

THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND BY SEA
Queenstown to Auckland
Aboard the *Heritage Adventurer*
November 11-24, 2025
(14 days)

Discover the best of Aotearoa/New Zealand exploring its three main islands (the North Island, South Island, and Stewart Island) on this unforgettable 14-day New Zealand cruise. We have secured ideal dates in early November, springtime in New Zealand, that concludes in plenty of time to return to the U.S. for Thanksgiving. Beginning with one night in Queenstown, the country's adventure capital, followed by 10 nights cruising from Fiordland National Park to Auckland, a diverse menu of excursion options offers travelers generous access to the island nation's dramatic glacial fiords, geothermal wonders, cultural richness and untamed wilderness.

For this adventure, Criterion is chartering the *Heritage Adventurer* from **Heritage Expeditions, a Kiwi owned and operated adventure travel company** since 1985. The *Heritage Adventurer* formerly known as *MS Hanseatic*, was originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, but has since been reconfigured to **now welcome just 140 passengers**, ensuring spacious and comfortable voyages. A **full fleet of 14 Zodiacs** allows for all passengers to maximize their time to explore. Another important advantage of not filling to capacity is *Heritage Adventurer* is able to offer cabins for singles with a **significantly less single supplement**.

All cabins aboard *Heritage Adventurer*, offer living and sleeping areas with a king or two single beds, ample storage, a writing desk, and a modern ensuite bathroom. Public spaces and open decks abound, including two separate bar and lounge areas featuring 180-degree views and the open-topped Observation Deck for 360-degree views. Meals are served in the gourmet restaurant and in the indoor/outdoor bistro—both options offer plenty of seating and large picture windows. Additional amenities include an open-air saltwater pool that can be heated or chilled, a hot tub encased in glass for all-weather use, a dry-heat Finnish sauna, a European steam room, a well-equipped gym, and a spa.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Fiordland National Park over two full days with time in the iconic Milford Sound, the stunning and remote Doubtful Sound as well as the largest and most spectacular of the fiords, Dusky Sound, rich in history.
- Access seldom-visited Stewart Island to observe some of the world's rarest wildlife in their natural settings, including the Royal Albatross, and visit with Stewart Islanders who welcome you to their village in Oban.
- Customize your New Zealand experience with a menu of excursion options geared to different interests and levels of mobility in multiple ports: Wellington, Dunedin, Akaroa, and Stewart Island.
- Marvel at active geothermal pools, sheer cliffs punctuated by crashing waterfalls, and native species on naturalist-led Zodiac expeditions
- Enjoy a private visit to Pohatu, the largest Australasian Little Penguin colony on mainland New Zealand.
- Walk a section of the Queen Charlotte Track, one of New Zealand's famous trails, set in the beautiful Marlborough Sound.
- Experience a private Maori welcome ceremony, including tribal dances, and see bubbling thermal mud pools near Rotorua.
- Count on ALL-INCLUSIVE rates for your travelers – airport transfers, port charges, wine and beer with all lunches and dinners aboard ship, and ALL tips including shipboard staff.

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ITINERARY MAP



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ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Nov 11-12	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Auckland, NZ (lose one day enroute crossing int'l date line; recover on return)
Nov 13	Queenstown, NZ	Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Hotel	Arrive Queenstown and transfer to Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Hotel ideally situated in the heart of Queenstown; optional afternoon orientation tour of Queenstown including a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for views over the town. Gather for evening welcome orientation & casual reception to meet fellow travelers. R
Nov 14	Bluff	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Free morning in Queenstown for individual pursuits with lunch on own. Mid-day depart by motorcoach for the 3.5-hour drive to Bluff to embark <i>Heritage Adventurer</i> . BD
Nov 15	Milford Sound	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Morning at sea with time for lectures; afternoon in Milford Sound, cruising the iconic fiord in the shadow of Mitre Peak. Captain's welcome reception and dinner. BLD
Nov 16	Doubtful & Dusky Sounds	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Full day exploring by Zodiac and on foot, New Zealand's wildest, most remote region: Fiordland National Park. BLD
Nov 17	Stewart Island	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Zodiac ashore to seldom-visited Stewart/Ulva Islands, an ornithologists' delight. Bush walks are led by local naturalist guides. Optional ocean fishing excursion available at extra cost. BLD
Nov 18	Dunedin	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Choose to view Royal Albatrosses in their natural habitats at Taiaroa Head OR a ride the rails through spectacular Taieri River Gorge on a vintage train from Dunedin's grand Edwardian Railway Station. BLD

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Nov 19	Akaroa/ Christchurch	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Anchor in Akaroa and choose between two tours: 1) Guided walking tour of seaside village of Akaroa and visit to Banks Peninsula with private nature tour of Pohatu, the largest Australasian Little Penguin colony on mainland New Zealand; or 2) Travel to Christchurch for an overview of the city's revived central district, tour of Cardboard Cathedral, and visit to nearby Canterbury Museum and Art Gallery. BLD
Nov 20	Marlborough Sounds	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Zodiac deployment to visit Ship Cove and choose from different hike options on New Zealand's famed Queen Charlotte Track, scouting for rare native birds. Arrive Wellington early evening. Optional post-dinner evening Twilight Tour at Zealandia in search of nocturnal species (added cost) or check out the nightlife in New Zealand's capital city. BLD
Nov 21	Wellington	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Guided walking tours of Wellington of varying length and focus with possible stops including the botanic gardens, St. Paul's Church, and the renowned Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum. Free time this afternoon in town for individual pursuits. BLD
Nov 22	At Sea	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Relax on board, continue the educational program, and take advantage of the ship's many amenities. BLD
Nov 23	Tauranga (Rotorua)	<i>Heritage Adventurer</i>	Disembark in Tauranga and drive to Rotorua, rich heartland of Maori culture. Meet tribal leaders, see the bubbling mud pools, and enjoy a traditional hangi lunch. Captain's Farewell reception and dinner on board this evening. BLD
Nov 24	Auckland/Home		Disembark in Auckland and transfer to the airport for flights home or extend your stay in Auckland. B

Optional pre-trip extension to Queenstown and post-cruise extension to Auckland and the Bay of Islands will be offered.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Estimated Program Fees:

Standard Cabin Deck 3, portholes, per person sharing.....	\$9,990
Superior Cabin Deck 4, windows per person, sharing.....	\$11,990
Superior Cabin Deck 5, windows per person, sharing.....	\$12,990
Worsley Suite, Deck 6, windows per person, sharing.....	\$13,990
Heritage Suite, per person, sharing.....	\$16,990
Standard Cabin Deck 3, portholes, single occupancy.....	\$12,490
Superior Cabin Deck 5, windows per person, single occupancy.....	\$15,490

Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and subject to change.

Program Length, Capacity:

14 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 83; Maximum capacity: 128 (all sponsors) plus staff.

Fees Include:

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group transfers for all participants 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 • Criterion Tour Managers

Fees Do Not Include:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • 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