

# Pohutukawa

20 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS  
FROM £4,890



This Small Group Journey takes you to some of our favourite places and spaces in the North and South Islands, discovering fantastic coastlines and immersing you in Maori culture and history. Explore the geothermal wonders of Rotorua’s bubbling mud pools and boiling geysers and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Abel Tasman National Park with opportunities to swim in its turquoise lagoons.

PRICES FROM £4,890

Single supplement

from £1,680

These prices EXCLUDE flights and stopovers, which start at £1,100 (see page 21).

INCLUDES

- Comfortable touring in 16-seater vehicle
- Services of our Driver-Guide and, where applicable, Local Experts
- 19 nights’ accommodation in quality hotels
- 19 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 evening meals
- Sightseeing & entrance fees listed opposite under Experiences Included

- 1. Mount Cook National Park
- 2. Geothermal area, Rotorua
- 3. Tamaki, Rotorua
- 4. Christchurch tram
- 5. Art Deco Napier

ITINERARY

**Day 1 Auckland**  
After we meet and greet you, you are free to relax. The hotel is a great central base.  
*M Social, Auckland*

**Day 2 Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula**  
Set off by sea across the Hauraki Gulf to the breath-taking Coromandel Peninsula. On landing, we take a trip on a narrow-gauge railway before heading east to reach Mercury Bay.  
*Oceans Resort, Whitianga (2 nights)*

**Day 3 Coromandel Peninsula**  
If the tide is right, scoop a ‘spa’ pool on Hot Water Beach, then walk to beautiful Cathedral Cove. Rejoin our vehicle to make for lovely Cooks Beach, named after the first European to land in New Zealand. From here, either catch the ferry to Whitianga and walk to our hotel OR travel back with your driver.

**Day 4 Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua**  
Head inland, pausing at the Okere River before arriving in Rotorua: not only New Zealand’s geothermal hot spot, but a thriving Maori centre. We receive a warm welcome at Te Puia, discover mud pools and steam vents, as well as the arts of weaving, carving and tattooing.  
*Prince’s Gate Hotel, Rotorua (2 nights)*

**Day 5 Rotorua** **YOUR CHOICE**  
A choice between:  
**Waimangu Volcanic Valley** – the 1886 eruption of Mt Tarawera was devastating, but created a new geothermal valley of boiling craters and jewel-coloured lakes for us to walk through.  
**Visit Middle Earth** – *Hobbiton*™ This farmland film-set is a treat for Tolkien fans: our guide explains how it became *The Shire*™.  
This evening we all visit a Maori village, receiving a formal welcome (powhiri) and discovering indigenous culture through dance and song, followed by a Hangi feast.

**Day 6 Rotorua to Napier**  
South to Lake Taupo and across the Tongariro plateau to Napier. How did this seaside town come to rival Miami for its Art Deco style? Our guided walk reveals all. Napier is also at the heart of North Island’s vineyards, and this evening’s treat is dinner at its oldest winery, Mission Estate.  
*Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier*

**Day 7 Napier to Wellington**  
Travel across the rural Wairarapa to windy Wellington, the seat of New Zealand’s Parliament. The Kelburn Lookout offers a great view, before we take the Cable Car down to visit Te Papa.  
*James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington*

**Day 8 Wellington to Nelson**  
Like *HMS Endeavour* 250 years before, we cruise through Queen Charlotte Sound to South Island. On disembarking, we pause in Marlborough for a wine-tasting at one of the country’s premier cellars. Our base for the next two nights is sunny Nelson.  
*Heritage Rutherford Hotel, Nelson (2 nights)*

**Day 9 Abel Tasman National Park** **YOUR CHOICE**  
Paradise found! We offer three choices for discovering the Park:  
**Scenic Cruise:** 3-4 hours (no walking) – The morning cruise visits several beautiful bays and lagoons, from Anchorage to Totaranui Beach. Return to Nelson for a free afternoon.  
**Astrolabe Beaches & Bays** (plus 2.5 hour walk) – After the Scenic Cruise, disembark at Apple Tree Bay for a self-guided walk (7 kms) to Anchorage Beach. Afternoon transfer.  
**Forest & Swing-Bridge** (plus 4 hour walk) – After the Scenic Cruise, disembark at Medlands Beach for a self-guided hike (10.5 kms) to Anchorage Beach. Later transfer to Nelson.



**Day 10 Nelson to Punakaiki**  
Few international visitors take this drive through Nelson Lakes National Park following the Buller River Gorge, but it is one of the most exciting in the world. When we reach the Tasman Sea, the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki are yet another example of nature’s extraordinary force.  
*Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki*

**Day 11 Punakaiki to Fox Glacier**  
Heading ever closer to the Southern Alps we pause in the gold-miners’ town of Hokitika before arriving at Fox Glacier, a good base from which to marvel at ‘rivers of ice’. Weather permitting, optional trips (at own cost) include flights over and even onto the glaciers!  
*Distinction Hotel, Fox Glacier*

**Day 12 Fox Glacier to Wanaka**  
We take the Haast River road deep into Mt Aspiring National Park. The atmosphere lightens as we reach Lake Wanaka, reflecting mountain peaks that in winter offer skiing, in summer hiking.  
*Edgewater Resort, Wanaka (2 nights)*

**Day 13 Wanaka** **YOUR CHOICE**  
Nature lovers may take a **lake cruise to a conservation island with an eco-guide** to discover native birds like the flightless Buff Weka OR you can choose to enjoy a **scenic 4WD adventure to a high country farm** above the lake.

**Day 14 Wanaka to Te Anau**  
Head over the Crown Ranges, beside Lake Wakatipu to Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland. It is New Zealand’s largest freshwater lake (by volume), and the ideal base from which to visit Milford Sound.  
*Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau*



**Day 15 Te Anau to Milford Sound to Queenstown**  
Today’s journey is one of the most scenic you can make on four wheels! On arrival at Milford Sound we board a comfortable vessel to cruise past Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea: keep an eye open for seals and dolphins. Our return journey ends in Queenstown.  
*Scenic Suites, Queenstown (2 nights)*

**Day 16 Queenstown**  
Queenstown is New Zealand’s most famous adventure resort. Try white-water rafting and high-wire thrills, or relax on a classic steamship cruise (at own cost). The day and evening are yours to do as much or as little as you please.

**Day 17 Queenstown to Mt Cook to Twizel**  
Today we approach the Southern Alps via the Kawarau Gorge and Central Otago, driving alongside Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook Village, the nearest vehicle access to awesome Aoraki Mt Cook.  
*Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel*

**Day 18 Twizel to Rural Canterbury** **YOUR CHOICE**  
Visit a local lakeside home and learn the secrets of Pavlova and after a delicious morning break and photo-opp at Lake Tekapo, we traverse high country plains to Ashburton.  
Choose a **Rural Homestay**: Local hosts open their homes to travellers (in small groups) before a home-cooked dinner. It’s a chance to spend time with real Kiwis on their home patch.  
OR a **Local hotel**: Dinner and overnight at a local hotel enables you to totally relax.



**Day 19 Ashburton to Christchurch**  
Journey’s end is the garden city of Christchurch. Rebuilding after the 2010/11 ‘quakes, the city changes daily, but there are still punts on the River Avon and restored street trams clanging through historic streets. We enjoy both forms of transport today before sharing a farewell dinner.  
*Distinction Hotel, Christchurch*

**Day 20 Depart Christchurch**  
Haere ra! Farewell from New Zealand. We take you to the airport for your flight home, or set you on the way on the next stage of your holiday.

EXPERIENCES INCLUDED

- A scenic cruise from Auckland to the Coromandel Peninsula
- Narrow-gauge railway journey through native Coromandel bush
- Visit Hot Water Beach and photogenic Cathedral Cove
- A private guide around a geothermal valley with geysers, mud pools and hot springs
- Visit Waimangu Volcanic Valley – OR – experience *Hobbiton*™ Movie Set
- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- Enjoy a wine tasting and evening meal at Mission Estate in Napier
- Travel on Wellington’s famous Cable Car and visit Te Papa museum
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough’s premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Visit world-famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki
- See native birds on a conservation island – OR – take a scenic 4WD adventure in Wanaka
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breath-taking Milford Sound
- Enjoy true Kiwi hospitality with morning tea at a local home on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Relax as you’re guided along Christchurch’s Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt