



# NEW ZEALAND

## Natural and Cultural Heritage in Scenic New Zealand

16 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: FEB - APR; SEP - NOV

*With its awe-inspiring scenery, distinct biodiversity, and rich Māori heritage, New Zealand leaves an indelible impression on its visitors. This 16-day journey brings you into the heart of the country's natural and cultural identities, across the North and South Islands. Set out by boat to experience the rocky coast and marine life of the North Island, hike among the dramatic mountain vistas on the South Island, and traverse the forests, lakes, and plains between, getting to know many of New Zealand's endemic plant and bird life, plus conservation efforts to protect them. You'll also discover the country's human presence, with opportunities to explore its towns and cities, plus learn about Māori history and traditions from Māori elders.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend a day swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking the world-famous marine ecosystem at Poor Knights Islands.
- Embark on hikes through native forest, along rocky coastline, and over the river bed leading to Franz Josef glacier.
- Discover significant sites in Māori culture, from the Waitangi Treaty grounds to the sacred Castle Hill limestone boulders.
- Witness the phenomenon of bioluminescent glowworms in the caves of Waitomo.
- Sample local wines of the Central Otago region and learn why its climate conditions are perfect for viticulture.
- Learn about conservation initiatives at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER



## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - DEPART U.S.

Depart the United States.

### DAY 2 - IN TRANSIT

Overnight flight crossing international dateline.

### DAY 3 - AUCKLAND

Upon arrival in Auckland, a shuttle will take you from the airport to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to rest or head out to explore Auckland—the “city of sails.” *Overnight at Crowne Plaza.*

### DAY 4 - PAIHIA

After breakfast, receive a welcome briefing and program orientation. Check out and travel north toward the Bay of Islands, stopping en route at the coastal town of Mangwhai for a stunning clifftop walk. Afterwards, visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds via Paihia. This site has played an important role in New Zealand’s history; in 1840, Māori chiefs and English settlers signed a treaty here that is considered the country’s founding document. Learn about the implications of this historic moment, then join elders of the local iwi (social unit) for a visit to their Marae (meeting house) and enjoy a traditional hangi dinner. *Overnight at Paihia Kingsgate. (BD)*

### DAY 5 - TUTUKAKA

Today, set out on a boat ride, skirting the hundreds of small islands that give the bay its name. Land on the Cape Brett Peninsula and hike along the ridgeline to the Cape Brett Lighthouse, with dramatic, 360-degree coastal views along the way. It is quite possible to spot dolphins or seals from this vantage point. Stop for a picnic lunch at the lighthouse, and then take the boat back through the bay to Paihia before heading south to the town of Tutukaka for the evening. *Overnight at Tutukaka Pacific Rendezvous. (BL)*

### DAY 6 - TUTUKAKA

The Poor Knights Islands, located about 15 miles offshore, were once recognized by Jacques Cousteau as one of the top

10 dive spots of the world, and for good reason. With the cold currents from the south mixing with the warmer currents from the north, this collection of uninhabited islands is home to an amazing marine ecosystem. Spend a full day on board a large boat, with the option to swim, snorkel, and kayak. Under the water, see both tropical and temperate fish species, forests of kelp, groups of stingrays, and even the occasional dolphin or whale. Above water, observe the many shorebirds, such as petrels, gannets, and shearwaters. Learn about the history of the islands and their occupation by early Māori. *Overnight at Tutukaka Pacific Rendezvous. (BL)*

### DAY 7 - CAMBRIDGE

Depart south through Auckland toward Cambridge through a variety of scenery, from pastoral farmland to the open, flat Hauraki Plains. Stop for lunch in the small town of Te Aroha, celebrated for its naturally hot soda waters and Mokena Geysers. Take a short hike to nearby Wairere Falls, the North Island’s highest waterfall, nestled among native forest and moss-covered rocks. Continue to the town of Cambridge, New Zealand’s equine capital, known also as “The Town of Trees & Champions.” Explore this quaint community, characterized by tree-lined streets and located on the banks of the powerful Waikato River. *Overnight at Kelly Road Cambridge. (BL)*



## DAY 8 - CAMBRIDGE

Today explore Sanctuary Mountain in Maungatautari. This 8,400-acre, predator-proof conservation project aims to continue the reintroduction of threatened and endangered species via breeding programs and gives visitors the opportunity to see some of New Zealand's most incredible animals in a sound ecological environment. Experience a kiwi feeding and then walk through the park on its many trails. Stop for a picnic lunch in the native forest of the southern enclosure and try to spot birds like the North Island Kaka, Takahe, Hihi/Stitchbird, and Kokako, all of which are threatened or endangered and found only in New Zealand. Other wildlife that can be found at Sanctuary Mountain includes the Mahoenui giant wētā (an endemic flightless insect), reptiles like geckos and tuataras, the kōura (a freshwater crayfish), and North Island long-tailed bats. *Overnight at Kelly Road Cambridge.*

## DAY 9 - CHRISTCHURCH

This morning experience the stunning glowworm caves at Waitomo. Walk through the Ruakuri cave to learn more about the geological significance of the area and witness the bioluminescent glowworms, which make the cave ceiling look like a brilliantly lit night sky. Later, head back to Auckland in time to fly to Christchurch in the afternoon. *Overnight at Heartland Hotel Cotswold. (BL)*

## DAY 10 - CHRISTCHURCH

This morning, join a specialist local guide for a walking tour of Christchurch. Learn about the history and settlement of the country's oldest city, which was badly damaged by the 2011 earthquake and its aftershocks. See how the city has joined together to build itself up again, including a visit to the Cardboard Cathedral. Built as a temporary replacement for the city's landmark Anglican cathedral, this structure is a symbol of hope and resilience. Also walk through the city center and see part of the botanical gardens. In the afternoon, enjoy time for independent exploration. *Overnight at Heartland Hotel Cotswold. (B)*

## DAY 11 - FRANZ JOSEF

Today, journey inland toward Arthur's Pass, one of the main crossings of the mighty Southern Alps, and explore the dramatic limestone formations of Castle Hill. These extraordinary monoliths were described by the Dalai Lama as the "spiritual center of the universe," and the area is of huge spiritual importance to the Ngai Tahu, the local Māori tribe. Have lunch at Arthur's Pass, where you might get to glimpse the Kea, the world's only species of alpine parrot, and learn about these inquisitive but endangered birds. Continue on to the wild and rugged scenery of the windswept west coast toward Franz Josef, a small town at the gateway to the glacier of the same name. *Overnight at Rainforest Retreat. (BLD)*

## DAY 12 - FRANZ JOSEF

This morning, visit the tiny seaside hamlet of Okarito, a town of about 30 residents. Embark onto double kayaks to explore

the wonderful beauty of the Okarito Lagoon, home to many species of wading birds. Glide along the gentle waters in hopes of seeing the White-faced Heron, Black Swan, South Island Oystercatcher, Royal Spoonbill, and several species of cormorants, all nesting among the dunes and reeds. Follow the estuary up river channels until deep in kahikatea forest, with the Southern Alps forming a stunning backdrop. Return for a hearty lunch, then head back to Franz Josef to get a closer look at the glacier itself. On a gentle valley walk to the terminal face, learn about the history of the glacier, its retreat, and the geology of glacial carving. *Overnight Rainforest Retreat. (BL)*

## DAY 13 - WANAKA

This morning, take a short walk around Lake Matheson to catch the early calm before the wind picks up, and see the stunning reflections of the Southern Alps on the surface of the lake. Head south along the rugged west coast. Many of the trees you'll see along the way have grown into a permanently bent position due to the perpetual and powerful trade winds coming off the ocean. Journey along the spectacular coastline, stopping at intervals to take in dramatic views and local waterfalls. In the afternoon, head inland over the Haast Pass toward Lake Wanaka for a lakeside evening stroll. *Overnight at Wanaka Hotel. (BL)*

## DAY 14 - WANAKA

In the morning, board a boat and cross Lake Wanaka to a wildlife island reserve famed for its large population of the native Buff Weka. These flightless birds are very inquisitive and offer good insight into New Zealand conservation. Visit a local winery for lunch and a chance to sample the delicious wines of the Central Otago region, famous for its production of pinot noir. Learn from the winemakers why the climate conditions here are perfect for viticulture. This evening, enjoy the quaint alpine town of Wanaka at your leisure. *Overnight at Wanaka Hotel. (BL)*

## DAY 15 - QUEENSTOWN

Today cross over the Crowne range to Queenstown, the adventure capital of New Zealand! Visit the local Kiwi Birdlife Park to see New Zealand's most famous bird up close. Learn about its natural history from the keepers during a kiwi feeding before experiencing a free-flight conservation show with a close view of New Zealand native birds and reptiles. This afternoon, there are a few hours to explore this exciting town before taking a gondola ride up Bob's Peak. Share a farewell dinner at the Skyline Restaurant with stunning views over Lake Wakatipu and the surrounding mountains. *Overnight at Scenic Suites. (BD)*

## DAY 16 - DEPART

Today, head to the Queenstown airport and fly to Auckland, where you will connect with your international flight home. *(B)*



## LAND PRICING

**\$6,545** (14 participants + 1 leader)

**\$6,925** (11 participants + 1 leader)

**\$7,375** (8 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel through June 2021.



## TRAVEL P

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Optional additio Group Deluxe P Interruption, in non-insurance as plan, we can pro



## THE FINE

A \$200 per perso your reservation.

to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)



CASTLE HILLS ROCK FORMATION

FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER & MOUNTAIN



AN ENDEMIC KEA, THE WORLD'S ONLY ALPINE PARROT

