

The best of New Zealand

From **07/01/2023**
to **16/01/2023**

Ship: **LE LAPÉROUSE**

From **Lyttelton**
to **Auckland**



On this cruise, **PONANT** invites you to discover **New Zealand**, a unique destination with a multitude of natural treasures. Set sail aboard *Le Lapérouse* for a **10-day cruise** from Lyttelton to Auckland.

Le Lapérouse will first set sail to the South-West region of the South Island to discover magnificent **Fiordland National Park**, which is an integral part of Te Wahipounamu, a **UNESCO World Heritage area**. **Dusky Sound**, **Doubtful Sound** or the better-known **Milford Sound**: you will discover these fiords shaped by successive glaciations, bordered by majestic cliffs.

You will also sail to **Wellington**, the capital of New Zealand. This **ancient site of the Maori people**, as demonstrated by the Te Papa Tongarewa Museum, perfectly combines local traditions and bustling nightlife.

On the east coast of North Island, **Napier** unfolds before you, revealing its treasures in a **unique architectural style** where the sleek lines of Art Deco buildings mingle with traditional Māori patterns.

Further north, **Whakatane** is known as one of the jewels of North Island. Here, Māori culture is felt and appreciated, living on through its secular traditions and legendary ancestral sites. Among other sites, you will head for the city of **Rotorua**, famous for its **emblematic Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland**. **This is a captivating geothermic experience with impressive volcanic valleys and geysers.**

Surrounded by the blue waters of the Pacific, the twin islands of New Zealand are the promise of an incredible **mosaic of contrasting panoramas**.



The information in this document is valid as of 18/08/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

LYTTELTON

Embarkation 07/01/2023 from 15:00 to 16:00

Departure 07/01/2023 at 17:00

On the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island, Lyttelton (or Te Whaka Rauo in the Maori language) served, thanks to its proximity with Ross Island, as the **starting point for the British expeditions** in the mythical age of the South Pole explorations. It takes its name from George Lyttelton (1709-1773), aristocrat and colonial governor of South Carolina. In this colourful port town full of history, you'll be able to discover the **Time Ball**: constructed in 1876, it rang at 1.00 pm every day for 58 consecutive years to give Greenwich meridian time, enabling ship captains to set their chronometer and very precisely calculate their position.

DUNEDIN

Arrival 08/01/2023

Departure 08/01/2023

Dunedin is New Zealand's oldest city and is often referred to as the Edinburgh of New Zealand. This city of the south, wears its Scottish heritage with pride. The city contains some of the best preserved Victorian and Edwardian architecture in the Southern Hemisphere. The Silverpeaks hinterland to the North West provides a picturesque backdrop and **The Otago Peninsula**, which lies within the city boundaries, has internationally renowned wildlife reserves, including the only mainland breeding colony of Northern Royal Albatross.

DUSKY SOUND

Arrival 09/01/2023

Departure 09/01/2023

Dusky Sound is one of the most isolated fjords in **Fiordland National Park**. This huge, protected natural zone situated in the south-west quarter of New Zealand's South Island is listed as **UNESCO World Heritage**. The sheer cliffs, waterfalls, shimmering lakes and primitive forests here are each more beautiful than the next. These spectacular landscapes sculpted by successive glaciations are a source of endless wonder. In 1773, the British navigator **James Cook** spent a few weeks at Dusky Sound, as demonstrated by a plaque that can be seen at Astronomer's Point. During your sailing, observe the richness of the local wildlife: cormorants, seagulls, New Zealand fur seals, but also **Fiordland crested penguins**, a rare and endemic species. Weather and time permitting you may explore the Sound from our fleet of zodiac.

DOUBTFUL SOUND

Arrival 09/01/2023

Departure 09/01/2023

Referred to as the "Sound of Silence", there is a secluded serenity that surrounds **Doubtful Sound** in contrast with the better-known **Milford Sound**. Both are part of the **Fiordland National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Lieutenant James Cook named 'Doubtful Harbour' in 1770 as he was uncertain if it was navigable under sail. Doubtful Sound is the deepest of the fiords with a maximum depth of 421 m. It contains three distinct 'arms' and several outstanding waterfalls in the area from Deep Cove to the open ocean. Your ship will spend time navigating around Secretary Island through both Thompson and Doubtful Sounds. You will enjoy the spectacular scenery from the outer decks.

MILFORD SOUND

Arrival 10/01/2023

Departure 10/01/2023

Milford Sound fiord is among one of the most beautiful natural sites in New Zealand. So much beauty will quite simply take your breath away. Located on the south-west coast of South Island, in the **Fiordland National Park**, this sumptuous inlet carved out by glaciers advances over at least 15 kilometres inland, in the **Southern Alps**. Majestic cliffs seem to surge out of the dark waters, rising several hundred metres high: an abrupt relief from where impressive waterfalls cascade.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/01/2023

Departure 11/01/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

WELLINGTON

Arrival 12/01/2023

Departure 12/01/2023

Crowned with gentle green hills, **Wellington Harbour** is located in the far south of the North Island. This city offers a charming mix of **traditional and modern cultures**, bestowing on the New Zealand capital, a unique atmosphere, both friendly and avant-garde. Where some sites, like the large **National Te Papa Tongarewa Museum**, reflect the city's Maori past, others, like the many cafés and restaurants, affirm the inhabitants' incredible lust for life.

NAPIER

Arrival 13/01/2023
Departure 13/01/2023

On the east coast of the North Island, south of **Hawke's Bay**, you'll find **Napier**. Mostly destroyed by an earthquake in 1931, reviving from its ashes in less than two years, it grew into a magnificent **Art Deco style** city, very in-vogue at the time. With its pure lines mixed with traditional Maori designs, the singular New Zealand character of this city will intrigue you. You'll discover all this extraordinary architectural heritage as you take a stroll through the city. Famous for its vineyards, wine lovers will be able to taste some of the best **wines** from the region.

WHAKATANE

Arrival 14/01/2023
Departure 14/01/2023

Lying to the east of Tauranga, **Whakatane** stretches the entire length of the **Bay of Plenty**, protected by the outlying Matakana Island. Discovered in 1769 by James Cook, the Bay of Plenty is one of the jewels of the North Island. You can also reach the town of **Rotorua** and the unmissable **thermal wonderland of Wai-O-Tapu**, combining volcanic valleys and geysers for an exceptional geothermic experience. Boasting a strong Maori culture, Whakatane will not fail to surprise you with its history and its authenticity.

AUCKLAND

Arrival 15/01/2023
Disembarkation 16/01/2023 at 07:00

Auckland is New Zealand's largest, most populated and busiest city. Located on an isthmus linking the peninsula of Northland to the expansive North Island, it seems to float between land and sea. It is one of the few cities in the world to have two separate harbours : Manukau Harbour on the Tasman Sea and Waitemata Harbour on the Pacific Ocean. You will understand why Auckland is known as "**the City of Sails**" when you see the forest of masts in the marina. The 328 metre-high Sky Tower offers splendid views of the city. Surrounded by dormant volcanoes such as **Mt Eden**, Auckland is noted for its abundant nature and magnificent black-sand beaches. A blend of Maori, European and Asian cultures give the city a vibrant atmosphere.