



Luxury in Middle Earth

Experience the magic of New Zealand as you journey through the iconic landscapes of Middle-earth on this Lord of the Rings adventure! Start in Auckland and head to Hobbiton, where the lush green hills of the Shire come to life. Explore the dramatic volcanic scenery of Tongariro National Park, home to Mt Doom, before visiting Wellington, the creative hub of Weta Workshop. Cross to the South Island and paddle down the Pelorus River, featured in The Hobbit. In Queenstown, discover the adventure capital of New Zealand and visit filming locations before venturing into the stunning Mt Aspiring National Park, where Middle-earth's breathtaking wilderness awaits.



Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 16days / 15nights
 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: Late model rental cars

Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)

Includes: Unlimited kms

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App

Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Captains Cabin Experience with Whale Watch Kaikoura

Included activity: Lord of the Rings Edoras Tour with Hassle Free Tours - Lunch Included

Included activity: Big Sky Stargazing

Included activity: Lord of the Rings Glenorchy Tour with Nomad Safaris

Included activity: Gondola and Premium Buffet Dinner Experience with Skyline Queenstown

Included activity: Lord of the Rings and Glacier Explorer Flight with Glacier Southern Lakes Helicopters

Included activity: Wētā Workshop Unleashed

Included activity: Auckland Sky Tower Admission

Included activity: Behind the Scenes Tour at Hobbiton

Included activity: Glow Worm Caves Tour with Discover Waitomo

Included activity: Sky Waka Gondola Sightseeing Trip with Whakapapa

Included activity: Lord Of The Rings Half Day Private Tour with Capital Personalised Tour

Included activity: Guided Tour of Te Papa The Museum of New Zealand

Included activity: Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton

Included activity: Hobbit Barrel Run Kayak Trip with Pelorus Eco Adventures



plus much more...

Day 1



Private Transfer Auckland Airport to your Auckland Accommodation with Tourcorp

You will be met at the Auckland airport by the driver and transferred to your Auckland accommodation.

Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.



Day 2



Auckland

Auckland, or Tāmaki Makaurau in Māori, is a city that effortlessly blends vibrant urban life with stunning natural beauty. Take a ferry to Waiheke Island for award-winning wineries, olive groves, and pristine beaches, or explore Devonport, a charming seaside suburb with historic streets and culture. Climb One Tree Hill or the volcanic Mt Eden for panoramic views of the city and harbour. Shop and dine in Ponsonby's stylish boutiques and eateries, or experience the eclectic energy of K Road, once a red-light district and now the world's sixth coolest street. Nature enthusiasts can wander the Auckland Botanic Gardens, hike the scenic Waitākere Ranges, or surf the rugged west coast beaches like Piha and Muriwai. Art lovers can visit the Auckland Art Gallery, while adventure seekers can sail the Waitematā Harbour or take in the city skyline from the iconic Sky Tower. With its mix of culture, cuisine, and outdoor escapes, Auckland promises unforgettable experiences for every traveller.

Wētā Workshop Unleashed

A jaw-dropping, senses-shattering, awe-inspiring adventure into the heart of movie magic! Get hands-on and immerse yourself in an extraordinary world of practical effects, props and larger-than-life sets. On this award-winning tour, you can explore three movie projects imagined by the Weta crew and uncover how they bring big screen concepts to life. Discover a mind-blowing world of robots, monsters, dinosaurs and more - step right into the action to see, play and experience movie-making up close.

Auckland Sky Tower Admission

Standing at 328 meters (just over 1000 feet) - the Sky Tower is the tallest man-made structure in New Zealand and offers panoramic views of the Auckland landscape. Travel in the glass-fronted lift to one of three spectacular viewing platforms, or for a little more excitement do a SkyWalk - an outside loop around the pergola 192 meters (just over 600 feet) above ground. If you're really bold, Take the quick way down and SkyJump off the tower - a controlled free fall to the base.

Inside, the Sky Lounge offers coffee and light meals while the iconic Orbit Restaurant is Auckland's only 360-degree revolving dining experience.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Harbour Sailing Dinner Cruise with Explore

This unique on-water sailing and dining experience is not to be missed while you're in Auckland. Enjoy smooth sailing on the Waitemata Harbour - then watch this photogenic city come alive with twinkling lights. Enjoy your meal as you sail around the beautiful Auckland Harbour taking in the view as the sun slowly sets. You'll be treated to canapes and a drink as you set off towards Westhaven Marina. To finish the evening off, savour your dessert course as you leisurely sail back to Auckland's vibrant Viaduct Harbour.

Your accommodation: M Social Hotel Auckland

A contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel overlooks the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a good array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Car Instructions

On collection of your rental car, you will be required to sign a rental agreement and provide a credit card for a security bond authorisation. Remember, the bond is only authorised, not charged, at this stage. While your rental rate may include coverage for mechanical breakdowns (please verify your specific car inclusions), you may also have the option to purchase roadside assistance for non-mechanical issues. All drivers must present a physical credit card, valid driving license and passport to be added to the agreement, with potential additional charges for extra drivers. Debit cards may be used on select vehicles. If you are presenting an international drivers license, this must be accompanied by the original domestic license. Drivers under 21 are not permitted, and those aged 21-24 may face a surcharge, both payable directly to the rental company. For detailed information, please refer to your rental car inclusions. See this important information if you are traveling between the North and South Islands on the ferry

Auckland to Hobbiton via Matamata

Head southbound on State Highway one through the lush farmland and dairy pastures of the Waikato region. The Bombay Hills mark the outer boundary of the greater Auckland area and its here you turn inland towards Matamata. This is the real Middle Earth, and you'll see many locations used in the filming of The Lord of The Rings and The Hobbit, as well as visiting the actual set of Hobbiton.

Behind the Scenes Tour at Hobbiton

Immerse yourself in the magic of Middle-earth on this exclusive walking tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set. In a small group of up to 30, explore the iconic 12-acre set, wander past famous Hobbit Holes and Bagshot Row, and step inside a Hobbit's home. Relax at The Green Dragon Inn with a drink from the Southfarthing range, then savour a hearty banquet lunch at The Millhouse, with second helpings encouraged. Go behind the scenes in the Art Department's workshop to uncover the craftsmanship behind Hobbiton's enchanting details. Conclude your adventure with a Hobbit-style platter of cheese, chutneys, and fruit at a hidden spot with stunning views.

Matamata (Hobbiton) to Cambridge

Leaving Matamata (near Hobbiton), the drive begins by heading south to join the main artery for the journey, State Highway 27 (SH27). This highway serves as the primary connection, taking you through the heart of the Waikato's lush, green farming country. The route is exceptionally straightforward, requiring you to remain on SH27 until its junction with State Highway 1 (SH1). A quick merge onto SH1 North will then take you the final short distance directly into the charming town of Cambridge.

Your accommodation: Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments

Hidden Lake is a luxury new Solar Hotel with a broad palette of natural, sustainable and design aesthetics. Comfort is defined in its leisurely manner. Rooms and apartments reflect the woodland setting with floor to ceiling windows and splashes of colour. Features and facilities show creative flair and a commitment to sustainability and organic produce.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 4



Cambridge to Waitomo

Continue on to Otorohanga - renowned for its celebration of New Zealand's popular culture 'Kiwiana.' Stop for a visit to the 'Kiwi House' a native bird park owned and operated by the Otorohanga Zoological Society, dedicated to the conservation of New Zealand's native wildlife. Within the park you will find nocturnal kiwi houses, Tuataras and many native and endangered birds. From Otorohanga it is only a short drive to the limestone hills that mark the Waitomo region and its famous cave complex.

Glow Worm Caves Tour with Discover Waitomo

Explore a 30 million year old cave network spread across three levels. You'll travel deep underground through the limestone caves viewing stalactites and stalagmites as well as hearing about the caves historical and geological significance. You'll then hop into a boat and glide silently through the glow worm grotto - a galaxy of tiny living lights.

Waitomo to Turangi

Driving south from Waitomo you'll pass through the rugged rural countryside of the King Country, named after the Maori King Tawhiao who lived in exile here in the mid 1800's. Limestone formations are also a feature of the region, as well as Waitomo, nearby Piopio has some remarkable cliffs which were filmed for the Hobbit movies. Further south you will arrive in a small town called Taumarunui, located at the junction of the Whanganui and Ongarue Rivers. Taumarunui is the launching point for canoe trips into the Whanganui National Park and is a popular trout fishing destination. After you pass through Taumarunui, turn left onto state highway 41. You will pass through the small historic town of Tokaanu, well worth a visit with its thermal activity pools and power station. Further down the road is your destination of Turangi, situated at the southern end of Lake Taupo. Turangi and its surrounding countryside offers hunting, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, kayaking and much more.

Tongariro National Park

Tongariro National Park, New Zealand's oldest national park, is also the fourth place on earth to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park features three prominent volcanoes: Mount Tongariro, Mount Ruapehu, and Mount Ngauruhoe. Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Ruapehu are two of the world's most active composite volcanoes, with notable eruptions from Ruapehu in 1995 and 1996, and Tongariro in 2012. Despite this activity, the volcanoes are closely monitored to ensure visitor safety. When visiting Tongariro National Park, take advantage of the incredible outdoor activities available. In the winter, you can ski or enjoy snow play on Mt Ruapehu Ski Field. In the summer, the world-famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing is a must-do. This one-day hike, taking 6 to 8 hours, is one of New Zealand's Great Walks and will lead you past the stunning Emerald and Blue Lakes and unique volcanic landscapes. For those looking for other hiking options, the park offers a variety of tracks and trails suitable for all abilities, including shorter walks and a guided 3.5-day Tongariro Northern Circuit. You can also experience true isolation by exploring deep canyons and ancient forests along the Whanganui River or walking along ancient lava flows and glacier streams to the Taranaki Falls. After a day of exploring, stop by Pataka Cafe at Whakapapa to enjoy a meal with an incredible mountain view.

Your accommodation: River Birches Lodge

Set within a peaceful garden-scape beside the world-famous Tongariro River, try your hand at trout fishing in one of New Zealand's most beautiful rivers by day, and enjoy the luxury lodge accommodation by night. River Birches is a short drive from the Tongariro National Park, where you can select from a range of exciting activities.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5



Turangi

Turangi is a mecca for trout fishing, as well as a great location for other activities, including walking, mountain biking and kayaking. Sitting on the banks of the Tongariro River, near the shores of Lake Taupo, you will be surrounded by lush forest and lake scenery as you partake in the fantastic fishing or the many other water-based activities available. The nearby forest offers hiking, walking and mountain biking; from leisurely walks along the lake shore to more challenging hikes in the nearby Tongariro National Park, including the famous Tongariro Crossing. After a strenuous day of exploring, relax at the historic village of Tokaanu in one of its natural hot pools.

Walking tracks in and around Whakapapa Village, Tongariro National Park

There are a plethora of walks in and around Whakapapa Village and Tongariro National Park. From short 15 minute hikes to longer 5 hour treks, there is something for every level of fitness. All established tracks are maintained by the Department of Conservation and before heading out on a walk, it is best to check the track conditions and suitability at the local DOC information office in the centre of the village. Below are a selection of the best walks to do: Whakapapa Nature Walk, 15 min loop track Mounds Walk, 20 min one way Tawhai Falls, 20 min one way Ridge Track, 40 min return Taranaki Falls, 2 hour return Whakapapanui Walk, 2 hour return Tupapakuraa Falls Track, 5 hour return

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Premium Half Day Tongariro Alpine Tour with Adrift

Begin your journey on the Tongariro Crossing track and immerse yourself in its splendour as you hike through the volcanic landscape, culminating at the picturesque Soda Springs waterfall. Mt. Ngauruhoe's cold water springs create a small oasis adorned with lush yellow mountain buttercups and white foxgloves. The pristine Soda Springs provides an opportunity to refill your water bottles with pure Tongariro spring water while enjoying morning tea. Learn several aspects of Tongariro and New Zealand, including recent and historical eruptions, geology, flora and fauna, and the settlement of New Zealand. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information see here.

Your accommodation: River Birches Lodge

Set within a peaceful garden-scape beside the world-famous Tongariro River, try your hand at trout fishing in one of New Zealand's most beautiful rivers by day, and enjoy the luxury lodge accommodation by night. River Birches is a short drive from the Tongariro National Park, where you can select from a range of exciting activities.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



Sky Waka Gondola Sightseeing Trip with Whakapapa

During the summer months you can take advantage of the skifield facilities and take the gondola over Mt Ruapehu's otherworldly terrain. You'll travel to an altitude of 2020 metres where you'll be treated to magnificent views of Tongariro National Park, including the iconic peaks of Mt Ruapehu, Mt Tongariro and Mt Ngauruhoe, the latter featured as Mt Doom in the Lord of the Rings movies.

Whakapapa Village to Wellington

This drive takes you to New Zealand's capital, Wellington. Leaving Whakapapa Village, make your way through the Rangipo Desert, skirting the edges of the Tongariro National Park, one of New Zealand's three world heritage sites. Catch a glimpse of the volcanically active Mt Ruapehu and Lord of the Rings fans, will appreciate the view of Mt. Ngauruhoe, better known as Mt Doom. Continue south to the rural towns of Taihape, Mangaweka, and Bulls before arriving on the spectacular Kapiti Coast before arriving in Wellington City.

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.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Lord Of The Rings Half Day Private Tour with Capital Personalised Tour

Prepare for an unforgettable LOTR adventure. Leaving Wellington, you will first head for the hills, admiring views from Mt Victoria before visiting Hobbit's Hideaway in the 'Outer Shire'. Next, immerse yourself at the Weta Cave in Miramar. Tour the museum, shop, and capture photos with iconic movie props. Experience the fascinating 'Weta Workshop Experience', going behind-the-scenes to see props and weaponry, with artists describing their creations. After a magical cinematic journey, you will return to Wellington.

Explore Wellington

Wellington, known in Māori as Te Upoko o te Ika a Maui ("The Head of the Fish of Maui") or Te Whanganui a Tara ("The Great Harbour of Tara"), is New Zealand's vibrant capital. Often called a 'mini-Melbourne', this cosmopolitan city blends art, culture, food, and fashion with quirky laneway bars, hip eateries, and underground art shows. Stroll the waterfront to Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, or ride the historic cable car from Lambton Quay for stunning city views. Explore Cuba Street's unique boutiques and visit the iconic 'Beehive' at Parliament. Fans of The Lord of the Rings can tour Weta Workshop, the Oscar-winning design studio behind Middle-earth. Just an hour away, Martinborough offers a culinary escape with top-notch food and wine. Nature lovers can't miss Zealandia, the world's first fully fenced eco-sanctuary. End your day sampling Wellington's renowned dining scene—search 'Metro Eats' for the city's best spots.

Guided Tour of Te Papa The Museum of New Zealand

Beginning over one hundred million years ago, join your guide on a journey through New Zealand's rich history and cultures. Hear stories of our adaptive wildlife, the resilience of the Māori people, and artistic interpretations of life in the South Pacific. Whether you have limited time or here for an extended visit, this tour will give you a great opportunity to understand the vibrant landscapes and cultures you will encounter throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

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.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8



Return your rental car

Return your rental vehicle to your designated depot before your next adventure.

Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton

The 92 km journey between Wellington and Picton takes around 3 hours and has been described as 'one of the most beautiful ferry rides in the world'. Leaving Wellington Harbour the ferry passes many interesting points such as Pencarrow Head on top of which is New Zealand's oldest lighthouse (1859). Red Rocks is home to a seal colony and Oterangi Bay is the site which recorded the country's highest ever wind speed of 268 kph (167 mph).

From the Cook Strait spectacular views of the Kaikōura Ranges on the South Island can be enjoyed and dolphins and many sea birds are often seen. Around one hour of the cruise takes you through the Marlborough Sounds and this region of bush covered mountains, small islands, crystal clear waters and secluded bays offer remarkable photographic opportunities. The final leg of the cruise travels through Queen Charlotte Sound before coming to an end in the picturesque town of Picton.

Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Picton

Picton is a picturesque portside town at the top of the South Island. Gateway to the forest, marine and island attractions of the Marlborough Sounds, Picton is built around a sheltered harbour. Home to cafes, restaurants and galleries it also has a floating maritime museum and aquarium. Picton is also the starting point for Queen Charlotte Track, one of New Zealand's leading hiking trails.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Premium Lounge with Interislander

Escape to Interislander's Premium Lounge for sensational views, child-free serenity, and locally sourced food and drink. Interislander's Premium Lounge has enhanced its offering to bring you an elevated travel experience across Cook Strait. Enjoy delicious food and drink, attentive service, and prime positions for appreciating the spectacular views. Whether you're looking to relax or chat with your travel companions, the Premium Lounge provides the ideal space. With varied seating options, you can choose a cosy spot to watch the stunning scenery and taste a selection of seasonal snacks included in your ticket.

Your accommodation: Sennen House, Picton

This magnificent 2-storey villa is one of Picton's original colonial homesteads. Extensively restored, Sennen House offers guests a truly unique accommodation experience, set in 5 acres of National Trust protected native forest and grounds, yet only a short stroll to Picton's restaurants, shops, ferries and foreshore.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 9



Picton to Havelock via Queen Charlotte

Queen Charlotte Drive travels the Marlborough Sounds coastline between Picton and Havelock. Magnificent views of the sounds can be had from many vantage points so allow plenty of time to enjoy the scenery. If you can spare the time take the narrow windy road to Portage along Mahau Sound and Kenepuru Sound with their bush clad hillsides and secluded sandy coves. The small port town of Havelock has a great variety of cafes and restaurants to choose from so plan your journey to arrive in time for lunch.

Hobbit Barrel Run Kayak Trip with Pelorus Eco Adventures

Immerse yourself in Sir Peter Jackson's 'The Hobbit'. Journeying down the Beautiful Pelorus River you'll see actual filming locations including the rocks where Bilbo Baggins stood, the place where the dwarfs exited the barrels and the exact location where Kili was shot. Not just for Lord of the Rings fans, this spectacular kayaking trip will enthrall anyone wanting to experience the beauty of New Zealand's rivers. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see here.

Kaikoura to Havelock

Set off from the picturesque town of Havelock, the gateway to the stunning Marlborough Sounds, and embark on a scenic drive through the heart of New Zealand's South Island. As you journey toward Kaikoura, enjoy breathtaking views of rugged coastlines, rolling vineyards, and lush green valleys. Stop in Blenheim for a taste of world-renowned Marlborough wines or enjoy a stroll through charming local markets. As you approach Kaikoura, be prepared for incredible coastal views and the opportunity to spot seals basking on the rocks. Known for its wildlife and whale-watching, Kaikoura promises a spectacular blend of adventure and natural beauty.

Kaikōura

Kaikōura is a stunning coastal town known for its rich marine life and dramatic scenery. Visit the fur seal colony, take a whale-watching cruise, or swim with playful dusky dolphins. The town is rich with attractions, walking tracks, and activities for every visitor. A walk around the Kaikōura Peninsula is a must, where you can explore tide pools teeming with marine life, observe sea creatures basking on the rocks, and, for bird lovers, spot the impressive native albatross. Just be sure to keep a respectful distance from any sea lions you meet. Highlights like Ohau Point and historic Fyffe House offer insight into the region's wildlife and whaling past. Finish your visit by sampling the fresh local seafood, renowned for having some of the best fish and chips in the country, or by taking a relaxing wander through the tranquil Lavendyl Lavender Farm.

Walking tracks in and around Kaikoura

Kaikōura offers scenic walking tracks for all levels, from coastal walks with stunning ocean views and wildlife to forested trails and the rewarding Mt Fyffe climb. These trails highlight Kaikōura's natural beauty and unique wildlife, perfect for nature enthusiasts.

Your accommodation: Sudima Hotel Kaikōura

This state-of-the-art waterfront hotel in Kaikōura has a 4.5 star rating with an outstanding in-house restaurant, a bar and conference facilities.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 10



Captains Cabin Experience with Whale Watch Kaikoura

The Captain's Cabin is situated in the wheelhouse alongside the skipper and watchkeeper. This cabin provides guests with exclusive access to the skipper as they go about their duties as well as a dedicated guide for the duration of the tour. There is a maximum of 12 passengers, giving a more intimate, comfortable, and modern setting.

Lavendyl Lavender Farm

Lavendyl farm grows over 50 different varieties of lavender plants on the 5 acre Lavender farm. A visit to the farm is a sensory experience. Stroll through the gardens while admiring lavender and native New Zealand plants and flowers, meet the friendly sheep and take in the spectacular views. From January to February, when the flowers are at their peak for oil production, the distilling process can be observed on site. All year round a wide range of lavender products are available to purchase from the unique onsite gift store and gallery. Finish your visit with a relaxing cup of tea or coffee and delicious lavender ice cream inside the tearoom or out in the gardens. For more information, including opening hours visit www.lavenderfarm.co.nz.

Kaikōura to Christchurch

Travel down the coast before heading inland through the North Canterbury wine region - the Waipara Valley. If you've time on your hands we recommend taking a detour to Hanmer Springs for relaxing dip in its thermal pools. Arriving into Christchurch you'll see a new and improved city, steadily rising from the ruins of the 2011 and 2010 earthquakes.

Christchurch

Christchurch known in Māori as Ōtautahi, is the largest metro area in the South Island. Commonly referred to as New Zealand's "Garden City", Christchurch is home to one of the biggest public parks in the country, and beautiful botanic gardens. The city was hit with devastating earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, now the city crosses the line between its English heritage and a new modern architecture. To take in some arts and culture, pay a visit to the Canterbury Museum or the Christchurch Art Gallery. Take a step back in time with a tram around the city or punt along the Avon River. If tasting your way around the city is your means of travel, try out a cultural eating tour. A short drive from the CBD will lead you to the outskirts of the Banks Peninsula beachside suburb of Sumner or through the tunnel to Lyttleton Harbour which hosts fantastic markets on Saturday mornings.

Your accommodation: The Observatory Hotel

The Observatory Hotel is situated in the Christchurch city center, short walk to The Art Centre, restaurants & bars. It brings contemporary style to the heart of a precinct rich with history. Every room offers unique experience, each being individually designed providing luxury, art and comfort.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 11



Lord of the Rings Edoras Tour with Hassle Free Tours - Lunch Included

Step into the world of Middle-earth on the Lord of the Rings Edoras Tour and visit the stunning filming location of Edoras at Mt Potts High Country Station. Explore the remote and breathtaking Mt Sunday, transformed into the capital city of Rohan for the iconic trilogy. Immerse yourself in the unspoiled beauty of this incredible area, surrounded by crystal-clear lakes, vibrant blue rivers, and crisp mountain air. A must-do experience for any Lord of the Rings fan!

Please note: Visiting these special locations involves a 5.5 hour driving journey, which is balanced by numerous scenic stops and breaks for morning tea and lunch. The hike to the summit of Mt Sunday/Edoras itself is approximately a 20 minute ascent (and descent) that requires a reasonable level of fitness.

Your accommodation: The Observatory Hotel

The Observatory Hotel is situated in the Christchurch city center, short walk to The Art Centre, restaurants & bars. It brings contemporary style to the heart of a precinct rich with history. Every room offers unique experience, each being individually designed providing luxury, art and comfort.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 12



Christchurch to Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park

Drive through the heart of the South Island, crossing the vast Canterbury plains. Catch your breath in Geraldine before continuing through Fairlie. Ascending Burkes pass you'll come to the picturesque town of Lake Tekapo. Follow the road and take in the view of Aoraki-Mt Cook (New Zealand's tallest mountain) from the shores of Lake Pukaki, known for its glacier fed turquoise blue colour. Continue along the lake to your final destination Aoraki-Mt Cook Village.

Walking Tracks in Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park

Aoraki-Mt Cook Village offers a variety of short scenic walks suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Start your adventure at the Department of Conservation Information Centre, where you can learn about track conditions, local history, and the area's wildlife. Here are a few popular walks to explore: Bowen Bush Walk: 10-minute return Glencoe Walk: 10-minute return Red Tarns Track: 2-hour return Kea Point Walk: 2-hour return Sealy Tarns Track: 3 - 4 hours return Please be aware that at Aoraki/Mount Cook, you will need to pay for parking at the White Horse Hill car park. The cost is \$5 per hour or \$25 for the full day. A 20-minute free period is available for quick drop-offs.

Big Sky Stargazing

Mt Cook is far from the city lights and therefore has some of the darkest skies in New Zealand, perfect for viewing the night sky! Their fully trained guides are delighted to show you the beautiful southern night sky using the naked eye, state-of-the-art astronomy telescopes, and binoculars at the outdoor viewing platform. If the weather is not favourable, then there will be an indoor alternative featuring New Zealand's first full-dome digital Planetarium, high-definition video images on a suspended 9m wide x 4.5m high full dome. Unleash your imagination as you discover the night sky, including the Southern Cross, seasonal ecliptic objects, planets, star clusters, moons, distant galaxies, and even our very own galaxy, the spectacular Milky Way!

Your accommodation: Hermitage Hotel, Aoraki Wing Premium

The Hermitage Hotel ringed by magnificent snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps, is a world-renowned tourist destination and has been an icon of superior accommodation and dining since 1884.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 13



Aoraki Mt Cook National Park to Queenstown

Leaving the alpine region of Aoraki Mt Cook, you'll travel through the lakeside town of Twizel, then a little further to Omarama the gliding capital of New Zealand. Continue on over the Lindis Pass, one of New Zealand's highest roads with a summit of 971 metres. Arrive in the quaint village of Tarras, then continue on a short way to the historic Bendigo Reserve, one of Otago's original gold mining settlements. Follow the road to Cromwell, and keep going through the sheer cliffs of the Kawarau Gorge towards Gibbston, one of New Zealand's premier wine growing regions. See the historic Kawarau Bridge where you can bungee jump or relax and watch others take the plunge. Approaching Queenstown, the Remarkables mountain range comes into view as you arrive into the adventure capital of New Zealand.

Queenstown

Queenstown known in Māori as Tāhuna, is home to many adrenaline-inducing activities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, this alpine town has very distinct seasons, and most adrenaline-filled activities can be accessed year-round. Queenstown is home to jet boating, bungee jumping, rafting, skydiving, paragliding, and even indoor thrills. If you want that rush - head out on the Shotover Jet, dive off the Nevis Bungy, freefall on the Canyon Swing, or Zip line the Gondola. While arguably the brightest gem in New Zealand's crown, Queenstown offers far more than an action-packed getaway. If you're looking for a slightly slower pace, there are plenty of recreational activities, including hiking and biking trails to explore, guided tours, boat cruises, scenic flights, or spa and wellness options to help you get away. Head to the lakefront, eat at one of the al fresco eateries, and soak up the local vibes; catch a ride on the iconic 100-year-old steamship the TSS Earnslaw; or take the Skyline Gondola and enjoy bird's-eye views of the Remarkables mountain ranges and Lake Wakatipu. Pack a picnic and go for a hike, only 20 minutes from Central Queenstown, Coronet Peak opens for summer sightseeing. You can ride the Peak Gondola to the top for panoramic views and hike the trails, or go for a bike ride on many excellent biking trails. In winter, Queenstown becomes a world-class winter resort, with four ski areas and a range of activities, bars, restaurants, and ways to relax and unwind.

Your accommodation: Scenic Suites Queenstown

Scenic Suites Queenstown offers guests exquisite style and comfort, with a selection of rooms having spectacular views over Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps. The hotel prides itself on its 4-star hospitality that will make your stay in Queenstown even more memorable.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 14



Lord of the Rings Glenorchy Tour with Nomad Safaris

For those keen on Lord Of The Rings this is the tour for you. Go on a scenic adventure through some of the iconic locations used in the filming. Although none of the sets are left behind, the landscapes will be instantly recognisable. Follow the shores of Lake Wakatipu to the small town of Glenorchy and enjoy the spectacular views of the Remarkables Range as you drive. From Glenorchy, you'll head into the beech forests of Paradise, located on the outskirts of Mount Aspiring National Park - before heading up the Dart Valley and back. Film locations you'll see include Isengard, Lothlorien, Ithilien Camp and the Seat of Seeing.

Your accommodation: Scenic Suites Queenstown

Scenic Suites Queenstown offers guests exquisite style and comfort, with a selection of rooms having spectacular views over Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps. The hotel prides itself on its 4-star hospitality that will make your stay in Queenstown even more memorable.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 15



Lord of the Rings and Glacier Explorer Flight with Glacier Southern Lakes Helicopters

On this Lord of the Rings Glacier Explorers flight, you'll fly through the land where many parts of the Lord of the Rings trilogy were filmed along with the chance to fly with our most experienced pilot, Alfie Speight, who was the principal filming pilot for the series.

Fly along the Shotover River to the scene where Arwen turns to face the Nazgul at the Ford of Bruinen. Fly over the mountain range from the opening scene of The Two Towers on the way to landing on a glacier alongside the Misty Mountains and get a sense of what it might be like to cross The Redhorn Pass. Head across to Glenorchy via the Dart Valley and Mount Earnslaw to see the natural features you may better recognize as Isengard, Amon Hen, and Lothlorien. Experience a second landing amongst one of these scenes to truly feel immersed in Middle-earth.

Walking tracks in and around Queenstown

Queenstown is well known for its adventure sports and activities but it also a great network of walking tracks and trails to suit all abilities and time frames. The department of conservation office located on Shotover Street can offer local advice on the conditions of walking tracks.

Some of the more popular walks are listed below.

Queenstown Hill - around 3 hours return (4 kilometres). Gravel path and then trail. A 500 metre climb through pine forest to the summit of Te Tapu-nui (mountain of intense sacredness). The climb is well rewarded with 360 degree views of Remarkables Mountain Range, the Kawarau River, Cecil Peak, and of course Lake Wakatipu. The track starts on Belfast Terrace which is just 1 km from the city centre.

Ben Lomond - around 2 hours (4 1/2 kms return). Take the Skyline Gondola ride to the terminal and the track is signposted from here. This is quite a steep climb and not recommended for children. Also take note of weather forecasts as the summit sits at 1748 metres. The effort is rewarded with spectacular views and on clear days you can see Mt Earnslaw and Mt Aspiring.

Bobs Cove - 20 minutes of easy lakeshore walks. Bobs Cove is 14 kilometres from Queenstown along the Glenorchy Road. Take the drive along the road and Bobs Cove is signposted.

Skyline Gondola Queenstown and Premium Buffet Dinner Experience

With breathtaking views across Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, the Skyline Complex is a must-do. Catch the fully enclosed gondola to the summit for a remarkable panorama of the city surrounds. Wander the outdoor viewing decks then enjoy a gourmet buffet meal in the Stratosphere Restaurant.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 16



Return your vehicle to Queenstown Airport

Explore more of Queenstown before dropping your rental car at the airport depot and continuing your onward journey.

Tour details

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Departures: | Daily |
| Tour type: | Self Drive Tour (FTNZ ONLY) |
| Starts: | Auckland |
| Finishes: | Queenstown |
| Tour length: | 16 |
| Accommodation: | Hotel 4 star |
| Car/transport type: | |

Accommodation summary

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | M Social Hotel Auckland |
| Day 2 | M Social Hotel Auckland |
| Day 3 | Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments |
| Day 4 | River Birches Lodge |
| Day 5 | River Birches Lodge |
| Day 6 | Bolton Hotel Wellington |
| Day 7 | Bolton Hotel Wellington |
| Day 8 | Sennen House, Picton |
| Day 9 | Sudima Hotel Kaikōura |
| Day 10 | The Observatory Hotel |
| Day 11 | The Observatory Hotel |
| Day 12 | Hermitage Hotel, Aoraki Wing Premium |
| Day 13 | Scenic Suites Queenstown |
| Day 14 | Scenic Suites Queenstown |
| Day 15 | Scenic Suites Queenstown |