



CREATIVE TRAVEL AND TOURS

Trip Name: New Zealand Getaway 06Mar20
Journey: Auckland to Christchurch

Trip Notes:

Itinerary subject to change

Land content only

International/domestic flights not included in tour price

Included Experiences:

Immersive Insider Experiences

15 breakfasts and 9 dinners

Expert Tour Director, plus local guides in select locations

Arrival and departure airport transfers in New Zealand

Luggage portorage for your convenience

Day 1. Arrive Auckland

Be met on arrival into Auckland and transferred to your hotel.

Rydges Auckland Hotel

Day 2. Auckland, Bay of Islands

See a mighty Kauri tree and marvel at its size at the Matakohe Kauri Museum. Continue to the Bay of Islands. Enjoy a special Welcome Dinner this evening.

Two Nights, Bay of Islands, Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge Paihia

BD

Insider Experience

Journey north to the Matakohe Kauri Museum which details the story of pioneering settlers of the Kauri industry, as well as the legacy of Kauri forests.

Day 3. Bay of Islands

Home to 144 islands, enjoy this aquatic playground with a full day at leisure. Perhaps relax on the beach, explore the wilderness areas via one of the many walking tracks, or wander about the town.

B

Day 4. Bay of Islands, Auckland

The captivating coastline of the Bay of Islands provides sheltered waters for dolphins, whales, seals, penguins and other marine life. Continue to the Hole in the Rock, a distinctive sandstone arch formation. Return to Auckland by coach and relax prior to dinner.

Rydges Auckland Hotel

BD

Insider Experience

Explore New Zealand's finest maritime park on a cruise to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock.

Day 5. Auckland, Waitomo, Rotorua

Leaving Auckland after breakfast, travel to Waitomo, home to the famous glow worm caves where thousands of tiny luminescent creatures radiate an unmistakable glow. Continue to the geothermal capital of New Zealand, Rotorua. Visit Te Puia, New Zealand's premier cultural centre, and enjoy a guided tour of the Māori Arts & Crafts Institute. You will also see the Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley and witness the phenomenal spectacle of erupting geysers and bubbling mud pools. Delight in the opportunity to dine and interact with locals who will enchant you with their customs and cheerful hospitality.

Two Nights, Sudima Rotorua

BD

Insider Experience

Discover the magical natural spectacle of Waitomo Caves with a local guide.

Insider Experience

Enjoy a Māori Hāngī feast with performances of song and dance at Te Puia tonight.

Day 6. Rotorua

Rotorua captures the essence of New Zealand with its geothermal geysers, fascinating Māori culture and rich heritage. The city is positioned on the Pacific Rim of Fire, and is therefore one of the world's most active geothermal areas. Your sightseeing continues with a visit to one of New Zealand's best-loved attractions, the Agrodome, with its entertaining sheep shearing demonstration, dog trials and animal nursery. Later, perhaps enjoy an optional helicopter flight for views over the active White Island volcano (own expense).

B

Day 7. Rotorua, Taupo, Wellington

Farewell Rotorua and enjoy the scenery as you travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo - the largest freshwater lake in Australasia - and thundering Huka Falls. Continue south across the vast volcanic plateau of World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park to Wellington. The evening has been left free for you to explore the vibrant dining scene independently. From seafood cafes to cosy wine bars and spectacular fine-dining restaurants, you will see that New Zealand's wild and fresh produce is showcased on a plate here in Wellington.

Travelodge Wellington

B

Day 8. Wellington, Cook Strait, Blenheim

This morning take in a city sights tour which includes Te Papa Tongarewa. Afterwards, admire coastlines defined by tiny coves on the way to Blenheim.

Blenheim, Quality Hotel Marlborough

BD

Insider Experience

Enjoy one of the world's most scenic voyages as the Interislander ferry traverses Cook Strait through the Marlborough and Queen Charlotte sounds.

Day 9. Blenheim, Kaikoura, Christchurch

This morning, head to Kaikoura. Delight in the chance to embark on a whale watching cruise,

where you may catch a glimpse of the arc of a tail, or a spouting fountain from a blowhole. Here is one of the few areas on Earth where sperm whales can be sighted all year round thanks to the deep Kaikoura Canyon that runs along the coast. Continue your journey onwards to Christchurch. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner.

Christchurch, Quality Elms Hotel

BD

Day 10. Christchurch, Fox Glacier

You have included the TranzAlpine train journey between Christchurch and Arthur's Pass. Truly one of the world's great scenic train trips through the dramatic contrast of dry beech forests and tussock land on one side of the Alps and lush green landscapes on the other. From Christchurch, cross the patchwork farmland of the Canterbury plains, follow the Waimakariri River, climbing into alpine scenery on a series of spectacular viaducts. Re-join your coach at Arthur's Pass and travel along the striking coastline to Westland National Park. Enjoy the grand scenery as you travel along the west coast, taking in the dramatic terrain and icy surrounds of the region. This evening, enjoy dinner.

Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier

BD

Day 11. Fox Glacier, Queenstown

Journey through spectacular Haast Pass, skirting the tranquil shores of lakes Wanaka and Hawea to the alpine resort of Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu. Delicious food is always on the menu in Queenstown as it is renowned for its world-class food scene and nightlife. This evening, during time at leisure, you may like to dine at one of the many restaurants in the town centre.

Two Nights, Copthorne Hotel and Apartments Queenstown Lakeview

B

Insider Experience

Settle in for a two-night stay overseeing the calming blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, all the while admiring the dramatic backdrop of towering mountains.

Day 12. Queenstown

With the entire day to spend as you please, you have the freedom to simply relax or pursue your interests and choose one of our exciting select experiences. Perhaps step aboard the TSS Earnslaw steamship for a cruise to Walter Peak Station, or take a scenic gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for panoramic views over Queenstown (both at own expense). Or, if you're more of a gourmand, perhaps choose to set off into the Central Otago region independently - one of New Zealand's foremost wine-producing areas.

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Day 13. Queenstown, Milford Sound, Te Anau

Enter Fiordland National Park along the Milford Road, then enjoy an exciting Insider Experience. Afterwards, make your way to your hotel and enjoy dinner.

Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau

BD

Insider Experience

Board a boat and cruise the full length of Milford Sound, a magnificent fiord with views of cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest, sheer cliffs and surrounding mountains.

Day 14. Te Anau, Dunedin

Today, journey through rolling Southland countryside before arriving in Dunedin. Enjoy a guided tour then head to the nearby hills to take an intriguing tour of Larnach Castle, New

Zealand's only castle. Steeped in scandal and tragedy, it is filled with magnificent antiques and offers breathtaking views. Enjoy some time at leisure before dinner this evening.
Scenic Hotel Dunedin City BD

Day 15. Dunedin, Mt Cook, Lake Tekapo

See the Moeraki Boulders and visit Oamaru to see some of New Zealand's finest 19th-century architecture.

Lake Tekapo, Peppers Bluewater Resort BD

Insider Experience

Journey into Mt Cook National Park to view Australasia's highest mountain, Aoraki (Mt Cook). Arrive this afternoon at your hotel, situated on the shores of Lake Tekapo.

Insider Experience

Dine on fresh local produce at your hotel's restaurant during a memorable Farewell Dinner.

Day 16. Lake Tekapo, Christchurch

Pay a visit to the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd before travelling to Christchurch and your tour concludes this afternoon on arrival in Christchurch at approximately 3pm. Your coach will drop you at your hotel.

You have additional accommodation included in Christchurch.

Quality Hotel Elms Christchurch **B**

Day 17. Christchurch B

You will be transferred from your hotel to Christchurch Airport to connect with your flight.

\$6295 cad pp based on dble occupancy

Single \$8495

Deposit: \$500pp

Final payment due 45 days prior to departure

Required to book: copy of valid Canadian passport

Flights can be arranged at time of booking. Economy/premium Economy and Business Class

