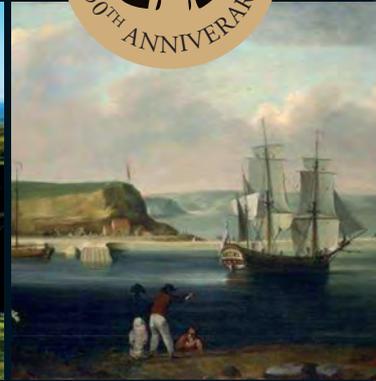


DISCOVER CAPTAIN COOK'S NEW ZEALAND



**29-DAY TOUR INCORPORATING THE MAIN LANDING
POINTS OF CAPTAIN COOK**

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PURELY NEW ZEALAND



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PRICE ON REQUEST

"Ambition leads me not only farther than any other man has been before me, but as far as I think it is possible for man to go."

The Journal of Captain James Cook

On 8th October 1769, Captain James Cook stepped ashore on a land known by the natives as Aotearoa (New Zealand) and changed the course of world history forever. This tour of New Zealand incorporates the main landing points of Captain Cook's three voyages to 'unknown southern lands' and offers an insight into the first exchanges between indigenous Maori and the crew of Endeavour. New Zealand's 'big ticket' sights such as geothermal Rotorua and awesome Milford Sound are not forgotten.

Day 1 WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

We meet you on arrival at Auckland International Airport before being transferring to your hotel.

Day 2 AUCKLAND

Day at leisure. Regularly named as one of the best life-style cities in the world, Auckland is a vibrant cosmopolitan city surrounded by sea, ocean, extinct volcanic cones, beautiful islands, and bush-clad mountain ranges.

Visit the Maritime Museum on the wharf which has an exhibition of Cook's sailing voyages, most appropriate in the 'City of Sails', then enjoy your own cruise of the harbour or nearby islands.

Day 3 AUKLAND – WAIPOUA – BAY OF ISLANDS

Collect your hire car and travel north, past Pacific Coast beaches, through Dargaville to the Waipoua Kauri Forest where Tane Mahuta, New Zealand's mightiest tree is venerated by the Maori. Continue a very scenic drive around Hokianga Harbour and back across northland through Kaikohe, to Paihia on the East Coast.

Day 4 BAY OF ISLANDS

A string of golden beaches and rocky outcrops encircles the stunningly beautiful Bay of Islands. Dotted with 150 islands, this region with its blue-green ocean, soft sands and abundant wildlife, is renowned as a maritime adventure playground. Steeped in a colourful history, the Bay of Islands is known as the birthplace of the nation of New Zealand.

The area was visited by Captain Cook in 1769 and is home to the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

We suggest a scenic boat trip through the islands. Cruise past Cape Brett Lighthouse before arriving at the Hole in the Rock, through which your skipper skilfully navigates (conditions permitting) and see Grand Cathedral Cave. On the return to Paihia, pass several remote islands, fringed with golden sand.

Day 5 BAY OF ISLANDS

Visit the Waitangi Treaty House and grounds. It was here in 1840 that the historic document was signed between the Maori people and the British Crown, forming the nation of New Zealand. Intricate carvings and weavings illustrate the story of Maori ancestors in the Meeting House as well as the mighty waka (war canoe). The award-winning visitor centre is not to be missed.

Day 6 BAY OF ISLANDS – COROMANDEL PENINSULA

Drive through the city of Whangarei to Auckland. Continue south over the Bombay Hills then around the Firth of Thames and across the ranges to the summer resort of Whitianga on Mercury Bay.

On Cook's first voyage, HMS Endeavour and her crew spent 12 days forging relationships with the local tribe Ngati Hei. After a tragic first encounter which resulted in the death of a tribe member, the Maori welcomed the navigator and showed him their 'pa' on the headland at Wharekaho, Simpsons Beach. This was the first time a European had been shown a Maori village and it was documented with drawings in Cook's journal.

Front page from left to right:

Captain Cook statue, Gisborne; Simpsons Beach; Coromandel; Endeavour leaving England; Maori portrait; Coromandel Beach; Portrait of James Cook

This page:

1&2. Queen Charlotte Sound



Day 7 THE COROMANDEL

Day at leisure. This is a beautiful area with many superb beaches, one being Cook's Beach, where Cook first viewed the Transit of Venus. You can reach the beach by ferry and bus and enjoy down-time on the grass slopes above the Purangi River. Swimming, kayaking and canoeing are all possible here.

Day 8 ROTORUA

Travel south over the Bombay Hills and into the fertile Waikato Valley before arriving in Rotorua, located in the heart of New Zealand's thermal region. Rotorua forms part of the Pacific 'Rim of Fire' and is set on the shores of Lake Rotorua. The town is also renowned for Maori cultural activities.

Day 9 ROTORUA

This morning visit Te Puia for a guided tour of the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley – a famous feature is the Pohutu geyser. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening enjoy a Maori Hangi and cultural performance.

Day 10 ROTORUA - GISBORNE

Driving along the shores of lakes Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotorua, you should arrive at the seaside town of Whakatane in time for morning coffee, before continuing through small settlements to Poverty Bay (Cook's first landing place) and into the town of Gisborne for a two night stay.

Day 11 GISBORNE

This is New Zealand's most easterly city and is the first city in the world to see the sunrise each day. This region – the East Cape – is also home to many Maori. Take time to relax and meet the locals, and do visit the small but excellent Cook Museum. Stroll to the shore to see statues not only of Captain Cook himself, but of 'Young Nick', the ship's lad who first sighted land and was accorded a barrel of grog for his keen eyesight!

Day 12 GISBORNE - NAPIER

Travel along the East Coast with views across Hawke's Bay to Napier. You should have time to join a guided walking tour of this seaside town. Volunteers from the Tourist Office offer a fascinating insight into how Napier came to be the most complete Art Deco town in the southern hemisphere, with its town-centre buildings, dating from the 1930s, illustrating a complete range of Art Deco architectural styles and colours.

Day 13 NAPIER

For lovers of wine and good food, the sunny Hawke's Bay region is a favourite destination. Known for award-winning wines, artisan food producers and local farmers' markets, the area has a rural charm, with a mix of steep hills and plains planted with vines. There are plenty of options for visiting numerous boutique wineries in Hawke's Bay, including mini-coach tours and on two wheels if you do not wish to drive yourself.

Day 14 NAPIER - WELLINGTON

Travel through the rolling farmlands of Central Hawke's Bay and the Wairarapa, perhaps stopping in Greytown to visit the Schoc Chocolate shop, or the small village of Martinborough with its boutique wineries. Drive over the Rimutaka Hills and through the Hutt Valley then around the harbour into Wellington, the capital city and seat of parliament. Return your hire car to the city depot and make your own way to your hotel.

Day 15 WELLINGTON

A day at leisure to explore New Zealand's breezy little capital, which clings to steep hillsides around a magnificent harbour at the southern tip of North Island. The geographical heart of the country, it is also the political and administrative centre. Take the funicular up Kelburn Hill for spectacular views; walk down through the Botanic Gardens to Lambton Quay for a visit to the National Museum. Te Papa means 'our house' and this award-winning centre is a treasure trove of exhibits, including artefacts relating to Captain Cook, Banks and the first 'settlers' as well as Maori culture.

Day 16 WELLINGTON - PICTON

Shuttle transfer from your hotel to the ferry terminal, and board the Interislander ferry to South Island, crossing the Cook Strait and sailing down scenic Queen Charlotte Sound.

Day 17 SHIP COVE

Take a water taxi to remote Ship Cove, Cook's favourite landing place in New Zealand where Endeavour was repaired and re-provisioned during several visits. Here there is the opportunity to view the monuments to Cook and walk a section of the Queen Charlotte Track.

Afternoon tea is served in Furneaux Lodge, named after Cook's second-in-command on Endeavour's second voyage.



Day 18 PICTON - CHRISTCHURCH

Depart Picton either on the Coastal Pacific train or by coach – either way you travel down the east coast and across the north Canterbury farmlands to Christchurch.

Day 19 CHRISTCHURCH – FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

Board the TranzAlpine train for a scenic rail journey up and into the heart of the Southern Alps. Disembark at Arthur’s Pass and continue by coach through snow-capped mountains and deep gorges to descend to the lush rainforests of Westland. Your destination this afternoon is the village of Franz Josef Glacier where it is possible to view the glacier during a guided walk or flight.

Day 20 FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER - QUEENSTOWN

Drive past Fox Glacier to Lake Matheson. On a clear day you’re rewarded with unforgettable reflections of the Mount Cook range in its still waters. Continue over the Haast Pass into Mount Aspiring National Park and to the scenic resort of Queenstown.

Day 21 QUEENSTOWN

A day at leisure in this sophisticated resort that offers a bewildering array of experiences to suit all travellers. You could stroll in lovely gardens, cruise Lake Wakatipu on a 100-year-old steamship or choose from a host of adventure activities, such as jet boating, rafting or off-road tours into the mountains which surround the lake.

Day 22 QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD SOUND – TE ANAU

An early start to travel around Lake Wakatipu through Te Anau and Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. The scenery is simply spectacular, with lofty mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age glaciers. Enjoy a scenic cruise on Milford Sound, past towering Mitre Peak to the Sound’s mouth on the Tasman Sea. Despite his navigational skills, Captain Cook failed to spot the opening as Endeavour sailed past, and so never discovered this awesome place. Return to Te Anau via the Cleddau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and the lovely Eglinton Valley.

Day 23 TE ANAU – WANAKA

Today, travel to Wanaka in beautiful Mount Aspiring National Park. This friendly lakeside township is where New Zealanders come to relax and enjoy the great outdoors.

Day 24 WANAKA

A free day to make the most of Wanaka, its magnificent lake and the surrounding mountains. You may like to walk in the Matukituki valley, hire a kayak, visit a conservation centre or simply stroll lakeside paths and enjoy the local cafés.

Day 25 WANAKA – MOUNT COOK

This afternoon drive through the grape-growing region of Central Otago then cross the barren terrain of Lindis Pass to run alongside the shores of Lake Pukaki into the Mount Cook National Park.

Day 26 MOUNT COOK

The Maori call Mount Cook ‘Aoraki’ – the Cloud Piercer – and there’s no better way to end your time in the Southern Alps than on a mountain walk with Aoraki views, weather permitting. There are waymarked trails in the Hooker Valley to suit all levels of experience.

Day 27 MOUNT COOK – CHRISTCHURCH

Leave the mountains, travelling again beside Lake Pukaki to Tekapo. It is hard to resist the photo-opportunity presented by the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of what must be New Zealand’s bluest lake. Continue through the rural communities of Fairlie and Geraldine, then cross the patchwork of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

Day 28 CHRISTCHURCH

A free day to explore this ‘Garden City’. Christchurch was shaken to its core by earthquakes in 2011, and some of its historic buildings were damaged beyond repair. But the River Avon and its punts, the heritage trams, Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens are as quaint as ever, and now contrast with the contemporary architecture of the new city, which is rising like a phoenix to meet the 21st century.

Day 29 DEPART

Return your rental vehicle to the Christchurch Airport depot. Check in for your onward flight and depart New Zealand.

Important Note

The itinerary is just a guide and summarises our favourite places, sights and experiences. Any or all of them may be enjoyed as part of a tailor-made tour.

Have a look at our recommendations, highlight places you wish to include and get in touch with us. Together we can create a unique and unforgettable holiday experience.

1. Mount Cook
2. Wine tasting
3. Fiordland Crested Penguin