



CRITERION
travel

THE BEST OF
NEW ZEALAND
by Sea



Queenstown to Auckland
Aboard the 140-Passenger *Heritage Adventurer*
FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 10, 2027



Champagne Pool in Rotorua

JOIN CRITERION TRAVEL on a special journey to New Zealand during one of its best seasons. Late summer to early autumn brings warm weather, clear skies, and a relaxed pace that makes exploring easy. The program begins with an overnight stay in Queenstown, where mountain landscapes and a strong outdoor culture set the tone for the days ahead.

From there, board the Kiwi-owned and -operated *Heritage Adventurer* for a nine-night voyage from Fiordland National Park to Auckland. The ship's design and full Zodiac fleet provide access to remote shorelines, wildlife habitats, and sheltered waterways across the North, South, and Stewart Islands.

Throughout the cruise, travelers can choose from a variety of excursions that emphasize New Zealand's defining features. Options include visiting glacial fiords, observing geothermal activity, learning about Māori heritage, and walking through native forests home to rare bird species. The program is supported by expert study leaders who offer lectures and informal discussions that add context to the landscapes and communities encountered along the way.

Optional extensions in Queenstown and in Auckland with the Bay of Islands are available for those who wish to continue exploring. Space is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.



REGISTER FOR THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND BY SEA
SCAN CODE TO REGISTER ON MOBILE



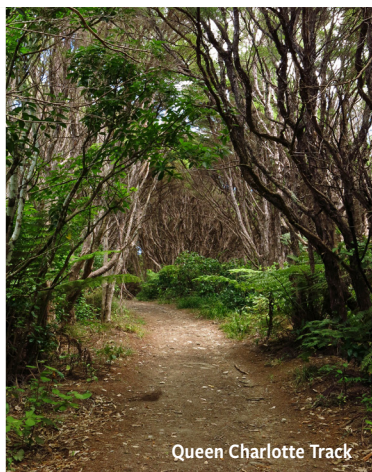
New Zealand fern



Tairaroa Head in Dunedin



Royal Albatross



Queen Charlotte Track



Māori warrior carving

Highlights

EXPLORE Milford, Doubtful, and Dusky Sounds—Fiordland National Park’s most iconic, unspoiled, and storied landscapes—over two full days

ACCESS remote Stewart and Ulva Islands for guided walks through Te Wharawhara sanctuary and a warm welcome in the village of Oban

OBSERVE some of the world’s rarest wildlife in their natural settings, including the Royal Albatross

CHOOSE from excursions tailored to all interests in Wellington, Dunedin, and Christchurch

MARVEL at sheer cliffs punctuated by crashing waterfalls, and native species on naturalist-led Zodiac expeditions

GO ASHORE in beautiful Marlborough Sound for a walk on the Queen Charlotte Track, one of New Zealand’s 10 Great Walks

EXPERIENCE a private Māori welcome ceremony, including tribal dances, and see bubbling thermal mud pools near Rotorua

DISCOVER New Zealand’s horticultural riches, including Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush in Wellington, New Zealand’s only public botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants

Throughout the program, experts from co-sponsoring organizations such as the American Horticultural Society, Commonwealth Club World Affairs, Harvard Alumni Travel, Williams Alumni Travel Study, and Yale Alumni Academy will be giving lectures.



Auckland

Itinerary

THURSDAY–SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 25–27

HOME / QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Depart home on overnight flights to Queenstown, located on New Zealand's South Island. Lose one day crossing the international date line, arriving on February 27. Transfer to the Millenium Hotel Queenstown and take some time to unwind. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome orientation and a relaxed reception.

MILLENIUM HOTEL QUEENSTOWN (R)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BLUFF / EMBARKATION

Travel by motorcoach for the approximately three-and-a-half-hour drive to Bluff, stopping en route for lunch before embarking the *Heritage Adventurer*. Gather on deck for cocktails before sailing toward Fiordland National Park, followed by the captain's welcome reception and dinner.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,R,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 1

FJORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Begin your exploration of Fiordland National Park with a full day of Zodiac excursions and guided walks in the remote Doubtful and Dusky Sounds. Take in the dramatic scenery of towering cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and lush native forests. Lecture #1 offers insights into the region's natural and cultural history. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

FJORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Continue your journey through Fiordland with a focus on the iconic Milford Sound. Cruise its glacial waters beneath the impressive Mitre Peak and enjoy opportunities for photography. Lecture #2 provides further context on the area's unique ecology and history. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

STEWART ISLAND

Spend the day exploring seldom-visited Stewart and Ulva Islands by Zodiac, a paradise for birdwatchers. Enjoy guided walks through Ulva Island's Te Wharawhara Sanctuary with local naturalists and explore the 400-person village of Oban on Stewart Island. The late afternoon is spent at sea, accompanied by Lecture #3. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

DUNEDIN

In Dunedin, choose to visit the Tuhura Otago Museum's Southern Land/Southern people gallery, the city's Botanic Garden, a nationally recognized six-star Garden of International Significance with over 6,800 plant species, or observe Royal Albatrosses in their natural habitat at Taiaroa Head. Your day will end back on the ship with Lecture #4. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

LYTTLETON / CHRISTCHURCH

Anchor in Lyttelton and travel by motor coach into Christchurch to experience the city's revitalized central district—including the innovative Cardboard Cathedral. Or choose to visit Ohinetani Gardens, another six-star Garden of International Significance, renowned for its "living gallery" of over two dozen modern sculptures by New Zealand artists. There will be time today to explore more of this culturally rich city and get lunch at your own pace. The day will end back on the ship with Lecture #5.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

The morning begins with Lecture #6, followed by a Zodiac excursion to Ship Cove. Choose from a variety of hike options along New Zealand's renowned Queen Charlotte Track, keeping an eye out for rare native birds. Arrive in Wellington in the early evening. Guests may opt for



Kiwi—National bird of New Zealand



Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum

a post-dinner Twilight Tour at Zealandia to observe nocturnal wildlife, at additional cost, or enjoy an evening exploring the city's vibrant nightlife. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

WELLINGTON

Take part in a guided walking tour of Wellington, along with optional visits to the celebrated Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum or Otari-Wilton's Bush,

New Zealand's only public botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 8

AT SEA

Spend the day at leisure on board, enjoying the ship's amenities and participating in the educational program with Lectures #7 and #8. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

TAURANGA (ROTORUA)

Disembark in Tauranga and drive to Rotorua, the cultural heartland

of the Māori people. Meet local tribal leaders, visit geothermal mud pools, and enjoy a traditional hangi lunch. Return to the ship for the Captain's Farewell reception and dinner. Meals are served on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,R,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

AUCKLAND / HOME

Disembark in Auckland and transfer to the airport for your flights home or choose to extend your stay in the city for further exploration. (B)



Central Otago



Waitangi Treaty Grounds—Bay of Islands

FEBRUARY 23–27, 2027

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION TO QUEENSTOWN

Fly into Queenstown two days early for the opportunity to explore the dramatic landscapes of Central Otago. Experience Queenstown's Gardens and take in the views from atop Bob's Peak on a guided tour of town, taste wines from the world's southernmost winemaking region, and experience a jet boat ride through a national park before the main program commences.

MILLENNIUM HOTEL QUEENSTOWN (2B, 2L, R)

MARCH 10–12, 2027

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION TO BAY OF ISLANDS

Embark on a scenic drive north from Auckland, with stops at Omaio Garden and the Hundertwasser Art Centre. Arrive at the charming coastal town of Paihia, your base for two nights. Explore the enchanting Bay of Islands on a picturesque boat cruise and take a private tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a place of great historical and cultural significance.

SCENIC HOTEL BAY OF ISLANDS (2B, 2L, D)

For more information, call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089 or email res@critteriontravel.com



Observation Deck



Superior Cabin



Heritage Suite

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

One hotel night and ten nights aboard *Heritage Adventurer* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eleven breakfasts, nine lunches, ten dinners and three receptions • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners • Filtered water for water bottles on motorcoaches • WiFi • Professional tour managers throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754 or by email at tourflights@vwti.com. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Shore excursions range from a half-day to all day, with the balance of the time spent onboard cruising to the next destination. Many days will begin with a lecture from one of our study leaders, or we may hold a lecture at the end of an afternoon of touring, prior to dinner. Travel on land will be by air-conditioned motorcoaches, with most drives no more

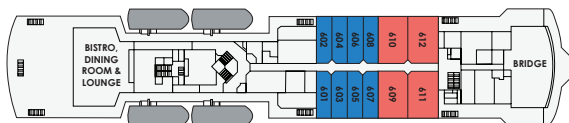
HERITAGE ADVENTURER

Originally built as the *MS Hanseatic*, one of the most acclaimed expedition ships of its era, the *Heritage Adventurer* now welcomes just 140 guests, ensuring uncommon space, comfort, and advantages such as faster disembarkations and reduced single supplements. Owned and operated by Heritage Expeditions, a Kiwi-owned pioneer in remote travel since 1985, the *Heritage Adventurer* boasts a fleet of 14 Zodiacs that maximizes time ashore or on the water. The ship's 90 well-appointed cabins offer separate living and sleeping areas, king or twin beds, ample storage, a writing desk, and modern ensuite bathrooms. Public spaces include two panoramic lounges, a 360-degree Observation Deck, and both a gourmet restaurant and an indoor and outdoor bistro. Amenities span a heated saltwater pool, a glass-enclosed hot tub, a sauna, a steam room, a gym, and a spa.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	DECK 3 STANDARD CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; two portholes	\$10,990	\$13,490
2	DECK 4 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$12,990	\$15,490
3	DECK 5 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$13,990	\$16,490
4	DECK 6 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$14,990	————
5	DECK 6 HERITAGE SUITE 475 sq ft; king bed; double windows	\$19,990	————

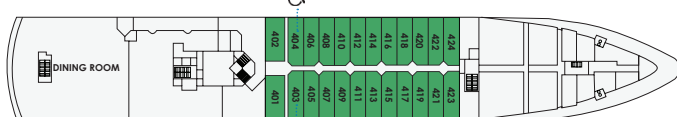
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



than an hour each way. There is one longer bus ride of about three and a half hours when traveling from Queenstown to Bluff to embark the ship, with a stop en route. During the cruise there will be excursions by Zodiacs, which require the ability to step from the ship to the Zodiac and back again in open water (the ship's crew will be there to assist you). Walking tours can be as long as two hours, covering one to two miles, and will range from walks in town to a few nature walks over uneven, sometimes muddy trails with inclines and declines. In many locations, you will be able to choose between a shorter or a longer, more strenuous option. This promises to be a memorable journey, but as with all travel, a flexible attitude, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to explore new areas will enhance your enjoyment of this program. You do not have to participate in all scheduled activities, except when traveling to the next destination. We are sure you will be pleased with the exciting educational program provided, but we want you to be aware of the pace and activity level.

GROUP SIZE

This program welcomes up to 128 participants, including travelers from Criterion Travel, and co-sponsoring organizations such as the American Horticultural Society, Cornell's Adult University, the Commonwealth Club World Affairs, Harvard Alumni Travel, Williams Alumni Travel Study, and Yale Alumni Academy.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

INSURANCE

Insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To register, please visit the booking website listed above the reservation form or email Criterion Travel at: res@critteriontravel.com. You may also complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Final payment deadline is October 28, 2026. For those who register after October 28, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the October 28, 2026, final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. If a study leader or lecturer is unable to participate, no refund will be made, but Criterion Travel will make every effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications. NOTE: Criterion Travel, the tour operator, does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, we reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation will be the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS

DREAMSTIME.COM Cover Milford Sound © Atosan; New Zealand fern © Nmint; **Back cover** Heritage Adventurer; Champagne Pool in Rotorua © Gracesongs; © New Zealand fern Phillip Bartlett; Tairaroa Head in Dunedin © Info33754; Royal Albatross © Andreanita; Queen Charlotte Track © Perreten; Māori warrior carving © Anupong Intawong; Auckland © (null) (null); Kiwi—National bird of New Zealand © Flowal93; Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum © Dudlajoz; Central Otago © Mnolet; Waitangi Treaty Grounds—Bay of Islands © Ruth Lawton

CRITERION
travel

THE BEST OF
NEW ZEALAND
by Sea



REGISTER FOR THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND BY SEA
SCAN CODE TO REGISTER ON MOBILE

For more information or to request a reservation by email: res@critteriontravel.com. You may also complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Please charge \$1,000 per person to my credit card (circle one)

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXPIRATION DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Criterion Travel, to reserve _____ place(s) on *The Best of New Zealand by Sea*.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations. (*limited availability*) or I plan to share accommodations with:

or I'd like to know about roommates
I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of October 28, 2026 I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin Category Preference:

1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed) One bed Two beds

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

THE BEST OF
NEW ZEALAND
by Sea



Queenstown to Auckland
Aboard the 140-Passenger *Heritage Adventurer*
FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 10, 2027

CRITERION
travel

4250 SW Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005

criteriontravel.com