

PORTS



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Sydney is Australia's showcase city, and its grand harbor never fails to impress arriving cruise ship passengers. Its most famous attractions are the landmark Opera House and Harbor Bridge. Bondi Beach is a surfer's heaven, and Watson's Bay offers terrific views of Sydney's skyline. View kangaroos, emus and, of course, koalas at Koala Park, or take a stroll through The Rocks, Sydney's oldest neighborhood.

Language: English

Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)



BAY OF ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND

Named the Bay of Islands by the explorer James Cook in the late 18th century, this string of 144 islands and cloistered bays is perfect for those with an interest in the maritime. Bay of Islands offers the perfect combination of exotic and rare marine life with exclusive glimpses into the indigenous Māori culture. Yachting, fishing, swimming with dolphins, scuba diving, kayaking, biking, and golf are just a few of the many things to do here. (also called Bay of Isles)

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's largest city – and the world's largest Polynesian city – sprawls across an isthmus positioned between two harbors. The City of Sails boasts more boats per capita than any other and draws Kiwis with top surf spots and cultural charms. In the Parnell area, peruse art galleries, antique shops and cafes housed in restored Victorian buildings or venture to the harbor for a leisurely cruise or exhilarating jet boat tour. Just a ferry ride away, Waiheke Island is dotted with beaches and vineyards. Nearby Rangitoto Island is the youngest but largest of the Auckland area's 48 volcanic cones, and a trek to its summit rewards hikers with 360-degree views of emerald seas. Some excursions introduce cruise passengers to Māori culture, while other head to sheep farms for a glimpse of New Zealand's rural life. Hobbiton enchants fans of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" movies, and below the village of Waitomo, a series of caves radiate a glittering blue light due to a rare glowworm species.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

Tauranga is the principal city of the Bay of Plenty, noted for its good climate and fine beaches. The Mount Maunganui town center is within walking distance from the port. Tauranga also plays an important role as gateway to Rotorua, known as one of New Zealand’s most-famous-tourist attractions.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND

The area is blessed with a Californian-Mediterranean climate, boasting one of the highest sunshine averages in the country. The area also is dotted with colorful vineyards and orchards, with some of the most fertile farmland you will see. Napier is called the newest city in the world, offering a marvelous, world-renowned collection of art deco buildings. Within the region are more than 20 of New Zealand's finest vineyards, many of which are open to the public. Among the attractions in the area are the Gannet Colony at Cape Kidnappers, the Hawke's Bay Aquarium, the Spanish Mission and art deco architecture, gardens, and bush walks.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



PICTON, NEW ZEALAND

Located at the head of Queen Charlotte Sound, Picton is the starting point into South Island of New Zealand. Picton makes an ideal base for an exploration of the Marlborough Sounds. A ferry service across the Cook Strait provides the connection to North Island. Excursions inland will take you into the heart of a major winegrowing region.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



CHRISTCHURCH (LYTTELTON), NEW ZEALAND

The design, landscape, and architecture here are unparalleled. The city is spacious, with the River Avon winding through the gardens and around English-style buildings. Explore the city with its lively entertainment scene, excellent museums, such as Canterbury Museum, and Botanic Gardens, or partake in a countryside tour with a harbor cruise and a view of the hills and the coast. Wildlife excursions to Orana Park Wildlife Trust are also popular.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



DUNEDIN (PORT CHALMERS), NEW ZEALAND

This city lies at the head of a fjord-like inlet and is surrounded by seven hills. It is said to be the most perfectly preserved Victorian city anywhere. Dunedin's Scottish heritage is everywhere, from a statue of Robert Burns in the Octagon -- the eight-sided heart of the central city -- to the country's only whiskey distillery. In addition, a jewel in the city's architectural crown is the first Church of Otago. The imposing railway station is worth visiting if only for its locomotives reproduced in stained glass.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

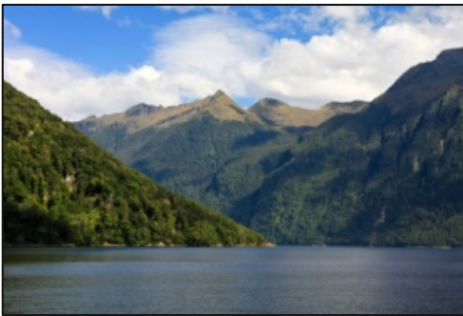


DUSKY SOUND, NEW ZEALAND

Dusky Sound, New Zealand's longest fjord, is also one of the most beautiful, with numerous wooded islands and inlets. It was given its name by Captain Cook, who sailed past the fjord on his first voyage, in 1770, as evening was falling. The upper reaches of the sound are steep-sided, and the high precipitation of the region leads to hundreds of waterfalls cascading into the sound during the rainy season. You may also have an opportunity to spot some of the area's wildlife in the water, such as dolphins and seals.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



DOUBTFUL SOUND, NEW ZEALAND

The grandeur of towering peaks descending into deep waters, outstanding waterfalls and fjords covered with ancient vegetation, all make up the unforgettable solitude and serenity of Doubtful Sound, New Zealand. First named 'Doubtful Harbour' by Captain Cook, who was unsure of whether or not the inlet was navigable, was later renamed Doubtful Sound by whalers and sealers. The sound is home to several large waterfalls, notably Helena Falls at Deep Cove, and the Browne Falls, which have a fall of over 600 meters. The fjord also protects the southernmost population of bottlenose dolphins as well as fur seals, penguins, and numerous sea creatures such as sea anemones, coral, and starfish.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)



MILFORD SOUND, NEW ZEALAND

Milford Sound is the undisputed jewel of Fiordland National Park. Because of its outstanding natural beauty and cultural significance, Milford Sound has been nominated a World Heritage area. See Bowen Falls, spectacular Mitre Peak, Tutoko Glacier and the Underwater Observatory in Harrison Cove -- a unique opportunity to look under the dark waters of Milford Sound and see the life teeming below. In fact, when you descend the 60 steps of the underwater viewing platform, you will see how much natural light penetrates these seemingly dark waters.

Language: English

Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)