



Hobbiton

# Rimu

## 16 Days - North & South Island

FROM  
**NZ \$7,360**

PP, Twinshare, land only.

The Rimu Tour explores the highlights of the North and South Islands. Explore the geothermal activities and authentic Maori culture of Rotorua, cruise Milford Sound and make the most of the abundance of walking opportunities the country has to offer as you travel through New Zealand's fabulous landscapes.

### 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 Coromandel Peninsula (B)

Today take a scenic cruise 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 Hauraki Gulf. Drive east across the Peninsula 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 to Rotorua (B)

We take the Pacific Coast Highway to Tauranga before turning inland. En-route to Rotorua we visit a bushwalk with scenic lookouts over Okere Falls.

In Rotorua, the epicentre of New Zealand's geothermal activity and Maori heritage, we visit Te Puia and enjoy a private guide through this active geothermal site and home to the nation's centre for indigenous arts and crafts.

**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

The site of the devastating eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886 which destroyed the world-famous 'Pink and White' silica terraces, once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. Walk past boiling craters and coloured steaming lakes and cruise across lake Rotomahana.

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

Visit the delightful setting for The Shire that features in the Lord of the Rings trilogy and the Hobbit film series.

This evening travel to a Marae (Maori Village). Experience a formal welcome (powhiri), learn about Maori life, both past and contemporary and enjoy a powerful cultural performance, storytelling and Hangi (feasting).

### Day 6 Rotorua to Napier (B,D)

Today we travel past Lake Taupo where we visit the powerful Huka Falls. Onto Napier where our local guide will bring history and architecture alive as we discover Art Deco Napier on foot. Enjoy dinner at New Zealand's oldest winery, Mission Estate, in the restored seminary buildings with sweeping views of Napier.

**Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier**

YOUR CHOICE ✓

### Day 7 Napier to Wellington (B)

Travel through the vineyards and orchards of Hawke's Bay and the bush-clad ranges of the Wairarapa into New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. Take the Wellington Cable Car down into the central city precinct before visiting Te Papa – one of the most exciting museums in the world.  
**James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington**

### Day 8 Wellington to Nelson (B)

Our day commences with the Interislander ferry journey crossing Cook Strait to the South Island. From here we travel the short distance to Blenheim in the heart of the Marlborough wine country. What better way to enjoy this region famous for its Sauvignon Blanc than with wine tasting at one of Marlborough's premier wineries? We then cross to Nelson, your base for the next two nights.

**Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson – 2 nights**

YOUR CHOICE ✓

### Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park (B)

Abel Tasman National Park is a mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons sheltered by forested ranges to the south. This morning from Kaiteriteri, your tour includes a choice of one activity from these three options:

#### a) Non - Walking Option. Full Park Scenic Cruise (3-4 hour cruise)

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 shuttle transfer back to Nelson.



Rotorua



Wellington

**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)**

Today we head south through enchanting alpine landscapes and deep river gorges to the Nelson Lakes National Park. Punakaiki is renowned for its rugged coastline and famous 'Pancake Rocks' and blowholes.

**Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki**

**Day 11 Punakaiki to Fox Glacier (B)**

We pass through historic small towns before reaching Hokitika and its dramatic gorge. Continue south to Franz Josef then on to the small remote village of Fox. An optional helicopter ride with a snow landing is a terrific way to experience the sheer grandeur of the Franz Josef and Fox 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. We head up over the Haast Pass and into Mt. Aspiring National Park to reach Lake Wanaka.

**Edgewater Resort, Wanaka - 2 nights**

**Day 13 Wanaka (B)**

**YOUR CHOICE ✓**

This morning you have the choice of two excursions:

**a) Join a local eco-guide**

Cruise across the lake to a predator-free island with walking tracks, rare birds and stunning landscape views.

**b) Experience New Zealand's most authentic 4WD adventure**

Explore remote High Country farmland this journey is an insight into the history of the area and its breath-taking scenery.

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

**Day 14 Wanaka to Te Anau (B)**

Today we depart Wanaka with our first stop at the much photographed Cardrona Pub before we continue on to the historic goldmining village of Arrowtown. We journey through glacial formed valleys to Lake Te Anau.

**Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau**

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

Enjoy the scenic drive to Milford Sound and board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past towering Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. A boxed picnic lunch is served onboard. Following the cruise, we retrace our journey back to Te Anau and travel around spectacular Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown.

**Scenic Suites, Queenstown**

**Day 16 Depart Queenstown (B)**

Haere ra – farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you are transferred to Queenstown Airport for your return home taking with you fond memories of your time in New Zealand. Alternatively, should you wish to extend your stay in New Zealand, we can assist you with additional travel arrangements.

**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 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 a wine tasting and 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
- Visit a predator-free island – or – enjoy a 4WD adventure
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breath-taking Milford Sound

**Culinary Inclusions**

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

