



New Zealand 12 Night Cruise Frequently Asked Questions

General

Does Coral Princess Cruises offer transfers?

Answer: A complimentary coach transfer from Queenstown to Milford Sound is available on departure day for the itinerary departing from Milford Sound. Pre and Post cruise transfers are not included in the price of the Auckland to Milford Sound cruise. There are however a number of options available for transportation to and from the Wharf.

How do I get from the airport/hotel to the ship?

Answer: - For our Auckland departures you will need to organise a taxi or hotel transfer. A complimentary coach transfer from Queenstown to Milford Sound is available on departure day for the itinerary departing from Milford Sound.

How much will a taxi cost?

Answer: - A taxi from the airport to the centre of Auckland will cost approximately NZD50-60. A taxi from most Auckland hotels to the wharf will cost approx NZD10. A taxi from the airport to Queenstown will cost approx NZD20, a complimentary coach transfer from Queenstown to Milford Sound is available on departure day for the itinerary departing from Milford Sound. Please check with your hotel to see if they offer a shuttle service between the airport and hotel.

Meals

Are all meals provided onboard and what style of dining is available?

Answer: Throughout your Coral Princess expedition cruise you will savour three delicious, healthy meals per day as well as tempting morning and afternoon teas. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, breakfast and lunch are buffet style and dinner is table d'hote. Post mix soft drinks are included in the price of the cruise and a complimentary tea and coffee station is open 24 hours. A selection of Australian and New Zealand wines, beers and spirits are available at additional expense.

*The galley will attempt to meet special dietary requirements, however a minimum of three weeks notice must be provided prior to departure to allow us to provide this service.

Onboard Accommodations

What are the facilities in your room?

Answer: All rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with en suite, wardrobe, suitcase cupboard and windows or portholes for expansive ocean views (Main Deck staterooms feature portholes),

settee (except Promenade B Staterooms) and desk. Bathrooms feature a hairdryer, shower, toilet and power point (240 volt for Australian plugs.) There is a shaving outlet in each bathroom.

What staterooms/cabin categories are available?

Answer: Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, there are five categories of accommodation including; Main Deck B and Main Deck A Staterooms, Promenade Deck B and Promenade Deck A Staterooms, and Bridge Deck Staterooms.

Can we 'push' two twin beds together to make a double?

Answer: Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, we are able to change bedding configuration from Twin Beds to Junior King Beds or v.v. in Main Deck A and B, Promenade Deck A and Bridge Deck Staterooms.

What size are the beds in a double stateroom?

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer has Junior King Beds in Promenade Deck B Staterooms, and Twin Beds or Junior King Beds in all other categories.

Children

Do you cater for children?

Answer: When joining a Coral Princess Cruises New Zealand expedition, children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Coral Princess Cruises does not provide services of entertainment, supervision or care of children. Our New Zealand itineraries are quite adventurous and we therefore recommend children aged above 12 years of age will enjoy the challenge and experience the most.

Can we put two adults and two children in one room?

Answer: Should a family of four guests be travelling together, two separate rooms will be required, two adults in one room and the two children in another. Please ask for the same grades of accommodation to ensure that rooms are located together on the same deck.

Can we put two adults and one child in one room?

Answer: Yes you can. Onboard Oceanic Discoverer, the third person (child only) will be accommodated on the settee as we do not have Pullman bunks in any staterooms. This is applicable in a Main Deck A or Main Deck B stateroom only.

Inclusions

What extras will we be paying for onboard?

Answer: During your New Zealand cruise you will find that most activities are included within the price of your cruise. Items incurring additional expense include; all bar and shop charges (with the exception of post mix soft drinks which are included), ship to shore phone/fax calls, laundry facilities and internet access. A selection of optional shore excursions will be available throughout the cruise.

Do we need to pre book activities or dives prior to boarding?

Answer: All activities while on your cruise can be arranged on board for your convenience.

Miscellaneous

What do we pack?

Answer: There is no formal dress code in place during your cruise; however we recommend smart-casual attire for the evenings on board and comfortable active wear during your days of exploration. We recommend that you bring shorts, swimwear, T-shirts, collared and long sleeve shirts to avoid sunburn and a warm wind/rain protection jacket or windcheater in the event of cooler southerly breezes and/or a warm pullover and long pants. Bring cloths easily layered as on the South Island days can be cool. A good pair of hiking boots is recommended, along with some shoes that you don't mind getting wet, such as river walkers or aqua soles. Don't forget to bring a sun hat, sunglasses, sun block and all necessary toiletries.

What are river walkers/aqua soles and do we need to wear them?

Answer: River walkers/aqua soles or reef shoes are thick-soled mesh socks for wet landings (a wet landing is when you arrive to the shore by the Xplorer/Zodiac and may get your feet wet). Sturdy rubber sandals which are strapped around your ankles and toes are also suitable for this purpose.

Do you supply beach towels?

Answer: Yes, towels are provided should the opportunity arise for swimming or relaxing in Oceanic Discoverer's spa on the Sun Deck.

Are there laundry facilities onboard?

Answer: There is a limited laundry service onboard the vessels, although drip dry, wash and wear clothing is recommended. A small fee applies for the laundering of garments.

Do we need spending money onboard?

Answer: All purchases onboard will be charged to your room account, which must be settled with the purser prior to disembarking. Payment of your onboard account may be made by Cash, Credit Card or Australian Dollars Travellers Cheque.

Will my mobile telephone work? What communications are available?

Answer: During your cruise we will explore some of New Zealand's remote and spectacular coastal scenery. Given the remote nature of the cruise, mobile telephone service may not be available. Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with a new state-of-the-art onboard communications system, making it easy to remain in contact with your friends and relatives at home during your cruise. Phone calls home from the ship are cost effective, and guests also have the opportunity to access high quality wireless internet.

Guests are able to purchase a pre-paid internet card aboard the ship and then connect to the internet through either a laptop computer, a PDA or the ship's onboard computer. In addition, to help you keep in touch with news from home and abroad during your cruise, we subscribe to a daily news service and copies of this publication are made available to guests each day.

Should your family need to contact you during your cruise our Helpful Hints booklet supplied in your documentation will provide direct dialing contact telephone number for Oceanic Discoverer.

Where does the ship depart from?

Answer: In Auckland Oceanic Discoverer departs from either Princes Wharf or Queens Wharf, notification will be provided of the exact wharf on guest documentation. Oceanic Discoverer departs from the Milford Sound Wharf in Milford Sound.

What Time Can We Board The Vessel?

Answer: Boarding commences at 1600 in Auckland for a 1700 departure. For the Milford Sound departures, join our chartered coach in Queenstown for the scenic drive to Milford Sound and board Oceanic Discoverer in Milford Sound at 1400 for a 1500 departure.

Do we need to take out Travel Insurance?

Answer: It is highly recommended that all passengers purchase appropriate travel insurance prior to departure. In addition to cancellation, curtailment and baggage protection please ensure that your policy provides coverage for remote area evacuation.

What if we have a special occasion whilst onboard?

Answer: Should you be celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary or any other special occasion during your cruise please let us know at the time of booking.

What will the weather be like on the cruise?

Answer: The average daytime temperature during this cruise ranges between 16 Degrees Celsius (61 Degrees Fahrenheit) to 22 Degrees Celsius (71 Degrees Fahrenheit). Note that the wind chill factor will reduce these temperatures when exposed.

Will the weather/seas be rough?

Answer: Every effort is made to ensure that we travel at times and in areas where it will be most pleasant although this can not always be guaranteed. For the majority of your cruise, we will be cruising close to shore or coastline where waters are generally relatively calm. Oceanic Discoverer is also equipped with latest technology active stabilisers and is fitted with state-of-the-art safety and navigational equipment.

What is the Xplorer and how does it work?

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with an 'Xplorer' - a unique, 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. These excursion vessels sit on a hydraulic lift at the rear of the ship (Main Deck). Following boarding, the unique hydraulic lift gently lowers the excursion vessel into the water, negating the need to clamber aboard unstable tenders. The ship is also equipped with a fleet of inflatable Zodiacs which are also accessible by the hydraulic lift at the rear of the ship.

What is a wet landing?

Answer: Many shore excursions and activities aboard the excursion vessels require a 'wet landing', and this is part of our expedition adventure. Your feet may get wet in this instance, therefore we recommend wearing aqua soles/river walkers or reef shoes/sandals for these excursions. Hiking boots or sturdy footwear may be carried separately and worn once dry land has been reached.

Is there an Elevator or Lift aboard the Ship?

Answer: Oceanic Discoverer does not have elevators to move between the various decks. The ship does feature internal and external staircases. When booking your cruise, if you do not wish to move around too much between decks we recommend booking your accommodation on the Main Deck as the dining room is located on these decks and they are also the main departure point for all of the activities and shore excursions utilising the 'Xplorer'.