

Grand Tour of New Zealand

27 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS
FROM £3,695



Very much the Grand Tour encompassing the sub-tropical Bay of Islands, the wine region of Hawke’s Bay, (or the volcanic central area of North Island), Abel Tasman National Park, the wild West Coast and the alpine splendours of the southern South Island.

- OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE**
- A panoramic view of Auckland from the top of the Sky Tower: the SkyWalk and SkyJump are optional!
 - Swimming with dolphins in the warm waters of the Bay of Islands
 - Walking through the living landscape of Waimangu Thermal Valley
 - Coffee or lunch at one of the excellent bakeries in Greytown, Wairarapa
 - Cruising or walking in the stunning Abel Tasman National Park
 - Learning about New Zealand’s gold rush at Hokitika Museum
 - Heli-hiking on the Franz Josef Glacier
 - The awesome sight of Mitre Peak and the natural beauty of Milford Sound on a day trip

- 1. Auckland
- 2. Waimangu Volcanic Valley
- 3. Hole in the Rock Cruise
- 4. Silver Fern travellers, Abel Tasman National Park
- 5. Franz Josef Glacier

ITINERARY

- Day 1 Haere Mai – Welcome!**
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. Alternatively, take a ferry to Rangitoto Island for a walk and views across the Hauraki Gulf.
- Day 3 Auckland to Bay of Islands**
Collect your rental car and drive over the Harbour Bridge to the seaside town of Paihia.
- Day 4 Bay of Islands**
Enjoy a cruise to the ‘hole in the rock’ or take a ferry across to historic Russell.

- Day 5 Bay of Islands**
Explore the Waitangi Treaty Grounds where in 1840, an agreement was signed between Maori warriors and British settlers, forming the nation of New Zealand.
- Day 6 Bay of Islands to Hamilton**
Depart Paihia and travel south through rural townships of Warkworth and Wellsford then pass the delightful beaches of the Hibiscus Coast , by-pass Auckland, and follow along the east bank of the Waikato River, New Zealand’s longest river to Hamilton, home of the enchanting Hamilton Gardens.

- Day 7 Hamilton to Rotorua**
Continue south, travel across the farmland of the Waikato to arrive at your accommodation in Rotorua.
- Day 8 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 9 Rotorua to Hawke’s Bay or Tongariro**
Head to Taupo, the vast lake formed by a super-volcano thousands of years ago. This is a good spot for lunch before continuing to Hawke’s Bay. Alternatively head to the National Park.
- Day 10 Hawke’s Bay or Tongariro**
Waking up in Napier, discover how this seaside resort was reinvented as an Art Deco icon. Outside the town, explore the oldest vineyards in New Zealand.

- Day 11 Hawke’s Bay or Tongariro to Wellington**
Travel to Wellington, New Zealand’s capital city. Eclectic cafés, street art, film sets or historic sights: there is something for everyone.
- Day 12 Wellington to Picton to Nelson**
Drop off your rental vehicle before boarding the Interislander Ferry to Picton at the top of South Island. Take a coach to Nelson, famed for its sunny lifestyle and arts scene.
- Day 13 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 Anchorage. Return to Nelson.
- Day 14 Nelson to Christchurch**
Depart Nelson for Christchurch, by car, coach/train from Blenheim. If driving, drop off your car on arrival.
- Day 15 Christchurch to Hokitika**
Enjoy one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world: the TranzAlpine 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 16 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 17 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 18 Wanaka**
Play time! Wanaka offers a host of outdoor adventures from exhilarating waterfall climbs to jet-boat river rides.
- Day 19 Wanaka**
Enjoy many leisurely walks or spend an afternoon with an eco-expert discovering native flora and fauna.
- Day 20 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 21 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. Almost 250 years ago, Captain Cook sailed past the narrow mouth without discovering this amazing place.



- Day 22 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 a holiday full of adventure, exploration or relaxation.
- Day 23 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 24 Queenstown to Mount Cook**
Drive alongside the shores of Lake Pukaki into the Mount Cook National Park for magnificent views and walks in the Hooker Valley.
- Day 25 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 26 Christchurch**
Following 2011’s earthquake, the ‘Garden City’ is rebuilding, blending old with new to reclaim its place as the premier city of the South Island. A guided tour with a local is a must, then try a tram ride, or go punting!
- Day 27 Depart New Zealand**
After breakfast transfer to Christchurch airport to return your rental vehicle and board your flight home. *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 £3,695
SHOULDER SEASON (Oct-mid Dec, Apr)	from £3,795
PEAK SEASON (mid Dec-Mar)	from £4,045
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	
■ 26 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 & Nelson/Christchurch	
■ TranzAlpine rail tickets	
■ Milford Sound day excursion (including lunch)	
■ Coach & boat trip Nelson/Abel Tasman National Park	