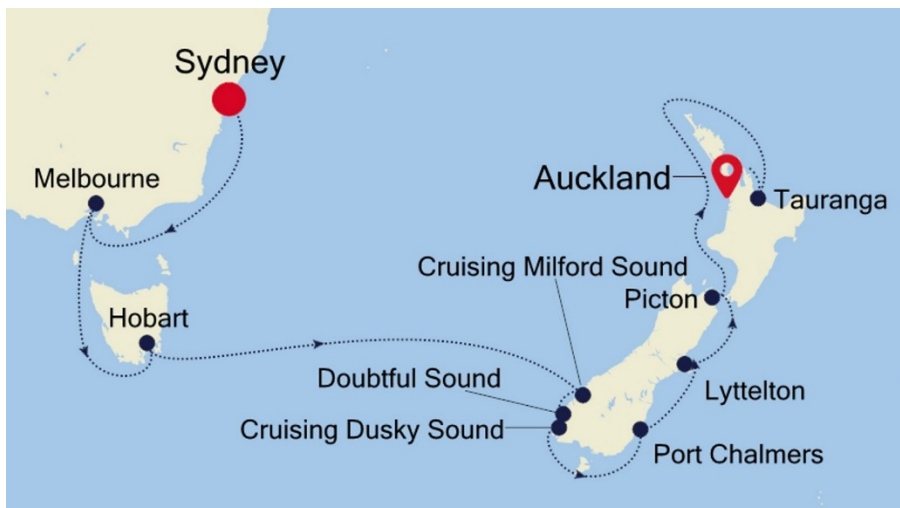


# SYDNEY to AUCKLAND

## AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND



The New Zealand Sounds are perhaps the last truly untouched destinations left on earth. Romantically named Milford, Dusky and Doubtful, these Kiwi sisters are where Mother Nature perfected her craft. An unforgettable journey for both the experienced and the uninitiated, anyone looking to visit a place unmarked by the passage of time will be spoiled its breathtaking beauty.



**DATE: DEC 06-20, 2019**

**MAR 03-17, 2020**

**DURATION: 15 DAYS/14 NIGHTS**

**EMBARK: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

*(Also Available from Melbourne - 13 days)*

**DISEMBARK: AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

**SHIP: Silver Muse**

**Cruise Only FROM: \$7,740**

*Pre-Cruise hotel included.*

*Pre- and Post-Cruise tour are available.*

*Free or reduced rate air.*

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Sydney belongs to the exclusive club of cities that generate excitement. At the end of a marathon flight there's renewed vitality in the cabin as the plane circles the city, where thousands of yachts are suspended on the dark water and the sails of the Opera House glisten in the distance. Blessed with dazzling beaches and a sunny climate, Sydney is among the most beautiful cities on the planet. With 4.6 million people, Sydney is the biggest and most cosmopolitan city in Australia. A wave of immigration from the 1950s has seen the Anglo-Irish immigrants who made up the city's original population joined by Italians, Greeks, Turks, Lebanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thais, and Indonesians. This intermingling has created a cultural vibrancy and energy—and a culinary repertoire—that was missing only a generation ago. Sydneysiders embrace their harbor with a passion.

### DAY 2 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 3 – MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Consistently rated among the "world's most livable cities" in quality-of-life surveys, Melbourne is built on a coastal plain at the top of the giant horseshoe of Port Phillip Bay. The city center is an orderly grid of streets where the state parliament, banks, multinational corporations, and splendid Victorian buildings that sprang up in the wake of the gold rush now stand. This is Melbourne's heart, which you can explore at a leisurely pace in a couple of days. In Southbank, one of the newer precincts south of the city center, the Southgate development of bars, restaurants, and shops has refocused Melbourne's vision on the Yarra River. Once a blighted stretch of factories and run-down warehouses, the southern bank of the river is now a vibrant, exciting part of the city, and the river itself is finally taking its rightful place in Melbourne's psyche.

### DAY 4 – DAY AT SEA



### DAY 5 – HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

Straddling the Derwent River at the foot of Mt. Wellington's forested slopes, Hobart was founded as a penal settlement in 1803. It's the second-oldest city in the country after Sydney, and it certainly rivals its mainland counterpart as Australia's most beautiful state

capital. Close-set colonial brick-and-sandstone shops and homes line the narrow, quiet streets, creating a genteel setting for this historic city of 215,000. Life revolves around the broad Derwent River port, one of the deepest harbors in the world. Here warehouses that once stored Hobart's major exports of fruit, wool, and corn and products from the city's former whaling fleet still stand alongside the wharf today. Hobart sparkles between Christmas and New Year's—summer Down Under—during the annual Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race.

### DAYS 6 & 7 – DAYS AT SEA



### DAY 8 – CRUISING FIORDLAND, NEW ZEALAND – MILFORD, DUSKY AND DOUBTFUL SOUNDS

New Zealand fiord country along with Fiordland National Park is one of New Zealand's premier attractions. Incredibly beautiful, wild and remote, the region is an intriguing combination of rugged mountain ranges, dense rainforest, solitary alpine lakes, sparkling rivers and splashing waterfalls. Much of Fiordland is virtually unexplored wilderness and still the habitat of rare birds. As the ship cruises the beautiful Doubtful, Dusky and Milford Sounds, experience the majestic fiordland of South Island's western coast. Captain James Cook sailed along this coast in 1770 and again in 1773, when he anchored at Dusky Sound for a rest and ship repair. Doubtful Sound is one of the region's most majestic fiords. It is ten times larger than Milford Sound. As the ship cruises into Hall Arm, gaze at vertical cliffs and mighty waterfalls plunging over sheer rock faces. In fine weather, mountains and greenery are reflected in the protected waters of the fiord.

Despite being discovered by Cook more than 240 years ago, Dusky Sound is one of the few truly untouched destinations left on earth. Found on the southwest corner of New Zealand's Fiordland National Park, Dusky Sound has the auspicious title of "titanic mason" given to it by the Maoris, as no other explanation seems to fit; it is almost impossible to comprehend the sheer breadth of geological events that created this seemingly perfect sculpture, as the sheer cliffs that rise vertically upward from the ocean dwarf the ship. This incredibly beautiful fiord offers many magical wildernesses and stunning scenery that bathe in "Lord of the

Rings" grandeur. A breeding site for Fiordland Penguins, Dusky Sound is an important ornithological area too, with a wealth of birdlife to be found here. This remote, untouched region is also home to a wide range of sea life, as the fresh and salt water combine to create an extraordinary aquatic environment.

#### **DAY 9 – DAY AT SEA**

#### **DAY 10 – DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND**

European whaling ships first called at Otago Province during the early decades of the 1800s, yielding a mixed response from the native Māori. In 1848 Dunedin was settled, and by the mid-1860s the city was the economic hub of the Otago gold rush. Dunedin's historical wealth endures in such institutions as the University of Otago, the oldest in the country. But if any region can bring out the bird-watcher in you, this is it; the area is home to the Royal Albatross and yellow-eyed penguins.

#### **DAY 11 – CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND**

Your initial impression of Christchurch will likely be one of a genteel, green city. Joggers loop through shady Hagley Park, and punters ply the narrow Avon River, which bubbles between banks lined with willows and oaks. With a population approaching 350,000, Christchurch is the largest South Island city, and the second-largest in the country. It is also the forward supply depot for the main U.S. Antarctic base at McMurdo Sound. The face of Christchurch is changing rapidly, fueled by both internal and international immigration. The Māori community, although still below the national average in size, is growing. Ngai Tahu, the main South Island Māori tribe, settled Treaty of Waitangi claims in 1997 and have been investing in tourism ventures. Old wooden bungalows are making way for town houses, the arts scene is flourishing, and the city's university attracts cutting-edge technology companies.



#### **DAY 12 – PICTON, NEW ZEALAND**

The maritime township of Picton (population 4,000) lies at the head of Queen Charlotte Sound and is the arrival point for ferries from the North Island, as well as a growing number of international cruise ships. It plays a major role in providing services and transport by water

taxi to a multitude of remote communities in the vast area of islands, peninsulas, and waterways that make up the Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park. There's plenty to do in town, with crafts markets in summer, historical sights to see, and walking tracks to scenic lookouts over the sounds. The main foreshore is lined by London Quay, which looks up Queen Charlotte Sound to the bays beyond. High Street runs down to London Quay from the hills, and between them these two streets make up the center of town.

#### **DAY 13 – DAY AT SEA**

#### **DAY 14 – TAURANGA, BAY OF PLENTY, NEW ZEALAND**

The population center of the Bay of Plenty, Tauranga is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing cities. Along with its neighbor, Whakatane, this seaside city claims to be one of the country's sunniest towns. Unlike most local towns, Tauranga doesn't grind to a halt in the off-season, because it has one of the busiest ports in the country, and the excellent waves at the neighboring beach resort of Mount Maunganui—just across Tauranga's harbor bridge—always draw surfers and holiday folk.



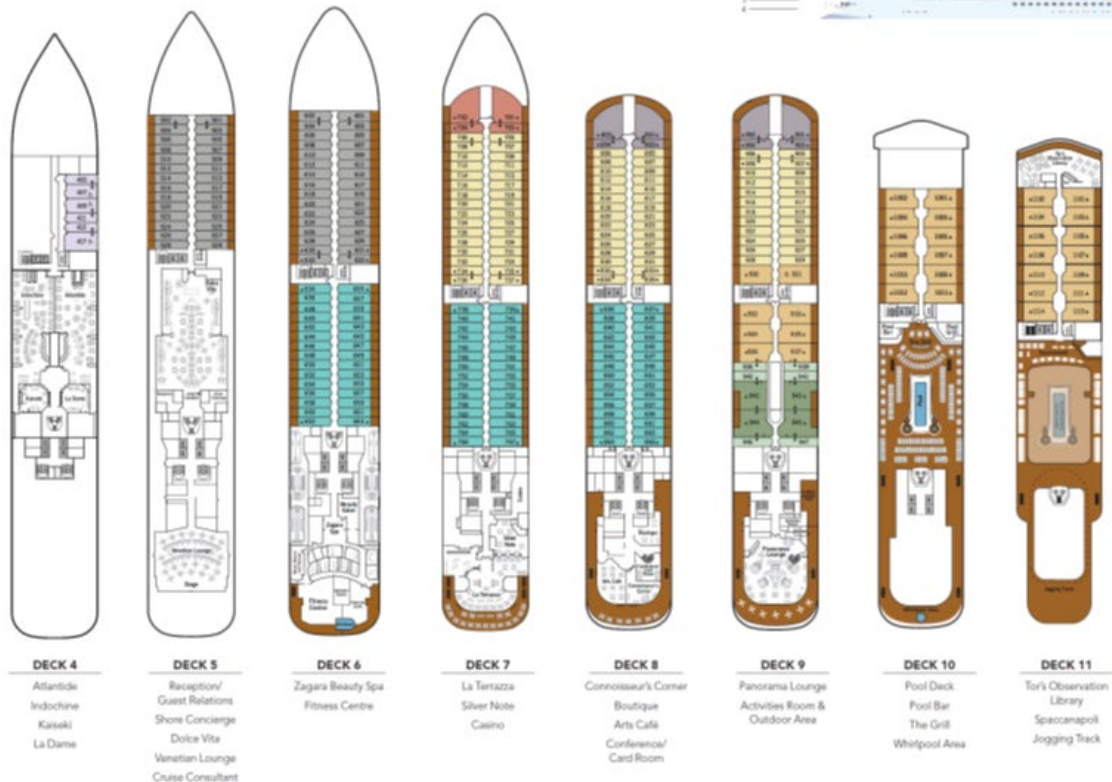
#### **DAY 15 – AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

Auckland is called the City of Sails, and visitors flying in will see why. On the East Coast is the Waitemata Harbour—a Māori word meaning sparkling waters—which is bordered by the Hauraki Gulf, an aquatic playground peppered with small islands where many Aucklanders can be found "mucking around in boats." Not surprisingly, Auckland has some 70,000 boats. About one in four households in Auckland has a boat of some kind, and there are 102 beaches within an hour's drive; during the week many are quite empty. Even the airport is by the water; it borders the Manukau Harbour, which also takes its name from the Māori language and means solitary bird. According to Māori tradition, the Auckland isthmus was originally peopled by a race of giants and fairy folk. When Europeans arrived in the early 19th century, however, the Ngāti-Whātua tribe was firmly in control of the region.

**Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.**



**SILVER MUSE – Deck Plans**  
 Effective until June 3rd 2020 (For voyages from June 4th 2020, please go to page 3)



- SUITE CATEGORIES**
- Owner's Suite
  - Grand Suite
  - Royal Suite
  - Silver Suite
  - Deluxe Veranda Suite
  - Superior Veranda Suite
  - Classic Veranda Suite
  - Panorama Suite
  - Vista Suite

- SPECIFICATIONS**
- Crew . . . . . 411
  - Officers . . . . . European
  - Guests . . . . . 596
  - Tonnage . . . . . 40,700
  - Length . . . . . 498 Feet / 212.8 Metres
  - Width . . . . . 86 Feet / 27 Metres
  - Speed . . . . . 19.8 Knots
  - Passenger Decks . . . . . 8
  - 3rd Guest Capacity . . . . . ▲
  - Connecting Suites . . . . . ↓
  - Wheelchair Accessible Suites . . . . . ♿
  - 407, 409, 417, 931
  - Built . . . . . 2017
  - Registry . . . . . Bahamas

Deckplans are for illustration purposes only and may be subject to change.  
 Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specifications for square footage.

2020 RATES	DEC 6 2019	DEC 8 2019	MAR 3 2020	MAR 5 2020
SUITE	From Sydney 15 Days - W/Air	From Melbourne 13 Days - No Air	From Sydney 15 Days – W/Air	From Melbourne 13 Days – No Air
Vista	\$7,740	\$5,130	\$7,110	\$5,553
Panorama	\$8,460	\$5,670	\$7,650	\$6,093
Classic Veranda	\$9,000	\$6,120	\$8,100	\$6,561
Superior Veranda	\$9,450	\$6,480	\$8,460	\$6,867
Deluxe Veranda	\$9,810	\$6,750	\$8,820	\$7,173
Silver Suite	\$14,220	\$10,440	\$13,320	\$11,106
Royal Suite	\$17,010	\$12,780	WAITLIST	WAITLIST
Grand Suite	WAITLIST	WAITLIST	\$17,550	\$14,967
Owners Suite	\$21,060	\$16,200	\$19,350	\$17,199

Rates are per person, based on Double Occupancy, and include all beverages onboard, gratuities to crew, taxes and fees. Excursions are optional, at additional cost.



**Reservations & Information**  
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[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)