



Cathedral Cove, Coromandel Peninsula

Kauri

23 Days - North & South Island

FROM
NZ \$9,800

PP, Twinshare, land only.

Join us on this three-week Small Group Tour for an adventure like no other. Experience the breath-taking scenery of snow-capped Alps, wander through lush native forests and relax on wide sandy beaches. Learn how this beautiful land has been shaped by ancient volcanoes and southern seas, by Maori warriors and colonial settlers. Friendly local guides will share their cultural, historical and ecological expertise as you travel throughout Aotearoa – ‘the land of the long white cloud’.

Day 1 Auckland

Haere mai – welcome! Arrive into Auckland and take some time to orientate yourself and explore the ‘City of Sails’.

M Social Hotel, Auckland

Day 2 Auckland to Bay of Islands (B)

Heading north we first visit the Reed Memorial Park to marvel at a remnant of the ancient kauri forest from an elevated walkway. After taking in the picturesque Whangarei Falls we continue to the Bay of Islands, where we are welcomed to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. Here we learn the fascinating story of the birthplace of the nation, see the magnificent meeting house, the interactive and contemporary museum and the war canoe (waka). We arrive in historic Russell, our base for the next two nights, by ferry.

Duke of Marlborough Hotel, Russell – 2 nights

Day 3 Bay of Islands (B)

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Today you have the choice of two excursions:

a) Discover the Far North of New Zealand

Travel by special coach along 90 Mile Beach to Cape Reinga, the very tip of New Zealand. This full day tour includes a visit to the ancient Puketi Kauri forest and lunch.

b) Enjoy a Hole in the Rock cruise

On the way to the Cape Brett Lighthouse, now hold your breath as the skipper skilfully navigates through the famous Hole in the Rock and into Grand Cathedral Cave (conditions permitting). Return to Russell to meet a local guide for an insight into this historic town’s rip-roaring past!

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland (B)

We return to Auckland to discover its vibrant harbourside, panoramic views, waterfront drives and charming villages before a guided tour of the Auckland Museum.

M Social Hotel, Auckland

Day 5 Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula (B)

We take to the water for a cruise across the Hauraki Gulf to the Coromandel Peninsula. At Driving Creek we enjoy a narrow-gauge railway trip before our coach drives us to the beautiful Mercury Bay.

Oceans Resort, Whitianga – 2 nights

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 6 Coromandel Peninsula (B)

At Hot Water Beach, where warm springs bubble up through the sand, you can dig your very own ‘spa’ pool when the tide is right. Walk down into photogenic Cathedral Cove and depart by water taxi back to Hahei where your driver will be waiting to take you to Cooks Beach where the HMS Endeavour arrived in 1769.

From Cooks Beach you can choose to catch the short ferry ride back to Whitianga and walk to your accommodation – OR – travel back with your driver.

Day 7 Coromandel Peninsula – Rotorua (B)

We travel through several beachside towns before turning inland. A short bushwalk provides scenic lookouts and a chance to stretch your legs before

arriving in Rotorua; the epicentre not only of New Zealand’s geothermal activity but of Maori heritage. Our private tour of Te Puia takes in its active geothermal sites, kiwi conservation and a range of indigenous arts and crafts.

Prince’s Gate Hotel, Rotorua – 2 nights

Day 8 Rotorua (B,D)

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Today you have the choice of two excursions:

a) Visit the Waimangu Volcanic Valley

Site of the eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886. Explore this ever-changing landscape on foot and by boat.

b) Experience the real Middle-earth

Visit the Hobbiton Movie Set for a guided tour of The Shire that featured in Peter Jackson’s films, The Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Hobbit film series.

Back in Rotorua this evening our whole group will travel to a traditional Maori village and experience an amazing welcome, a cultural performance, and a Hangi feast.

Day 9 Rotorua to Napier (B,D)

Visit the powerful Huka Falls and the vast Lake Taupo before heading east to Hawke’s Bay. A guided walking tour of Napier explores one of the world’s most complete examples of Art Deco architecture. Today’s journey has brought us to the North Island’s wine country, so this evening’s treat is dinner at New Zealand’s oldest winery, Mission Estate.

Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier



Bay of Islands



Te Puia, Rotorua

Day 10 Napier to Wellington (B)

We travel through the vineyards and orchards of Hawke's Bay onto rural Wairarapa and then into New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. From the Kelburn lookout take the Wellington Cable Car down into the central city before visiting Te Papa – New Zealand's innovative and interactive national museum.

James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

Day 11 Wellington to Nelson (B)

Today starts with one of the most beautiful ferry journeys in the world; travelling through the Cook Strait to the South Island. In Marlborough we pause for wine tasting at one of the area's premier wineries before crossing to sunny Nelson, our base for the next two nights.

Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson – 2 nights

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 12 Abel Tasman National Park (B)

This morning from Kaiteriteri, your tour includes a choice of one activity from these three options:

a) 3-4 hour Scenic Cruise (No walking)

A morning cruise reveals the golden sands and turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park. Enjoy time at leisure in Kaiteriteri and return to Nelson on the late afternoon transfer.

b) Walking Option 1: Astrolabe Beaches and Bays (7km, 2.5 hour walk)

After the scenic cruise, disembark at Apple Tree Bay for a self-guided walk to fabulous Anchorage Beach. Late afternoon transfer back to Nelson.

c) Walking Option 2: Forest and Swing-Bridge (10.5km, 4 hour walk)

After the scenic cruise, disembark at Medlands Beach for a self-guided walk that includes the scenic highlights of the South Head lookout, the famous Falls River swing-bridge and Cleopatra's Pool. Late afternoon transfer back to Nelson.

Day 13 Nelson to Punakaiki (B)

We travel through enchanting Nelson Lakes National Park and follow the Buller River Gorge - one of the world's best but least-known scenic drives. Emerging from the forest at Punakaiki - renowned for its wild, rugged coastline and the famous 'Pancake Rocks'.

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

Day 14 Punakaiki to Fox Glacier (B)

Journeying south along the Great Coast Road we pause in Hokitika township, where the galleries specialise in pounamu (greenstone). Stretch your legs at the dramatic Hokitika Gorge before continuing south to glacier country. The Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers flow from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps, down almost to sea level. Weather permitting, an optional helicopter ride is a terrific way to experience the sheer grandeur of the glaciers (extra cost).

Distinction Hotel, Fox Glacier

Day 15 Fox Glacier to Wanaka (B)

After a photo opportunity at mirror-like Lake Matheson we head over the Haast Pass deep into Mt. Aspiring National Park to the pretty lakeside resort town of Wanaka.

Edgewater Resort, Wanaka – 2 nights

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 16 Wanaka (B)

This morning you have the choice of two excursions:

a) Take a lake cruise to a conservation island

Join a local eco-guide to discover rare native birds, island walks and stunning landscape views.

b) Experience a scenic 4WD adventure

Explore remote High Country farmland.

This afternoon is at your leisure to relax or enjoy your own choice of activities.

Day 17 Wanaka to Te Anau (B)

Our first stop today is the much photographed Cardrona Pub, we then visit historic Arrowtown – a delightful gold rush village nestled below the beautiful peaks that surround the sparkling Arrow River. We continue our journey along the shores of spectacular Lake Wakatipu through glacial formed valleys to Lake Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park.

Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

Day 18 Te Anau to Milford Sound to Queenstown (B,L)

The journey to Milford Sound is one of the most scenic experiences you can have on four wheels! Described by Rudyard Kipling as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound is breath-taking in any weather. We board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea.



Milford Sound

Enjoy your picnic lunch while watching for seals and dolphins which are often seen in the waters of the fiord. We end our day in Queenstown.

Scenic Suites, Queenstown – 2 nights

Day 19 Queenstown (B)

Surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and the unique energy of Queenstown create the perfect backdrop for a visit full of adventure, exploration or relaxation. Today is free for you to do your own thing and the options are endless!

Day 20 Queenstown to Mt. Cook to Twizel (B)

We pass pretty Lake Dunstan before we cross Central Otago countryside to the Lindis Pass. Descending into the Mackenzie Basin the Southern Alps dominate the horizon. We drive along Lake Pukaki to Mt. Cook Village, home to New Zealand's tallest peak, Aoraki/Mt. Cook, then overnight in the small town of Twizel.

Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel



Christchurch



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo



Wanaka

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 21 Twizel to Rural Canterbury (B,D)

Visit a local home set on the shores of Lake Tekapo and learn the secrets of making a Pavlova - a truly Kiwi dessert! Enjoy your pavlova and morning tea as you drink in the views of this beautiful lake. View the Church of the Good Shepherd, one of New Zealand's most-photographed spots: a tiny church set against a majestic backdrop of the Southern Alps, before travelling through the Canterbury Plains to Ashburton.

Accommodation options:

a) Rural homestay

Local hosts open their homes to travellers offering a delicious home-cooked dinner before a cosy night's stay in a family home.

b) Local hotel

Spend the night in a local hotel enjoying dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 22 Ashburton to Christchurch (B,D)

We cross the fertile Canterbury Plains to our last destination, Christchurch. Post-earthquake the city mixes colonial charm with modern architecture, re-inventing itself in typical Kiwi style. Edwardian styled boatmen take you for a relaxing cruise along the River Avon before we enjoy a journey onboard a beautifully restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

Day 23 Depart Christchurch (B)

Haere ra – farewell from New Zealand. You are transferred to the Christchurch Airport for your return home. Alternatively, should you wish to extend your stay, we can assist you with additional travel arrangements.

Featured Experiences

- Entry to Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Journey along 90 Mile Beach – or – take a Hole in the Rock cruise
- A scenic cruise from Auckland to the Coromandel Peninsula
- Narrow-gauge railway journey through native Coromandel bush
- Visit Hot Water Beach and photogenic Cathedral Cove
- A private guide and tour around an active geothermal site
- Visit Waimangu Volcanic Valley – or – experience Hobbiton Movie Set
- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- Enjoy an evening meal at Mission Estate in Napier
- Travel on Wellington's famous Cable Car and visit Te Papa museum
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough's premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Visit world-famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki
- Cruise to a conservation island – or – join a scenic 4WD adventure
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breathtaking Milford Sound
- Enjoy true kiwi hospitality with morning tea at a local home on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Relax as you're guided along Christchurch's Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt

Culinary Inclusions

27 meals included:
22 breakfasts (B) 1 lunch (L) 4 dinners (D)

