

## New Zealand Guided Tours

### Kakapo

**Operator:** Moa Trek  
**Days:** 23  
**Start:** Auckland  
**Finish:** Christchurch  
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

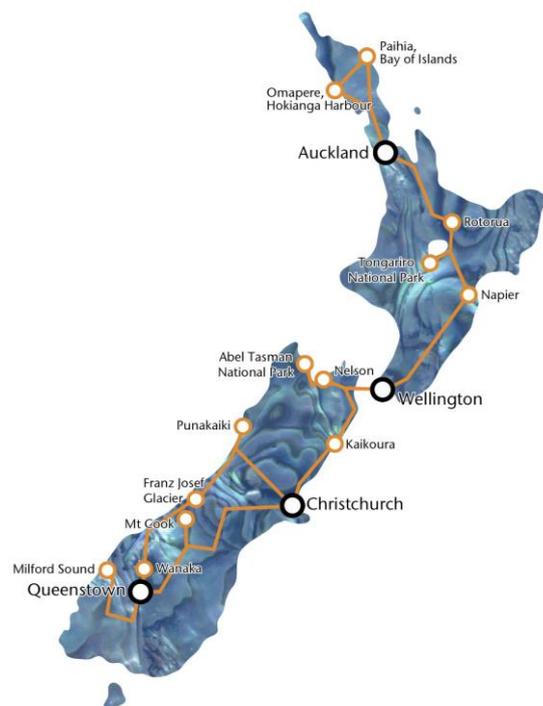
### Tour Overview

Welcome to the ultimate New Zealand small group tour. Experience a colourful kaleidoscope of country life, Maori culture and leisurely touring with four two-night stopovers and one three-night stopover. Explore the beautiful Northland, Abel Tasman National Park and Kaikoura coastlines. You'll see Tongariro National Park, Aoraki (Mt Cook), Milford Sound and the West Coast rainforests.

### Inclusions

#### Attractions

- Learn about the history of Northland and the mighty Kauri tree at the Kauri Museum, Matakoho.
- Enjoy a spiritual journey with Maori guides to Tane Mahuta, the ancient 'Lord of the Forest.'
- Explore the glistening waters and towering sand dunes on the Hokianga Harbour.
- Explore Kerikeri's historic Stone Store.
- Learn about the history of New Zealand at the Waitangi Treaty House.
- Enjoy a dolphin cruise out to the famous Hole in the Rock and Cape Brett, with the chance to swim with the dolphins in the Bay of Islands.
- Visit thousands of twinkling glowworms at Kawiti Caves.
- Cruise across Lake Rotoiti on the luxury yacht "Tiua" before soaking in mineral hot pools on the edge of the lake.
- Visit Rotorua Museum and learn about the rich history of the region.
- Wander New Zealand's most colourful geothermal park at Wai-O-Tapu.



- Explore Napier with a private guided tour of this famous Art Deco town.
- Enjoy a scenic cruise across the Cook Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound on-board the Interislander ferry.
- Taste a selection of wines in Marlborough, New Zealand's premier wine-growing region.
- Take a cruise to the golden sands of the Abel Tasman National Park.
- Enjoy breathtaking views of Queenstown on the Skyline Gondola.
- Experience the pristine landscapes of Milford Sound with a 1.45 hour nature and wildlife cruise.
- Soar high above the Southern Alps from Milford Sound to Queenstown on a scenic flight.
- Enjoy a guided kayak or leisurely cruise around the shallow waters of secluded Okarito Lagoon.

### **Transportation**

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

### **Professionally Escorted**

Services of your knowledgeable MoaTrek driver/guide.

### **Tour itinerary**

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

#### **Day 1: Arrive in Auckland**

On arrival, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your waterside hotel in central Auckland. The rest of today is at leisure to explore the 'City of Sais'.

**Accommodation: The Sebel Suites**

#### **Day 2: Auckland – Matakoho – Waipoua Forest – Omapere, Hokianga**

Our tour begins with a drive northwards to Muriwai Beach on the West Coast. A short stroll along the headland leads to stunning views of the Tasman Sea and the gannet colony nesting on the clifftops. We skirt the Kaipara Harbour and continue to Matakoho Kauri Museum to discover the history of the kauri tree. North of Dargaville we enter the primeval forest of Waipoua to accompany Footprints Waipoua, a group dedicated to preserving the traditions and culture of Ngapuhi, the northern Maori tribe, to visit the magnificent kauri Tane Mahuta (51 metres tall, girth 13.8 metres). This evening relax over dinner in your harbourside hotel with your fellow travellers.

**Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Hokianga. B D**

#### **Day 3: Omapere – Bay of Islands**

We cruise out on the Hokianga Harbour, a spiritual place for Maori, on the MV "Hokianga Express" to go ashore on the golden sand dunes. If you're feeling adventurous you can ride a body board down the dunes. We drive across the island to the East Coast and visit the Stone Store in Kerikeri, New Zealand's oldest stone building. Later we are guided through Waitangi Treaty House, a significant place in New Zealand history where Maori signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Queen Victoria's representatives in 1840. From your nearby hotel there are stunning views out to the beautiful Bay of Islands.

**Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands (2 nights). B**

#### **Day 4: Cruise the Bay of Islands – Dolphin Swim – tour Russell township**

From Paihia you can either board a purpose built catamaran to swim with dolphins (gear provided) or take a relaxed cruise out to this maritime park of 144 islands to Cape Brett and the "Hole in the Rock" and go ashore at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island. Both cruises disembark at Russell (Kororareka), the first capital of New Zealand, a small town with a rollicking 19th century past. Known as the "hell hole of the South Pacific", it was a favourite haunt of whalers and sealers. Visit the colonial buildings, walk the waterfront or climb Flagstaff Hill for spectacular views. Later on catch the ferry (15 minutes) back to Paihia to transfer to your hotel. **B**

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#### **Day 5: Bay of Islands – Auckland**

The best small group New Zealand tours take visitors off the beaten track. To special places such as the Kawiti Glowworm Caves where you walk through ancient limestone caves on a guided tour with descendants of Maori chief Kawiti to view thousands of twinkling glowworms including the famous Milky Way cavern. 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. Returning to our harbourside hotel in Auckland, you have the evening to relax and explore.

**Accommodation: Sebel Suites. B**

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#### **Day 6: Auckland – Rotorua**

We head southeast through the lush dairy farmlands of the Waikato. Touring New Zealand's dramatic Karangahake Gorge we take a stroll alongside the Ohinemuri River through native bush to the relics and ruins of this region's gold-mining past. We pass through Te Puke, the Kiwifruit capital of the world, the landscape dotted with Kiwifruit orchards before continuing on to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua. Along the way, at Okawa Bay, we board "Tiua", a 53ft catamaran for a relaxing sail on serene Lake Rotoiti to secluded coves and natural hot pools reached only by boat - a great way to finish your day.

**Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Hotel (two night stay). B**

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#### **Day 7: Rotorua sightseeing**

This morning there's time for relaxation. Perhaps stroll down to Lake Rotorua, a minute from your hotel, or enjoy one of Rotorua's many unique attractions. This afternoon we drive out to beautiful Lake Tarawera. At Pounamu Lodge share your experiences over an exclusive lunch with hosts David and Karen, Rotorua locals, who have many stories to tell of their historic links to this region. Later there's time to further explore Rotorua. The vibrant museum gives a unique insight into the town's rich Maori culture and its significant impact on New Zealand history. **B L**

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#### **Day 8: Rotorua – Tongariro National Park**

No small group New Zealand tour would be complete without a visit to the surreal, geothermal reserve, Wai-O-Tapu. The bubbling mud pools and incredibly colourful silica terraces are unforgettable. On the road into Taupo we view the turbulent Huka Falls where the Waikato River thunders through a narrow chasm. From Taupo there are magnificent views across the lake to the three active volcanoes - Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu (2,797 metres), the highest mountain in the North Island. These mountains of the volcanic plateau are our next destination, the World Heritage Tongariro National Park. Take a walk in the park this afternoon.

**Accommodation: Chateau Tongariro. B**

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### **Day 9: Tongariro National Park - Napier**

We breakfast at the historic Chateau Tongariro nestled at the base of Mount Ruapehu. From Lake Taupo the road winds over the ranges to the seaside town of Napier. Renowned for its Art Deco architecture, Napier was rebuilt in this style after an earthquake in 1931. On arrival, a local guide joins us for a walking tour of the impressive Art Deco buildings. We drive to the rural town of Havelock North and up Te Mata Peak for stunning views over the rich, pastoral landscape of orchards, farms and vineyards. We return to Napier where the afternoon is yours to explore the town at your leisure.

**Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Te Pania. B**

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### **Day 10: Napier - Wellington**

Leaving Napier we drive through the countryside of farmland and vineyards then pass through the small farming towns of Norsewood and Dannevirke before heading down the Wairarapa Plains to historic, arty Greytown. Its picturesque main street is lined with antique, craft and gift shops. It's also at the centre of the Wairarapa's premium wine-growing region. In the afternoon we cross the Rimutaka Ranges to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We tour the city's sights and drive up Mt Victoria for the views over the harbour. Your contemporary inner city hotel is at the heart of Wellington's eclectic cafe scene.

**Accommodation: The Bolton Hotel. B**

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### **Day 11: Wellington – Cook Strait – Picton – Blenheim - Nelson**

This morning we cruise on the Interislander ferry for three hours across Cook Strait and up beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound to Picton. With our feet firmly planted on "Te Waka a Maui", Maori for the South Island, we wine taste at Allan Scott's vineyard at the heart of Marlborough's premier wine region, renowned for sauvignon blanc. We ascend gradually to St Arnaud village and Lake Rotoiti, a scenic gem nestled in the beech forested mountains of the Nelson Lakes National Park. We visit the Department of Conservation Centre before driving down to Nelson, the sunshine capital of New Zealand and gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park.

**Hotel: Century Park Motor Lodge (2 nights). B**

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### **Day 12: Nelson – Abel Tasman National Park - Nelson**

Today you have a choice of a full scenic cruise or a cruise and walk from Marahau along the stunning Abel Tasman coastline. Abel Tasman National Park is our country's smallest national park. It protects 23,000 hectares of the most natural stretch of easily accessible coastline in New Zealand.

The coastline is characterised by islands just offshore, sheltered waters, estuaries and golden, sandy beaches. Lie on a beach, or even go for a swim if the weather is warm. The park is sheltered from ocean swells, and enjoys a mild climate. After your cruise or walk we return to Nelson. **B**

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### **Day 13: Nelson - Kaikoura**

We return to Blenheim through Pelorus Bridge and Havelock and leave behind the dry hills of Marlborough for the Kaikoura Peninsula. The road hugs the rugged coastline between the Pacific Ocean and the Kaikoura Ranges as we head south and the views are truly spectacular. Your afternoon is free to explore Kaikoura's bountiful marine wildlife - a result of the ocean canyon close offshore. There are many optional excursions from swimming with seals and dolphins to whale watching cruises and flights. One of the many highlights is viewing the seal colony with a backdrop of the Kaikoura mountains and coastline.

**Accommodation: White Morph Motor Inn. B**

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### **Day 14: Kaikoura – Akaunui Farm Homestead – Aoraki/Mount Cook**

Leaving the coast we drive over the Hunderlee Hills to the Canterbury Plains. We stop for a special lunch at Akaunui, a 100-year-old farm homestead surrounded by large gardens, and dine on wonderful fresh produce straight from the vegetable garden of your hosts, Di and Ian Mackenzie. Driving through Burke's Pass to New Zealand's spectacular Mackenzie Country, we encounter sweeping vistas of tussock lands and the magnificent mountains of the Southern Alps. A visit to the Church of the Good Shepherd, on the edge of aquamarine Lake Tekapo, makes for an unforgettable photo stop.

**Hotel: The Hermitage. B L**

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### **Day 15: Aoraki/Mt Cook - Queenstown**

Welcome the day at the foot of Mt Cook, at 3,754 metres New Zealand's highest mountain, known as Aoraki "the cloud piercer". You have the option of exploring the dramatic landscape by taking an early morning walk in the valleys near Mt Cook or treating yourself to a scenic flight or a cruise on a glacial lake.

Travelling south down the Mackenzie Basin, over the Lindis Pass and through the rugged scenery of Kawarau Gorge we reach Queenstown – the adventure capital of New Zealand. Catch the Skyline Gondola to the top of Bob's Peak for breathtaking views. This evening enjoy the variety of Queenstown's cafes and bars.

**Hotel: Scenic Suites Queenstown (3 nights). B**

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### **Day 16: Queenstown – Milford Sound – Nature Cruise – Scenic Flight - Queenstown**

From Queenstown we tour by coach to Te Anau and magnificent Milford Sound in the Fiordland National Park. The Milford Road is one of the most spectacular drives on our small group New Zealand tours - dense beech forests, massive mountains, crystal clear waterfalls and mirror lakes. On arrival in Milford we board a launch to cruise out onto Milford Sound, dominated by iconic Mitre Peak and home to birdlife, seal colonies and pods of dolphins. A magical flight over the Southern Alps returns us to Queenstown at the end of a fantastic day of touring by land, sea and air. **B**

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### **Day 17: At Leisure in Queenstown**

This picturesque resort is known as an adrenalin adventure destination but there are also many simple and relaxing options as well. With the whole day to discover Queenstown your Kiwi guide will help you plan and enjoy it in the best way possible for you. You could take a jet boat ride (optional) on the remote and beautiful Dart River in The Lord of the Rings scenery, walk along the lakeshore and the Botanic Gardens or take a thrilling raft ride on the Kawarau River (optional). Other options include wine touring in the acclaimed boutique vineyards of Central Otago, a guided walk on the Routeburn Track or cruising out on Lake Wakatipu. **B**

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### **Day 18: Queenstown – Arrowtown – Cadrona Valley - Wanaka**

Our first destination is the leafy village of Arrowtown where gold mining history comes alive beside the Arrow River. Heading into tussock country, the road climbs up the Crown Range with expansive views of the Gibbston Valley. We call into picture perfect Cardrona Hotel, its history also traces back to the gold mining era, then continue on to Wanaka. We relax with fine local wines and catch up with the locals over a private lunch at a Wanaka homestead. There's free time after lunch to discover this lovely lakeside town for yourself. You can can bike the lakefront trail, kayak or even walk up to Rippon Vineyard to wine taste with a view.

**Hotel: Edgewater Hotel. B L**

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### **Day 19: Wanaka - Haast Pass – Franz Josef**

We drive beside Lake Hawea and the head of Lake Wanaka before reaching the pristine mountain and river scenery of the Haast Pass in Mt Aspiring National Park. Well-maintained short tracks through beech forests lead us to cascading waterfalls and clear blue pools where trout lurk. Continuing north through the lush, primeval rainforest of Westland World Heritage Park, we stop at Ship Creek to stroll the beach and take the boardwalk through swampland rainforest. Lake Matheson is famous for reflections of the Southern Alps and at Fox Glacier we view the glacier descending the mountain slopes.

**Accommodation: Punga Grove (2 nights). B**

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### **Day 20: Franz Josef – Okarito Lagoon – Franz Josef**

With time to enjoy the beauty of this remote World Heritage park this day is often a favourite on our small group New Zealand tours. At Okarito, a tiny settlement nestled between the Tasman Sea and Okarito Lagoon, we kayak or take a boat cruise on the shallow waters of the lagoon, a feeding ground of the rare white heron (kotuku) which breeds nearby in the Waitangi Roto Nature Reserve. Among your possible options this afternoon are taking a flight over the Alps to Aoraki/Mt Cook and experiencing the thrill of a glacier landing or joining a guided helihike onto the glacier. For pure relaxation take a soak in hot pools fed by pure glacier water. **B**

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### **Day 21: Franz Josef – Hokitika – Punakaiki**

Driving north mirror lakes, boulder-laden rivers and glimpses of the Southern Alps lead on to Hokitika where we visit craft galleries – Pounamu (greenstone) carving, glass blowing, wood and copper artisans. The coastal road to Punakaiki follows ancient Pounamu trails used by Maori and the unique flora includes the southernmost nikau palms. Just up the road is the leading local attraction - the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks, sculpted limestone sea stacks and towering cliffs. If the tide is right, blowholes thunder spreading clouds of spray. We celebrate our travels tonight in the hotel's restaurant.

**Hotel: Punakaiki Resort. B D**

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### **Day 22: Punakaiki – Arthur's Pass - Christchurch**

Retracing our steps down the coast to Greymouth, we drive up the Otira Gorge on a spectacular cantilevered road through towering mountains to Arthur's Pass National Park. There are dramatic views from the lookout at the top of the Gorge and you'll have the chance to watch the mischievous antics of the Keas (alpine parrots) in the carpark. Stretch your legs in the beech forests at Arthur's Pass village and take a walk to see the massive limestone rocks rising out of bare pasture at Castle Hill before we descend Porter's Pass to the Canterbury Plains reaching Christchurch in the late afternoon.

**Hotel: Chateau on the Park. B**

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### Day 23: Depart Christchurch

This morning relax over a leisurely breakfast before being picked up from your hotel for transfer to the airport for your flight home after your memorable tour.

If you have time before your transfer to the airport you could take a walk in one of this Garden City's many parks, a scenic tram ride through the streets or canoe on the treelined Avon River. Or even catch up on last minute shopping in the Duty Free Stores for New Zealand favourites such as merino clothing. Thank you for choosing to travel with MoaTrek New Zealand Small Group Tours. Ka kite ano – "See you again". **B**

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### 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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