



New Zealand Explorer

This great 10 day tour day tour has it all. Explore Waitomo Caves, Tamaki Maori Village, Hobbiton Movie Set, Mt Cook National Park, Queenstown and Milford Sound.

Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 10days / 9nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
 Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
 Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course
 Included activity: Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included
 Included activity: Wellington Half Day Private Tour with Capital Personalized Tour
 Included activity: Picton to Nelson by Intercity Coach
 Included activity: Nelson to Abel Tasman National Park Return Coach
 Included activity: Greymouth Train Station to Franz Josef with Hokitika Scenic Tours
 : 1 special dinner

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
 Included activity: Auckland to Rotorua Small Group Tour via Hobbiton with Bush and Beach
 Included activity: Rotorua Duck Tours City & Lakes Tour
 Included activity: Rotorua to Wellington by InterCity Coach
 Included activity: Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton with Premium Plus Lounge
 Included activity: Abel Tasman National Park Cruise & Walk Open Day Pass
 Included activity: Nelson to Greymouth by InterCity Coach
 Included activity: Franz Josef to Queenstown with Glacier Shuttles

Day 1



Auckland to Rotorua Small Group Tour via Hobbiton with Bush and Beach

Departing from Auckland, this is a wonderful way to get to Rotorua and include a magical journey through Middle-Earth to the Hobbiton Movie Set from "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" films. Travel south from Auckland over the Bombay Hills to the rich farmland of the Waikato region. Journey through the heritage town of Cambridge where tree-lined streets add to the English-style atmosphere. On arrival at Shire's Rest, you embark on your Hobbiton movie set tour where you will see 44 Hobbit holes, the Mill and double arch bridge, the party tree and visit the Green Dragon Inn. At this stunning location, you can take a photo at the door of Bilbo's house in Bag End, looking out over the whole of Hobbiton to the hills in the distance. At the end of your Hobbiton movie set tour, you will travel onwards to Rotorua.

Your accommodation: Millennium Hotel Rotorua

Millennium Hotel is Rotorua's largest 4-star deluxe hotel. Perfectly situated in the heart of the city overlooking Lake Rotorua. Five levels of accommodation offer guests a wide variety of scenic views.



Day 2



Rotorua Duck Tours City & Lakes Tour

You haven't seen Rotorua until you've seen it from a Duck. Discover Rotorua in the most unique way possible with the City and Lakes Tour. This unique sightseeing adventure takes place on land and water, on-board a WWII amphibious Duck. Unlike any other tour in Rotorua, the duck tour is the best way to see the city and experience the beauty of the surrounding lake district all at once. Your tour begins right in the heart of the city where you will discover the sights and sounds, and learn all about the rich history and diversity that makes Rotorua such a unique destination. With your conDUCKtor, you will venture out of town to the spectacular lakes district where you will see magnificent views of Mt Tarawera and splashdown into Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) and Lake Okareka.

Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included

New Zealand's Most Awarded Cultural Attraction, presenting Te Pā Tū. Feast on song, drama, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) blanketed by towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and a forest-formed amphitheatre. Te Pā Tū shares Māori history, traditions, and cultural aspirations across 4-hours of celebration and feasting. These events change with each season of the Maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar.

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Meals included: Speciality Dinner



Day 3



Rotorua to Wellington by InterCity Coach

Your coach journey from Rotorua to Wellington takes you via the township of Taupō and New Zealand's largest lake. The lake is a gigantic volcanic caldera formed during one of the world's largest-ever eruptions. Skirting Tongariro National Park, one of New Zealand's three world heritage sites and clouds permitting you can see the 2,500-metre peak of the still volcanically active Mt. Ruapehu. You might recognize the symmetrical shape of Mt. Ngauruhoe as this was used as the scenery of Mt. Doom in the Lord of the Rings Trilogy. Heading south you pass through the rural towns of Taihape, Mangaweka and Bulls before arriving on the Kapiti Coast, with its coastal seaside towns of Paraparaumu, Paekakariki and Plimmerton. The Kapiti Coast leads into Wellington, New Zealand's capital. Wellington sits on a wonderful deep natural harbour, surrounded by bush-clad hills. The city centre is compact (only around 1 square kilometre), so exploring on foot is relatively easy. From your city centre accommodation, you can easily stroll to the cafes and restaurants around Courtenay Place and explore New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa.

Your accommodation: Bolton Hotel Wellington

The Bolton Hotel offers contemporary apartment-style accommodation in the heart of Wellington. Just steps from the Parliament buildings and central business district, Bolton Hotel is conveniently close to the best of the city's shops, cafes and restaurants and is within walking distance of Wellington's vibrant waterfront.



Day 4



Wellington Half Day Private Tour with Capital Personalized Tour

Witness the best sights of New Zealand's capital city up close and personal, before experiencing the beauty of the coastline that surrounds central Wellington and its harbour. On this tour, you will head for the hills of Mt Victoria to witness the stunning landscape of Wellington and its harbour below. You will then follow the coastline round to the Weta Cave Museum, which is the showpiece of Peter Jackson's film empire. After a drive around the south coast, you will head back into the city for a ride on the Cable Car and a walk around the lady Norwood rose gardens. The tour concludes with a visit to the Beehive and our Parliament buildings.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Wētā Workshop Experience

Wētā Workshop has been making cool stuff for film and TV since 1987. The crew has brought to life beloved characters and epic special effects for iconic blockbusters like The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit, Avatar and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

Step into Wētā Workshop Experiences and explore a world of creativity, physical effects and movie magic on a guided tour through our creative home base. You'll learn about the making of props, creatures and costumes created for your favourite films. Get hands-on with unique pieces from many departments, catch the artists at work and discover how Wētā have grown into the award-winning workshop you see today.

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Day 5



Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton with Premium Plus Lounge

The 92 km ferry journey between Wellington and Picton, taking around 3 hours, is hailed as one of the world's most beautiful ferry rides. Departing Wellington Harbour, you'll pass landmarks like Pencarrow Head with New Zealand's oldest lighthouse, Red Rocks; seal colony, and Oterangi Bay, famous for its record wind speed. From the Cook Strait, marvel at views of the Kaikōura Ranges and spot dolphins and seabirds. An hour of the trip winds through the stunning Marlborough Sounds, featuring bush-clad mountains, tranquil bays, and crystal-clear waters—a photographer's dream. The journey concludes in the charming town of Picton at the end of Queen Charlotte Sound. When not soaking up the views from the deck, relax in the Premium Plus lounge, offering complimentary drinks, snacks, internet, and luxurious seating for the most comfortable way to cross the Cook Strait.

Picton to Nelson by Intercity Coach

Board your coach in Picton and first travel south to Blenheim, the centre of the Marlborough wine region. From Blenheim you'll pass the vast grape growing areas as you head west towards Renwick, then through the fertile valleys and onto the picturesque port town of Havelock. Continue through the Rai Valley and over the ranges before dropping to the coast and Tasman Bay. Follow the shore into the city of Nelson.

Your accommodation: Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)

Centrally located within a few minutes walk of Nelson's central shopping precinct, theatres, restaurants and cafés, the information centre, and close to the scenic waterfront. Located right on the river, many of the rooms open onto the river view. Also overlooking the river is The Tides Restaurant and Bar.



Day 6



Abel Tasman National Park Cruise and Walk Open Day Pass

Explore Abel Tasman National Park through scenic cruises and short bush walks. Options include the Vista Scenic Cruise with stops at golden beaches and the Tonga Island Seal Colony, the Pitt Head Loop offering leisurely trails and beach relaxation, or the Seals and Beach adventure combining marine reserve views and a forested hike. Other highlights include the Bark Bay Falls walk and the Swing Bridge, Bush and Beach experience with lush forest trails and Cleopatra's Pool. Each trip combines stunning coastal scenery with immersive nature experiences.

Nelson to Abel Tasman National Park Return Coach

You will be picked up from your Nelson accommodation for your transfer through to Kaiteriteri in Abel Tasman National Park to join your Wilsons Abel Tasman day trip, at the end of the day you will be returned to your Nelson accommodation.

Your accommodation: Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)

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Day 7



Nelson to Greymouth by Intercity Coach

Head south west through the Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Park region. Trees, rivers and valleys accompany you now as you head towards the town of Murchison. Heading South towards Westport you will drive along the Buller Gorge, enjoy some wonderful scenery as you follow this magnificent river. Continuing on your journey the first major town (by this regions standard) is Inangahua and a small museum tells of the earthquake that hit the region in 1968 leaving 70% of the buildings damaged or inhabitable. Continuing south on the road to Punakaiki you will pass through Paparoa National Park. The west coast is very rugged, mountains meet sea and the coast is covered with beautiful fauna and flora including Nikau Palms, which makes for a scenic trip back along the coast to Greymouth.

Greymouth Train Station to Franz Josef with Hokitika Scenic Tours

Depart Greymouth, and head south through Hokitika and towards Glacier Country. Pass through Ross, a historic gold mining town where several old buildings remain intact. Travelling further down the coast drive through Hari Hari, the town where Guy Menzies, the first person to fly solo over the Tasman crash-landed. Follow the coast through several small towns including Whataroa, the only home to the Kōtuku-White Heron which is showcased on the New Zealand \$2 coin. From there it is a short drive and on a clear day you may even catch a glimpse of the Franz Josef glacier as you arrive in the town centre.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Only a breath away from the Franz Josef Glacier, Scenic Hotel is located in the heart of Franz Josef Village. Here you will find all of the amenities you would expect, as well as being close to the shops, restaurants and activities on offer in the beautiful Westland region.



Day 8



Explore Franz Josef

Franz Josef is a small yet lively town in the heart of New Zealand's West Coast, best known for its spectacular 12 km-long glacier. The township is surrounded by lush, rainforest-clad mountains and has a vibrant atmosphere with plenty to explore. A variety of scenic walking trails offer incredible views of the glacier, but for a truly up-close experience, a licensed helicopter tour is the only way to set foot on the ice. Beyond the glacier, unwind in the rejuvenating Hot Pools or visit the West Coast Wildlife Centre to spot rare kiwi birds. If you're in the mood for a more relaxed day, the township is home to charming souvenir and gift shops, as well as great dining spots like SnakeBite Brewery and King Tiger. Whether you're chasing adventure or relaxation, Franz Josef is a stunning blend of wild beauty and welcoming hospitality.

Your accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

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Day 9



Franz Josef to Queenstown with Glacier Shuttles

Set off from the small village of Franz Josef, set at the edge of Franz Josef Glacier (one of the world's most accessible glaciers), and travel through the remote and unspoiled scenery of the West Coast. Take the scenic Haast Pass through the Southern Alps, the southernmost pass between the East and West coasts of the South Island. See the clear and pristine waters of Lake Hawea as you travel east, passing Lake Hawea and Lake Wānaka as you continue through to New Zealand's 'Adventure Capital', Queenstown.

Your accommodation: Novotel Queenstown Lakeside

Novotel Queenstown Lakeside is centrally located, offering a modern stay just steps from the town centre and nestled beside Lake Wakatipu. Contemporary rooms feature stunning mountain views or peaceful scenes of the gardens. Enjoy modern amenities and easy access to all Queenstown adventures.



Day 10



Transport Options

Like some help to organise your transport to or from the airport and your accommodation? No worries! Chat to us to find out about the options best suited to you.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Independant Bus & Coach
Starts: Auckland
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 10
Accomodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Millennium Hotel Rotorua
Day 2	Millennium Hotel Rotorua
Day 3	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 4	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 5	Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)
Day 6	Tides Hotel (was Trailways Hotel)
Day 7	Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier
Day 8	Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier
Day 9	Novotel Queenstown Lakeside