



Rotorua

# Rata

## 16 Days - North & South Island

On this Small Group Tour you will see and learn about New Zealand's amazing geothermal activities, experience authentic Maori culture and hospitality, and explore the vast range of jaw-dropping scenery that makes New Zealand a magnificent location for the ultimate vacation.

FROM  
**NZ \$7,360**

PP, Twinshare, land only.

### Day 1 Auckland

Haere mai – welcome! Spend the afternoon and evening at your leisure exploring the 'City of Sails'.  
**M Social Hotel, Auckland**

### Day 2 Auckland to Rotorua (B,D)

This morning enjoy an Auckland City tour including panoramic views from Bastion Point, the informative Maori and Pacific Islands displays at the Auckland Museum, quaint Parnell Village, and some of the most popular waterfront areas. Departing Auckland we travel to Rotorua – the heart of New Zealand's famous thermal and cultural region. After a city tour you will be able to check into your central accommodation and enjoy some time to relax before travelling this evening to a Maori village where you will experience a powerful cultural performance, storytelling and Hangi (feasting).  
**Prince's Gate Hotel, Rotorua**

### Day 3 Rotorua to Wellington (B)

This morning you will have a private tour of Te Puia to see its geothermal activity and centre for indigenous arts and crafts. Next travel out to visit the Blue and Green Lakes, and Lake Tarawera – site of the Buried Village to see remains of the Maori village Te Wairoa that was devastated by an 1886 volcanic eruption. This afternoon fly to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. On arrival enjoy a city tour including viewing famous landmarks such as New Zealand's magnificent Parliament Buildings and the iconic 'Beehive' building. Your hotel is located within the central business and shopping precinct of Wellington.  
**James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington**

### Day 4 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 5 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 Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Apple Tree Bay for a self-guided walk to fabulous Anchorage Beach. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.  
**c) Walking Option 2. Forest and Swing-Bridge (10.5km, 4 hour walk)**  
After the Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Medlands Beach for a self-guided walk to Anchorage Beach including the scenic highlights of the South Head lookout, the famous Falls River swing-bridge and Cleopatra's Pool. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.

### Day 6 Nelson to Punakaiki (B)

We travel through the 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 7 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 8 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**

### Day 9 Wanaka (B)

YOUR CHOICE ✓

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 with the perfect mix of incredible scenery, history, heritage and farming life.  
This afternoon is at your leisure to relax or enjoy your own choice of activities.



Wellington



Queen Charlotte Sound

### Day 10 Wanaka to Te Anau (B)

This morning we 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 11 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! At Milford Sound we board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. 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 12 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 13 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, we overnight in the rural town of Twizel.

**Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel**

**YOUR CHOICE ✓**

### Day 14 Twizel to Rural Canterbury (B,D)

Visit a friendly lakeside home to learn the secrets of making a Pavlova - a truly Kiwi dessert! View the Church of the Good Shepherd and Lake Tekapo before travelling 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 15 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 16 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

- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- A private guide and tour around an active geothermal site
- Visit a volcanic valley and explore the site devastated by an 1886 eruption
- 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
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Take a boat trip to a conservation island – or – join a scenic 4WD adventure

- 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

18 meals included:  
15 breakfasts (B) 1 lunch (L) 2 dinners (D)

