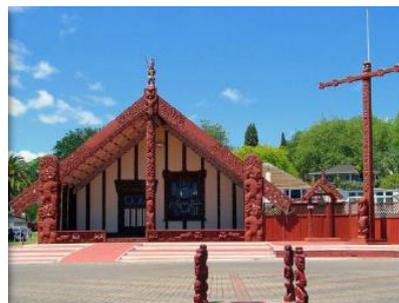


New Zealand Guided Tours

Kakariki

Operator: Moa Trek
Days: 18
Start: Auckland
Finish: Queenstown
Itinerary Valid 1 May 2016-30 April 2017



MoaTrek's knowledgeable driver/guides give you that fresh and personal insight into our country and its culture - giving background and local colour to what you are seeing - so much more real than just the sights. They take pleasure and pride in looking after your individual interests. The small group size (passengers never number more than 18) means MoaTrek travellers have the freedom and flexibility to really discover New Zealand - visiting enchanting places even Kiwis haven't discovered. This suits travellers who desire a unique, personable experience and don't want to be "just another tourist" on a "standard" tour

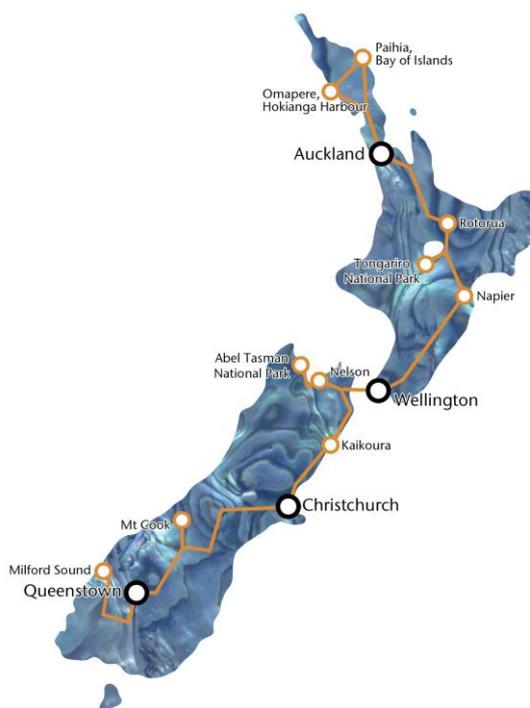
Tour Overview

Experience country life and leisurely touring on this small group New Zealand tour. In the North Island explore the beautiful Bay of Islands, enjoy the warmth of Maori culture and explore the volcanic Tongariro National Park. In the South Island relax on the golden beaches of the Abel Tasman National Park before encountering the magnificent alpine scenery of Mount Cook and Fiordland's Milford Sound.

Inclusions

Attractions

- Enjoy a visit to Russell's historic waterfront.
- Travel the dramatic highway through the Karangahake Gorge.
- Immerse yourself in the history of Rotorua's Lake Tarawera.
- Explore Rotorua and learn more about the surrounding geothermal region.
- View the powerful Huka Falls and learn about the importance of the Wairakei geothermal power station.
- Look across Lake Taupo to see views of three active volcanoes.
- Enjoy the wilderness of the Tongariro National Park in the central North Island.
- Explore the small, but perfectly formed, capital city of Wellington.
- Enjoy the nature and wildlife in Kaikoura.



- Visit Lake Tekapo and the picturesque 'Church of the Good Shepard'.
- Explore the breathtaking scenery of the Aoraki/Mt Cook region.
- Watch landscapes transform before your eyes as we drive through the stark beauty of the Lindis Pass and Kawarau Gorge.
- Take time to explore Queenstown's stunning Lake Wakatipu – New Zealand's largest lake.

Transportation

All transport by comfortable, air conditioned coach (maximum of 18 travellers).

Professionally Escorted

Services of your knowledgeable MoeTrek driver/guide.

Tour itinerary

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Day 1: Auckland

You are met on arrival at Auckland airport and transferred to your hotel at the edge of Viaduct Harbour. The rest of the day is yours to explore our largest city. An enjoyable waterside stroll takes you around the Viaduct Harbour and over the footbridge to the Wynyard Quarter. The yacht and powerboat exhibits in the Maritime Museum nearby leave no doubt as to why Auckland is known as the "City of Sails". Catching the lift to the top of the Skytower will reward you with a panoramic view of this isthmus city's two harbours and the bush covered ranges of the Waitakeres along the western rim.

Accommodation: Sebel Suites

Day 2: Auckland – Matakohē – Waipoua Forest – Omapere - Hokianga

The gannet colony stretching along the headlands at Muriwai Beach is the first stop for our small group New Zealand tour. This black sand, West Coast beach with its powerful waves rolling in from the Tasman Sea is also a favourite with surfers. Further north we skirt the Kaipara Harbour and visit the Matakohē Kauri Museum which celebrates the magnificent kauri tree. We drive into the depths of the Waipoua Forest to visit the mightiest kauri of all, 51 metre tall Tane Mahuta, the "Lord of the Forest". Accompanied by a Maori guide we hear of the forest's spiritual significance to Maori. We dine at our hotel on the Hokianga Harbour's edge.

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel and Resort Hokianga. B D

Day 3: Omapere – Bay of Islands

Cruising out on the sparkling Hokianga Harbour, our small group tour of New Zealand has a Kiwi experience in store. Stopping at the golden sand dunes, you can take a body board to the top of the dunes and a quick ride back down. Arriving in Kerikeri, we visit the historic Stone Store in this town known for its orchards and artisans. In the Bay of Islands we meet our local guide at the Waitangi Treaty House, a most significant place in New Zealand's colonial history. Here in 1840 Maori signed the treaty with Queen Victoria's representatives and New Zealand became a British colony.

Accommodation: Copthorne Bay of Islands (two nights). B

Day 4: Omapere – Bay of Islands

The beauty of the Bay of Islands is best discovered from the water and today you have the option to take either a catamaran from Paihia to swim with the dolphins (gear provided) or cruise out to Cape Brett and, if the weather is favourable, venture through the Hole in the Rock. Both cruises disembark at Russell, the first capital of New Zealand, and once a favourite haunt of whalers and sealers. Wander the historic buildings and boutique shops and perhaps sit down for a drink on the waterfront at the Duke of Marlborough before catching the ferry back to Paihia. **B**

Day 5: Bay of Islands - Auckland

In Kawakawa we check out the famous Hundertwasser toilet block which has put this tiny town on the map. In the Waioimo Valley, off the beaten track, the Kawiti Maori family guide us through Kawiti Glowworm Caves, the glowworms, stalactites and stalagmites are stunning. As you enjoy the galaxies of glowworms above, your friendly guide will explain the life cycle of the New Zealand Glowworm (*Arachnocampa Luminosa*) and the intricate webs used to catch their prey. We head back to Auckland and over the Harbour Bridge to our Viaduct Basin hotel.

Accommodation: Sebel Suites. B

Day 6: Auckland - Rotorua

Driving southeast through the dairy farms of the Waikato region we reach the dramatic Karangahake Gorge where we stop beside the Ohinemuri River. Walking through tunnels and native bush, we arrive at the tumbledown ruins of the Victoria Battery, a relic of early gold-mining days. In the Bay of Plenty region near Te Puke we discover the home of the New Zealand Kiwifruit industry then continue towards Rotorua, stopping at Lake Rotoiti to sail on the 53 ft catamaran, "Tiua". It's a wonderful way to end the day, cruising past bush covered bays and bathing in geothermal hot pools reached only by water.

Accommodation: Novotel Rotorua (two nights). B

Day 7: Rotorua Sightseeing

The morning is yours to relax or enjoy an optional activity such as a flight to volcanic White Island or a spa. In the early afternoon we drive to Pounamu Lodge above Lake Tarawera to join our local hosts, David and Karen Walmsley for lunch. Karen's ancestor Guide Sophia is renowned for leading visitors to safety when Mt Tarawera erupted in 1886 and destroyed the Pink and White Terraces. Later we visit Rotorua Museum housed in the Bath House which opened in 1908 and surrounded by beautiful gardens. There are fascinating displays of Maori history and culture and an audio visual experience of the Tarawera eruption. **B L**

Day 8: Rotorua – Tongariro National Park

Our first stop is Wai-O-Tapu, our favourite geothermal wonderland of colourful silica terraces, mud pools and the Lady Knox geyser. We see the Huka Falls where the Waikato River plunges through a narrow gorge and look out across Lake Taupo to three active volcanoes - Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. We drive closer to these mountains to stay at the foot of Mt Ruapehu in the World Heritage Tongariro National Park. The landscapes are stunning and from your landmark hotel, the Chateau Tongariro, there is an easy trail through bush and beech forests to a beautiful waterfall. Or just sit back and enjoy the views.

Accommodation: Chateau Tongariro. B

Day 9: Rotorua - Napier

We leave the Central Plateau and drive back towards the coast, climbing over ranges and down to the seaside city of Napier where each February a festival is held to celebrate its Art Deco architecture. Our local guide takes us on a walking tour of the Art Deco buildings built in this style after an earthquake in 1931. We drive out of Napier to explore this richly productive region known as the "food basket" of New Zealand. From the heights of Te Mata Peak we have a panoramic view of vineyards, orchards and farms with Mt Ruapheu in the distance. Back in the Napier there's time for you to enjoy the location of your waterfront hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Te Pania. B

Day 10: Napier - Wellington

From Napier we drive out across the Hawkes Bay plains and through the Wairarapa farming communities of Norsewood and Dannevirke, named for their early Scandinavian settlers. The Wairarapa is a premium wine-growing region, particularly known for pinot noir. In Greytown there's time to stretch our legs in the historic main street of wooden buildings dating back to the 1880s and boutique shops. Wellington is just an hour away over the Rimutaka Ranges. We sightsee in this capital city, the third largest city in New Zealand, and drive up Mt Victoria for the harbour views. Wellington is home to New Zealand's film industry and enjoys an eclectic cafe scene.

Accommodation: The Bolton Hotel. B

Day 11: Wellington – Picton – Blenheim - Nelson

Today we are South Island bound, cruising on the Interislander ferry for three and a half hours across Cook Strait and up Queen Charlotte Sound, a panorama of high mountains and sheltered bays, to Picton. The holiday homes visible through the bush clad hillsides are reachable only by water. Stepping ashore on the South Island "Te Waka a Maui" we wine taste in Marlborough's premier wine region known for Sauvignon Blanc. The alpine village of St Anaud is our next destination and Lake Rotoiti, a mountain-rimmed jewel at the centre of the Nelson Lakes National Park. We drive downhill to Nelson, our home for two nights.

Accommodation: Century Park Motor Lodge (two nights). B

Day 12: Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park - Nelson

Today we set out from Nelson to either relax on board a boat as we cruise from Kaiteriteri Beach along the stunning Abel Tasman Park coastline and return or combine cruising and walking in this coastal paradise. At 23,000 hectares this is the smallest national park in New Zealand. Whether you cruise or walk, you will enjoy the views of native bush, golden sandy beaches, wide open estuaries and nearby islands, including the fur seal colony on Tonga Island. There's time to lie down and relax on a beach and enjoy a swim in the sheltered waters before we return to Nelson in the early evening. **B**

Day 13: Nelson - Kaikoura

We drive to Pelorus Bridge and Havelock and on through Blenheim towards the Kaikoura Peninsula. It is one of the most spectacular coastal roads in New Zealand, wild surf, seal colonies and a road that clings to the cliffs between the mountains of the Kaikoura Ranges and the Pacific Ocean. Your afternoon is free to explore close encounters of the marine kind - with the chance to take an optional whale watching cruise or flight, swim with seals or dolphins or wander the foreshore out to the seal colony at Kean Point. Nearby, pink-painted Fyffe House has stories to tell of the harsh pioneering days on this beautiful peninsula.

Accommodation: White Morph Motor Inn. B

Day 14: Kaikoura – Akaunui Farm Homestead – Aoraki/Mt Cook

One of the many highlights of touring New Zealand is meeting friendly locals and enjoying their warm hospitality. At Akaunui Farm homestead we meet our hosts Di and Ian Mackenzie and over a glass of wine get to know these farming Kiwis, enjoying a lunch of fresh produce from Di's garden and talking farming tips with Ian. We drive on to aquamarine Lake Tekapo stopping to take photos of the picturesque church and the sculpture commemorating the early Scottish shepherds and their hard-working sheep dogs that helped tame the wild Mackenzie Country. Tonight we stay at the foot of Aoraki/Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.

Accommodation: The Hermitage. B L

Day 15: Aoraki/Mt Cook - Queenstown

Enjoy the alpine vista from your hotel room or take an early morning walk up the valley towards Aoraki/Mt Cook. Alternatively you could book an optional flight over the alps or boat ride to the terminal face of the Tasman Glacier. Later we drive down the Mackenzie Basin and over the rolling tussock hills of the Lindis Pass, through the Kawarau Gorge and into Queenstown. To get acquainted with this picturesque resort town we hop on the Skyline Gondola to the top of Bob's Peak for fantastic views of the Remarkables Range, Walter Peak and Lake Wakatipu. This evening we get to know Queenstown's cafes and bars.

Accommodation: Scenic Suites Queenstown (three nights). B

Day 16: Queenstown – Milford Sound – Scenic Flight - Queenstown

In the early morning we drive alongside Lake Wakatipu and through farmland to Lake Te Anau. The Milford Road in Fiordland National Park is one of the most beautiful in New Zealand with views of beech forests, high mountains, alpine valleys and cascading waterfalls. At Milford Sound we step on board our small boat to cruise past Mitre Peak, high waterfalls and out into the Tasman Sea where seals lounge on the rocky islets. Returning from the Sound we take to the sky – flying back to Queenstown over a breath-taking panorama of the Southern Alps, mountain top tarns and sparkling Lake Wakatipu. **B**

Day 17: At Leisure in Queenstown

A day to kick back and get to know this beautiful region - the options are endless - from a jet boat ride on the Dart River in Lord of the Rings scenery, a white water rafting trip on the Kawarau River, a guided walk on the Routeburn Track to a gentle cruise on the "TSS Earnslaw". Your Kiwi guide is at hand to assist with your planning. Touring with a wine guide is another possibility as Central Otago is renowned for boutique vineyards and award-winning pinot noir. Or perhaps just take a leisurely stroll in the Botanic Gardens and along the lakefront then relax over coffee in a cafe, soaking up the stunning scenery and lively atmosphere. **B**

Day 18: Depart Queenstown

This morning your small group New Zealand tour comes to an end after breakfast. Before you are met at the hotel for your transfer to the airport take the chance to catch up on any last minute shopping. Queenstown's boutique shopping streets are just a couple of minutes walk from your hotel. If you have time why not stretch your legs on one last relaxing stroll beside Lake Wakatipu down to the town's lakefront to watch the heritage steamer tss "Earnslaw" depart with a toot from the wharf?

Thank you for touring with MoaTrek New Zealand Small Group Tours. Ka kite ano – “see you again”. **B**



Booking Terms and Conditions

Booking and Payment

- A payment of 10% of your tour cost confirms your booking and acknowledges your agreement to our terms and conditions
- The balance of your fare is due 65 days before your tour departs
- Tour reservations can of course, be made within 65 days provided full payment is made at time of booking
- All prices are in \$NZ and include New Zealand Goods & Services tax (GST) of 15%.

Cancellations and Amendments

Bookings cancelled more than 60 days before departure incur 10% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled between 60 days and 14 days incur 25% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled within 14 days incur 50% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled within 7 days of the tour's commencement are subject to 100% of tour cost.

No refunds will be made after travel has commenced.

Brochure valid: 01 May 2016 – 30 April 2017

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