



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

Island World of New Zealand

A Voyage of Discovery Aboard the New 152-Guest *Minerva*

March 8 - 23, 2023



National Trust for Historic Preservation
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Dear National Trust Traveler,

We are pleased to offer this cruise to New Zealand, one of the most interesting and attractive countries in the world. This splendid 12-night voyage aboard the elegant new expedition ship *Minerva* explores the most beautiful and historically significant regions of both the North and South Islands.

Isolated for millions of years, and the last major land mass settled by humans, New Zealand features a landscape of scenic fjords, bays and sounds, soaring peaks, tumbling waterfalls, crystal-clear lakes, verdant rainforests and valleys, and inviting seashores. When adding to the great natural beauty of the country the impressive flora and fauna, much of it unique to New Zealand, rich marine life, the indigenous Maori culture, the celebrated vineyards and wines, and friendly cities, it's easy to see why travelers consider New Zealand to be such an enchanting place to visit and explore.

An island nation, New Zealand is best discovered by ship, and the cruise we are presenting aboard the new and superb expedition cruise ship *Minerva*, which accommodates no more than 152 guests, is a comprehensive exploration of the country. Starting in the attractive port town of Dunedin, on South Island, we will sail south-southwest to Fiordland National Park, famed for its astonishing fjords and majestic peaks, then to Stewart, a small pristine island renowned for its flora and fauna. Other highlights of our voyage include Akaroa, sited at the head of a sheltered bay that is surrounded by extinct volcanoes; Kaikoura, known for its abundant wildlife that includes several species of albatross and sperm whales that inhabit its shore; fabulous Marlborough Sounds, an expansive area of rugged coastlines and isolated green coves; Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, and Rotorua, with its sacred Maori culture.

Our activities include a variety of enriching experiences, including touring landmark sites, exploring by Zodiac boats, viewing the wildlife on land and at sea, visiting wineries and tasting their celebrated wines, discovering botanical gardens, and attending lectures and discussions aboard the ship that will give us a deeper understanding of New Zealand's history and contemporary scene, the Maori culture, and its fascinating animal and plant life.

Our cruise will be aboard the elegant new expedition cruise ship *Minerva*. Accommodating a maximum of 152 guests in spacious staterooms and suites, most of which feature a private balcony, and with an array of public rooms and other facilities, *Minerva* is the perfect ship for this comprehensive cruise of beautiful New Zealand.

We hope you will join us on this exploration of the country the Maori call Aotearoa, ("Land of the Long White Cloud"), which refers to the formations of clouds that helped early Polynesian mariners to find and settle the country.

Best regards,

Meg Annacone-Poretz, MTA
Director, National Trust Tours

CRUISE WITH A TEAM OF EXPERT LECTURERS

Aboard *Minerva*, you will explore New Zealand with a team of resident experts. Through talks and presentations, they will create a comprehensive understanding of the history, flora and fauna, geology, sea life and other topics that relate to the country. The experience we will provide is not just one of cruising and sightseeing, but a complete learning adventure.

Included in our team of expert lecturers are the following:

Dr. Annette Kuhlem, archaeologist who has led excavations in various places in the South Pacific.

John Robson, a resident of New Zealand and the author of several books on Captain James Cook, the British explorer and navigator, famous for his three voyages in the mid-18th century in the Pacific Ocean.

Javier Cotin, ornithologist.

Brent Alloway, geologist.

Claudio Ghiglione and **Colin Munro**, marine biologists.





ITINERARY

**Wednesday, March 8 &
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

DEPART THE US

Depart the United States, and cross the International Date Line en route to New Zealand.

Friday, March 10

DUNEDIN, New Zealand

Arrive in Dunedin, the principal port town of South Island's Otago region. Transfer to the *Distinction Dunedin Hotel*. Welcome dinner at the hotel this evening.

Meals: D

Saturday, March 11

DUNEDIN/EMBARKATION

Set along the shores of an attractive bay and backed by green hills, Dunedin is known as the "Edinburgh of New Zealand" on account of its Victorian and Edwardian architecture. Our morning tour will include the town's most notable landmark sites, its picturesque alleyways, the Otago Museum, and the Dunedin Garden. In the afternoon, board the *Minerva* and sail.

Meals: D

Sunday, March 12 & Monday, March 13

FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Spend two days exploring fantastic Fiordland National Park. Millennia of glacial activity have gifted the untamed southwest coast of New Zealand's South Island with incredible cuts into the coastline, creating an area of astonishing

fjords, known locally as "sounds." Waterfalls tumble down dense rainforest-clad cliffs dramatically, some of them over 1,500 feet. Bottlenose dolphins, fur seals, penguins and whales frequent the sounds. During our exploration of this awe-inspiring area, we will call at Dusky Sound, the park's longest fjord, a designated Important Bird Area because it's a breeding site for Fiordland penguins; Doubtful Sound, so named by Captain Cook, who explored this maze of deep waterways in 1773, its three arms famed for their scenic beauty; and Milford Sound, famed for its beauty and splendor.

Tuesday, March 14

OBAN, Stewart Island

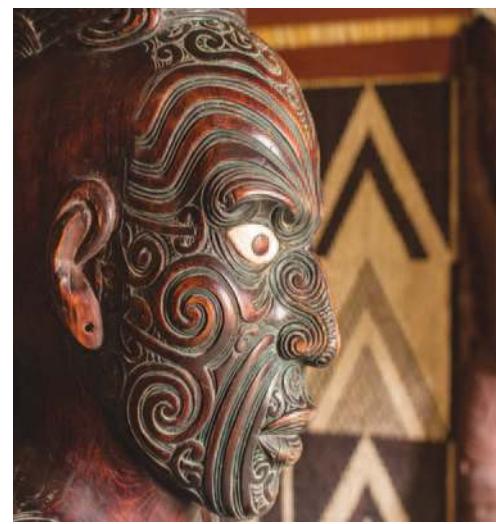
Cruise to Stewart Island, and call at Oban, the island's only town. Eighty-five percent of this small, pristine island is set aside as a national park to preserve its abundant flora and fauna that include several species of penguins, sooty shearwaters, mollymawks, kiwi birds, bellbirds, and others. Explore the island and enjoy its many hiking trails.

Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, March 15

AKAROA

Nestled at the entrance of a deep sheltered bay on Banks Peninsula and surrounded by the remnants of a volcano, picturesque Akaroa was an early French settlement, called Port Louis-Philippe. To this day, the town retains its distinctive French character and architecture. Hector's dolphins swim in the harbor. Explore



Detail of Maori carving

the pretty town, including the Akaroa Museum, which displays exhibits that chronicle the town's history, and the Giant's House, with its terraced gardens and sculptures. We will also visit the Akaroa Winery, an organic family-owned vineyard that produces high quality wines, which we will taste.

Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, March 16

KAIKOURA

Built between the rugged Seaward Kaikoura Range and the Pacific, Kaikoura is known for its abundant wildlife that includes petrels, penguins and several species of albatross, but Kaikoura is also notable for the large number of sperm whales, fur seals and dolphins that live

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL NATIONAL TRUST TOURS AT 888-484-8785 or info@nationaltrusttours.com



New Zealand is notable for its superb vineyards and wines



Typical architecture in Dunedin

permanently in the coastal waters. Visit the award-winning Kaikoura Museum and follow the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway from the center of the town to lookout points to observe the wildlife. Visit also the Lavendyl Lavender Farm and take a stroll through the fragrant lavender fields. A pleasant walk outside the town in an incredibly beautiful landscape is the Fyffe House. Dating from the 1800s, its displays tell the story of the town's whaling past.

Meals: B, L, D

Friday, March 17

PICTON & MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

From attractive Picton, spend the day exploring fabulous Marlborough Sounds, and expansive area of rugged coastline, scenic sounds, isolated coves, peninsulas and islands, located at the top of South Island. Marlborough Sounds played an important role in the history of the native Maori people, as well as in the settlement of New Zealand by Europeans. Captain Cook anchored here in 1770. Described as a collection of Pacific Ocean-drowned valleys, the sheltered inlets are perfect for kayaking, forest walking, observing wildlife, viewing incredibly beautiful scenery, and exploring quaint small towns and villages. Several superb wineries make this beautiful spot their home.

Meals: B, L, D

Saturday, March 18

WELLINGTON

The cosmopolitan capital of New Zealand, wonderful Wellington, also known as the "City of a Thousand Views," is spread between its spacious bay on the Cook Strait and

bush-covered hills. Scattered throughout the city are shaded parks and gardens, while the narrow streets of the old city are lined with historic home and elegant mansions. Explore Wellington, including the Civic Center; the extensive Botanical Gardens, with its rose beds and indigenous and exotic species; the Houses of Old Parliament; and the excellent National Museum, with its Maori Hall and other exhibits. Also, drive to the summit of Mount Victoria that provides panoramic views of the city.

Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, March 19

NAPIER

Located on Hawke Bay, Napier is celebrated for its extensive beautifully preserved art deco architecture and vibrant art scene. Explore this lovely town, including a visit to the outstanding National Aquarium of New Zealand, which showcases the rich and varied marine life that exists in this part of the country.

Meals: B, L, D

Monday, March 20

GISBORNE

Gisborne is where the navigator and explorer James Cook first landed in New Zealand (1769). But long before the arrival of Europeans, Gisborne was settled by Maori people, and today, about 50% of its population are Maori. Our exploration of Gisborne will include the Tairawhiti Museum, whose exhibits chronicle indigenous and colonial history; Te Poho-o-Rawiri, a Maori meeting house that contains ancestral carvings; and the Titirangi Reserve, with its lookouts and monument to Captain Cook. The area around

Gisborne is famed for its superb wineries, some of which we will visit and sample their wines.

Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, March 21

TAURANGA

From the vibrant port city of Tauranga, built along the shore of the Bay of Plenty, take an excursion to Rotorua. Set by a lake, Rotorua is renowned for its geothermal activity and Maori culture. Bubbling mineral springs, mud pools, and impressive geysers mark the landscape. In addition to exploring Rotorua's geological features, we will also visit the living Maori villages of Tamaki and Whakarewarewa, as well as the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute.

Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, March 22

BAY OF ISLANDS

Spend the day in the Bay of Islands, one of the most beautiful and historic areas of New Zealand, named by Captain Cook when he arrived in 1769. Until then, the area was inhabited by a large Maori population, whose dwellings lined the bay. The long coastline is fringed with beautiful coves, while 150 attractive subtropical islands are spread around the bay. Discover the wildlife and history of this magnificent region.

Meals: B, L, D

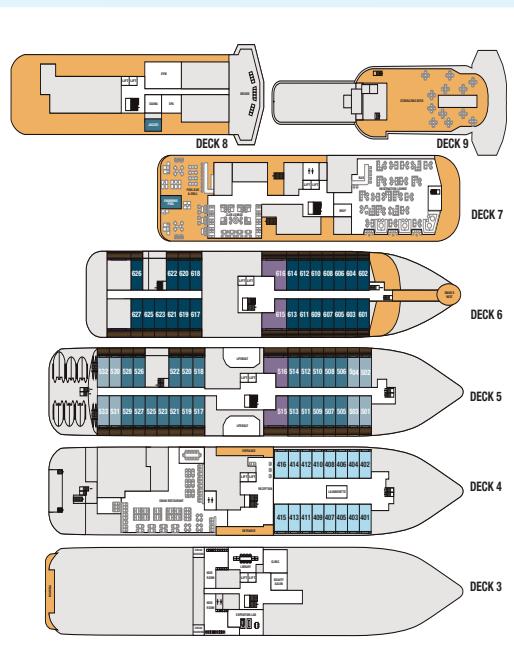
Thursday, March 23

AUCKLAND/USA

Arrive in Auckland and transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

Meals: B

THE NEW EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP MINERVA



Oceanview Stateroom

Balcony Suite

Café/Bar with swimming pool

Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Minerva* will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Minerva has been designed to meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code for ships navigating in Polar regions. Its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull, and other technical and mechanical features allow the ship to cruise the world's remote regions in safety and utmost comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines and a system of powerful batteries make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Minerva* carries a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, kayaks, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that will reveal marine life in the deep. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections as well as other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge that is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; a "mud room" with lockers for storing expedition gear; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis.

RATES

All accommodations aboard *Minerva* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a luxurious spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval portholes. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 401 - 416.	\$ 11,690
D	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501 - 504, 530 - 533.	\$ 12,890
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505 - 514, 517 - 529.	\$ 13,590
B	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601 - 614, 617 - 627.	\$ 14,090
A	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$ 15,990

SAVINGS FOR SOLO TRAVELERS

A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy at no additional charge. Additional cabins are available at a supplement of 40% of the per person double occupancy rate, instead of the normal 70% supplement.

RATES ARE ALL-INCLUSIVE

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions and embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include the following:

- One night at the *Distinction Dunedin Hotel* (or similar), with full breakfast.
- Welcome dinner at the hotel.
- 12-night cruise aboard the *Minerva*, as described in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Complete programs of tours and excursions ashore.
- Private cocktail reception aboard ship.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced trip director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Lectures by Dr. Keith Sullivan, and members of onboard team of experts.
- Complete pre departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

**FOR RESERVATIONS
AND INFORMATION,
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NATIONAL TRUST TOURS

AT 888-484-8785

Or

info@nationaltrusttours.com



Yellow Eyed Penguins

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Travel Delay, Baggage Delay, Baggage Loss, Emergency Medical and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for ANY reason at all and be reimbursed up to 70% of your pre-paid, non-refundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

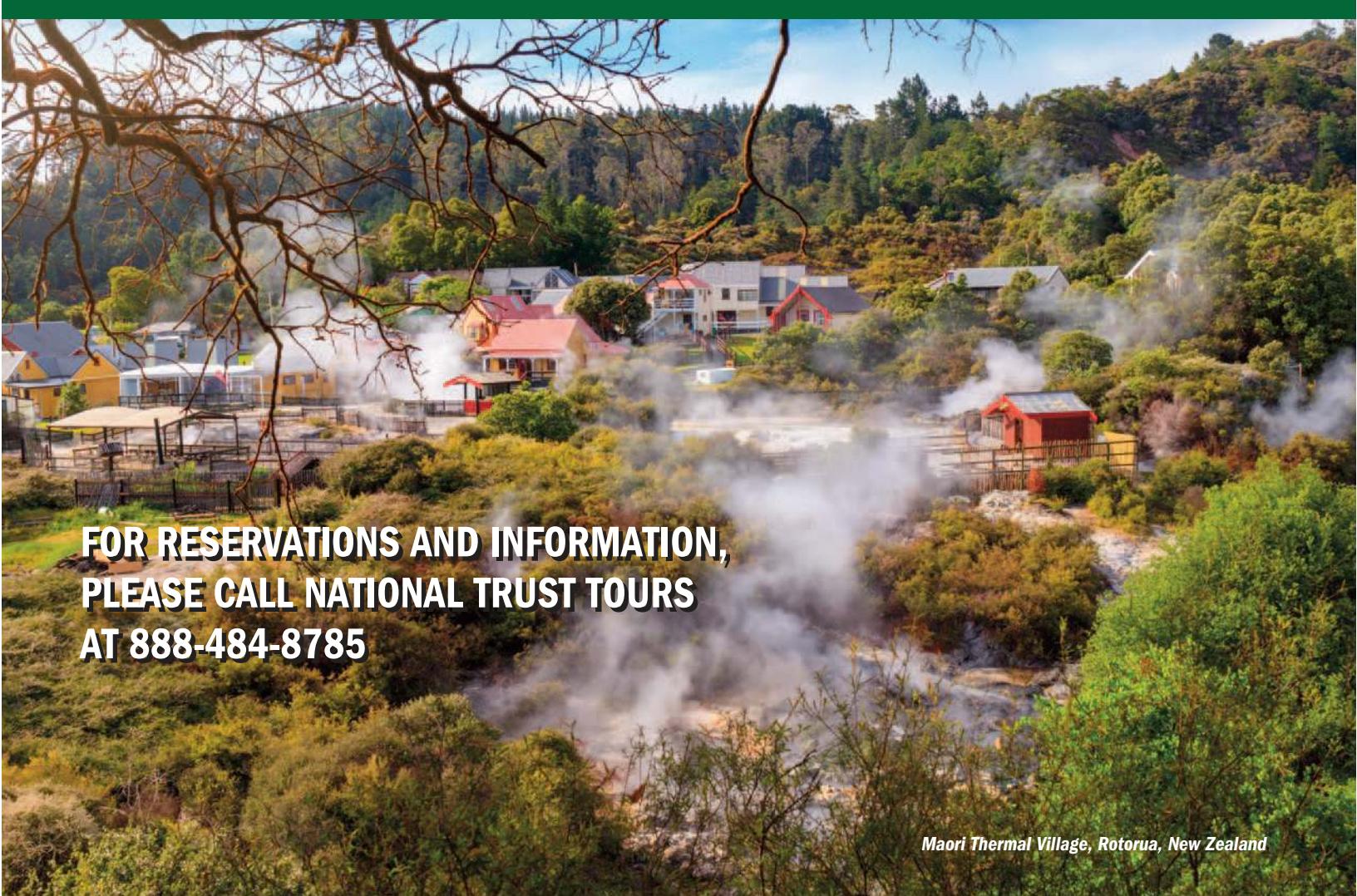
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**Explore the North and South Islands of New Zealand
on a 12-night voyage aboard
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March 8 - 23, 2023**



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