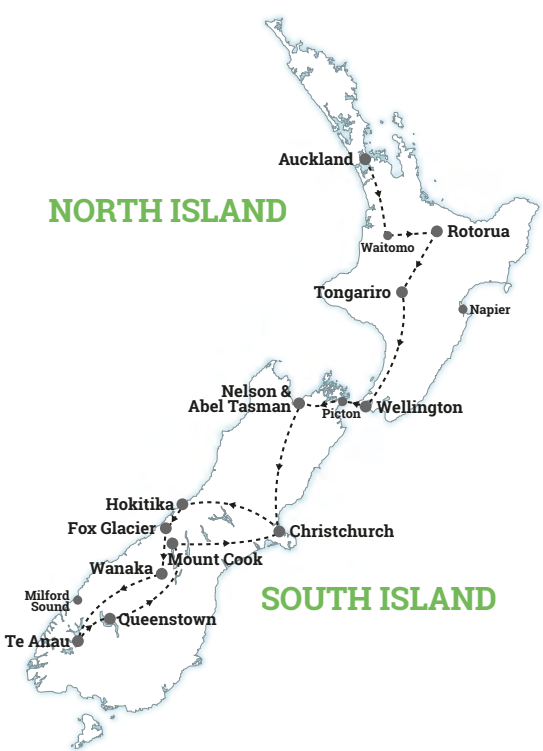


Best of New Zealand

24 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
FROM £3,250



See the best of New Zealand in three weeks taking in the thermal splendours of Rotorua on the North Island and the majestic alpine scenery of Fiordland in the South, with some unforgettable experiences en route.

- OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE**
- The volcanic island of Rangitoto on a day trip from Auckland
 - A boat trip through subterranean caves where glow worms live
 - Relaxing in the naturally hot spa pools of Rotorua
 - A Hangi, the traditional Maori feast, cooked in the earth's own heat
 - Tramping the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, New Zealand's finest one-day walk
 - Discovering old and new Wellington on a walking tour
 - Swimming in the crystal clear coves of the Abel Tasman National Park
 - A flight around Aoraki Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak
 - The majesty of Doubtful or Milford Sound on a nature-focused cruise
 - A thrilling jet-boat ride in Queenstown

1. Milford Sound
2. Te Puia, Rotorua
3. Punting on the River Avon, Christchurch
4. Chateau Tongariro
5. Coastal Pacific Train

ITINERARY

- Day 1 Arrive Auckland**
We greet you on arrival at the airport and take you to your hotel where you can relax before getting to know the 'City of Sails'.
- Day 2 Auckland**
A great start to city sightseeing is to ascend the Sky Tower: a SkyWalk is optional! Nearby Queen Street is the main strip and you could end your day with a waterfront dinner in the new Wynyard Quarter.
- Day 3 Auckland to Waitomo to Rotorua**
Collect a rental vehicle and head south via Waitomo to Rotorua.
- Day 4 Rotorua**
From the Buried Village to Whakarewarewa, Te Puia and Waimangu – all fascinating attractions that blend the two aspects that make Rotorua a must: Maori culture and geothermal activity. We can also recommend an authentic Maori Hangi for dinner!
- Day 5 Rotorua to Tongariro National Park or Napier**
On the road south, make time to see the Lady Knox Geyser at Wai O Tapu Geothermal Park. Stop in Taupo for lunch before entering Tongariro National Park, a starkly beautiful volcanic landscape. (Alternatively head east to the Art Deco town of Napier.)
- Day 6 Tongariro National Park or Napier**
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. Enjoy a round of golf on an all-weather course, or a soak in a natural hot pool are other options.
- Day 7 Tongariro or Napier to Wellington**
Travel through country towns to Wellington, still the 'coolest little capital in the world' thanks to its combination of location, architecture, café culture and laid-back lifestyle. Drop off your rental vehicle before a stroll through Civic Square to a Queens Wharf restaurant.
- Day 8 Wellington to Picton to Nelson**
Board the Interislander Ferry to cruise to the South Island, boarding a coach in Picton for the transfer to Nelson, the sunniest town in New Zealand.

- Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park**
It would be easy to gush about the beauty of Abel Tasman National Park! Golden beaches, turquoise water and pristine native bush combine to create a natural paradise which you can explore by boat, kayak or on foot. We have plenty of tips for you.
- Day 10 Nelson to Blenheim to Christchurch**
Depart Nelson by coach or car and travel via the Lewis Pass or Blenheim to the city of Christchurch. Alternatively take the Coastal Pacific train from Blenheim to Christchurch with outstanding views of the Kaikoura mountains and the Pacific Ocean.
- Day 11 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. Disembark at Greymouth, collect another vehicle to continue to the gold rush town of Hokitika.
- Day 12 Hokitika to Fox Glacier**
Hokitika, once a gold rush town, is now a haven for craftspeople and a good place to buy pounamu (greenstone) carvings. Arrive in Fox Glacier in time to see the glacier on a guided hike or helicopter trip: landing on the Tasman Glacier is an unforgettable experience!



- Day 13 Fox Glacier to Wanaka**
Travel south through native rainforest, over mountain streams into the rugged beauty of the Haast Pass. Continue round the shores of glacial Hawea and Wanaka lakes to Wanaka township.
- Day 14 Wanaka**
One of our favourite destinations, the snow-capped peaks, long river valleys and lush forest are centred around the beautiful lake. There are 'tramping' opportunities for every experience level.
- Day 15 Wanaka**
A jet boat trip or a waterfall climb are both guaranteed to set the pulse racing. In the evening, take a seat at Cinema Paradiso: they range from slouchy sofas to a modified Morris Minor!
- Day 16 Wanaka to Te Anau**
Travel through Central Otago, around the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau, one of Fiordland's most beautiful lakes. Round off the day with a lakeside stroll.
- Day 17 Te Anau to Milford Sound to Te Anau**
You have a choice of memorable trips today: either Doubtful or Milford Sound. Stupendous scenery and untouched nature revealed by expert guides during an unforgettable boat trip, returning to Te Anau late afternoon.
- Day 18 Te Anau to Queenstown**
Drive to Queenstown, sometimes called the 'Switzerland of the Southern Hemisphere' and superbly set on Lake Wakatipu.



- Day 19 Queenstown**
So much to do, so little time! Stroll in well-kept gardens, cruise Lake Wakatipu or try an adrenalin activity like bungee jumping or off-road 4x4 tour.
- Day 20 Queenstown to Mount Cook**
Drive through Mackenzie Country to Lake Pukaki and up to Mt Cook Village.
- Day 21 Mount Cook**
Day at leisure for your choice of activities. Short walks to Kea Point or into the Hooker Valley offer wonderful mountain views.
- Day 22 Mount Cook to Christchurch**
Make an early stop at the Church of the Good Shepherd, whose altar window frames Lake Tekapo. Cross the tussock plains, so evocative of sheep country, through Fairlie and Geraldine to arrive in Christchurch.
- Day 23 Christchurch**
Following 2011's earthquake, this Garden City is rebuilding, blending old (Botanic Gardens, River Avon and the Tram) with new (the 'cardboard' Cathedral and countless pop-up bars) to reclaim its place as the premier city of the South Island.
- Day 24 Depart Christchurch**
Transfer to Christchurch airport for your flight home, or ask us about dovetailing this itinerary with one of our Small Group Journeys to extend your time in New Zealand.

An alternative route from Nelson on South Island via the West Coast is also available

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 £3,250 |
| SHOULDER SEASON (Oct-mid Dec, Apr) | from £3,469 |
| PEAK SEASON (mid Dec-Mar) | from £3,695 |

These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,100 (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
 - 23 nights' accommodation in quality hotels and B&Bs
 - Breakfast each day and a Hangi dinner
 - Intermediate car hire with unlimited kilometres & daily insurance
 - Interislander Ferry travel as foot-passengers
 - Coach travel Picton/Nelson