

The best of New Zealand

From **16/1/2025**
to **25/1/2025**

Ship: **LE JACQUES-CARTIER**

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



Mountains, volcanoes and subtropical forests, green hills where the famous New Zealand sheep graze peacefully, cities full of authentic charm, from the South Island to the North Island, **explore New Zealand on an 10-day cruise**. Aboard *Le Jacques-Cartier*, uncover the captivating mysteries of this island country through unforgettable experiences.

Throughout your journey, you will benefit from an excursion included per person per port of call, to choose from a selection offered by PONANT. On this itinerary, take a whale watching cruise in the Banks Peninsula from Akaroa; from Napier, dive into the traditions of the Maori during an unforgettable activity; or, from Tauranga, explore the extraordinary site of Rotorua, home to volcanic and geothermal attractions. The diversity of experiences on offer promises you intense and varied moments (to discover the full range of excursions, go to the itinerary tab).

Your cruise aboard *Le Jacques Cartier* will begin in **Auckland**. This **New Zealand** city bordered by two seas will surprise you with its modernity and its cosmopolitan atmosphere.

On **Waiheke Island**, opposite Auckland, you will be enchanted not only by the authentic villages nestled at the heart of vineyards but also by the attractive coastline that forms heavenly beaches.

Soon, **Tauranga** will welcome you and open the doors to the many treasures of **Rotorua**: volcanoes, hot springs, geysers, rivers and gorges, and lakes ranging in colour from deep blue to bright orange.

Following the warm and translucent waters of the South Pacific Ocean, *Le Jacques-Cartier* will sail towards **Gisborne**. The first city on Earth to see the sun rise each day, it is distinguished by its enchanting environment of sandy strips and subtropical forest. Here you will learn about **Māori culture** and local history and will be invited to taste some of the products of this rich farming region, renowned in particular for its **chardonnay**.

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.

Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, is the next stop on your journey. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the **Māori** people during a visit to the **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**.

Next, during an unforgettable sailing experience you will explore the **Malborough Sounds**, an extensive network of submerged valleys creating a maze of hilly islands and peninsulas.

After a stop in Picton, it is now time to sail to **Akaroa**. In this bay formed by an old, flooded volcano crater, the unique mix of the Māori, French and European cultures offers a different experience.

Your journey ends in **Lyttleton**, once the departure point of the British expeditions to the South Pole.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

AUCKLAND

Embarkation 16/1/2025 From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Departure 16/1/2025 at 6:00 pm

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.

WAIHEKE ISLAND

Arrival 17/1/2025
Departure 17/1/2025 late afternoon

In the **Hauraki Gulf**, **Waiheke Island** is a pristine naturel gem just 35 minutes from the city of **Auckland** on the North Island of **New Zealand**. The stunning beaches of its languid bays and the undulating landscapes forming the heart of the island perfectly illustrate the easy way of life here. This land surrounded by sea and bathed in light enjoys a mild climate that is conducive to a thriving agriculture, composed mainly of **olive groves and vineyards**. Somewhat reminiscent of Tuscany, the island is renowned for its wines. Here, Bordeaux grape varieties have found the ideal conditions for developing a rich palette of aromas. A symbol of New Zealand's easy lifestyle, Waiheke also boasts a rich arts scene.

TAURANGA

Arrival 18/1/2025 early morning
Departure 18/1/2025 late afternoon

Located to the north of Rotorua, **Tauranga** stretches the length of the **Bay of Plenty**, sheltered from the ocean by the island of Matakana. This coastal city boasts a flourishing economy thanks to its port, and is a pleasant and pretty town with a peaceful, relaxed feel. The seafront area is contemporary and lively, dotted with cafés and restaurants. The town centre reveals more picturesque charms, while the surrounding area is packed full of natural delights. Travel on to the town of **Rotorua** to visit the **Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland**: a fantastic opportunity to experience an absolutely exceptional geothermal phenomenon.

GISBORNE

Arrival 19/1/2025 midday
Departure 19/1/2025 late afternoon

Gisborne, called “Gizzy” by the locals and *Teoneroa* by the Maori, is located to the north of a large bay surrounded by fertile hills and long, wild beaches that attract walkers and surfers. At the southern end of the bay, the magnificent **cliffs of Young Nick’s Head** majestically keep watch over the ocean’s tides. In Ngatapa, a few kilometres north of the city, the **Eastwoodhill Arboretum** stretches out over more than 130 hectares (320 acres) and is home to magnificent exotic and native plants. In the city, you can learn about **Maori culture** and the local history at the Tairāwhiti Museum or enjoy some of the products of this rich farming region, renowned in particular for its **Chardonnay**.

NAPIER

Arrival 20/1/2025 early morning
Departure 20/1/2025 mid afternoon

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.

WELLINGTON

Arrival 21/1/2025 midday
Departure 21/1/2025 evening

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.

SAILING IN THE MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

Arrival 22/1/2025 midday
Departure 22/1/2025 midday

At the northern end of New Zealand’s South Island, the **Marlborough Sounds** are a vast network of submerged valleys. These 1,200 km (745 miles) of coastline form a **maze of peninsulas and hilly islands**, in the curves of which nestle small bays and inlets drowned by the sea at the end of the most recent ice age. During an unforgettable sail, explore this magical place of wild and untouched beauty. Here, the palette of blues and greens is almost infinite and the silver reflections of the sun’s rays shimmer on the surface of the water.

PICTON

Arrival 23/1/2025
Departure 23/1/2025 early afternoon

A must-see **entry point to the South Island, Picton** is a little coastal town girded by gentle hills, located on the south side of the Queen Charlotte inlet. The cafés and restaurants which border the charming waterfront give a very lovely view of the fjord. You can also decide to get some height above sea level, and walk in the surrounding areas. However, Picton is above all an opportunity to explore the unique **Marlborough Sounds**. This interweaving of **submerged valleys** in this area, has creating numerous navigable routes, wich are among the most beautiful natural wonders of New Zealand.

AKAROA

Arrival 24/1/2025 early morning

Departure 24/1/2025 early evening

Located at the tip of a peninsula on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, **Akaroa** is a popular resort destination, nestled in a cove formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago. In the mid-19th century, **French and British settlers** competed for control of the area, and the architecture of the present-day town reflects these **colonial influences in the galleries, craft shops, and cafés** that line its streets. But what draws most people to this remote area is the **abundant wildlife**. Hector **dolphins** (the world's smallest), **Blue Penguins, fur seals,** and **Orcas** populate the waters of the harbor, and the cliffs that surround the bay are **nesting sites for thousands of birds**.

LYTTELTON

Arrival 25/1/2025 early morning

Disembarkation 25/1/2025 at 8:00 am

On the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island, Lyttelton (or Te Whaka Raupo 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.