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Exploring New Zealand

Including Singapore & San Francisco

25 days: 31 Meals, 21 breakfasts: 2 lunches: 9 Dinners

20th February 16th March 2010

Day 1: Overnight Flight Day

Day 2: Arrive Singapore Tour Begins

Your tour begins in Singapore. After arriving at your centrally located hotel, the afternoon is at your leisure before a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers.

Today dinner will be included.

Day 3: Singapore

This morning, depart on a city tour of Singapore. Discover the history, culture and lifestyle of multi-racial Singapore. Stroll along the colourful streets of Little India and be dazzled by the hive of activity that permeates every nook and cranny of the area. Stop in the "Colonial" heart of Singapore where you will take a short stroll to view the Merlion from next to the Esplanade theatre. Visit the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore, the magnificent Sri Mariamman Temple, before your last stop, the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The 'green lung' of Singapore's city centre, here you can experience the calm and serenity of this 52 acre garden. Located within the grounds of the park is the National Orchid Garden, where you can marvel at the wide variety and colours of orchids on display.

Today breakfast will be included.



Day 4: Singapore Depart for New Zealand

You have a day at leisure in Singapore to explore this great destination. Enjoy time at leisure before heading to the airport for your overnight flight to New Zealand.

**This tour is operated by Collette Worldwide Holidays Atol No.
4832**

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 5: Auckland, New Zealand Tour Begins

Arrive from Singapore to Auckland, the “City of Sails”, consistently rated one of the best places in the world to live. Auckland has the highest Polynesian population in the world, imbuing the vibrant cultures from many Pacific Islands into its chic atmosphere. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner.

Today dinner will be included.



Day 6: Auckland Bay of Islands

Get to know the best of Auckland during a panoramic city tour featuring America’s Cup Village, vibrant Queen Street, the Auckland Harbour Bridge, and spectacular views from the top of Mt. Eden, one of 53 dormant volcanoes throughout the area. Later, leave the city and travel north to the Bay of Islands, your home for the next two nights. This Maritime region boasts more than 144 islands, warm bays, a colourful history and abundant marine life.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 7: Bay of Islands

Begin your day with a cruise through the bay’s famous Hole in the Rock and view the Cape Brett Lighthouse, which stands nearly 500 feet above sea level at the edge of the Cape Brett Peninsula. This afternoon, visit the Waitangi National Trust & Treaty House. It was on these lush grounds that Maori and British leaders signed the 1844 treaty establishing New Zealand’s nationhood. The rest of the day is yours to explore Paihia – the quaint town known as “the jewel of the Bay of Islands” – at leisure.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 8: Bay of Islands Rotorua

Today you’ll head to the dramatic geo-thermal landscape of Rotorua. One-third of Rotorua’s population has Maori roots dating back to their arrival in New Zealand over 1,000 years ago, making this city a thriving cultural centre. Make yourself right at home this evening when a New Zealand family welcomes you into their home for dinner and a home stay*! This is to sure to be an unforgettable experience as you make new friends, learn about the customs of the “Kiwi’s” and enjoy a home-cooked meal.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Tonight you will experience a traditional Maori welcome and Hangi meal followed by an authentic evening of Mairo entertainment

Day 9: Rotorua

Say *Kia ora* - “hello” – when you visit Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, a living Maori village set amidst geysers, hot springs and bubbling mud pools. Watch craftsmen at work; participate in creating traditional Maori dress and weaving, and see the Kiwi bird. New Zealand’s farming traditions are illuminated with a visit to the Agrodome, where you will see a sheep-shearing demonstration. Meet the skill carvers who work with pounamu, a New Zealand jade, at a local factory.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.



Day 10: Rotorua Wellington

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Journey south through the rolling countryside of the North Island, dotted with white sheep grazing, making your way to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 11: Wellington

During your panoramic sightseeing tour of Wellington, view the Beehive, New Zealand's Parliament, historic St. Paul's Church, and the government building – the largest wooden building in the Southern Hemisphere. Following the tour you will visit the Te Papa Tongawera Museum, a fascinating centre dedicated to art, history and the Maori culture.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 12: Wellington - Picton - Christchurch

Climb aboard a ferry and sail across Cook Strait to experience what *Wine Spectator* called “the most beautiful ferry ride in the world”. Arrive in Picton, on the South Island. Discover why the Marlborough region is one of the world's best wine regions when you tour a local winery. Later, arrive in picturesque Christchurch, situated on the Avon River and considered “the most English city outside of England”. A sightseeing tour features the Neo-Gothic Cathedral, the downtown park district, and stunning Victorian-style buildings.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 13: Christchurch - Franz Josef Glacier Region

All aboard! The Trans Alpine train whisks you away on a journey past farmlands, through the deep gorges of the Waimakariri River valley and into the rugged snowcapped mountains of the Southern Alps, as you wind your way to New Zealand's spectacular west coast. Arrive in the breathtaking Franz Josef Glacier Region this evening. There is nowhere else in the world where you will find glaciers in such close proximity to temperate climates.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.



Day 14: Franz Josef - Queenstown

Enjoy a picture stop of the famous Franz Josef glacier before leaving the South Island's lush west coast. Take in the stunning scenery as you pass through rainforest surrounded by the Southern Alps. You'll enjoy beautiful ocean vistas as you travel the twisting coastline. This picturesque route is comprised of one lane bridges, green glacial lakes, thundering waterfalls and dramatic landscape changes. After crossing the Haast Pass, arrive in Queenstown, one of New Zealand's most gorgeous towns. Enjoy a memorable dinner at the Skyline Restaurant overlooking Queenstown, the remarkable mountains and Lake Wakatipu.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 15: Queenstown

This morning travel to historic Arrowtown, a gold rush town set on the picturesque Arrow River. More than 60 restored buildings date back to the 19th century in this town lined with boutiques and cafes. Stroll along Main Street where you'll discover a wealth of New Zealand handicrafts. This afternoon, venture into New Zealand's largest underground wine cave for a tasting at an award-winning wine producer in the Central Otago region. This charming boutique winery houses a stunning selection of fine wines to quench your palate. This unforgettable experience is followed by lunch at the winery's fabulous restaurant. Later, return to Queenstown and enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure.

Today breakfast and lunch will be included.

Day 16: Queenstown

Today is yours to discover Queenstown at your leisure. Set amidst spectacular scenery, Queenstown is not only an adventure centre, but offers excellent shopping and dining. Perhaps you'll opt to take off for “Middle Earth” and experience the “Safari of the Rings” adventure, exploring the scenery where Tolkien's beloved stories were brought to life in the film trilogy.

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Today breakfast will be included.

Day 17: Queenstown - Milford Sound - Te Anau

Your ride to Milford Sound is lined with unforgettable beauty, taking you through beech forest into Hollyford Valley's rugged grandeur and through the Homer Tunnel. Arriving at mesmerizing Milford Sound, sail away on a leisurely cruise that brings you through the deep fjord, surrounded by sheer mountains rising almost six thousand feet from the water's surface. Enjoy an overnight on the southern shores of Lake Te Anau, the largest lake on the South Island.

Today breakfast and lunch will be included.

Day 18: Te Anau - Mt. Cook Region

The Maori word for Mt. Cook is *Aoraki*, which means "cloud piercer". Journey through New Zealand's unspoiled wilderness and arrive at Mt. Cook National Park, where permanent ice fields and glaciers blanket the ragged peaks. This is where New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary honed his mountaineering skills before attempting Everest. Explore the park up-close during a nature walk. Maybe you'll choose to partake in an optional flightseeing tour (weather permitting) to witness breathtaking aerial views of Mt. Cook and the glaciers.

Today breakfast and dinner will be served.



Day 19: Mt. Cook - Christchurch

Travel back to Christchurch this morning and visit a family farm in Canterbury. See the workings of the farm including a sheep shearing demonstration, herding, and learn firsthand how this New Zealand family farm operates. The remainder of the day is yours to explore this quaint city, named for the college at Oxford University, and exuding a decidedly English feel. Stroll through the gardens, wander through the shops or simply relax.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 20: Christchurch

Spend your day at leisure in beautiful Christchurch. Tonight, celebrate the amazing sights you have seen and the new friendships forged as you dine in a restored mansion - once the homestead of the first family to settle in Christchurch.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 21: Christchurch - San Francisco

Your tour ends today in Christchurch. You will depart for a flight to San Francisco and arrive on the same day as you take off!!

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 22: San Francisco

A local guide showcases the popular landmarks of San Francisco, including the Twin Peaks, the Golden Gate Bridge, Lombard Street and Chinatown. Later, enjoy some leisure time to explore Fisherman's Wharf where you may sample cracked crab and the renowned French sourdough bread. Shop in lively Union Square or visit Ghirardelli Square, once the site of one of the largest producers of chocolate in the country. For a true local experience, ride the famed cable cars up and down San Francisco's thrilling hills as you sightsee.

Today breakfast will be included.



Day 23: San Francisco

The day is yours to do as you please. Do some last minute shopping, further explore Union Square or Fisherman's Wharf or perhaps partake in an optional excursion to picturesque Napa Valley* where you will enjoy the beauty of this region as well as a couple of wine tastings. With over 260 wineries, it is the most famous wine-growing region in the country.

Today breakfast will be included.

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Day 24: San Francisco Tour Ends

Your tour ends, leaving you with many pleasant memories of San Francisco.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 25: Arrive back in the UK

Return with some great memories of this spectacular holiday.

Tour costs from: £4481.00 per person

Single room supplement: £992.00 per person

Deposit: £300.00 per person