



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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NEW ZEALAND DISCOVERER, AUCKLAND TO QUEENSTOWN

A once-in-a-lifetime adventure that takes in the dramatic scenery, fascinating Maori culture and iconic wildlife of the 'Land of the Long White Cloud'. Over 12 unforgettable nights cruise from Auckland the 'City of Sails' to Milford Sound, you will experience the country's outstanding iconic sights and the genuine warm welcome for which New Zealanders are renowned. Departing from Auckland aboard the state-of-the-art small ship Oceanic Discoverer cruise amongst the many scenic islands of Hauraki Gulf, before travelling ashore for a unique experience on rarely-visited White Island. Join our expedition staff on a walk across the island's barren landscape into the heart of an active sulphur volcano. Marvel at Napier's wonderful heritage of art deco architecture, the result of the city's total rebuild following the massive earthquake of 1931 which flattened most of the city. Follow in Captain Cook's footsteps in the Marlborough Sounds and experience a traditional Maori welcome and cultural show in Gisborne. At Kaikoura, considered to be the world's premier destination for whalewatching, we join a special cruise allowing us to get up close and personal with these majestic mammals. Then, soak up the French ambience of pretty Akaroa, where myriad wildlife experiences await, before the opportunity to explore historic Dunedin, a fascinating city which retains a strong Scottish heritage and many interesting sights to explore. A highlight of our expedition will be a visit to the renowned wildlife area that is Stewart Island. In the company of our expert local guides you will encounter New Zealand's native birdlife, including the iconic kiwi, which is often seen foraging on the beach. The cruise concludes with three memorable days cruising the World Heritage-listed waters of the

South Island's Fiordland National Park. Experience Milford Sound and cruise amongst the towering peaks of rarely-visited Doubtful and Dusky sounds, where myriad marine-life frolics in the cool waters. Our expedition concludes in Milford Sound, before an included coach transfer through spectacular mountain scenery and the green farming lands of the South Island to Queenstown, a resort town of unrivalled beauty, where our journey

concludes.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Auckland

Boarding Oceanic Discoverer at 4:00pm we depart the 'City of Sails' at 5:00pm and enjoy views of Auckland as we commence our 12-night New Zealand discovery cruise. Savour the late afternoon cruising through the beautiful Hauraki Gulf and amongst its many islands before joining the Captain and his crew at the Captain's Welcome Drinks and dinner.

Day 2 - White Island Volcano

Following breakfast we embark on our first excursion to explore the active White Island volcano, which is identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. Travelling aboard Xplorer and our fleet of zodiacs, the Expedition Staff will lead a guided walk to the crater, which resembles a moonscape. Enjoy the rare opportunity to view the heart of an active volcano and see a build up of gas and steam escaping from the earth.

Day 3 - Gisborne and Maori Culture

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01432 507 280 (within UK)

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This morning we arrive in historic Gisborne, the first European landing place in New Zealand. Captain Cook first arrived here in 1769 and a European settlement was established in 1831. Our exploration begins with a visit to a small Marae for an exclusive Maori cultural experience including a traditional welcome, guided tour and Kapa Haka cultural show. This afternoon you have time to explore Gisborne at your own pace, with the opportunity to discover the historic city at your leisure or join an optional guided tour exploring the city's beautiful gardens and renowned vineyards (additional expense).

Day 4 - Art Deco Napier

In 1931 Napier was all but destroyed by an earthquake measuring some 7.9 on the Richter Scale. The city's rebuild over the following two years incorporated the flourishing art deco trend in America and Europe of that time, and as such, Napier features a wonderful heritage of art deco architecture. Enjoy the morning exploring the sights of the city. Perhaps stroll Marine Parade, the city's delightful seaside boulevard which retains its air of an old-fashioned English seaside resort, complete with a pebble beach.

Days 5 & 6: Marlborough Sounds

We spend two days exploring an array of spectacular waterways including the fiord-like Queen Charlotte Sound. Retracing the history of Captain Cook we visit Ship's Cove, a regular stop for Cook on his voyage of discovery and the place where he careened HMS Endeavour. Both days offer a multitude of explorations aboard the Xplorer and zodiacs under the guidance of our Expedition Leader and with interpretation from our knowledgeable Guest Lecturers. Join a guided walk on Moturoa Island where it's possible to view an abundance of native birdlife. We farewell the dark green hills and blue-green waters

of the Sounds with an evening cruise through the scenic Tory Channel and continue our journey southwards.

Day 7: Kaikoura Whalewatching

The scenic coastal town of Kaikoura is renowned as possibly the world's best destination for whalewatching and one of the few places in the world where it is possible to view the giant Sperm Whale in its natural environment. We join a special cruise to discover these majestic mammals along with Fur Seals, dolphins and other migratory whales, an experience never to be forgotten. Enjoy time for a stroll around the pretty coastal town before reboarding Oceanic Discoverer to continue our journey.

Day 8: Gallic Akaroa

This morning we cruise into secluded Akaroa Harbour, a very scenic village nestled in the heart of an active volcano. Stroll through the village, discover its French history, cosy cafes and excellent craft stores. Enjoy optional shore excursions, perhaps swim with one of the smallest and rarest dolphins – the Hector's or New Zealand Dolphin.

Day 9: Discover Dunedin

The Otago Harbour welcomes us as we cruise past the world's largest mainland albatross colony at Taiaroa Heads, also home to the world's rarest penguin, the Yellow Eyed Penguin. Of Scottish heritage, Dunedin offers a great diversity of experiences from abundant wildlife to the historic Edwardian and Victorian architecture, the Otakou Maori Marae, the famous Speights Brewery, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Settlers Museum and New Zealand's oldest botanical gardens. Enjoy a full day ashore to explore at your own pace.

Day 10: Stewart Island



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Discover the natural delights and scenic beauty of Stewart Island, a large island that is almost totally wilderness and home to a vast number of seals, birds and other wildlife. Landing ashore at Paterson Inlet, join a guided walk to encounter native birds such as the Weka, Tui, Bellbird, Kaka and New Zealand's iconic national bird, the kiwi. Unlike other species of kiwis, the Stewart Island Kiwi is active both during the day and night and is often seen foraging on the beach for sandhoppers and other insects.

Day 11: Dusky Sound

Our first experience of the deep Fiordland National Park begins as we enter Dusky Sound. We spend the day in awe of the spectacular and dramatic wilderness as we cruise amongst the sheer cliffs and tumbling waterfalls of this beautiful landscape. Enjoy the view from Oceanic Discoverer or choose to explore the inlets from Xplorer or zodiacs. Continuing northward, we anchor for the evening at the entrance to spectacular Doubtful Sound.

Day 12: Doubtful Sound

Awaken this morning to the magnificent scenery of Doubtful Sound. The deepest of the sounds, Doubtful was named by Captain Cook in 1770 and is often described as Fiordland's most spectacular waterway. Join the Guest Lecturers aboard Xplorer as we cruise amongst the towering peaks and explore a maze of hidden waterways, home to myriad marine and bird life. This evening, enjoy our the Captain's Farewell Cocktails as we make our way to world-famous Milford Sound, our final stop on this memorable journey.

Day 13: Milford Sound and Queenstown

Savour breakfast as we cruise the dramatic 22 kilometre length of Milford Sound. The calm waters of the sound mirror the sheer

peaks that rise all around, including the instantly recognisable Mitre Peak, towering some 1,600 metres above the waterway below. At 8:00am we disembark in Milford Sound and farewell the Captain and his crew. Then, join our chartered coach for the drive through Fiordland National Park and along the shores of beautiful Lake Te Anau before arriving in the pretty alpine town of Queenstown at approximately 1:30pm. During the drive, enjoy breathtaking mountain scenery and pass through the remarkable 1,200 metre Homer Tunnel, a fantastic way to conclude our journey exploring 'the land of the long white cloud'. This itinerary is an indication of the destinations we visit and activities on offer. Throughout the expedition we may make changes to the itinerary as necessary to maximise your expeditionary experience. Allowances may be made for seasonal variations, weather, tidal conditions and any other event that may affect the operation of the vessel.

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YOUR SHIP: OCEANIC DISCOVERER

YOUR SHIP:	Oceanic Discoverer
VESSEL TYPE:	Luxury Expedition
LENGTH:	63 metres
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	72 (in 36 rooms)
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	2005

Onboard Accommodation Onboard accommodation comprises 36 spacious modern staterooms. You can select from Bridge, Promenade or Main Deck staterooms offering a choice of twin through to junior king-size doubles. All staterooms have an ocean view, en-suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage, individual air-conditioning control, and are serviced daily. **Onboard Facilities** What you would expect of a much larger cruise ship: Large sundeck Spa Pool Guest computer Comprehensive reference library Phone and fax facilities Lecture lounge with large plasma screen Limited laundry facilities Two fully stocked cocktail bars Boutique and dive shop Air-conditioned public areas Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with the latest technology active stabilizers and is fitted with state-of-the-art safety and navigational equipment and is the only Australian passenger ship registered with full SOLAS compliance allowing opportunities to explore a multitude of international voyages. **Dining** All meals during the cruise are included. Breakfast and lunch are served in the Dining Room located on the Main Deck and are buffet-style while dinner is table d'hôte. Coffee and tea is available 24 hours. Standard hours are breakfast from 7:00-8:30am, lunch at 12:30pm and

dinner at 7:30pm however meal times may vary according to the day's activities. Meal times will be advised in the onboard daily bulletins. **Excursion Boats And Zodiacs** The "Xplorer" is a specially designed aluminium excursion vessel used for the majority of our excursions. This vessel has high horsepower engines and will accommodate all passengers at one time. The "Xplorer" will be used for landings and for extensive exploration of rivers and tributaries. For your added convenience and comfort, the "Xplorer" is equipped with an awning and toilet. We also carry two inflatable landing craft (Zodiacs). Designed for expedition work, these large and heavy-duty inflatables are extremely safe. Separate air compartments retain a large reserve of buoyancy even if the boats damaged. The flat bottom design permits these crafts to land directly onto the beaches. Expect nonetheless to wade through shallow water to reach the shore. See photo





below (right)

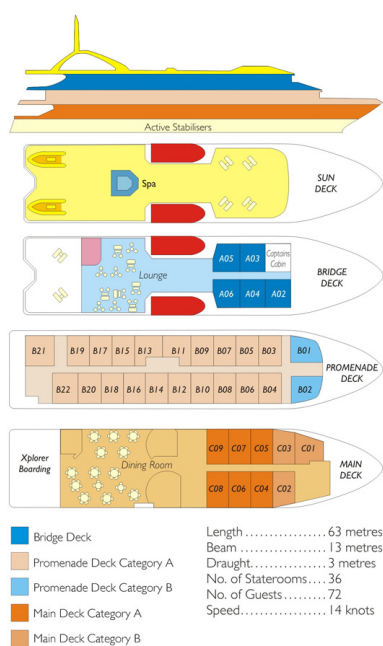
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01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com