

from **\$3,065**



Stunning lakes and snowcapped Southern Alps

16 Day Panorama

"We joined Kirra as a family of 5 ages from 50 years to 81 years. Three of our family had never been to New Zealand. They leave with glowing reports. Thankyou Kirra. Sue and J will be back. See you in 2 years"

Tour A59 – Aug 06

Day 1 – Auckland/Bay of Islands

Your tour departs from Rydges Auckland Hotel, Federal Street, City at 7.30am. Cross Auckland's distinctive Harbour Bridge to drive north along the Hibiscus Coast, through Kawakawa to Paihia in the Bay of Islands. Here we meet our local **Maori guide**, a descendant of the original settlers to the region, who will provide a comprehensive insight and history of the Bay of Islands before a visit to New Zealand's birthplace, **Waitangi**. A self guided tour through the famous Treaty House, the Maori Meeting House and giant war canoe all set in spectacular grounds overlooking the bay. This afternoon enjoy a **launch cruise** on the Bay crossing the areas world renowned game fishing grounds to the Cape Brett Lighthouse and famous **"Hole in the Rock"**. Return through the inner islands with their beautiful sandy beaches, sparkling waters and marine life. *Hotel Paihia (2 nights)*

Day 2 – Bay of Islands

A day free for you to relax and enjoy the many optional activities available. Your Coach Captain will happily assist with details. A full day Tour to Cape Reinga, New Zealand's northern most point and Ninety Mile Beach or explore historic Russell, New Zealand's first settlement and visit its original Church, Mission House and Museum.

Day 3 – Bay of Islands/Rotorua

South through the city of Whangarei to Warkworth passing the satellite tracking station. Auckland and its majestic harbour soon comes into view and a tour will visit the summit of **Skytower**, at 328m the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere for panoramic views across the city and its two harbours, the Domain, the central city area, the Waterfront Drive with its numerous yacht marinas and nearby residential suburbs. Cross the Bombay

Hills to the lush farmlands of the Waikato noted for its horse studs, and the bush clad Mamaku Ranges to Rotorua. *Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (2 nights)*

Day 4 – Rotorua

A sightseeing tour visits the **Agrodome** to see a display featuring New Zealand's various sheep breeds and sheep shearing, **Rainbow Springs** to see rainbow and brown trout and native birds including the Kiwi. The spectacular **Skyline Gondola** offers superb views over city, lake and mountains and for a little excitement try a **Luge ride** with our compliments. There will be time this afternoon for optional activities. This evening enjoy a **Maori hangi** (meal) with traditionally prepared meats and vegetables plus conventional dishes and followed by a **concert** featuring Maori songs, chants and the stirring haka (entire group).

Day 5 – Rotorua/Taupo/Napier/Hastings

Visit **Te Puia**, the Maori Arts and Crafts Centre and Thermal Reserve with its boiling mud, silica terraces and Pohutu Geyser. Skirt some of the worlds largest pine forest to Wairakei where natural steam is harnessed to generate electricity, view the **Huka Falls** where the Waikato River pours through a narrow chasm and pause at Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand. Continue across the Central Plateau to the Hawkes Bay region and Napier, claimed to be the world's art deco capital. A city tour will encompass the Marine Parade and foreshore area plus many of the city's art deco buildings. A visit to the **Hawkes Bay Museum** is included. A few minutes drive to Hastings, the fruit bowl of New Zealand. *Angus Hotel (1 night)*

Day 6 – Hastings/Wellington

Orchards and vineyards give way to lush farmlands as you pass through Hastings then to Dannevirke and Woodville for an early afternoon arrival in the

Capital city Wellington. A **city tour** includes the summit of Mount Victoria for views over the city and its Harbour, the Houses of Parliament and distinctive "Beehive", Wellington Cathedral, the central city and business area and Oriental Bay. Also explore the city yourself. Don't miss **Te Papa**, the "Museum of New Zealand" or take a ride on the famous Cable Car. *Bay Plaza Hotel (1 night)*

Day 7 – Wellington/Picton/Blenheim

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. In Picton, you are welcomed by your South Island Coach Captain. Explore Picton then drive to Blenheim for an afternoon's sightseeing and a visit to the **Montana Winery** for a complimentary tasting and **afternoon tea**. *Blenheim Country Hotel (1 night)*

Day 8 – Blenheim/Kaikoura/Christchurch

Past Lake Grassmere then follow the coastline to Kaikoura, an area noted for whale watching. Over the Hundalee Ranges and onto the Canterbury Plains to the Garden City of Christchurch. Visit the **International Antarctic Centre** before a city tour highlighting a strong English influence. See the parklands and River Avon before boarding the **Tourist Tram** for a circuit of the city centre which showcases all the main points of interest. *Pavilions Hotel (1 night)*

Day 9 – Christchurch/Mt Cook/Omarama

Cross the broad Canterbury Plains with the Southern Alps to the west. Enter the foothills near Geraldine to the barren MacKenzie Country. View the Church of the Good Shepherd dedicated to the early pioneers of the region and the Collie Dog memorial overlooking the milky blue waters of Lake Tekapo.

Relaxing at Mt Cook



Lakefront, Queenstown





TSS Earnslaw on Lake Wakatipu



Pohutu Geyser, Rotorua



Maori Culture, Rotorua

Time for a spectacular flight over the Southern Alps, lakes and glaciers with Air Safaris (optional). Visit Mt Cook National Park, with time to enjoy the scenic majesty of New Zealand's highest snow capped peaks before travelling around Lake Pukaki to Twizel and Omarama.

Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)

Day 10 – Omarama/Dunedin

Pass large hydro lakes as you travel down the Waitaki Valley to Oamaru and Dunedin – the "Scottish" city. An early arrival allows the choice of excellent optional activities. Combine a Monarch harbour cruise or Newton's Citibus tour to see the albatross, penguins and seals. Enjoy the historic and scenic Taieri Gorge train excursion or explore the city only a few minutes walk away. This evening prior to Dinner you will be treated to a traditional **Scottish Haggis Ceremony**, complete with piper, address to the Haggis and gift.

Cargills Hotel (1 night)

Day 11 – Dunedin/Lake Manapouri/Te Anau

Visit historic **Olveston House**, then cross rich farmlands to the agricultural towns of Gore and Lumsden. Visit Lake Manapouri with its rugged bushclad mountains before arriving at the shores of Lake Te Anau.

Fiordland National Park Hotel (2 nights)

Day 12 – Milford Sound Day Trip

A highlight of any tour. Follow the Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys where the beech forests reach to the roads edge and snow capped peaks tower above. Descend into the Cleddau Canyon to Milford Sound, dominated by Mitre Peak. A **launch cruise** takes you to the open sea and shows such highlights as the Bowen and Stirling Falls. Time to relax and appreciate your surroundings. Walk into the

rainforest to visit The Chasm a spectacular waterfall then pause at the Homer Tunnel. If conditions permit, your Coach Captain may make a short drive into the Lower Hollyford Valley. Return to Te Anau.

Day 13 – Te Anau/Queenstown

Cruise across Lake Te Anau to explore the underground world of rushing water and drift beneath the luminous shimmer of thousands of **glow-worms**, an unforgettable sight. This afternoon drive north to Kingston and around the shores of Lake Wakatipu to picturesque Queenstown. This evening, cruise across the lake aboard the steamship TSS Earnslaw for dinner in the Colonel's Homestead at **Walter Peak High Country Farm**.

Rydges Hotel (2 nights)

Day 14 – Queenstown

A 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 Shoter Jet Boat ride, take a Gondola to the Skyline high above, a tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon or for the adventurous – white water rafting. Alternatively browse in the many shops and galleries.

Day 15 – Queenstown/Haast Pass/Fox Glacier

Pass picturesque Lake Hayes on to an area steeped in fascinating history relating to early settlement and the goldmining era, to Lake Wanaka, a picture postcard resort on the lakes edge with a spectacular mountain backdrop. Pass Lake Hawea and the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka to Makarora into Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks. Drive north along the coast to the glacier region. Explore the township or take the optional guided walk to the glacier's terminal face.

Fox Glacier Hotel (1 night)

Day 16 – Fox Glacier/Christchurch

Time for an optional helicopter flight over the glaciers then north to Greymouth to visit a **Greenstone (Jade) factory** to see craftsmen cutting and polishing giant boulders to create fine jewellery. Cross the Otira Gorge and Arthurs Pass to the Canterbury Plains and into Christchurch. Your tour concludes at approximately 5.00pm.

TRANZ ALPINE OPTION
 Join the world famous Tranz Alpine train for a journey through the Southern Alps.
 Ask Kirra Tours for details. See note on page 5.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON	COST
01 May 2007 to 30 Sep 2007	\$3,065
01 Oct 2007 to 30 Apr 2008	\$3,615
01 May 2008 to 30 Sep 2008	\$3,165
Breakfast (15) Supplement add	\$255
Dinner (13) Supplement add	\$390
Single Room Supplement add	\$955
Tranz Alpine Train Option add	\$145

TOUR	START WED	FINISH THU
A45	02 May 07	17 May 07
A46	09 May 07	24 May 07
A47	16 May 07	31 May 07
A48	23 May 07	07 Jun 07
A49	30 May 07	14 Jun 07
A50	13 Jun 07	28 Jun 07
A51	20 Jun 07	05 Jul 07
A52	27 Jun 07	12 Jul 07
A53	04 Jul 07	19 Jul 07
A54	18 Jul 07	02 Aug 07
A55	25 Jul 07	09 Aug 07
A56	01 Aug 07	16 Aug 07
A57	08 Aug 07	23 Aug 07
A59	22 Aug 07	06 Sep 07
A10	29 Aug 07	13 Sep 07
A11	05 Sep 07	20 Sep 07
A112	10 Sep 07	25 Sep 07 (1)
A12	12 Sep 07	27 Sep 07
A13	19 Sep 07	04 Oct 07
A132	24 Sep 07	09 Oct 07 (1)
A14	26 Sep 07	11 Oct 07
A142	01 Oct 07	16 Oct 07 (1)
A15	03 Oct 07	18 Oct 07
A16	10 Oct 07	25 Oct 07
A17	17 Oct 07	01 Nov 07
A18	24 Oct 07	08 Nov 07
A182	29 Oct 07	13 Nov 07 (1)
A19	31 Oct 07	15 Nov 07
A20	07 Nov 07	22 Nov 07
A202	12 Nov 07	27 Nov 07 (1)
A21	14 Nov 07	29 Nov 07
A22	21 Nov 07	06 Dec 07
A222	26 Nov 07	11 Dec 07 (1)
A23	28 Nov 07	13 Dec 07
A24	05 Dec 07	20 Dec 07
A25	12 Dec 07	27 Dec 07
A252	17 Dec 07	01 Jan 08 (1)
A26	19 Dec 07	03 Jan 08
A262	24 Dec 07	08 Jan 08 (1)
A27	26 Dec 07	10 Jan 08

A28	02 Jan 08	17 Jan 08
A29	09 Jan 08	24 Jan 08
A30	16 Jan 08	31 Jan 08
A302	21 Jan 08	05 Feb 08 (1)
A31	23 Jan 08	07 Feb 08
A312	28 Jan 08	12 Feb 08 (1)
A32	30 Jan 08	14 Feb 08
A322	04 Feb 08	19 Feb 08 (1)
A33	06 Feb 08	21 Feb 08
A332	11 Feb 08	26 Feb 08 (1)
A34	13 Feb 08	28 Feb 08
A342	18 Feb 08	04 Mar 08 (1)
A35	20 Feb 08	06 Mar 08
A352	25 Feb 08	11 Mar 08 (1)
A36	27 Feb 08	13 Mar 08
A362	03 Mar 08	18 Mar 08 (1)
A37	05 Mar 08	20 Mar 08
A38	12 Mar 08	27 Mar 08
A39	19 Mar 08	03 Apr 08
A392	24 Mar 08	08 Apr 08 (1)
A40	26 Mar 08	10 Apr 08
A402	31 Mar 08	15 Apr 08 (1)
A41	02 Apr 08	17 Apr 08
A412	07 Apr 08	22 Apr 08 (1)
A42	09 Apr 08	24 Apr 08
A43	16 Apr 08	01 May 08
A432	21 Apr 08	06 May 08 (1)
A44	23 Apr 08	08 May 08
A45	30 Apr 08	15 May 08
A452	05 May 08	20 May 08 (1)
A46	07 May 08	22 May 08
A47	14 May 08	29 May 08
A48	21 May 08	05 Jun 08
A49	28 May 08	12 Jun 08
A50	04 Jun 08	19 Jun 08
A51	11 Jun 08	26 Jun 08
A53	25 Jun 08	10 Jul 08
A55	09 Jul 08	24 Jul 08
A57	23 Jul 08	07 Aug 08
A58	30 Jul 08	14 Aug 08
A60	13 Aug 08	28 Aug 08
A62	27 Aug 08	11 Sep 08
A11	03 Sep 08	18 Sep 08
A12	10 Sep 08	25 Sep 08
A122	15 Sep 08	30 Sep 08
A13	17 Sep 08	02 Oct 08
A132	22 Sep 08	07 Oct 08 (1)
A14	24 Sep 08	09 Oct 08
A142	29 Sep 08	14 Oct 08 (1)

(1) Start Monday Finish Tuesday



Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu