



Great Journeys of NZ - 15 Day Classic Tour

Join this scenic tour through the heart and soul of New Zealand. Immerse yourself in history, culture, and geology as you travel off the beaten track through New Zealand's regions. Encounter the volcanic peaks of Middle Earth in Ruapehu, witness the engineering marvels of Raurimu Spiral and Otira Tunnel, sip world-class wine among the vines in Marlborough, spend a day by the ocean in Kaikōura, experience the mesmerising blue lakes of the South Island, discover sacred pounamu and ancient forests on the West Coast, and explore New Zealand's city life in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Queenstown.



Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 15days / 14nights
 Accommodation: Hotel 3 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: Punakaiki Pancake Rocks
- Included: West Coast Tree Top Walk
- Included: Visits to Haast Visitors Centre, Mrs Jones' Fruit Stall and Arrowtown
- Included: Northern Explorer Train Tongariro National Park to Wellington
- Included: Interislander Ferry
- Included: Christchurch Tram

- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Included: TranzAlpine Train
- Included: Short nature walk to glacier viewing point
- Included: Scenic journey through the Southern Lakes
- Included: Northern Explorer Scenic Train from Auckland to Tongariro National Park
- Included: Introducing Te Papa Museum Tour
- Included: Coastal Pacific Train
- : 14 breakfasts, 4 dinners



Day 1



Explore Auckland

Kia ora! Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand's City of Sails! Auckland is known for its multicultural hub of food, music, arts, and culture. After checking into your hotel and reading your welcome letter from your Tour Director, head out and explore all that Auckland has to offer. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the Sky Tower or go shopping along bustling Queen Street. You may even fancy a drink in one of the charming bars or eateries of Vulcan Lane. Your tour officially begins this evening, as you join your fellow travellers and Tour Director this evening for a welcome reception.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Day 2



A Scenic Journey to Ohakune

Today, you will marvel at rural New Zealand's lush landscapes from the comfort of your seat aboard the Northern Explorer scenic train. From the green pastures of the Waikato to the icy mountain streams of Ruapehu, you won't want to miss a moment. If you are interested in culture and history, be sure to listen to the audio commentary as you cross historic viaducts and traverse up the Raurimu Spiral, an engineering marvel. This experience is one like no other. At the base of this geological wonder is Ohakune, 'the carrot capital of New Zealand', where you'll stay the next two nights to experience your chosen adventure.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3



Discover Ohakune, Ruapehu or Tongariro National Park

Today is free for you to discover one of the region's many exciting excursions. Choose from the optional activities on offer and personalise your perfect holiday. Perhaps you will enjoy a hot tub soak, or a meander along the lazy river. If you're after an active day, why not explore Ohakune's historical cycle trail? Rent e-bikes and discover old viaducts, tunnels, old settlers' camps and reclaimed native forests along the Old Coach Road!

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4



Ohakune to Wellington on the Northern Explorer Train

After breakfast, we begin our day by travelling from National Park to Mt Ruapehu. You won't want to leave this mini excursion to Middle Earth without a panoramic photo in hand! Joining the Northern Explorer train once again, you will wave goodbye to this UNESCO World Heritage Site as you settle into your uber-comfortable seat. Don't get too comfortable though; dramatic rivers, gorges, and ravines are just around the bend! Stretch your legs and explore the open-air carriage to acquire the best views from the train. As you glide through rich green farmland and past a dramatic coastline, indulge in afternoon tea while drinking in the views. All too soon the train will arrive into Wellington leaving the picturesque Porirua Harbour behind you.

Arriving at Wellington Railway Station, you are just a stone's throw from downtown, the Beehive, and Parliament Buildings. Welcome to New Zealand's capital city! You won't want to waste a moment of time after checking into the hotel - your evening is free to explore this award-winning cultural and culinary capital from Queen's Wharf to Cuba Street and beyond.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5



Explore Wellington

The perfect day does exist - and it includes exploring Wellington! Today is free for you to experience vibrant Wellington as you please. Start by joining a Te Papa Introduction Tour and then head off to explore Cuba Street's cafes, bookstores, and eccentric shops. Zealandia Eco-Sanctuary is just around the corner where you can surround yourself by native birdlife and regenerating forest. You won't get bored with the plethora of activities on offer. From coffee, culture, historic buildings botanic gardens and more, the list goes on! If you need any suggestions or recommendations, just reach out to your helpful Tour Director or our Travel Centre to pre-book an experience. Dinner awaits as you join your fellow travelers once again to tell them about the exciting places you have discovered.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6



Adventure to the South - Haere ra to Te Ika a Maui

This morning you will say poroporoaki ki te motu raki (good-bye to the North Island) as you sail to the South Island, crossing the Cook Strait on the Interislander ferry. As the shores of the North Island slowly disappear, enjoy a hearty seafaring breakfast on board. Around midday, you will be spoiled with captivating harbour views as you enter the Queen Charlotte Sound. Admire the beauty of this coastal paradise as you arrive at the gateway of the South Island, Picton. Step off the Interislander Ferry and experience Marlborough.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7



Blenheim to Kaikoura on the Coastal Pacific Train

The morning is yours to explore. Meander through the local craft stores and coastal walks in Picton, or perhaps discover the Omaka Aviation Museum in Blenheim. Enjoy the waterfront cafe's before boarding the Coastal Pacific train for a highlight rail journey through the Marlborough Wine Region.

Today you will be travelling to Kaikōura. Relax and let the train glide you across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breathtaking beauty. Keep an eye out for the fur seals lazing on the rocks! Once in Kaikōura, the evening will be yours to enjoy some iconic kai moana (seafood) at one of the quaint restaurants.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8



Kaikoura to Christchurch on the Coastal Pacific Train

Today will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You will have the opportunity to go whale watching! Enjoy today's optional thrill of an up-close encounter with the world's largest-toothed predator, the Giant Sperm Whale who live in the waters of Kaikōura year-round. Want to get an aerial experience of the wildlife? Why not request a plane ride to capture the true grandeur of it all? Whether you have decided to go whale watching or swimming with the dolphins and seals, we're sure you will be feeling peckish. Head to the hub of the action on the main street to sample some iconic New Zealand food - you can't go wrong with the humble Kiwiana fish and chips. Work off the deep-fried delights by wandering through the wonderful array of local artisan stores and souvenir shops. In the late afternoon, your journey will continue, once again, on the Coastal Pacific Train en route to Christchurch, or "The Garden City". The spectacular scenery won't cease to amaze as you journey south through the rolling hills and extensive plains. Enjoy the relaxing journey with a glass of wine in hand.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9



Explore Christchurch

Christchurch, the hub for South Island exploration is also a wonderful city that blends modern architecture and technology with the existing 19th-century Anglican "gothic revival" architectural influence. Often remembered for its earthquake in 2011, the city is rebuilding itself as a multicultural haven. So, without further delay, jump on the historic tram to learn the history, tales, and culture of Ōtautahi Christchurch. Enjoy your free time as you explore the Arts Centre, Quake City Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, Riverside Markets and Botanical Gardens. Ride on the city tram to uncover Christchurch's great history, or relax as you punt on the Avon River. There is also a multitude of delicious cafés tucked into quaint side streets we're sure you will love. If you are in the mood for something different, set off for Akaroa, an "incroyable" French coastal settlement just an hour and half from the city centre. A farewell dinner awaits as you join your fellow travellers once again to tell them about the exciting places you have discovered.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10



The TranzAlpine Scenic Train

The moment has come to experience the world-famous TranzAlpine scenic train journey through the Southern Alps, emerging in the West Coast! On this fantastic escape, you will see epic vistas, soar on the edges of the ice fed Waimakariri River, traverse through the Great Divide, and experience ever-changing landscapes. The natural scenery isn’t the only marvel, though. The TranzAlpine passes through the Otira Tunnel, a true engineering marvel of 100 years! Once you arrive at the West Coast, a private coach will take you even further off the beaten track to Punakaiki, where you will explore curious limestone rock formations and blowholes.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11



Explore the West Coast

This morning you’ll start your West Coast adventure by visiting one of the South Island’s most popular activities - the West Coast Tree Top Walk. This elevated adventure will get you acquainted with the locals - the ancient Rimu and Kamahi trees. After your sky-high experience, continue south into Glacier Country. Franz Josef Glacier is quite special in that it survives in the warm coastal rainforest temperatures. With a short walk to a viewpoint, you'll get a fantastic view of the vast valley, as well as a sneak peak of Franz Josef Glacier itself. If you would prefer to get up close, we recommend booking an optional helicopter flight. This will ensure you are getting the best possible view of this natural wonder. After your glacial experience and checking into the hotel, you’ll have some free time to enjoy Franz Josef town. Indulge in a helicopter flight, nature walk or tap into some natural tranquility at the local hot pools.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12



Explore the Southern Lakes

Today you will be exploring the mountainous Haast Pass. With changing landscapes around every bend, this journey to Queenstown will be one of the most scenic drives you may ever take. Marvel at the beaches, crystal blue lakes and rivers, mountain peaks, lush vineyards, charming plains and stunning glaciers as your Tour Director guides you between local hidden gems. Emerging on the other side of the pass, explore a local fruit hotspot before exploring the cobblestone streets of the historic goldmining settlement of Arrowtown. After an exciting plunge into the history of this gold rush village, you will arrive in the world-famous resort town of Queenstown!

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13



Explore Queenstown

Enjoy a free day to explore everything Queenstown has to offer. Today we highly recommend that you join an excursion to the 8th Wonder of the World: Milford Sound/Piopiota. It truly is a remarkable experience! Milford Sound/Piopiota is a scenic escape approximately three hours from Queenstown. The natural landscape will engulf you as you waltz through plunging valleys and under towering peaks. This could possibly be one of the most scenic drives you'll experience in your lifetime! Take this encounter to the next level by soaring like the Piopio (ancient bird) by plane or helicopter. Whether you've decided to hop aboard the steamship lake cruise on the iconic TSS Earnslaw or marvel at the power of ancient roaring rivers - tonight you have the night to indulge in Queenstown's exciting nightlife. Sip cocktails and indulge in the sparkling views of Lake Wakatipu.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14



Another day to explore Queenstown

Queenstown truly has something for everyone. Personalise your day to be as active or relaxed as you'd like. Whether it's exploring Walter Peak on a horse trekking adventure, joining the historic steamship across Lake Wakatipu or sipping wine in Gibbston Valley, there is no shortage of activities to delight your senses. This evening is your 'final hurrah' as you enjoy a farewell dinner. This is the perfect time to reminisce and share photos and phone numbers with your new friends.

Your accommodation: 3-3.5 Star Hotel

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 15



Depart Queenstown

Your journey will end after enjoying a final breakfast with your fellow travellers. You will be transferred to Queenstown Airport for your departing flight.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Guided Coach & Train Tours
Starts: Auckland
Finishes: Queenstown
Tour length: 15
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary

Day 1	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 2	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 3	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 4	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 5	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 6	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 7	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 8	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 9	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 10	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 11	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 12	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 13	3-3.5 Star Hotel
Day 14	3-3.5 Star Hotel