



# NEW ZEALAND ISLAND CRUISING

2017/18

## ADVENTURE CRUISES

7-night cruises – Bay of Islands or Milford Sound Fiordland National Park



Here is an opportunity to explore New Zealand in the same way as you can on the small luxury cruise boats and barges of France. The *'Island Passage'* is a beautifully appointed small ship with a stunning interior. Built and equipped to travel to inaccessible areas, she offers the highest level of passenger comfort with 12 spacious ensuite cabins, a large dining room/saloon lounge, a library, and generous outdoor living spaces.

The *Island Passage* carries a landing craft, three large tenders, sea kayaks, a five-seat helicopter, fishing and snorkeling equipment; for those looking for less strenuous activities, lazing in a deckchair is always an acceptable option. During each journey, our ten-person crew is on hand to share their knowledge of the ocean and local landscapes. For those interested in fishing, several levels are available during the cruises to suit everyone from the novice to the more experienced angler.

In the galley, our two chefs work with the freshest local ingredients and delicacies to create memorable meals that reflect the day's adventures. The ship accommodates a maximum of 24 passengers, and departures are subject to a minimum number of 10 passengers.

**Costs per person from:** All prices shown in New Zealand Dollars – contact us for the Australian dollar rate

**BAY OF ISLANDS:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Castaway Cabin:** Main Deck, Queen/Twin beds NZ\$4950  
Single occupancy supplement on request

**Hideaway Suite:** Promenade Deck, Queen/Twin beds NZ\$6950

**Runaway Suite:** Bridge Deck, King bed NZ\$7950

### FIORDLAND

**Northern Fiords:** 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

**Southern Fiords:** 25<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

**Castaway Cabin:** Main Deck, Queen/Twin beds NZ\$6950  
Single occupancy supplement on request

**Hideaway Suite:** Promenade Deck, Queen/Twin beds NZ\$8950

**Runaway Suite:** Bridge Deck, King bed NZ\$9950

**Included:** 7 nights in quality hotels or onboard accommodation in air-conditioned cabins with ensuite bathrooms; daily cabin cleaning; all onboard chef prepared meals; full bar onboard including wine, beer, spirits, bottled water; expedition leaders, guided small boat excursions, guided small boat sport fishing trips, use of kayaks, paddleboards, snorkel & fishing equipment; all taxes and port charges.

**Not included:** Meals & beverages taken onshore, phone/internet usage, personal expenses.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## **BAY OF ISLANDS CRUISING**

**8-days / 7-nights – Cruising amidst marlin, dolphins and legends...**

**Suggested itinerary:** (Please note itinerary is subject to change due to weather/sea conditions)

### **Day 1 Saturday**

We begin boarding the ship at 5pm at Opuia Wharf in the Bay of Islands. Once you are familiar with the ship and safety drill is completed we sail at 6pm. Sipping sparkling wine, we cruise north to Opunga Cove, a tranquil haven for yachts and launches. The cove faces west – watch the sun set from the deck.

### **Day 2 Sunday – Motuarohia-Roberton Island**

We visit beautiful Motuarohia-Roberton Island, where you can snorkel, kayak, or hike up to a historic Maori pa (hill fort) with panoramic views of the entire Bay of Islands. Later we cruise to Urupukapuka Island, the largest island in the bay, where our chef prepares a gourmet barbeque with fresh local seafood and produce.

### **Day 3 Monday – Urupukapuka Island & Deep Water Cove**

Time this morning to explore Urupukapuka Island. Perhaps go for a walk around the island, encountering historic pa sites and idyllic sandy beaches; or paddle in bays and inlets in a kayak. Fishing from a tender is also an option – maybe you'll catch dinner! Or just lounge on board with a book and regular deliveries of nibbles and cold drinks. After lunch we cruise the Albert Passage and along Cape Brett Peninsula towards Deep Water Cove, watching for gannets and dolphins. Deep Water Cove is a magical spot, with waterfall and native forest. With luck we will get the opportunity to swim with dolphins here – an unforgettable experience.

### **Day 4 Tuesday – Whangaroa Harbour**

After a sumptuous breakfast on deck, we cruise to Whangaroa Harbour, passing by stunning homes tucked into remote bays and beaches. The harbour was formed when rising sea levels drowned a river valley 6000 years ago. Steep outcrops remain from ancient volcanoes forming unique and spectacular scenery. After sunset tonight it's time for the Captain's dinner.

### **Day 5 Wednesday – Mangonui**

We cruise after breakfast, once everyone is settled into their favourite spots, and by late morning we anchor off the historic village of Mangonui. The village is a collection of charming 150-year-old buildings now housing cafés, art & craft shops, and the famous Mangonui Fish & Chip shop, which is worth a stop for lunch.

### **Day 6 Thursday – Cape Reinga**

After breakfast we travel by comfortable private coach to Cape Reinga, where the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean meet. From the lighthouse we can watch the currents clash together in a swell of churning waves. Cape Reinga is spiritually significant to the Maori as the place where the spirits of the Maori dead leave the mainland to return to their ancestral homeland of Hawaiki. On the way back to the ship we travel on Ninety Mile Beach, a state highway (actually only 55 miles but that's another story). In 1932 the beach was a runway for early air mail services between Australia and New Zealand. We return to the ship in Waitangi.

### **Day 7 Friday – Kerikeri and Russell**

We travel to Kerikeri inlet to collect fresh green-lipped mussels for our barbeque lunch while the Sauvignon Blanc chills. Our chef is out to impress you once again. After lunch it's on to Russell, known in whaling times as the 'hell-hole of the Pacific' for its lawlessness. Now it's one of the more charming places we visit, and we go ashore to visit craft shops, museums, churches, and the historic Pompallier French mission house.

### **Day 8 Saturday**

On our final day, we have breakfast whilst cruising back to Opuia. Disembark at Opuia Wharf at around 8.30am for your onward travel arrangements. Opuia is about half an hour from Bay of Islands airport in Kerikeri.



## FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

8-days / 7-nights – cruising deep within the stunning World Heritage National Park

**Suggested itinerary, Northern Fiords:** *Please note itinerary is subject to change due to weather/sea conditions*

### Day 1 Sunday – Queenstown

Meet at Queenstown Airport, transfer to the Heritage Hotel, then have free time in this beautiful alpine village.

### Day 2 Monday – Queenstown / Fiordland

After a leisurely breakfast, take a private coach transfer through beautiful countryside to Lake Te Anau. If time permits, explore Te Anau or relax at the Moose Cafe. The helicopters depart from 2pm for a sensational 20-minute scenic flight that delivers you to the heli-pad of the *Island Passage* in Doubtful Sound. After settling into your cabin and meeting the crew, relax and soak up the gorgeous scenery. Dinner is served from 7pm.

### Day 3 Tuesday – Doubtful and Nancy Sounds

Wake to the tranquillity of this World Heritage National Park. After a hearty breakfast we begin with a transit of mystical Doubtful Sound. Then we move north into Nancy Sound with boat trips by our crew to explore the shoreline of these fiords along with the possibility of a crayfish gathering outing. During the day we will move the ship to Caswell Sound where we will spend the evening at anchor.

### Day 4 Wednesday – Caswell Sound

We explore further in Caswell Sound where we trace the remnants of the 1905 and 1949 US-NZ Scientific Expeditions when some 18 Wapiti deer, half of which were a gift from US President Theodore Roosevelt, were released into the area to breed with NZ deer as game. Some fishing and shore excursions are planned for this afternoon with our guide to explore this sensational region in intimate detail.

### Day 5 Thursday – George and Bligh Sounds

Tracking north we enter George Sound where we have access to the beautiful Alice waterfalls. There is the option of a hike up to the lakes above for those who are keen. Anchorage Cove is another favourite with hot water springs, or a trip up the George River mouth and a beach walk. We spend the night at the head of this fiord. On clear evenings the unpolluted sky is full of stars and the top deck is a perfect viewing platform.

### Day 6 Friday – Milford Sound

On our short sea passages we see many sea birds including species of albatross and sooty shearwaters. With luck we'll see dolphins and on rare occasions we encounter whales. We enter magnificent Milford Sound and leisurely cruise its length, stopping at waterfalls on the way. At our anchorage, subject to tides, you may have the chance to walk the first stage of the Milford Track. Our last night offers spectacular views of Milford Sound from the ship. The Captain's farewell dinner is tonight; you and fellow guests can reflect on your adventure.

### Day 7 Saturday – Te Anau / Queenstown

After a hearty breakfast, disembark at 8:30am. Our coach takes you on one of the most scenic routes in the world, Milford Sound to Te Anau, then on to Manapouri Airport. Here our aircraft is waiting for the short scenic flight back to Queenstown. By mid-afternoon you're back at the Heritage Hotel, where you stay Saturday night. The evening is free to explore Queenstown; dinner at a lakeside restaurant, a vineyard, or take the steamer across the lake to Walter Peak sheep station for dinner and get a glimpse of life in the high country.

### Day 8 Sunday – Tour ends in Queenstown

After breakfast, an optional transfer to Queenstown Airport for your onward travel.

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**Suggested itinerary, Southern Fiords:** *Please note itinerary is subject to change due to weather/sea conditions*

**Day 1 Sunday – Queenstown**

Meet at Queenstown Airport, transfer to the Heritage Hotel, then have free time in this beautiful alpine village.

**Day 2 Monday – Queenstown / Fiordland**

After breakfast, a private coach transfer through beautiful countryside to Lake Te Anau to explore Te Anau or relax at the Moose Cafe. The helicopters depart for a sensational 30-minute scenic flight returning to the heli-pad of *Island Passage* moored in Dusky Sound. After settling into your cabin and meeting the crew, relax and soak up the gorgeous scenery. Our famous welcome dinner is served from 7.00pm in the main dining room.

**Day 3 Tuesday – Dusky Sound**

We cruise through Cook Channel to Pickersgill Harbour, named by Capt. James Cook during his 6-week stay here in 1773. We go ashore at Astronomer Point. The observations made here by William Wales had New Zealand become the most accurately located place on the globe at that time. Cook's position was out by only 0.27 of a nautical mile in latitude and 11.07 nautical miles in longitude. We continue to cruise in Dusky Sound and visit the rugged Shag Islands and Luncheon Cove, the site of New Zealand's first European settlement, a sealers' camp. Luckily a population of New Zealand fur seals survived and in season can still be found here.

**Day 4 Wednesday – Dusky Sound**

The day starts with a visit to early conservationist Richard Henry's historic house site on Pigeon Island. We continue on to Facile Harbour, site of New Zealand's first known European shipwreck. We cruise through Earshell Cove and the narrow channel of Resolution Island.

**Day 5 Thursday – Breaksea Sound**

We continue to explore deep inside the fiords, venturing into Wet Jacket and Vancouver Arm. We anchor here for the night in a favourite sheltered cove in the midst of this scenic wonderland.

**Day 6 Friday – Dagg and Doubtful Sounds**

We depart Breaksea Sound for the short sea passage to Dagg Sound. Look out for a wide variety of sea birds including sooty shearwaters and several species of albatross. With luck we will see dolphins and on rare occasions even encounter whales. In the late afternoon we sail further north to Doubtful Sound. The scenery is spectacular and our overnight anchorage provides sensational views.

**Day 7 Saturday – Doubtful Sound / Queenstown**

This morning we explore beautiful Doubtful Sound and venture to Elizabeth Island before our rendezvous with the departure helicopters. The late morning flight takes us over Doubtful Sound and serene Lake Manapouri to meet the aircraft waiting in Te Anau Airport for the short flight back to Queenstown. By mid-afternoon you'll be back at the Heritage Hotel where you spend the night. The evening is yours at leisure – have dinner at a lakeside restaurant or vineyard, or perhaps take the steamer across the lake to Walter Peak sheep station for dinner, and get a glimpse of life in the high country.

**Day 8 Sunday – Tour ends in Queenstown**

After breakfast an optional transfer to Queenstown Airport for your onward travel arrangements.

Cruise holiday specialists **Outdoor Travel** offers a wide variety of active holidays in New Zealand including cycling, sea-kayaking and the famous **Milford Track** guided walk. We also offer self-skippered or hotel barge cruises on many waterways in France and in many destinations in the United Kingdom and Europe.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and to make your reservation:**

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