

Great Sights of New Zealand

30 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
FROM £5,445



An amazing trip from the subtropical Bay of Islands through the scenic highlights of North Island to the capital, Wellington.

On South Island watch whales in Kaikoura, enjoy punting on the River Avon in Christchurch, and cross the Sothern Alps by train to the West Coast. From the Glaciers head to the beautiful Lakes region and in Fiordland, cruise Milford Sound.

Finish your journey with a close-up view of the mighty Mount Cook.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE
Boat excursions out to Auckland’s nearby islands
Walking trails through Rotorua’s spectacular Waimangu Valley
A guided tour of Napier’s Art Deco sights
A funicular ride to the Kelburn lookout for extensive views of the Wellington Bay area
The botanic gardens in Christchurch with coffee and cake at the stylish ilex café
Photograph the stunning reflections of the Mount Cook panorama in Lake Matheson
Thrills and spills on a jet boat trip up the Matukituki river, Wanaka
Cruise on Milford Sound out to the Tasman Sea
Stargazing of the Southern skies from Mount Cook or Tekapo

- 1. Bay of Islands
- 2. Marae, Bay of Islands
- 3. Café, Christchurch
- 4. Mou Waho Island, Wanaka

ITINERARY

Day 1 Welcome to New Zealand
We meet you on landing at Auckland and take you straight to your hotel. Depending on your journey, relax or start exploring!

Day 2 Auckland
Many city sights are within a stroll of your hotel. Take the ferry to Tiritiri Matangi for walks and bird watching on this conservation island. Climb the Sky Tower for panoramic views of Auckland – the SkyWalk or SkyJump are optional!

Day 3 Auckland to Bay of Islands
Collect your rental car and drive over the Harbour Bridge to the seaside town of Paihia in the beautiful Bay of Islands.

Day 4 Bay of Islands
Cruise to the ‘hole in the rock’ or take a ferry across to historic Russell. Enjoy a delicious seafood dish at the ‘Only Seafood’ restaurant on the stunning Paihia waterfront.

Day 5 Bay of Islands
Join a guided tour of Waitangi Treaty Grounds where, in 1840, agreement was signed between Maori and British, forming the nation of New Zealand.

Day 6 Bay of Islands to Coromandel Peninsula
Drive South , through Auckland over the Bombay Hills and East around the Firth of Thames to the relatively untouched beauty of the Coromandel Peninsula. Enjoy the walk to Cathedral Cove or relax on one of the many stunning beaches.

Day 7 Coromandel
Day at leisure in the Coromandel Peninsula. Tides permitting, dig your own spa pool at Hot Water beach.

Day 8 Coromandel to Rotorua
Returning south, travel across the farmland of the Waikato to arrive at your accommodation in Rotorua. En Route for Lord of the Rings fans, there is the option to visit Hobbiton (This must be pre-booked).

Day 9 Rotorua
Te Puia offers geothermal features and Maori culture within its reserve. Weaving and carving are demonstrated at the National Arts and Crafts Institute. We can recommend a Maori evening experience combining a traditional welcome, songs and feast (a hangi).

Day 10 Rotorua to Napier or Tongariro National Park
On the road south, stop in Taupo for lunch before entering Tongariro National Park, a starkly beautiful volcanic landscape. Alternatively head east to Napier. Discover how this seaside resort was reinvented as an Art Deco icon on a guided walking tour.

Day 11 Napier or Tongariro National Park
Napier: Join a wine tasting afternoon in the sun driving through stunning scenery. Meet like-minded people on this small group tour and share an appreciation of this regions fantastic wine. Or head out to see the gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers.
Tongariro: Often described as the finest one day walk in New Zealand, the Tongariro Crossing is a full day traverse of the ‘saddle’ between Mts Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Shorter walks are also possible. A round of golf on an all-weather course, or a soak in a natural hot pool are other options.

Day 12 Tongariro to Wellington
Travel to Wellington, eclectic cafés, street art, film sets or historic sights: there is something for everyone. Take the Cable Car for views over Wellington.

Day 13 Wellington to Picton to Nelson
Drive to the Interislander Ferry for the cruise across the Cook Strait and through the scenic Queen Charlotte Sound to the South Island. Arrive into Picton and drive across the top of the South Island to Nelson, your base for the next two nights.

Day 14 Abel Tasman National Park
The best way to appreciate the amazing beaches is by boat, so after a coach transfer, hop on a small cruiser for the day. Land on an idyllic beach and walk a section of the famous Abel Tasman Coastal Track, then re-join the boat at Torrent Bay. Return to Nelson.

Day 15 Nelson to Blenheim to Kaikoura
Depart Nelson and drive to the vineyards surrounding Blenheim in the Marlborough Wine Country. From here travel south down the eastern coastline to Kaikoura, where the mountains meet the sea.

Day 16 Kaikoura to Christchurch
This morning there is the option to enjoy a Whale Watch experience by modern purpose-built catamaran for an exciting close-up encounter with the Giant Sperm Whale in their natural environment. The road south follows the wild coastline affording constantly changing seascapes and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Then descend into the rolling farmland of North Canterbury passing through small country towns before entering the city of Christchurch.

Day 17 Christchurch
Day at leisure to enjoy the ‘Garden City’, which has also been described as “the most English city outside England”. Take a punt on the River Avon, stroll through the Botanic Gardens, and ride the city’s historic tram. You may also wish to observe the re-building of the Cathedral, browse the shops and stalls of the Arts Centre or visit the Canterbury Museum and the Art Gallery.

Day 18 Christchurch to Hokitika
Enjoy one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world: the Tranz Alpine over the Southern Alps winds up and over Arthur’s Pass then down to the west coast. Detraining at Greymouth, collect another vehicle to continue to the gold rush town of Hokitika.

Day 19 Hokitika to Fox Glacier
There are few places where it is easy to view a ‘river of ice’ and here are two! There are various ways to get close to the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers on foot and by air for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Day 20 Fox Glacier to Wanaka
Today take the Haast Pass through Mt Aspiring National Park to charming Wanaka. Stretch your legs on a lakeside walk or visit a craft gallery before dinner in one of the resort’s highly-rated restaurants.

Day 21 Wanaka
Play time! Wanaka offers a host of outdoor adventures from exhilarating waterfall climbs to jet-boat river rides.

Day 22 Wanaka to Queenstown
A leisurely drive to Queenstown today: take the Skyline Gondola to Bob’s Peak for a panoramic view over South Island’s adventure capital.



Day 23 Wanaka to Te Anau
Travel south, around Lake Wakatipu across Southland to Te Anau. Enjoy a walk beside the lake or a boat trip to visit the glow worm caves.

Day 24 Milford Sound Day Excursion
A scenic journey by coach deep into Fiordland National Park before arriving at Milford Sound to board a small cruiser to view the natural wonders, up to Mitre Peak and the entrance to the Tasman Sea.

Day 25 Te Anau to Queenstown
Surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and unique energy of the Queenstown region create the perfect backdrop for your time here.

Day 26 Queenstown
As well as white-knuckle thrills, Queenstown offers gentle cycling, wine-tasting, a gondola ride and good shopping. A cruise on TSS Earnslaw up to Walter Peak sheep station for dinner is a favourite early evening option.

Day 27 Queenstown to Mount Cook
Drive alongside the shores of Lake Pukaki into Mount Cook National Park. On a clear evening, explore the southern sky from the Hilary Deck with an expert astronomy guide and take a close look at distant galaxies.

Day 28 Mount Cook
Sir Edmund Hillary climbed these peaks before his ascent of Everest. Visit the Alpine Centre that bears his name, before following the Hooker Valley Track for superb views of Mount Cook.

Day 29 Mount Cook to Christchurch
After enjoying the view from the Church of the Good Shepherd, step aside to see the statue which celebrates the working sheepdogs of the Mackenzie area, then cross the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

Day 30 Christchurch
Time for some final sightseeing or shopping.

ACCOMMODATION

We arrange accommodation that balances quality with location and that we have seen for ourselves. We favour 4-star central hotels in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, with a mix of independent hotels and charming B&Bs elsewhere. Should our preferred accommodation be unavailable, we reserve the right to book an alternative and adjust the tour price up or down accordingly.

If you prefer to stay at boutique hotels and unique lodges, please ask us to quote for a luxury version of this itinerary.

GUIDE PRICES	
LOW SEASON (May-Sep)	from £5,445
SHOULDER SEASON (Oct-mid Dec, Apr)	from £5,594
PEAK SEASON (mid Dec-Mar)	from £5,795
These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,800 (see page 21). Single supplements apply: prices on request.	
Prices are per person based on two travelling/sharing including	
■ Meet & greet at Auckland airport	
■ Private transfer to your Auckland hotel	
■ 29 nights’ accommodation in quality hotels, B&B’s and apartments	
■ Breakfast each day	
■ Intermediate car hire with unlimited kilometres & daily insurance	
■ Traditional Maori Hangi	
■ Interislander ferry travel	
■ TranzAlpine rail tickets	
■ Milford Nature Cruise	
■ Coach & boat trip Nelson/Abel Tasman National Park	