

AAT Kings: Contrasts of New Zealand 25/26

New Zealand will set your heart racing, while you take the country's pulse. From its unexpected city sights – who knew you could construct a church from cardboard? – to its culinary delights, this voyage is as thrilling as it is tasty. And then there are the natural wonders: gem-like glaciers, soaring fiords, snow-dusted mountains, and bubbling geysers among them. On this NZ holiday, drop in on Christchurch, soak your limbs in Rotorua, eat your way around Queenstown and feel the full force of nature at Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Trips to New Zealand don't get much better than this.



Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Christchurch
 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: Auckland City Tour
- Included: Be My Guest Morning Tea
- Included: Christchurch Orientation Tour
- Included: Dark Sky Crater Experience
- Included: Maori Village Experience & Hangi (dinner), Rotorua
- Included: Queenstown Orientation Tour

: 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners

- Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
- Included activity: Flight to Queenstown
- Included: Be My Guest BBQ Lunch
- Included: Breakfast at Hobbiton
- Included: Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo
- Included: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Included: Milford Sound Cruise
- Included: Te Puia village & hangi dinner experience

Day 1

New Zealand's largest city is also one of its prettiest, as you'll discover exploring at your leisure. Arrive early to linger in its hip harbourside precincts, where galleries and design-driven stores await. You'll have worked up an appetite by the time you meet your fellow travel companions for dinner at The Grill celebrating Aotearoa's culinary treasures. Expect the finest quality grassfed steaks, from 100% New Zealand owned and operated suppliers, and sustainable line-caught fish. Start your Auckland tour on a high, we say.

Staying in:

- Horizon by SkyCity Auckland (1 night)
-

Day 2

Set your sights firmly on New Zealand's national game: rugby. The interactive All Blacks Experience explores an introduction to the game as a part of New Zealand culture. Afterwards get the lay of the land on a city sightseeing tour including views of Mission Bay, and stopping at Bastion Point and the Michael Joseph Savage Memorial to New Zealand's first Labour Prime Minister. Admire the sunken pool and landscaped gardens as you're treated to sweeping views of Waitemata Harbour and the North Shore.

Staying in:

- Horizon by SkyCity Auckland (1 night)
-

Day 3

Get ready for a much-anticipated trip to the Hobbiton Movie Set. Upon arrival, set off on a guided walking tour through the 12-acre set. You'll have plenty of time for photo opportunities on the interactive hobbit hole and the Mill. After a stop for lunch (own expense) continue to Rotorua. Tonight, delve deep into Māori culture with the Te Pō Indigenous Experience at Te Puia, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. It begins with an exhilarating cultural performance in a beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua, view the Pohutu Geyser, one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands, followed by a delicious buffet dinner of hāngī-inspired cuisine.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel Rotorua (1 night)
-

Day 4

Your visit to the National Kiwi Hatchery is guided by passionate conservationists who will give you fascinating insights into New Zealand's national bird on this rewarding MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. The feel-good vibes that will follow you all the way to Queenstown, the self-proclaimed adventure capital of New Zealand. It makes perfect sense – there are ski fields, white-water river and bridges strapped with bungee cords wherever you turn. And then there's the dining scene; Queenstown is home to some of the country's most awarded restaurants. Whether you're in the mood for bulging burgers or lakeside tapas, ask us for recommendations on this leg of your Queenstown New Zealand tour.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel, Queenstown (1 night)
-

Day 5

Bring your stamina and sense of adventure – things get a little wild today. Nature rules as you skirt Queenstown's gleaming Lake Wakatipu, and traverse the Devil's Staircase to Te Anau, the alpine gateway to UNESCO World Heritage listed Fiordland National Park. Once you've paused to admire the drama at Mirror Lakes, Knobs Flat and Cleddau Valley, you'll begin to understand why Rudyard Kipling called this the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. You haven't even seen Bowen Falls or Milford Sound/Piopiotahi yet... Onboard your nature cruise, enjoy commentary from your eagle-eyed Naturalist guide, who not only narrates on the immense geological history of the Fiord, but will point out fur seals and dolphins should they choose to come out to play. The cruise includes a delicious picnic lunch.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel, Queenstown (1 night)
-

Day 6

Today, take Queenstown at your own pace. Like things fast and furious? Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride, perhaps. Prefer to be able to talk (and drink wine) while you cruise? Glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a guided farm tour, including morning or afternoon tea, in a dreamy alpine setting (all own expense). Wherever you wander, be sure to save space for tonight's dinner at Postmasters Cafe, a historic Arrowtown cottage replete with picket fence and Instagrammable gardens.

Staying in:

- Millennium Hotel, Queenstown (1 night)
-

Day 7

Whether pinot noir grapes or cherries, things grow well in the fertile Central Otago region of the South Island. Get a taste for the area's plump stone fruit at the stall of a local orchard. Is it Michael Schumacher's Benetton F1 car or the \$4.2-million Aston Martin Vulcan that draws crowds to the Highlands Motorsport Museum? Discover some of the rarest cars in NZ motorsports history during your visit. Mountain drama is your backdrop en route to Lake Tekapo, with water so turquoise it looks like a Renaissance painting. This part of the country is ravishing and remote; the lack of light pollution means dazzling Southern Hemisphere stargazing at UNESCO World Heritage listed Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. It may be a late night, but tonight's star gazing experience at a purpose-built observation crater with expert astronomy guides is bound to be a highlight. If there was ever a NZ experience that put life in perspective, this is it.

Staying in:

- Peppers Bluewater Resort Lake Tekapo (1 night)
-

Day 8

The Canterbury region of the east coast is a rustic union of grassy plains, mirror-like lakes and snow-capped mountains, the kind of landscape that you might see on postcards. Arrive in the beautiful English city of Christchurch for a guided tour. The city is not only rebuilding itself after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, but is changing the way architects think about design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library.

Staying in:

- Distinction Christchurch Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 9

Travel north through rolling countryside to Hurunui Hills, a hill country farm in North Canterbury. Enjoy warm Kiwi hospitality with the Bamford Family, who have been farming at Hurunui since 1884 with six generations focused on producing premium Merino sheep, wool and Angus cattle. Soak up stunning scenery while enjoying morning tea, meet the farm animals & discover what it is like to live off the land on this unique By My Guest experience. Continue to a local vineyard, Waipara Springs Winery, where it's time to relax over a platter-style lunch among the vines. A big day leads to a big evening joining your Travel Director and travel mates for a celebratory dinner featuring produce from the Canterbury region.

Staying in:

- Distinction Christchurch Hotel (1 night)
-

Day 10

You've travelled hundreds of kilometres across two islands, likely taken thousands of photos, and made countless memories and new friends. The only thing left to do is plan your next trip to New Zealand.

Tour details

Departures: Daily
Tour type: Guided Coach Tour
Starts: Auckland
Finishes: Christchurch
Tour length: 10
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:

Accommodation summary