



Pohutukawa

20 Days - North & South Island

This journey takes you through some of our favourite places and spaces in the North and South Islands, discovering fantastic coastlines and immersing you in Maori culture and history. Explore the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Abel Tasman National Park with opportunities to swim in its dazzling turquoise lagoons.

Day 1 Auckland

Haere mai – welcome! You will be transferred to your accommodation in central Auckland. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the ‘City of Sails’.

M Social Hotel, Auckland

Day 2 Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula (B)

Today starts with a cruise across the Hauraki Gulf to the Coromandel Peninsula. Visit the Driving Creek Railway where we climb 120m on a narrow-gauge line to the ‘Eyefull’ Tower for panoramic views over the coastline of this stunning peninsula. Drive east through beautiful scenery to reach the resort of Whitianga on Mercury Bay.

Oceans Resort, Whitianga – 2 nights

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 3 Coromandel Peninsula (B)

White cliffs, golden beaches, inviting turquoise waters and green forests are the colours of the Coromandel. Visit Hot Water Beach, when the tide is right you can dig your very own ‘spa’ pool with warm spring water bubbling up through the sand. We walk to Cathedral Cove, one of the most photogenic beaches in New Zealand. Depart by water taxi back to Hahei where your driver will be waiting to take you to Cooks Beach.

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 4 Coromandel Peninsula – Rotorua (B)

Travel through some popular Bay of Plenty beachside towns before heading inland, pausing at Okere Falls before arriving in Rotorua. This is the epicentre of New Zealand’s geothermal activity and also a thriving cultural hub. We receive a warm welcome at Te Puia, with a private guide to tell stories of the numerous geysers, mud pools and steam vents, as well as the arts of weaving, carving and tattooing.

Prince’s Gate Hotel, Rotorua – 2 nights

Day 5 Rotorua (B,D)

Today you have the choice of two excursions:

a) Visit the Waimangu Volcanic Valley

Site of the 1886 eruption of Mt. Tarawera which buried villages and destroyed the world-famous ‘Pink and White’ terraces, once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. Walk through the valley created by the catastrophic event, past boiling craters and jewel-coloured steaming lakes.

b) Experience the real Middle-earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set

Visit the delightful setting that featured in Peter Jackson’s films, The Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Hobbit film series. Your Hobbiton guide will escort you through site and explain how it became The Shire.

This evening we all visit a Maori Village where we receive a formal welcome (powhiri) and enjoy a powerful cultural performance, with storytelling and Hangi (feasting).

YOUR CHOICE ✓

FROM
NZ \$9,040

PP, Twinshare, land only.

Day 6 Rotorua to Napier (B,D)

Visit the powerful Huka Falls then the vast Lake Taupo. In the distance stands the mighty volcanic peaks of the Tongariro National Park. Onto Napier where a guided walk will reveal how this seaside town now has one of the world’s most complete examples of Art Deco architecture. This evening’s treat is dinner at New Zealand’s oldest winery, Mission Estate, which is enjoyed in the restored seminary buildings with sweeping views of Napier.

Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier

Day 7 Napier to Wellington (B)

Travel through the vineyards and orchards of Hawke’s Bay and rural Wairarapa into New Zealand’s capital city, Wellington. From the Kelburn lookout take the Wellington Cable Car down into the central city before exploring treasures and stories at Te Papa; the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

Day 8 Wellington to Nelson (B)

Today starts with one of the most beautiful ferry journeys in the world, cruising through the waters of Cook Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound to the South Island. We travel to Marlborough for wine tasting at one of the country’s premier wineries.

Our base for the next two nights is sunny Nelson.
Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson – 2 nights



Napier



Milford Sound

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park (B)

The idyllic Abel Tasman National Park is best explored by boat and on foot.

Sailing from Kaiteriteri, today offers a choice of:

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 10 Nelson to Punakaiki (B)

Driving via the Nelson Lakes National Park we follow the Buller River Gorge for one of the world's best but least-known scenic drives. Emerging from the forest we reach the Tasman Sea and the famous 'Pancake Rocks' - these stratified limestone stacks are an extraordinary monument of nature.

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

Day 11 Punakaiki to Fox Glacier (B)

Journeying ever closer to the Southern Alps we pause in the historic town of Hokitika with its galleries specialising in greenstone. Stretch your legs at the dramatic Hokitika Gorge where the blue/green waters pass through the rugged rocks. Fox Glacier offers the chance to take an optional helicopter ride to get up close to the West Coast glaciers (extra cost).

Distinction Hotel, Fox Glacier

Day 12 Fox Glacier to Wanaka (B)

Have your camera ready for your visit to nearby Lake Matheson for a morning stroll - when conditions are right the lake perfectly mirrors beautiful Mt. Cook in its still waters. Head over the Haast Pass into Mt. Aspiring National Park and Lake Wanaka.

Edgewater Resort, Wanaka - 2 nights

Day 13 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.

YOUR CHOICE ✓

Day 14 Wanaka to Te Anau (B)

Stop at the much photographed Cardrona Pub before traversing the Crown Range road to visit historic Arrowtown - a delightful gold rush village. Continue past the Remarkables mountain range and spectacular Lake Wakatipu to reach Lake Te Anau, the ideal base from which to visit Milford Sound.

Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

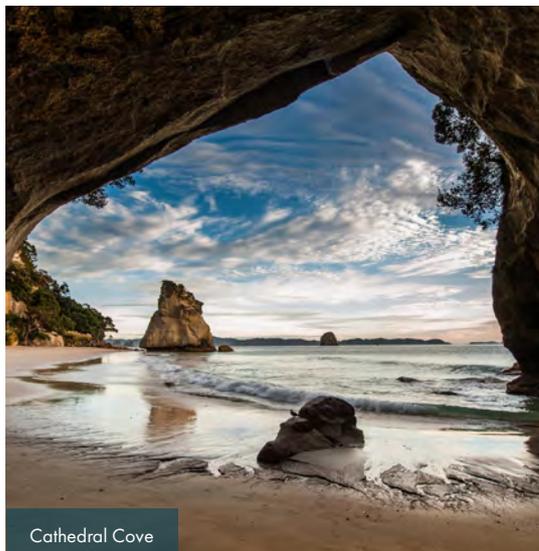
Day 15 Te Anau to Milford Sound to Queenstown (B,L)

Today's journey is one of the most scenic experiences you can have on four wheels. The scenery is spectacular with lofty mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age glaciers. At Milford Sound we board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past towering Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. Keep an eye peeled for seals and dolphins which are often seen in the waters of the fiord. Our day ends with a return journey to Queenstown.

Scenic Suites, Queenstown - 2 nights

Day 16 Queenstown (B)

Queenstown is set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu surrounded by majestic mountains. Today is free for you to do your own thing in New Zealand's most famous adventure resort. Try white-water rafting and high-wire thrills, or relax on a classic steamship cruise (at own cost).



Cathedral Cove



Queenstown



Punakaiki



Wanaka

Day 17 Queenstown to Mt. Cook to Twizel (B)

We drive through the rugged Kawarau Gorge, past pretty Lake Dunstan and through Central Otago countryside to the Lindis Pass. As we descend into the Mackenzie Basin the Southern Alps dominate the horizon. We drive alongside 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

Day 18 Twizel to Rural Canterbury (B,D)

Visit a local lakeside home and learn the secrets of making a Pavlova - a truly Kiwi dessert! After a delicious morning tea and a photo opportunity at Lake Tekapo and the picturesque Church of the Good Shepherd, we pass across the high country plains onto Ashburton.

Accommodation options:

YOUR CHOICE ✓

a) Rural homestay

Enjoy 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 19 Ashburton to Christchurch (B,D)

Our journey ends in the garden city of Christchurch. Enjoy two unique journeys with punting on the River Avon through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, and a journey onboard a beautifully restored heritage tram through the city centre. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Distinction Hotel, Christchurch



Christchurch

Day 20 Depart Christchurch (B)

Haere ra! Farewell from New Zealand. We take you to the airport for your flight home, or set you on the way on the next stage of your holiday.

Featured Experiences

- 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 breath-taking 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

24 meals included:
19 breakfasts (B) 1 lunch (L) 4 dinners (D)

