

the great **new zealand** raitour

departs **friday 5 september 2008**
for 22 days

This relaxing and scenic tour will feature main-line steam on both north and south islands. Haulage will be by K class 4-8-4, New Zealand's most powerful locomotive built between 1932 and 1956, the impressive J or Ja class 4-8-2, some built in Glasgow, others in New Zealand for secondary line work and A or Ab class Pacifics built from 1915 onwards. In addition the tour visits preserved lines featuring other steam locos in action, city sightseeing, a lake cruise and much more.

Friday 5 Sept:

Afternoon departure from London Heathrow on an Air New Zealand flight via Los Angeles to Auckland

Sunday 7 Sept:

Morning arrival into Auckland where you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel, rest of the day to relax.

Monday 8 Sept: Auckland

This morning enjoy a City Tour of Auckland including a visit to the Museum of Technology and Transport which includes a visit to the Western Springs Steam Railway with its collection of tank locomotives, the working 2km long Vintage Tramway & Tram Museum and the Aviation Collection. This afternoon is at leisure with free time to explore the City of Sails.

Tuesday 9 Sept: Auckland - Rotorua

Depart Auckland to the excellent Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a special steam hauled train over their 12 kilometre line. Visit the restoration workshop (their collection includes a Mallet), then drive through the countryside to Longland's Dairy Farm for a tour and home cooked lunch, continue to Tauranga where we visit a Kiwi Fruit Orchard before travelling past beautiful twin lakes to the geothermal town of Rotorua.

Wednesday 10 Sept: Rotorua

Today begins at the Agrodome where we see performing sheep, a shearing display and sheep dog trial before a visit to the boiling Mud Pools and the awesome Geysers that Rotorua is so famous for. This evening we will experience the Maori culture with an entertaining Hangi and Concert.

Thursday 11 Sept: Rotorua - Taupo - Palmerston North

After a gondola ride to Skyline Restaurant for a buffet breakfast and spectacular views depart Rotorua and travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Wairakei Park, visiting the Volcanic Activity Centre and Huka Falls before continuing to Lake Taupo. Travel along the "Desert Road" with spectacular views of the still active Tongariro volcanoes then to Taihape to board the steam hauled train for the run through the Rangitikei Valley and on to Palmerston North for overnight stay.

Friday 12 Sept: Palmerston North - Wellington

Board the steam train to view the pastoral countryside of the Manawatu and then head inland over the freight only line through the beautiful Manawatu Gorge and Wairarapa region. After a short visit to the Pahiatua Railcar Museum continue behind steam to Featherston for a tour of the Fell Engine Museum containing the only Fell engine left in the world. Continue by steam train through the scenic Rimutaka ranges to arrive at New Zealand's capital city, Wellington.

Saturday 13 Sept: Wellington

A full morning of sightseeing in Wellington including a trip on the famous funicular, Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. The afternoon is at leisure for freelance exploration or, subject to sufficient numbers, a visit to the Silverstream Railway (6 steam locos, diesels and an electric) and the Wellington Tramway Museum.



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Sunday 14 Sept: Wellington - Christchurch

Take the Interislander Ferry for a cruise across the Cook Strait then through Marlborough Sound to Picton on the South Island, continue by Tranz Coastal train for a spectacular journey through vineyards, salt mountains and river valleys then along the coast below the Kaikoura Mountains to the garden city of Christchurch.

Monday 15 Sept: Christchurch

Morning sightseeing tour featuring the International Antarctic Centre, a penguin encounter and the Air Force Museum with the afternoon at leisure. Included is a day pass for a vintage tram ride on the Christchurch Tramway that makes a circular tour of the city and its sights.

Tuesday 16 Sept: Christchurch – Ashburton -

Omarama

Steam haulage from Christchurch across the Canterbury Plains to Ashburton for a visit to the Plains Railway and Pioneer Village for a look at their locomotives ranging from a Ja class to a beautifully restored 125 year-old America Rogers locomotive, a diesel railcar plus tractor and fire engine museum and restored shops. Continue in the afternoon by road via Tekapo to Omarama. Subject to weather there is an optional scenic flight over the Southern Alps and Mt. Cook (payable locally).

Wednesday 17 Sept: Omarama – Oamaru -

Dunedin

By road to Oamaru, known as the “whitestone city” with its magnificent limestone buildings. After lunch reboard the steam train for a ride along the dramatic coastal line from North Otago to the “Scottish” city of Dunedin. This evening join in the “Haggis Ceremony”.

Thursday 18 Sept: Dunedin – Taieri Gorge

Travel by road along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle, the Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens before boarding the Taieri Gorge Train for a 77km ride through deep gorges, high ravines and stunning views only accessible by rail. Impressive iron viaducts, stone bridges and tunnels are a feature of this superb route.

Friday 19 Sept: Dunedin – Te Anau

Visit the Otago Settlers Museum which also has a rail and road oriented section including a Double-Fairlie. Travel by way of Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau.

Saturday 20 Sept: Milford Sound

Drive into Milford Sound for a cruise (picnic lunch included) as we marvel at the sheer cliffs and waterfalls of this magnificent fjord. Return to Te Anau with some free time before an evening optional visit to the Glow Worm Caves.

Sunday 21 Sept: Te Anau – Queenstown

A leisurely start to the day before travelling to Fairlight to board the “Kingston Flyer”. Hauled by an Ab class Pacific to Kingston. A Champagne Barbecue lunch will be served before continuing by road via the old gold mining village of Arrowtown to Queenstown. This evening enjoy a cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the 1912-built steamboat “TSS Earnshaw” to Walter Peak Station for dinner in the Colonel’s Homestead. Return by boat to Queenstown.

Monday 22 Sept: Queenstown

A relaxing free day with a variety of sightseeing options available (payable locally).

Tuesday 23 Sept: Queenstown – Franz Josef

Travel via Haast Pass to the West Coast then by way of the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps north to Fox Glacier. Weather permitting there will be an optional scenic flight over the spectacular glaciers (payable locally).

Wednesday 24 Sept: Franz Josef – Christchurch

By road via Hokitika, famous for its “greenstone” jade, to Arthur’s Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps. Here board the steam train for one of the great railway journeys of the world – the Tranz Alpine. The carriages have open balconies to maximise viewing and photo opportunities as the train traverses the mountains, viaducts and through tunnels to arrive at Christchurch. Special evening farewell dinner.

Thurs 25 Sept:

Most of the day at leisure before an early evening flight to Auckland connecting onwards via Los Angeles to London Heathrow arriving 14.35 on Friday 26 September.

The Tour Cost Includes:

- Flights from London Heathrow to Auckland, returning from Christchurch
- All rail travel as outlined including steam train rides
- Coach and ferry travel as outlined
- 18 nights hotel accommodation in 3-4 star accommodation
- 19 breakfasts
- 16 dinners
- 6 lunches
- Various morning/afternoon teas
- Entry to all attractions outlined
- City tours in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin
- Airport/hotel transfers at Auckland and Christchurch
- Services of coach/train manager



TOUR COST:	£4350.00
Single room supplement:	£625.00
“Land only” cost Auckland to Christchurch:	£3500.00
Insurance:	£65.00
Deposit:	£500.00 per person

new zealand