



## AAT Kings: New Zealand Vista 25/26

You could spend eons exploring New Zealand's North and South Islands. But you can also experience a New Zealand tour in two weeks – if you have the right advice. Follow us for Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere tours, train rides through alpine tundra, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi cruises in the company of dolphins and whales, glowing Waitomo Caves tours... and some down time amid wineries and city restaurants that take home awards.

Starts in: Auckland  
 Finishes in: Christchurch  
 Length: 14days / 13nights  
 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.

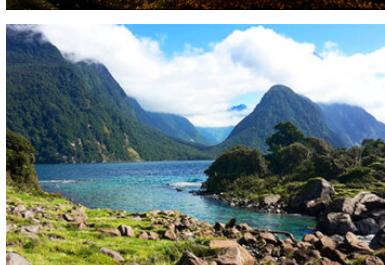


### Inclusions:



Includes: All coach transport  
 Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring  
 Included: Wellington City Tour  
 Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & BBQ dinner at Walter Peak High Country Farm  
 Included: Te Puia Indigenous Experience  
 Included: Queenstown Orientation Tour  
 Included: Maori Village Experience & Hangi (dinner), Rotorua  
 Included: Indoor Dark Sky Experience  
 Included: Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk  
 Included: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry  
 Included: Christchurch Orientation Tour  
 : 13 breakfasts, 7 dinners

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations  
 Included: Christchurch City Tour  
 Included: Waitomo GlowWorm Caves  
 Included: TranzAlpine Train  
 Included: Rotorua Orientation Tour  
 Included: Milford Sound Cruise  
 Included: Interislander Ferry  
 Included: Huka Falls  
 Included: Dunedin Orientation Tour  
 Included: Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo  
 Included: Auckland City Tour



## Day 1

Auckland never fails to turn on the charm, as you'll discover while exploring the city before meeting your fellow adventure-seekers. Peruse waterfront precincts filled with yachts or hit up the CBD to discover local designers. Turns out Kiwi creativity is surging. This evening, your Travel Director will welcome you and will brief you on your tour.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)

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## Day 2

After a morning of sightseeing, set your GPS for the Waikato River to Waitomo Caves. Here, your cruise route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. Tonight, delve deep into Māori traditions with the Te Pō Indigenous Experience at Te Puia. It begins with an exhilarating cultural performance in a beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua, followed by views of the Pohutu Geyser, one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands, and ends with a delicious buffet dinner of hāngī-inspired cuisine - a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)

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## Day 3

We're leaving you up to your own devices today. But have plenty of North Island tour travel tips, depending on your mood. Want a bit of downtime? Bliss out at Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway (both own expense). The choice is yours.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)

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## Day 4

A staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over Huka Falls' 11-metre high escarpment every second. It creates quite the calamity. From here, the road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, its waters so vivid and blue they resemble an Ice Mint. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington, where there are so many restaurants and bars to choose from, you'll need a guidebook. Wait, you have an in-the-know Travel Director to talk to.

Staying in:

- Travelodge Wellington (1 night)

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## Day 5

Forget everything else you have to do today and focus on one thing: getting a cup of Wellington's amazing coffee. The city is known for its uber-cool cafes, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand (entrance fee applies). Wellington sightseeing done and dusted: onwards to the ferry for a cruise across Cook Strait, from the North Island to the South, through a maze of arms and inlets into the sleepy seaside village of Picton.

Staying in:

- Picton Beachcomber Inn, Picton Yacht Club (1 night)

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## Day 6

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the sands of Kaikoura. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore, Kaikoura is the marine wildlife centre of New Zealand. Talk to your Travel Director for tips on the essential restaurants to dine in tonight –

Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)

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## Day 7

From its devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has become one of the most forward-thinking cities in the world when it comes to design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. This Christchurch tour is as eye-opening as it is educational. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate guides, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe.

Staying in:

- Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)

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## Day 8

Oamaru may have supplied other NZ cities with limestone, but it kept some for itself – and the result is glorious leafy streets with grand 1800s buildings that stand proud before you journey further south toward Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in 'little Edinburgh's' atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (1 night)

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## Day 9

Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this.

Staying in:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)

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## Day 10

There are some travel days that blaze into your memory. Today is one. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)

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## Day 11

Queenstown is known as NZ's adventure capital for good reason. But don't take our word for it. Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride, skidding, twirling and zipping along white-water river. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at Kiwi Park. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)

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## Day 12

Journey past shimmering Lake Hawea and through Haast Pass with its powerful waterfalls and dramatic mountain backdrops to the pretty town of Franz Josef/Waiau.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (1 night)

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## Day 13

Swap white at Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere for green at Hokitika: the pounamu (native jade) found here is the stuff jewellery dreams are made of. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys. Tonight, enjoy dinner to toast your holiday.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)

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## Day 14

Two islands, two weeks. It's remarkable what you can see when you have the right people guiding you.

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## Tour details

Departures: Daily  
Tour type: Guided Coach Tour  
Starts: Auckland  
Finishes: Christchurch  
Tour length: 14  
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star  
Car/transport type:

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## Accommodation summary