

ultimatecruising.co.nz or call us on 0800 485 846

FROM

\$11,185pp

Package #328

Australia and New Zealand are inextricably linked in the minds of many. Join us to discover how these two great nations are so close, yet so far away. Begin your transformative trip in Sydney's showy shores, following on with Melbourne and Tasmania. A couple of sea days and you'll be cruising the silent waters of Milford and Doubtful Sounds – surely the jewels in NZ's fjordland. Outdoor adventures, local wine tastings and dramatic views complete your trip.

Package Inclusions

- 14 night luxury cruise from Melbourne to Auckland aboard Silversea's Silver Muse
- Spacious suites – over 80% with private verandas
- Butler service in every suite
- Unlimited Free Wifi
- Personalised service – nearly one crew member for every guest
- Multiple restaurants, diverse cuisine, open-seating dining
- Beverages in-suite and throughout the ship, including champagne, select wines and spirits
- 24-hour dining service
- Onboard entertainment
- Complimentary transportation into town in most ports
- Onboard gratuities

PLUS! Ultimate Cruising guests also receive:

- Chauffeur driven luxury car transfers to/from your nearest airport (within 35km)

Your Ship

Silver Muse redefines ultra-luxury ocean travel - enhancing the small-ship intimacy and spacious all-suite accommodations that are the hallmarks of the Silversea experience. Silver Muse is the best place between sea and sky, 8 dining venues, spacious outdoor areas and up-to-the-minute technology makes her simply divine.

Cruise Highlights & Ports of Call

MELBOURNE

Australia's metropolitan cultural capital is a refined, contemporary and richly liveable city - which has a blend for every taste. The smells of freshly ground, artisan coffees fill the streets of this hip, youthful city, which is generously sprinkled with fine dining establishments, art galleries, and absorbing museums. With an airy outdoor lifestyle, Melbourne is a vibrant global hub of fashion, fun and festivities. Multicultural and diverse, Victoria's capital is crisscrossed by narrow alleys and splashed with street art. It's fair to say Melbourne's bearded baristas take their coffees seriously. Settle in to sample the unique coffee culture that is an essential part of Melbourne life. Looking for something a little stronger? The city's rooftop bars come alive with clinking cocktails as the sun sets.

HOBART

Mount Wellington's looming, cloud-wisped form is an ever-present sight as you explore booming Hobart, the cosmopolitan capital of Australia's most southerly state. A former British penal colony, nowadays Australia's second-oldest city is a place to live the free and easy life. Encircled by dramatic cliffs, landscaped gardens and rolling vineyards, Hobart is also well stacked with cultural pursuits including museums, and respected - if controversial - galleries plastering new and old art to their walls. With fresh sea breezes and a fabulous location, Hobart is a creative place, where you can browse the produce of local artisans in Saturday's massive Salamanca Market - which draws visitors from all across Tasmania and beyond. Eat at waterfront restaurants, or rise up Mount Wellington's slopes to appreciate the remoteness of Hobart's location.

MILFORD SOUND

Named after Milford Haven in Wales, Milford Sound is not a sound but a fjord, yet the name has stuck. In 1998 the Maori name Piopiotahi has been added and officially it should be written as Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. The local name refers to the extinct New Zealand Thrush (the piopio). Milford Sound sits within South Island's Fiordland National Park, one of the four national parks forming the UNESCO World Heritage site "Te Wahipounamu" –pounamu being the local greenstone highly estimated for carvings by the Maori. The fjord has a length of approximately 16 kilometers and a depth of more than 290 meters. Steep cliffs, several impressive waterfalls and dense rainforest characterize the fjord. Halfway down the fjord is Stirling Falls, the second tallest.

DUNEDIN

The south-easterly coast of New Zealand's wild southern island is a haven for outdoor adventures, with masses of raw scenic beauty and thrilling coastline. Heading the Otago Harbour, Dunedin is a cosmopolitan city of culture and architectural splendour, with a distinctly tartan flare. Settled by the Scots in 1848, the romantically misty valleys and moody landscapes, continue to capture the hearts of visitors to these distant shores. Searing bagpipes echo down the streets in the Edinburgh of the South, which wears its Scottish origins proudly. Gothic revival architecture is scattered liberally, including the magnificent university - with its glorious clocktower - and the city's grand cathedral. Head to the elegant Octagon to see the statue to Robert Burns, whose nephew was a city founder. The railway station is perhaps the pick of this city's many artistic structures.

AKAROA

With pretty painted cottages, overflowing verdant balconies and street names such as Rue Lavaud and Fleur Lane, you could be forgiven for thinking that you have stepped onto the streets of Provence upon arrival in Akaroa. And yet, here you are, in New Zealand's South Island, less than 50 kilometres from Christchurch. The French connection stems from 1838, when Captain Jean Francois Langlois acquired the land for six British pounds (and questionable circumstances) from the Maoris. He then travelled home to France in order to bring back anyone who might want to join him in his new life. However, during his travels, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed (signatories included two Akaroa Maori chiefs) and New Zealand's first Governor, Hobson, declared sovereignty over the whole of New Zealand. Thus when Langlois and his settlers arrived back, they were faced with a choice: either return home to France or stay on. They chose the latter, and their legacy prevails. There are many stunning places on the coast of New Zealand, but none of them can quite hold a candle to Akaroa. Visually, it is stunning. Surrounded by natural wonders, the town (Maori for "Long Harbour") stands on a peninsula formed by two volcanic cones, and is self-styled as nature's playground. Such a moniker might seem superlative for other destinations, but not here: sheep graze almost right to the water's edge, dolphins are regularly spotted in the many small, secluded bays and Lord of the Rings grandeur stretches as far as the eye can see.

KAIKOURA

Lodged between high mountains and the Pacific Ocean, on New Zealand's South Island, it is said that no two views in Kaikoura are the same. Look left, and you'll see snow capped peaks and rolling meadows. Look right, and you'll see seals hauling out on rugged shores. Look straight ahead and you'll see nothing except the wide expanse of the Pacific. Kaikoura's claim to fame is its rich abundance of marine life. Visitors have a 95% chance of spotting giant sperm whales, as well as dusky dolphins, orcas and humpback whales, regardless of whether you are travelling by boat or by air. Additionally, New Zealand Fur Seals live in the shallow waters of the town's peninsula, and surely there can be no greater experience than swimming alongside the playful marine mammal in its natural habitat.

WELLINGTON

Sprawling around a hook-shaped peninsula, Wellington is a vibrant and energetic seaside capital. A compact, well-stocked city of buzzing bars and chatting cafes, New Zealand's capital is a bright and breezy place with an infectious, easy-going atmosphere. Known as the creative hub of the South Pacific, there are shows to see, art installations to enjoy, and rich flavours to savour here. The sounds of rare and beautiful birdlife fill the hills around the city, and the bush of the green belt provides easy-to-access sanctuary, strolls and cycle rides. The Botanical Gardens break up the buildings, even more, while an iconic, cherry-red cable car rumbles up Wellington's slope to the city's best viewpoint, looking out over the city's scenic harbour from above. Zealandia has provided an urban home for rare and endangered birdlife, bringing many species back from the brink.

PICTON

The gateway to New Zealand's South Island waits just across the Cook Strait from Wellington. Pretty Picton is a beautiful harbour town, lying on the cusp of the mighty scenery of the Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park, and providing an attractive link between New Zealand's two main islands. The journey into the scenic Queen Charlotte Sound is a vista that only New Zealand can provide, as you sail through crumpled green peaks and folding hills, towards Picton's little flotillas of yachts and endearing waterfront appeal. You could easily spend days here browsing art studios and galleries, nursing freshly ground coffees, and watching the undulations of the bay's waters from Picton's waterfront eateries. Or enjoying the coastal location and sea views while wandering Picton Memorial Park, among palm trees, bright flowers and benches that sit before sweeping views of the Sound.

BAY OF ISLANDS

The Tasman Sea on the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east meet at the top of North Island at Cape Reinga. No matter what route you take, you'll pass farms and forests, marvellous beaches, and great open spaces. The East Coast, up to the Bay of Islands, is Northland's most densely populated, often with refugees from bigger cities—looking for a more relaxed life—clustered around breathtaking beaches. The first decision on the drive north comes at the foot of the Brynderwyn Hills. Turning left will take you up the West Coast through areas once covered with forests and now used for either agricultural or horticulture. Driving over "the Brynderwyns," as they are known, takes you to Whangarei, the only city in Northland. If you're in the mood for a diversion, you can slip to the beautiful coastline and take in Waipu Cove, an area settled by Scots, and Laings Beach, where million-dollar homes sit next to small Kiwi beach houses.

TAURANGA

Tauranga is New Zealand's sunny capital – with wide sweeping beaches and surfers curling across cresting waves. Climb to the top for spectacular views of the natural harbour, or take winding coastal footpaths to explore the unfolding scenery. An entry point to the vast indent of the Bay of Plenty, the volcanic peak of Mount Maunganui is a fittingly dramatic welcome. Brooding, geothermal energy creates spectacular natural attractions across this region, while plunging waterfalls, and fascinating Maori culture ensures that the Bay of Plenty has a lot to offer visitors. Said to receive New Zealand's highest amount of sunshine, the hanging kiwi, citrus fruit and avocados add an exotic touch to the area's landscape - especially around Te Puke. Vibrant teal and orange colours await at the stunning geothermal area of Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, where mud pools bubble and steam rises from the earth. There are more hot pools, and some of the country's best scenery, at Lake Rotoiti - where you can kayak across the smooth surface and enter a cave that glows gentle blue, with its darkened roof illuminated by glittering glow worms. Enter New Zealand's fantasy world, with a visit to some of the country's celebrated filming spots - which have featured as doubles for JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth's fantasy settings. Offshore, the wonderful White Island's volcanic cone peeks from the waves, and New Zealand's most active volcano certainly knows how to put on a show, belching out smoke across the water.

AUCKLAND

Blending beachy recreation with all the delights of a modern, diverse and thoroughly multicultural city, Auckland sits on the lucid blue-green waters of New Zealand's north island. Known as the 'City of Sails', its two harbours will tempt you with waterfront walks, and the chance to breathe fresh sea air deep into your lungs while absorbing spectacular views of Auckland's grand harbour bridge's span. Take in the true scale of Auckland's magnificent cityscape by ascending 192 metres to the Sky Tower, and looking out over the city's gleaming silver towers, which reflect on the abundant waters below. Views over the bay and adjacent islands await, and you can share elegant cocktails at this dizzying height, above the mingling yachts of Viaduct Harbour. Immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of the area at Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tāmaki.

Departure Dates & Pricing

Cruise departs Melbourne on 20 January 2022.

Prices start from NZ\$11,185 per person twin share in Vista Suite, including early booking bonus.

Please note pricing is subject to availability and can change at any time. Please contact us for the most up to date availability and the best available price.

Cruise Category

- Classic Luxury

Onboard Features

- 24 Hr Room Service
- All meals
- Boutique &/or Salon
- Drinks All Day
- Gratuities
- Pool &/or Spa

trip itinerary

Day 1

Melbourne, Australia

Day 2

At Sea

Day 3

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Day 4-5

At Sea

Day 6

Cruising Doubtful & Milford Sounds, New Zealand

Day 7

Dunedin, New Zealand

Day 8

Akaroa, New Zealand

Day 9

Kaikoura, New Zealand

Day 10

Wellington, New Zealand

Day 11

Picton, New Zealand

Day 12

At Sea

Day 13

Bay of Islands, New Zealand

Day 14

Tauranga, New Zealand

Day 15

Auckland, New Zealand

□ The Vessel

Technical Details

Cruise Category

- Luxury Expeditions

Silver Muse

Silversea Cruises is happy to present, Silver Muse. The new ultra-luxury ship was built by Fincantieri and at 40,700 grt accommodates 596 guests. Representing an exciting evolution of Silver Spirit, Silver Muse redefines ultra-luxury ocean travel – enhancing the small-ship intimacy and spacious all-suite accommodations that are the hallmarks of the Silversea experience. The addition of Silver Muse expands Silversea's fleet to nine ships, and once again significantly raises the bar in the ultra-luxury cruise market with a wealth of enhancements to the onboard experience, while satisfying the uncompromising requirements for comfort, service, and quality of the world's most discerning travellers.

Vessel Features

- **24 Hr Room Service**
- **All meals**
- **Boutique &/or Salon**
- **Drinks All Day**
- **Pool &/or Spa**
- **Speciality Restaurants**

□□□□

ultimatecruising.co.nz or call us on 0800 485 846