



## Best of New Zealand



## Tour Summary

**Tour name:** Best of New Zealand

**Days:** 17

### Sightseeing Highlights

- Visit the beautiful Bay of Islands
- See the sights of Auckland
- Cruise through the famous 'Hole in the Rock'
- Tour the Glow-worm Grotto at the Waitomo Caves
- Enjoy a Hangi Feast and Concert
- Agrodome Sheep Show
- Visit Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum
- Visit Montana Winery
- Stay in beautiful Christchurch
- See the Church of the Good Shepherd at Lake Tekapo
- Enjoy sightseeing in Dunedin
- Cruise on Milford Sound
- Day at leisure in Queenstown
- Visit historic Arrowtown
- Stay in spectacular Fox Glacier
- See the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes
- Opportunity to journey on the TranzAlpine train

### Quality Touring

- Rooms with private facilities in quality hotels, on a twin share basis
- Tour by luxury coach, air-conditioned, reclining seats with seatbelts, restroom and panoramic windows
- Travel wallet and touring map
- Porterage at your tour hotels
- Airport transfers included

### Flight Information

- Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 4:00pm; Day 17 – flights to depart anytime

## Professional Team

- Experienced services of a professional Tour Director and Tour Driver

## Included Meals

- Welcome Drink
- Full buffet breakfasts (16) (B)
- Exciting Highlight Dinner (1) (HD)
- Hotel Dinners (10) (D)

## Maori Cultural Experience



Symbol denotes INCLUDED



Symbol denotes OPTIONAL

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 Sat: Arrive Auckland

On arrival in Auckland you will be transferred to your hotel (flights to arrive prior to 4.00pm). Afternoon at leisure. Tonight enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Director and fellow travellers.  
Accommodation: Mercure Hotel, Auckland.

### Day 2 Sun: Bay of Islands

We head out of Auckland over the Harbour Bridge, travelling along the scenic Hibiscus Coast. Explore Whangarei, the northern-most city in New Zealand.



On to Paihia and the Bay of Islands where we'll tour the historic Waitangi Treaty Reserve.

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Bay of Islands, 2 nights. **B D**

### Day 3 Mon: Bay of Islands

Explore the Bay of Islands your way. Dolphin watch, catch a ferry to Russell, drive along the Ninety Mile Beach, sail or sea-kayak – it's up to you. Dine at your leisure in town. **B**

### Day 4 Tue: Auckland

Enjoy a scenic cruise through the Bay of Islands to Cape Brett and the 'Hole in the Rock'. We'll explore Urupukapuka Island then return to Auckland.  
Accommodation: Mercure Hotel, Auckland. **B D**

### Day 5 Wed: Waitomo Caves


After an Auckland city sights tour we trace the Waikato River to Waitomo Caves. We tour the amazing Glow Worm Grotto. Then arrive in Rotorua for an orientation tour.



Tonight enjoy a Maori Hangi feast and concert and gain an insight into traditional Maori culture.

Accommodation: Hotel Ibis, Rotorua, 2 nights. **B HD**

### Day 6 Thu: Rotorua

Today we visit the Agrodome Sheep Show then enjoy an afternoon of 'Free Time' – visit Paradise Valley Springs, abundant with Rainbow Trout and New Zealand farm animals or  Te Puia, where a local Maori will guide you through the Geothermal valley with its mud pools and geysers. It's your choice.

### Farm Stay Option


For an extra NZ\$70.00 per person enjoy genuine New Zealand hospitality. A warm welcome awaits you on your New Zealand farm stay and your hosts will provide you with the wonderful Kiwi hospitality that really makes you feel 'at home'. Enjoy wholesome meals, a farm tour to introduce you to the way of life and comfortable accommodation in the farm home or cottages. Meet the farm animals, including sheep, cows and deer or simply relax and enjoy the company of your hosts and the scenic surroundings. **B**

### Day 7 Fri: Wellington

En route to Wellington we'll view the Huka Falls, visit Taupo and drive along the shores of New Zealand's largest lake. Discover the alpine scenery of Mt Ruapehu, Tongariro National Park and the dairy farms of Manawatu. Travel along the Kapiti Coast into Wellington, for a city tour.

Accommodation: Mercure Willis Street, Wellington. **B**

### Day 8 Sat: Picton

A morning of 'Free Time' in Wellington followed by a visit to  Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Then we cruise Queen Charlotte Sound. Later we travel to the seaside village of Picton.

Accommodation: Beachcomber, Picton. **B D**

### Day 9 Sun: Picton/Christchurch

We start the day with a tour and tasting at Montana Winery. En route to Christchurch, we'll get up close and personal with some New Zealand Fur Seals at Ohau Point, watch whales at Kaikoura (optional scenic Whale Watching flight) and travel across the Canterbury Plains. A city tour of Christchurch, the 'most English city' outside of England. Then it's 'Free Time'.

Accommodation: Hotel Ibis, Christchurch **B**

### Day 10 Mon: Mt. Cook

Start the day your way – shop, ride the Christchurch Tram or just relax. Later we'll see Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki, visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and soak up the alpine scenery of Mt Cook National Park (optional Mt Cook scenic flight).

Accommodation: Heritage Gateway Hotel, Omarama. **B D**

### Day 11 Tue: Dunedin

From the Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme and Benmore Dam, we travel through Oamaru to Dunedin for a city tour. The afternoon is yours to explore Dunedin as you wish.

Accommodation: Cargill's Hotel, Dunedin. **B D**

### Day 12 Wed: Dunedin

After a morning of time to yourself, we'll cross sheep-filled farming land to the South Island's biggest lake – Lake Te Anau and the town of Te Anau. Optional Glow Worm Caves tour tonight.

Accommodation: Kingsgate Hotel, Te Anau. **B D**

### Day 13 Thu: Milford Sound

From Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound, witness Mirror Lakes, Cloudu Valley, The Chasm, Mitre Peak, Bowen Falls and more. Travel along the Devils Stair Case and the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy a Queenstown orientation tour and group photo, followed by an alpine dinner with views over Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Mountain range.

Accommodation: Aspen Hotel, Queenstown, 2 nights. **B D**

### Day 14 Fri: Queenstown

Explore exciting Queenstown your way, all day. From wine and garden tours to jet boat rides and white water rafting, Queenstown will keep you occupied and exhilarated. For dinner you have the option to dine at the Skyline Restaurant on Bob's Peak. Access is via the steepest Gondola in the Southern Hemisphere.



Dinner options include the Kiwi Haka Maori Show. **B**

### Day 15 Sat: Queenstown/Fox Glacier

Our first stop is Arrowtown. Next is Cromwell and its sensational stone fruit. Then it's a trio of lakes – Lake Dunstan, Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka. Travel through Haast Pass, view Thunder Creek Falls, take a rainforest walk. Final stop is Fox Glacier – a rare, still advancing glacier (optional Fox Glacier scenic flight).

Accommodation: Fox Glacier Hotel, Fox Glacier. **B D**

### Day 16 Sun: Punakaiki/ Christchurch

First we visit Hokitika, home of the native greenstone (jade) for a factory visit and jewellery demonstration. We travel through coastal Greymouth then view the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes at Punakaiki before returning to Christchurch.

TranzAlpine Train

Join one of the top six train journeys in the world. Additional cost NZ\$117.00 per person.

Accommodation: Hotel Ibis, Christchurch. **B D**

### Day 17 Mon: Depart Christchurch

Explore Christchurch at your leisure until your transfer to Christchurch Airport (flights to depart anytime). **B**