



**Itinerary Name:** New Zealand Wonderland Escorted Tour

**Routing :** Auckland to Christchurch

**Duration:** 17 Days within New Zealand

**DAY 01: ARRIVE AUCKLAND**

On arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Today you can select the activity that interests you from our range of Freedom of Choice Touring options.

**Auckland City Sights**

Visit the upmarket area of Ponsonby, Parnell Village and the Rose Gardens. See Auckland University, The Viaduct Basin and The Strand, OR

**Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World**

Explore the underwater world of sharks, eels and fish swimming in the ocean - like depths. Also see Emperor Penguins, OR

**Bliss Reflexology**

At Crowne Plaza Hotel, you can put your feet up and relax. Surrounded by calming music, enjoy a massage of your head, neck and shoulders. Bliss!, OR

**Auckland Harbour Bridge Climb**

On New Zealand's only bridge climb, your guide will escort you safely to the very top of Auckland Harbour Bridge to absorb stunning views of the city and Waitemata Harbour, OR

**Pride of Auckland**

Cruise on the Waitemata Harbour, while overlooking the busy cosmopolitan city of Auckland. Relax and enjoy coffee and muffins as you sail by.

***Overnight : Rendezvous Hotel Auckland***

**DAY 02: AUCKLAND TO BAY OF ISLANDS**

Cross Auckland's busy Harbour Bridge and travel along the Hibiscus Coast to the Matakoho Kauri Museum. Continue via the Waipoua Forest Reserve to the sub-tropical Bay of Islands.

***Overnight : Copthorne Waitangi Resort, Garden Room***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

## DAY 03: BAY OF ISLANDS

Choose from our Freedom of Choice Touring options :

### **Cape Reinga Day Tour**

Enjoy a day tour to the very top of New Zealand. Drive along the sands of Ninety Mile Beach and visit the lighthouse at Cape Reinga, **OR**

### **Russell Mini - tour**

Cruise to romantic Russell on a sightseeing tour. Gain insight into New Zealand's beautiful old buildings and museums, **OR**



### **Golf at Waitangi**

Play a round of golf in spectacular surroundings overlooking this amazing National Maritime Park. Clubs and golf cart hire are included, **OR**

### **Dolphin Adventure**

Dolphins are one of the earth's most fascinating creatures and on this adventure you'll get right up close to them, **OR**

### **Tall Ship Sailing**

Share a Tall Ship sailing adventure and step back in time to the romance of bygone years aboard the R. Tucker Thompson. A BBQ lunch is included, **OR**

### **Culture North Night Show**

In the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the Maori house is a theatre by night, combining drama, music and dance.

### **Overnight : Copthorne Waitangi Resort, Garden Room**

Daily Meal Included: • Breakfast

#### DAY 04: BAY OF ISLANDS TO AUCKLAND

This morning, explore the Bay of Islands on a catamaran cruise to Cape Brett and the Hole in the Rock. Returning to Paihia, your coach will head back to Auckland. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner and drinks at your hotel.

**Overnight: *Rendezvous Hotel Auckland***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

#### DAY 05: AUCKLAND, TO WAITOMO TO ROTORUA, HANGI FEAST

Leaving Auckland, travel to the Waitomo caves and enjoy a guided tour of the underground limestone caverns. Continue to Rotorua, the centre of Maori culture and known for its geothermal activity. Tonight immerse yourself in Maori hospitality and culture. Indulge in a traditional Maori hangi feast and a performance of song and dance.

**Overnight : *Holiday Inn Rotorua***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

#### DAY 06: ROTORUA

Today, you can choose from many tours and experiences with our Freedom of Choice Touring :

##### **Rotorua Icons**

The ultimate sightseeing adventure. Visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and then enjoy the Agrodome Farmshow. **OR**

##### **Kiwi Encounter**

Explore Rainbow Springs Nature Park, a refreshingly natural New Zealand experience and also home to Kiwi Encounter - a working nursery and hatchery. **OR**

##### **Eco - thermal Tour**

Drive through forestry and farmland to New Zealand's largest boiling mudpool and a series of colourful hot springs at Wai - O - Tapu, including Lady Knox Geyser, **OR**

##### **Polynesian Spa**

Indulge in a relaxing 30 - minute spa treatment utilising the therapeutic mud from the geothermal region surrounding Rotorua, **OR**

##### **Hobbiton Movie Set Tour**

This tour is a must for any 'Lord of the Rings' fan. Explore the sets on which scenes from the blockbuster series were filmed. **OR**



### **4WD Bush Safari**

Manoeuvre your 4WD over and through an extreme off-road trail set in beautiful native rainforest. Negotiate a variety of challenges!

**Overnight : *Holiday Inn Rotorua***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

## **DAY 07: ROTORUA TO WELLINGTON**

Follow the Thermal Explorer Highway to the heart of the North Island. View Wairakei Steam Valley, see the thundering Huka Falls and the tranquil Lake Taupo before traveling south across the vast volcanic plateau of Tongariro National Park. End your travels today in Wellington, the national capital.

**Overnight: *Wellington, Amora Hotel***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

## **DAY 08: WELLINGTON**

Choose what to do today from a wide selection of Freedom of Choice activities.

### **Wellington Highlights Tour**

Take a city sightseeing tour of Wellington, including a guided tour of Te Papa, the Parliament Buildings, and Old St Paul's Cathedral. **OR**

### **Zealandia: Karori Eco Sanctuary**

Learn about New Zealand's incredible natural history, world-renowned conservation projects and state-of-the-art exhibition at Zealandia. **OR**

### **'Lord of the Rings' Tour**

Discover the best seven set locations from north and south Wellington on this half-day tour (upgrade to full day tour available.) **OR**

### **Carter Observatory & Planetarium**

See a digital planetarium show and multi-media exhibition of the southern skies. A celebration of pre-European celestial navigation.

**Overnight: *Wellington, Amora Hotel***

Daily Meal Included: • Breakfast

## DAY 09: WELLINGTON TO KAIKOURA TO METHVEN

Step aboard the Interislander ferry to cruise across Cook Strait and through stunning Marlborough Sounds to Picton on the South Island. Rejoin your coach and journey through the renowned vineyard region of Marlborough. Visit the fishing town of Kaikoura, famous for its whale and dolphin watching, before arriving in the alpine resort town of Methven.

**Overnight : Methven, Brinkley Resort**

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

## DAY 10: TRANZALPINE TRAIN, FRANZ JOSEF

Board the TranzAlpine train and take in the stunning scenery as you travel through gorges, past river valleys and across the Southern Alps. Disembark the train at Arthurs Pass and continue to Hokitika by coach. Here see Pounamu (jade) being carved and visit a glass-blowing factory. Then continue to the beautiful glacial region of Franz Josef for your overnight stay.

**Overnight : Scenic Hotel  
Franz Josef Glacier**

Daily Meals Included: •  
Breakfast • Dinner



## DAY 11: FRANZ JOSEF, TO QUEENSTOWN, DINE AROUND DINNER

Today, journey to the stunning location of Queenstown. This evening enjoy a selection of three different eateries for your Dine Around Dinner :

### **Walter Peak**

Cruise aboard a vintage steamer, the TSS Earnslaw, to historic Walter Peak High Country Farm and enjoy 'The Great Kiwi Carvery' at the Colonel's Homestead. **OR**

### **Skyline Restaurant**

Take a gondola ride up to the Skyline Restaurant. Enjoy stunning views and an extensive buffet featuring local produce. **OR**

### **Elements Restaurant**

Located at Novotel Queenstown Lakeside, Elements Restaurant offers fresh

seasonal cuisine and a modern dining experience.

***Overnight: Queenstown, Novotel Queenstown Lakeside***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

**DAY 12: QUEENSTOWN**

Today you have a selection of activities to choose from :

**Wine Tour**

This Queenstown wine tour offers a fun, friendly personalised sightseeing experience of wineries in New Zealand's foremost wine region, **OR**

**Double Decker Explorer**

What a fun way to explore the streets of Queenstown and Arrowtown, a gold - mining settlement, riding a Double Decker bus, **OR**



**Skippers Canyon**

Enjoy an exhilarating adventure following the Shotover River Valley, viewing sheer cliffsides and breathtaking river gorges, **OR**

**Lakeshore Forest and Bird Walk**

Taken at a leisurely pace, this walk is a unique experience through native Beech forests with morning tea on the lakeshore, **OR**

**Safari of the Scenes**

Take a look at the diversity of the scenery in this region. This tour is based around several specific sites where the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy was filmed, **OR**

**Shotover Jetboat Ride**

Experience the thrill of a lifetime as you journey deep into river canyons. Let out a 'whoop' of excitement as the driver spins the boat around!, **OR**

***Overnight: Queenstown, Novotel Queenstown Lakeside***

Daily Meal Included: • Breakfast

**DAY 13: MILFORD SOUND AND TE ANAU**

Journey along the Milford Road, one of the most scenic drives in the world. Wind down the Eglinton and Hollyford valleys, then through the Homer Tunnel to Milford Sound. Here, take a memorable cruise along the full length of the sound. Later, drive to the town of Te Anau, on the shores of the South Island's largest lake.

***Overnight: Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner



**DAY 14: TE ANAU TO DUNEDIN**

Today, journey to the east coast city of Dunedin. This afternoon, choose your activity from options including a trip to the Otago Peninsula to see penguins or the albatross colony, or a journey into rugged countryside aboard the Taieri Gorge Railway. Perhaps tour Larnach Castle or Olveston house, or sample local beers at Speight's Brewery. After dinner, perhaps take time to wander the streets of this university city, boasting fine architecture and a picturesque harbor setting.

***Overnight: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

**DAY 15: DUNEDIN TO MT COOK**

Travel along the coast to the Moeraki Boulders. These enormous spherical stones were formed over 60 million years ago and lie scattered along a stretch of beach. After, pass the lakes of Pukaki, Aviemore and Benmore on the way to Mt Cook National Park.

Your Freedom of Choice Touring options :

**The Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre**

Visit this new centre, which features a 3D movie, the Hillary Gallery and a full-dome digital Planetarium and Museum, showing the very best of the Mt Cook region.

**Guided Nature Walk**

On this guided nature walk, you'll discover the native wildlife, flora and beautiful scenery of the dramatic Mt Cook landscape on foot.



**Glacier Cruise**

Step aboard a MAC boat for an up-close amazing encounter with icebergs on the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake. (summer months only)

***Overnight: Mt Cook, The Hermitage***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

**DAY 16: MT COOK TO CHRISTCHURCH**

Travel through some of New Zealand's most breathtaking countryside. Arrive at the azure Lake Tekapo and admire the Church of the Good Shepherd, perched on the shores of this glacier-fed lake. Continue through the mountainous Burkes Pass to New Zealand's second-largest city, Christchurch.

***Overnight : Christchurch, The Ashley Hotel***

Daily Meals Included: • Breakfast • Dinner

**DAY 17: DEPART CHRISTCHURCH**

The morning is free to explore Christchurch. Later, you'll be transferred to Christchurch airport for your afternoon flight.

Daily Meal Included: • Breakfast