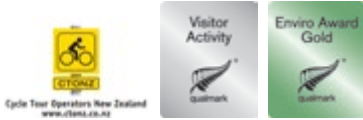


aotearoa - the natural elements



trip highlights

Visit pristine landscapes and stunning natural features of the Land of the Long White Cloud

Take in spouting geysers, bubbling thermal pools, fiords, glaciers and snow capped mountains

Meet local characters and interact with some of our unique native wildlife

Marvel at the stunning Milford Sound and Doubtful and Dusky Fiords - all aboard your floating hotel

Stretch the legs on the many optional excursions and walks

Relax onboard the spacious Oceanic Discoverer, complete with sun deck, spa pool, wireless internet, bars and lecture lounge



Trip Duration 13 days

Grade Discovery and Cruising level

Activities Cruising, Day walks

Accommodation 12 nights aboard the Oceanic Discoverer

Kia Ora from Adventure South

Thank you for your interest in the Aotearoa - The Natural Elements voyage. It's a superb adventure and we hope you can join us. Adventure South has been operating active holidays throughout New Zealand since 1992. Thanks to our experience we're confident to say that we offer the very best cycling, trekking and adventure travel itineraries available in New Zealand today. There's simply no other collection of New Zealand itineraries that can match the geographic coverage, originality and overall quality of our active New Zealand adventure holidays. We have partnered up with our great partners to run Aotearoa - The Natural Elements. They have been running cruises since 1984 - making them the longest running adventure cruise operator around! With a team of professional crew and an expedition style cruise ship you're bound to have an unforgettable experience exploring New Zealand.

We aim to explore these delicate environments in a sustainable manner to ensure we leave as little impact as possible from our visit. We'd be honoured to introduce you to the wide variety of natural wonders that New Zealand is famous for. Go forth, go south - join us on this amazing small group, value packed adventure!

why travel with Adventure South?

On one of our tours you can expect the right, proven equipment is provided for your cruise; the food is delicious, plentiful and can be catered to your dietary requests; your guides are all First Aid trained and that the itinerary you have chosen has been carefully crafted from decades of personal experience in the New Zealand wilderness, not from a guide book recommendation.

The professional crew we employ to operate our outstanding vessels and our land based support team is selected on their ability and willingness to provide all guests with exemplary service and an unforgettable environmental and leisure experience.

Our expedition-style cruise ships are large enough to provide all the comforts and facilities you would expect of larger cruise ships, yet small enough to enable us to access reef and island sites inaccessible to other vessels. With our open bridge policy and small passenger numbers, guests will participate in an environmental experience, which is both personal and memorable. The product is offered in such a way as to allow passengers the options of virtually complete immersion in an eco-tourism adventure through to basic relaxed shipboard life. Passengers are made fully aware of the possibilities offered and then progressively make their own choices as to the form of their experience.

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An unparalleled voyage along the rugged East Coast of New Zealand's North and South Island



trip dates

2011 18 Dec - 30 Dec

2012 16 Feb - 28 Feb 1
18 Dec - 30 Dec
30 Dec - 11 Jan

2013 16 Feb - 28 Feb 1

important notes

1 - Itinerary runs in reverse from Milford Sound to Auckland

trip cost

Joining Queenstown or Auckland Category B main deck: NZD\$10386 / AUD\$7990

options & supplements

Main Deck (Cat A):	NZD\$780 / AUD\$600
Promenade Deck (Cat B):	NZD\$2080 / AUD\$1600
Promenade Deck (Cat A):	NZD\$2860 / AUD\$2200
Bridge Deck:	NZD\$3640 / AUD\$2800

the trip

The pristine landscapes and stunning natural features of the New Zealand are timeless attractions. Spouting geysers, bubbling thermal pools, fiords, glaciers, snow-capped mountains, rivers and sweeping stretches of white sandy beaches enshrine the country's natural heritage; forever protected in 14 national parks. Discover the very best of both the North and South Island's pristine landscapes as you embrace the remoteness of the rugged eastern coast line from the comfort of your expedition vessel, large enough to provide the safety and convenience of bigger ships yet with just 72 passengers is small enough to enable access to sites beyond the reach of larger vessels. Daily excursions are aboard the specially designed excursion vessel 'Xplorer', and a fleet of inflatable Zodiacs, allowing you to stretch your legs and explore remote and iconic destinations such as the Mercury Islands, White Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, the art deco city of Napier, Dusky Fiord, Doubtful Sound and much more.

about your leader

When you join us not only will you discover the scenic beauty of New Zealand, you will also gain a comprehensive appreciation for the cultures and history of the region. All of our expeditions are lead by an experienced Expedition Leader, accompanied by expert Guest Lecturers, all selected for their knowledge and experience in fields including New Zealand and Maori history, flora and fauna and anthropology. Join the Guest Lecturers aboard Xplorer as we travel ashore to discover historic villages and natural wonders and enjoy informative presentations providing even greater insight into the 'Land of the Long White Cloud'. And, in key locations we will be joined by expert local guides, ensuring that your New Zealand cruise experience is truly memorable.

at a glance

DAY 1	QUEENSTOWN AND MILFORD SOUND
DAY 2	DOUBTFUL AND DUSKY SOUNDS
DAY 3	STEWART ISLAND WILDERNESS
DAY 4	DISCOVER DUNEDIN
DAY 5	EXPLORE AKAROA
DAY 6	KAIKOURA WHALE WATCHING
DAY 7	MARLBOROUGH SOUND
DAY 8	COOK STRAIT COASTAL CRUISE
DAY 9	ART DECO NAPIER
DAY 10	GISBORNE AND MAORI CULTURE
DAY 11	WHITE ISLAND VOLCANO
DAY 12	MERCURY ISLANDS
DAY 13	AUCKLAND 'CITY OF SAILS'

additional deposits required

To secure your place on this voyage a deposit of 10% of your berth cost is required upon booking. Please refer to our terms and conditions for the booking conditions related to this voyage.

what's included

- All meals during the cruise. Breakfast and lunch are served the Dining Room located on the Main Deck and are buffet-style while dinner is table d'hote. Meal times will be advised in the onboard daily bulletins.
- Comfortable cabin accommodation on cruise



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- Accommodation charges on board
- Captains Welcome and Farewell cocktails
- Services of expedition staff and guest lecturers
- Onboard activities including including lectures, briefings, slide/film presentations, and other group activities
- Group transfers during the cruise
- 24 hour tea/coffee station
- Post mixed soft drinks on board
- Complimentary coach transfer to or from Queenstown
- Port taxes and port charges

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Queenstown and Milford Sound

This morning join the chartered coach in Queenstown for the scenic drive along the shores of beautiful Lake Te Anau before entering World Heritage-listed Fiordland National Park. Enjoy breathtaking alpine scenery and pass through the remarkable Homer Tunnel before emerging to unforgettable views of Milford Sound's towering Mitre Peak. After boarding Oceanic Discoverer at 2:00pm we cruise the 22 kilometres of Milford Sound, the calm waters mirroring the sheer peaks that rise all around. This evening meet your fellow travellers, the Captain and his crew at our Welcome Cocktails.

meals: D

DAY 2 Doubtful and Dusky Sounds

Awaken this morning to the stunning scenery of Doubtful Sound. The deepest of the sounds, Doubtful was named by Captain Cook in 1770 and is often described as Fiordland's most spectacular waterway. Our Guest Lecturer will detail the fiord's unique flora and fauna, including Bottlenose and Dusky dolphins. Later, enjoy a late afternoon cruise through rarely visited Dusky Sound.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Stewart Island Wilderness

Discover the natural delights and scenic beauty of Stewart Island, New Zealand's third largest and southern-most island. Landing ashore at Paterson Inlet, join a nature walk through the wilderness to encounter native birds including the Weka, Karikari and New Zealand's shy national bird, the Kiwi. Unlike other species of Kiwis, the Stewart Island Kiwi is active both during the day and night, and is often seen foraging on the beach for sandhoppers and other insects.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Discover Dunedin

The Otago Harbour welcomes us as we pass the world's largest mainland Albatross colony at Tairoa Heads. Of Scottish heritage, Dunedin offers a great diversity of experiences, from the historic Edwardian and Victorian architecture and the Otakou Maori Marae to Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Settlers Museum and New Zealand's oldest botanical gardens. Enjoy a full day to explore ashore at your own pace.

meals: B,L,D

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fast facts

Countries Visited:

New Zealand

Visas:

No

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Leader:

Expert local leader

Brochure Reference:

Adventure South

responsible travel

We all have a responsibility to minimise the impact we have on the environment and communities we visit when we travel.

Since our beginnings this has been a cornerstone of our company. Our cruise is an eco-cruise. It is a unique, intimate environmental experience incorporating soft adventure and expedition-style encounters. The size of our cruise ships allows us to offer the most intimate and educational of encounters in the most environmentally sensitive ways possible.

Being responsible when we travel isn't about a single process or project but rather a way of thinking and then doing.

We started this journey many years ago, and acknowledge we still have a lot to learn. We invite you to join us!

DAY 5 Explore Akaroa

Cruise into secluded Akaroa Harbour, a very scenic village nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano. Stroll through the village, discovering its French history, cosy cafes and excellent craft stores. Enjoy optional shore excursions, perhaps swim with one of the smallest and rarest dolphins - the Hector's or New Zealand Dolphin.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Kaikoura Whale Watching

The scenic coastal town of Kaikoura is renowned as possibly the world's best destination for whale watching and one of the few places in the world where it is possible to view the giant Sperm Whale in its natural environment. We join a special cruise to discover these majestic mammals along with Fur Seals, Dolphins and other migratory whales, an experience never to be forgotten.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Marlborough Sound

Our arrival to the blue-green waters of breathtaking Marlborough Sound is highlighted by a cruise through the scenic Tory Channel. Retracing the history of Captain Cook we visit the impressive monument at Ships Cove, commemorating Cook's regular visits to the region during his voyages of discovery aboard Endeavour between 1770 and 1777. Later, join a guided visit to Motuara Island where we enjoy a nature walk.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Cook Strait Coastal Cruise

Enjoy a day of leisure at sea as we cross Cook Strait, separating New Zealand's North and South islands. Take in the scenic North Island coast, read or join informative presentations in preparation of our visit to Whangara - a small Maori settlement, and Gisborne which was the location of the first European landing.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 Art Deco Napier

In 1931 a devastating earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale virtually destroyed Napier. The city's rebuild followed the flourishing art deco trend in America and Europe at that time, and offers a wonderful heritage of art deco architecture. Enjoy the day exploring the sights of the city. Perhaps stroll Marine Parade, the city's delightful seaside boulevard which retains its air of an old-fashioned English seaside resort, complete with a pebble beach.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 10 Gisborne and Maori Culture

It was in Gisborne on 9 October 1769 that Captain Cook became the first European to make landfall in New Zealand. Whether your interest is history, the region's renowned wines and vineyards, or walks in beautiful gardens, Gisborne offers a multitude of guided or self-discovery options. Later, we land at Whangara Beach for an evening of Maori culture including a traditional welcome, a Kapa Haka cultural show and a tour of the Marae.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 11 White Island Volcano

Following breakfast we embark on a unique excursion to explore White Island's active volcano, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. Travelling ashore aboard Xplorer, join the Expedition Leader on a guided walk to the crater.

meals: B,L,D



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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote areas and other countries do not expect the standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may need to be altered as a result. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 12 Mercury Islands

Join our experienced Guest Lecturer and Expedition Leader as we search and explore the beaches and caves in the remote Mercury Islands. This evening savour the Captain's Farewell Cocktails as we enjoy our last evening amongst the beautiful islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 13 Auckland 'City of Sails'

Awaken to breathtaking views of Auckland, the 'City of Sails' as we cruise into the city's world-famous harbour. Farewell new friends before disembarking at 8:00am.

Auckland to Milford Sound, reverse itinerary, boarding Auckland at approximately 5:00pm for a 6:00pm departure. Arrive in Milford Sound at approximately 8:00am on Day 13. A coach transfer from Milford Sound to Queenstown is available.

The itinerary is an indication of the destinations we visit and activities on offer. Whilst every effort will be made to follow the itinerary we do reserve the right to vary this itinerary to make allowances for weather, tidal conditions and any other event that may affect the operation of the vessel.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Stretching North to South for over 2000 km, and split into two main island - the North and the South Islands - New Zealand is a country of diverse landforms. From the Pacific Island beaches and rolling farmlands in the north, to the volcanic plateau and then onto the soaring mountains within view of the sea in the south, and the sub-Antarctic islands that dot the South Island coastline, the contrasts are many.

The South Island is the 12th largest island in the world. The west coast is dominated by the Southern Alps, which contain more mountains than the European Alps altogether, and home to New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook (3754m / 12,316 ft). The Main Divide, the chain of peaks that forms the backbone of the Alps from Arthurs Pass to Fiordland, splits the South island into east and west. Several ice ages, and the fact that two continental plates are sliding past each other forming the Southern Alps, means that the scenery is as rugged as the New Zealand fauna and flora is unique. The largest city in the South Island is Christchurch.

The North Island is the smaller of the two main islands of New Zealand. Its northern location means it enjoys a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and is much more vastly populated. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes. The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Auckland, also known as the 'City of Sails', is the Capital City of New Zealand and found on the North Island.

With a population of 4.0 million people, the wilderness areas of New Zealand are many as most 'Kiwis' now live in an urban situation near the coast. The Maori are the indigenous people of the land and they named it Aotearoa 'Land of the Long White Cloud' upon their arrival 1000 years ago. Europeans settled in the early 1800s and the country is alive today with a market driven economy and a blend of European and Asia/Pacific influences to create a buoyant South Pacific culture.

climate

As a general rule, November to April are the most ideal months for travelling in New Zealand's stunning outdoors.

One of the most important thing travellers need to know about the New Zealand climate is that it's a maritime climate, as opposed to the continental climate typical of larger

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landmasses. Thanks to its position in the path of the 'Roaring 40s' and mountainous terrain, New Zealand's weather can frequently change with amazing rapidity.

The temperature during the South Island summers range from 10-30 °C, with a pleasant 40-50% humidity. Higher altitudes are always considerably cooler and snowfall is not uncommon even in summer. The Southern Alps act as a barrier to the moisture laden winds coming west across the Tasman Sea, creating a wet climate on the west side of the mountains and a dry climate on the east side. The geography also creates a wind pattern, which can in summer be very hot, dry and fierce. Maximum temperatures we may encounter range up to 30°C. Minimum temperatures expected in the Southern Alps in Summer time are around -5°C. Weather is an integral facet of any mountain range and getting to understand and work with this major environmental factor is what will distinguish you from the others.

The North Island features a warmer, more temperate climate than much of the South Island, and the northern areas of the North Island enjoys a sub-tropical climate.

accommodation on the trip

Onboard accommodation comprises 36 spacious, elegantly appointed modern staterooms. You can select from Bridge, Promenade or Main Deck staterooms offering a choice of twin through to junior king-size doubles. All staterooms have an ocean view, en-suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage, individual air-conditioning control, and are serviced daily.

Onboard Facilities

What you would expect of a much larger cruise ship:

Large sundeck

Spa Pool

Internet booth

Comprehensive reference library

Phone and fax facilities

Lecture lounge with large plasma screen

Limited laundry facilities

Two fully stocked cocktail bars

Gift Shop and Dive Shop

Air-conditioned public areas

Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with latest technology Active Stabilisers and carries the latest in safety and navigational equipment and is the only Australian passenger ship registered with full SOLAS compliance allowing opportunities to explore a multitude of international voyages.

what's not included

- Travel Insurance
- Tipping (completely optional)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel to and from start/end point of trip
- Personal items such as telephone, internet, facsimile charges, laundry, bar charges
- Optional shore excursions in Dunedin, Napier, Akaroa, Gisborne and Stewart Island. Optional shore excursions are booked on board the ship.

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point. Adventure South can custom design an itinerary for groups of friends, clubs, charities, schools

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or even work colleagues. Our team can assist you with all aspects of your private group to ensure the trip is tailored just right for your group. Contact our team today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the new and exciting trip releases, special offers plus more please subscribe to our free e-newsletter at www.advsouth.com. Or why not view past travellers images and join in on the conversation at [facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ](https://www.facebook.com/AdventureSouthNZ)

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. A popular reason to travel with Adventure South is because of our small group sizes. These can fill quickly so it is important to check your availability well in advance. We always need to ensure other services, like train tickets or accommodations, are also available before we can confirm your place on our tours. To ensure we can assist you onto your New Zealand adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book an Adventure South holiday, you can book directly online (<http://www.advsouth.com/booking.aspx>) or you will need to complete a booking form (found at the back of our brochure). You can also download a copy from www.advsouth.com . On completion, please fax or post the form to Adventure South or your nearest World Expeditions office, along with your non-refundable deposit. If you're coming from outside New Zealand call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation. If you're unsure what would be the best option for you call us NZ free phone 0800 00 11 66, AUS free phone 1800 10 70 60, USA free phone 1866 479 9827 anywhere else +64 3 942 1222 or email us on guide@advsouth.co.nz