: Grand Central Service Apartments

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### Day 2

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#### Auckland

Explore Auckland, the harbour city, at leisure. Auckland, based around 2 large harbours, is a major city in the north of New Zealand's North Island. In the centre, the iconic Sky Tower has views of Viaduct Harbour, which is full of superyachts and lined with bars and cafes. Auckland Domain, the city's oldest park, is based around an extinct volcano and home to the formal Wintergardens. Near Downtown, Mission Bay Beach has a seaside promenade.

Accommodation: Grand Central Service Apartments

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### Day 3

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#### Auckland

Free Day

Accommodation: Grand Central Service Apartments

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### Day 4

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#### Auckland Northern Explorer Train Journey - Wellington

Today make your own way to Auckland Train Station for a 7.45am departure onboard the famous Northern Explorer train. New Zealand's longest running passenger service, the Northern Explorer is a long distance scenic train service running between Auckland and Wellington, stopping at Palmerston North, Ohakune, National Park and Hamilton.

The journey through Tongariro National Park, with its three spectacular volcanic mountains – Tongariro, Ngāuruhoe and Ruapehu – is a highlight, a place of extremes and surprises, where snow-blanketed fields, ancient lava flows and dense beech forests can be seen side by side. Arrive in Wellington this evening and make your own way to your centrally located Wellington accommodation.

Accommodation: Astelia Apartment Hotel or Quest on Lambton

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## Day 5

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### Wellington

Explore the capital city at leisure. Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, sits near the North Island's southernmost point on the Cook Strait. A compact city, it encompasses a waterfront promenade, sandy beaches, a working harbour and colourful timber houses on surrounding hills. From Lambton Quay, the iconic red Wellington Cable Car heads to the Wellington Botanic Gardens. Strong winds through the Cook Strait give it the nickname "Windy Wellington."

Accommodation: Astelia Apartment Hotel or Quest on Lambton

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## Day 6

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### Wellington

Free day

Accommodation: Astelia Apartment Hotel or Quest on Lambton

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## Day 7

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### Wellington Interislander Ferry - Picton - Coastal Pacific Train Journey - Christchurch

This morning check out of your hotel and make your way to the ferry terminal for your 9am departure on the Kaitaki Interislander Ferry. Connecting our North Island and South Island together since 1962, the Interislander ferry service is New Zealand's original Cook Strait ferry. Sailing between Wellington and Picton several times a day, the Interislander journey is considered one of the most beautiful ferry journeys in the world and one of New Zealand's most iconic experiences. Arrive in Picton on the north of the South Island at approximately 12.30pm where you will disembark and make your own way to the Picton Station for a 1.40pm departure on the Coastal Pacific Train Journey. The station is very close to the ferry terminal, approximately 5 minutes walk.

Climb aboard one of the most picturesque journeys on New Zealand railways, meandering along the Pacific coast between Picton and Christchurch. Upon arrival in Christchurch make your own way to your centrally located accommodation. The Coastal Pacific train takes you along rugged coastlines, across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breathtaking beauty. Explore the stunning Kaikōura Coastline, famous for its marine life and whale watching. Voyage through the vineyards of Blenheim, dripping with New Zealand's premium crop. Canter amidst the idyllic Canterbury countryside to the Garden City of Christchurch.

Travelling between Christchurch and Picton, the Coastal Pacific meanders breathtakingly close to the sea, where the roaring Pacific Ocean meets the rising Kaikōura mountains. The Coastal Pacific isn't just a scenic activity, combined with the Interislander Ferry it is the perfect way to connect between Wellington, Blenheim, Kaikōura and Christchurch.

Accommodation: Ibis Christchurch or Breakfree on Cashel Hotel



## Day 8

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### Christchurch TranzAlpine Rail Journey Christchurch

Today make your own way to Christchurch Train Station for an 8.15am departure onboard the famous TranzAlpine train. This will be a return journey finishing back in Christchurch. Experience the South Island's striking natural landscape by taking a train between Christchurch and Greymouth. Along this journey you'll see epic vistas, travel the edges of the ice-fed Waimakariri River, traverse the Southern Alps, and see miles of native beech forest.

The TranzAlpine is one of the world's great train journeys covering 223 kilometres (139 miles) each way. You'll traverse the majestic Canterbury Plains, to the backdrop of the mighty Southern Alps - the journey of a lifetime.

Return to Christchurch station in the evening and make your own way back to your centrally located accommodation.

Accommodation: Ibis Christchurch or Breakfree on Cashel Hotel

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## Day 9

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### Christchurch

Explore Christchurch at leisure. Christchurch, known for its English heritage, is located on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. Flat-bottomed punts glide on the Avon River, which meanders through the city centre. On its banks are cycling paths, the green expanse of Hagley Park and Christchurch Botanic Gardens. In 2010 and 2011, earthquakes destroyed many of the historic centre's stone-built buildings.

Accommodation: Ibis Christchurch or Breakfree on Cashel Hotel

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## Day 10

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### Depart Christchurch

Please catch a taxi Christchurch airport for your flights home. We trust you have had a wonderful time.

## Inclusions & Exclusions

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### Inclusions

- Return economy airfares to Auckland and Christchurch
  - 3 nights Grand Central Service Apartments, standard room, twin share. Or similar
  - 3 nights Astelia Apartment Hotel or Quest on Lambton, Wellington, standard room, twin share. Or similar
  - 3 nights Ibis Christchurch or Breakfree on Cashel Hotel, standard room, twin room. Or similar
  - Experience 3 iconic New Zealand rail journeys
  - Take the Northern Explorer from Auckland to Wellington through the central North Island
  - Journey between the mountains and sea aboard the Coastal Pacific train
  - Experience the South Island's striking natural landscape on the TranzAlpine train
  - Marvel at the beautiful Marlborough Sounds from the Interislander Ferry
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### Exclusions

- Travel insurance
- Travel not specified in itinerary (ie transfers to hotels, attractions etc)
- Items of a personal nature including phone calls, drinks and meals away from the group
- Tipping/Gratuities (optional)
- Items of a personal nature: ie souvenirs etc