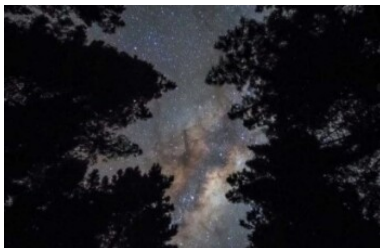


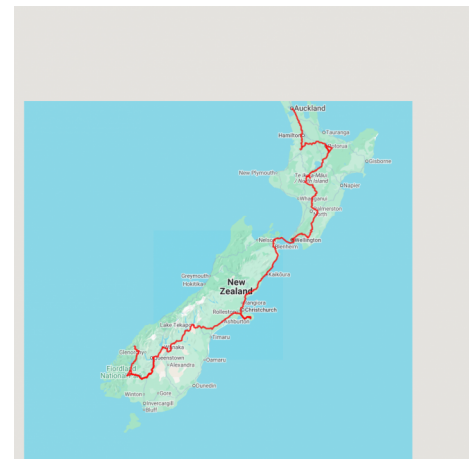
New Zealand Stargazing Tour

Discover the night skies of New Zealand on this extraordinary stargazing adventure, starting in Auckland and journeying through the country's most awe-inspiring Dark Sky regions. Spend two nights in luxury glamping tents beneath dazzling stars, explore glowworm-lit caves, and enjoy a night tour with native wildlife at a Sanctuary reserve. In Rotorua, experience Māori culture, geothermal wonders, and an atmospheric night walk through the Redwood Forest. Then, unwind for two nights at the secluded Nightsky Cottage in Tongariro National Park, surrounded by magnificent nature and mountain views. After that, head north to admire the Milky Way alongside an expert astrophysicist. Next destination is Wellington, New Zealand's vibrant capital, before cruising to the South Island. In Kaikōura, thrill-seek with the Star Flight Zipline and soar above the ocean on a heli whale-watching tour. Continue to the Akaroa Peninsula for a unique evening of stargazing paired with delicious bites. Next, visit the renowned Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. Stargaze in Tekapo and take a scenic heli flight over Mt Cook. In Wānaka, enjoy a peaceful island stargazing experience before venturing deep into Fiordland. Here, marvel at Milford Sound and spend a night in the untouched wilderness of Doubtful Sound — under a truly starry sky. Your celestial journey finishes in Queenstown, where more unforgettable moments await.



Starts in: Auckland
 Finishes in: Queenstown
 Length: 24days / 23nights
 Accommodation: Boutique Lodges & Hotels
 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: Unlimited kms

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

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

Included activity: Wellington Scenic Half Day Private Tour

Included activity: Star Flight with EcoZip Adventures Kaikōura

Included activity: Astronomy Bites - Sungazing to Stargazing with Akaroa Stargazing

Included activity: Lake Tekapo Private Stargazing Tour with Alpha Crux

plus much more...

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

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: The Visitor Promise - Cultural Learning Course

Included activity: Zealandia by Night Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Included activity: Interislander Ferry Wellington to Picton with Premium Plus Lounge

Included activity: Ocean Safari Whale Watching Flight with South Pacific Helicopters

Included activity: Tekapo Springs Hot Pools

Included activity: Dark Sky Project Summit Experience

Day 1



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.

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.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Dinner at the Sky Tower Orbit Restaurant

Soaring high above Auckland you'll discover Orbit, a truly iconic New Zealand brasserie offering diners sensational views - and food to match. Situated at the top of Auckland's Sky Tower, the dining room rotates once every hour, providing a truly unique experience with amazing 360-degree panoramas of the city, the Hauraki Gulf and beyond. Orbit offers a modern dining experience in a relaxed, open atmosphere with a delicious kiwi-inspired a la carte menu that features the best local and seasonal produce. As New Zealand's only rotating restaurant offering 360-degree views, it's an unforgettable experience that never ceases to delight.

Your accommodation: Park Hyatt Auckland

Park Hyatt Auckland is perfectly located on the water's edge and will offer expansive views across Wynyard Quarter's Lighter Basin and out to the Waitematā Harbour.



Day 2



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.

Auckland to Waitomo

The drive south from Auckland takes you into the rolling farmland and rich dairy pastures of the Waikato, before arriving in the limestone hills of the Waitomo countryside, which is home to a huge underground network of caves.

Your accommodation: Wild Canvas - Pohutakawa Tent

The luxurious glamping tent offers comfort and glamour on the hilltops of Waitomo. It provides a comfortable bed, and fully fitted bathroom while retaining enjoyable elements of camping, sitting under the stars, and toasting marshmallows over an open fire.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3



Waitomo

Waitomo is a small, picturesque village located in the Waikato region of New Zealand's North Island, renowned globally for its spectacular underground limestone caves and the mesmerising glowworms that illuminate them. This natural wonderland attracts visitors from around the world, offering a unique blend of adventure, natural beauty, and Maori culture. The Waitomo Caves are the centerpiece of the area, with three main caves that are open to the public: the Waitomo Glowworm Caves, Ruakuri Cave, and Aranui Cave. The Glowworm Caves are perhaps the most famous, offering a magical boat ride through a subterranean grotto lit by thousands of tiny glowworms, creating a starry night effect underground. Ruakuri Cave offers a more adventurous experience, with its spiral entrance, underground rivers, and fascinating rock formations, while Aranui Cave is known for its stunning stalactites and stalagmites. For thrill-seekers, Waitomo offers a variety of exhilarating activities, including black-water rafting, where you can float through the caves on an inner tube, and abseiling or zip-lining into the depths of the caves. The surrounding karst landscape also provides opportunities for above-ground exploration, with scenic walking trails that reveal the region's lush forests, limestone cliffs, and hidden waterfalls. Waitomo's connection to Māori culture adds another layer of depth to the visitor experience. Many of the cave tours include insights into the Māori legends and stories associated with the area, offering a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of the caves. The village of Waitomo itself is small but welcoming, with a selection of cafes, restaurants, and accommodations ranging from backpacker hostels to luxury lodges. The nearby Otorohanga Kiwi House & Native Bird Park offers a chance to see New Zealand's native wildlife, including the iconic kiwi bird, further enriching your visit to the region.

Private Footwhistle Glowworm Cave Tour with CaveWorld

Your tour begins as you are picked at the Waitomo iSite and enjoy a scenic shuttle to Caveworld's family owned cave, while your guide provides commentary bringing the rich history of Waitomo to life. Here you will take a short walk through the breathtaking New Zealand bush, keeping an eye out for the native birdlife. Heading down to the entrance of the cave you will discover the beauty of the glowworms, learn about the formation of Footwhistle Cave - known to local Maori as Te Anaroa Cave. You are encouraged to bring along your cameras a tripods to freeze the beautiful twinkling lights in time, with dim solar-powered lights through the cave that allow you to appreciate the magnificent displays and get the perfect shot. Complete your intimate tour with a Kawakawa tea as you relax in a ponga hut nestled into the native surrounds.

Your accommodation: Wild Canvas - Pohutakawa Tent

The luxurious glamping tent offers comfort and glamour on the hilltops of Waitomo. It provides a comfortable bed, and fully fitted bathroom while retaining enjoyable elements of camping, sitting under the stars, and toasting marshmallows over an open fire.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4



Waitomo to Rotorua

Today cross the lush farmland of the Waikato as you make your way inland to Rotorua. Pass through several small farming towns such as Otorohanga and Putaruru, before the region's geothermal activity signals your arrival into the city of Rotorua.

Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you're lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Pīwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Behind The Scenes Exclusive Tour with National Kiwi Hatchery

This exclusive guided experience is a truly unique opportunity to learn about the world-renowned kiwi hatchery conservation program. You are invited to step 'behind the glass' for an immersive experience to join the hatchery team in a staff-only area to learn about the incubation and chick rearing techniques from global experts. Learn all about New Zealand's intriguing national icon and the efforts of the kiwi husbandry team, see and discover what it takes to hatch and rare chicks, and if you're lucky, see baby chicks in person! Afterwards, take more time to learn in the interactive kiwi burrow and see adult kiwi roam and forage in our purpose-built Nocturnal house.

Redwoods Nightlights with Glowworms Fast Pass

Discover the magic of the Redwoods with this unforgettable eco-tourism experience. Venture into a breathtaking 70-metre eco cave at Redwoods Glowworms, filled with dramatic rock formations and a dazzling display of over 5,000 glowworms, then continue the magic with Redwoods Nightlights, a 700-metre award-winning treetop walk featuring 34 exquisite lanterns by renowned designer David Trubridge, suspended 9-20 metres above the forest floor. Perfect for nature lovers and night-time explorers alike. With the fast pass, you will be able to skip lines and get straight into the fun!

Your accommodation: On the Point

On the Point is a beautiful lodge accommodation in a stunning location and offering panoramic views. It also offers gourmet New Zealand food and wine, as well as a range of on site activities from pampering massage, fly fishing from the private beach, water sports, tennis, gym and boating and is only 10 minutes from the heart of Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5



Mount Tarawera Helicopter Landing and Geothermal Parks with Volcanic Air

Combine the thrill of landing on Mount Tarawera with a flight that includes spectacular views on the stunning crater lakes, the renowned Tarawera Falls and the vibrant Waimangu and Wai-O-Tapu geothermal reserves. This Tour highlights these amazing features unique to this region because of their location on the faultline relative to the Pacific Rim of Fire.

Starlight Gourmet Kayak Tour with Waimarino

Experience an evening adventure kayaking over one of New Zealand's most stunning waterways, Lake Rotoiti. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, abundant birdlife, and learn the myths and legends linked to the area as you paddle towards the magical Glowworm cave. You will paddle across the lake to the stunning Manupirua Hot Pools, which are only accessible by water. Here, you will have a tasty freshly cooked BBQ dinner along with delicious kiwi desert. On the way to the hidden Glowworm cave, you will see how the lake is magically transformed by the moon and twinkling stars above. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please click here.

Your accommodation: On the Point

On the Point is a beautiful lodge accommodation in a stunning location and offering panoramic views. It also offers gourmet New Zealand food and wine, as well as a range of on site activities from pampering massage, fly fishing from the private beach, water sports, tennis, gym and boating and is only 10 minutes from the heart of Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



Restorative Journey Package with Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa

Indulge your senses in a Restorative Journey (Wai Whakaora), a thoughtfully designed therapeutic experience inspired by the practices and culture of Ngāti Whakaue. Embrace the healing power of the natural environment as your senses awaken through a series of hot and cold therapies. Your journey begins beneath a cascading waterfall, cleansing your body and mind. Transition to Te Ahi Tupua, where a sequence of hot and cold immersions invigorates and rejuvenates. Relax in the soothing waters of the Geothermal Pool, sourced from the renowned Rachel Spring. Follow this with a refreshing cold plunge, easing muscle tension and reducing inflammation. Conclude your experience in the Kohu Wai Arik steam room, where heated stones create a serene space for reflection and relaxation, leaving you revitalized and restored.

Your accommodation: On the Point

On the Point is a beautiful lodge accommodation in a stunning location and offering panoramic views. It also offers gourmet New Zealand food and wine, as well as a range of on site activities from pampering massage, fly fishing from the private beach, water sports, tennis, gym and boating and is only 10 minutes from the heart of Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Rotorua to Tongariro National Park

Today you'll drive from Rotorua to Tongariro National Park along the thermal highway. Pass through Taupo and be sure to check out the Wai O Tapu Thermal Wonderland or Waimangu Volcanic Valley - both well worth a visit if you can spare the time. Visit the Huka Falls, New Zealand's largest volume of water or take in the boiling mud pools and steam vents as you wander the nearby geothermal reserve, Craters of the Moon. Continue on to the township of Turangi, known as one of the world's best trout fishing locations before emerging out into Tongariro National Park.

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 Café at Whakapapa to enjoy a meal with an incredible mountain view.

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.

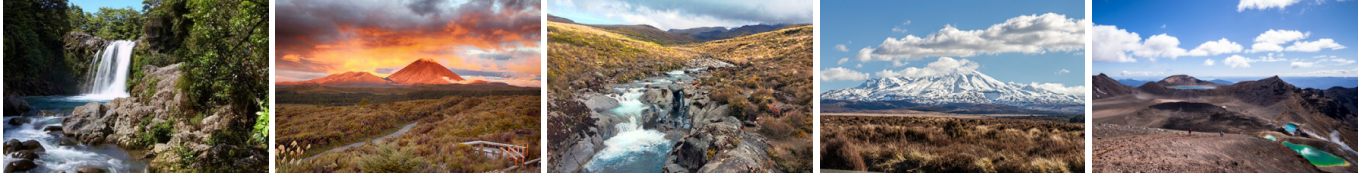
Your accommodation: Nightsky Cottage

Indulge in a 100% private, luxurious 5-star oasis that will leave you rejuvenated and reconnected with nature in a true zero-waste and sustainable environment. Soak in the side-by-side bathtubs, enjoy stargazing through the skylights in the comfort of your lounge whilst warmed by the log fire, or find a quiet spot in the bush to listen to the kiwi calling or abundant bird song.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8



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

2 Hour Pre Sunset Guided Walk with Adrift Tongariro

This is a superb way of experiencing Tongariro National Park and enjoying this stunning time of day. The sunset tour is an easy 2 hours in amongst the Tongariro Volcanoes. Your guide will pick and choose the exact route to suit the level of ability of the group. Walk for approximately 50 minutes before selecting the ideal spot to enjoy a glass of New Zealand bubbles as we watch the sunset. The preferred route is the Taranaki Falls loop track, other route options are a return trip starting on the world-famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing track, and a return route out to sunset ridge or Meads Wall. Your guide will talk about the area with their local knowledge of geology, volcanology, and New Zealand's cultural history. A memorable way to see the National Park with sunset lighting up a majestic Alpine setting. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information see [here](#).

Your accommodation: Nightsky Cottage

Indulge in a 100% private, luxurious 5-star oasis that will leave you rejuvenated and reconnected with nature in a true zero-waste and sustainable environment. Soak in the side-by-side bathtubs, enjoy stargazing through the skylights in the comfort of your lounge whilst warmed by the log fire, or find a quiet spot in the bush to listen to the kiwi calling or abundant bird song.



Day 9



Whakapapa Village to Martinborough

Leave Tongariro National Park and head south, skirting the edge of the World Heritage Area before reaching Waiouru, home to the National Army Museum and a powerful tribute to New Zealand's military history. Travel through rural towns like Mangaweka, Bulls and Feilding, then take the scenic route along the Manawatū Gorge. Just past Woodville lies Mangatainoka, home of the iconic Tui Brewery — a great stop for a tour and tasting. Further south, visit Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre to see rare native birds and reptiles, then continue to Masterton, famous for the Golden Shears sheep shearing competition. A short drive away, Greytown charms with its historic wooden buildings and boutique shops. End your journey in Martinborough, a peaceful wine village known for boutique vineyards and world-class pinot noir.

Martinborough

Known for producing some of the world's finest wines, the Martinborough region is home to over 30 vineyards, many of which are easily accessible from the town center. A great way to begin your exploration is at the Martinborough Wine Centre, where you can sample wines from all the local labels and plan your itinerary. For a more relaxed experience, consider booking a guided tour so you can fully enjoy the tastings without having to drive.

In 2023, Martinborough was designated as a Dark Sky Reserve, a rare honor that highlights the exceptional quality of its night sky. This celestial status adds another layer of magic to the area, inviting you to pair the region's exquisite wines with an evening of spectacular stargazing.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Martinborough Half Day Wine Tour with Martinborough Wine Tours

Visit wonderful vineyards such as Te Kairangi Wines, Tirohana Estate, Cabbage Tree Vineyard and Martinborough Vineyard on this half day tour of the premium wine region of Martinborough. Taste the wines, learn about the development of the region, its people and characters from knowledgeable guides.

Star Safari with Milky-Way.Kiwi

Embark on a celestial adventure in Wairarapa's awe-inspiring night skies with top-tier telescopes and Hari and Sam, as they provide an unrivalled night sky experience. Proudly operating from within the world's 21st Dark Sky Reserve, the Star Safari Observatory is nestled between Martinborough and Carterton, offering a perfect retreat from light pollution and revealing a dazzling array of celestial wonders.

Your accommodation: The Martinborough Hotel

At the Martinborough Hotel, indulge in the elegant surroundings of this 1882 building. There are nine Verandah Rooms, at the top of the grand flight of stairs and seven spacious Garden Rooms finished in a restful simple country style.



Day 10



Martinborough to Wellington City

Cross the Remutaka Ranges as you make your way to New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. Often compared to Melbourne, Wellington is vibrant cultural hub. Home to the nation's centre of government. Legislation happens in the aptly named 'Beehive', an executive wing attached to the Houses of Parliament. At 1km squared, the city centre (easily traversed on foot) has an international feel and is peppered with underground art shows, alleyway cafes and New York style delis. Take in the boardwalk view as you stroll to Te Papa Museum or indulge your cinematic side exploring Weta Workshop, the Oscar Award winning design studio for Lord Of The Rings. For a taste of vintage fashion, spend some time (and dollars!) on Cuba Street browsing the boutiques. Work off last night's dinner with a cycling tour of Oriental Bay and undo your good work with a Hokey Pokey ice-cream in the sun. For those heading further down, the capital is where you board the ferry crossing the Cook Strait to the South Island.

Wellington

Wellington known in Māori as Te Whanganui-a-Tara is home to New Zealand's centre of government. Often referred to as 'mini Melbourne', this windy city is a melting pot of art, culture, food, and fashion. Quirky laneway bars, underground art shows, and hipster eateries make up its inner-city vibe, while a host of sandy beaches outside the urban bustle bring a cheerful holiday feel. Head to Te Papa Museum for a history lesson and a ticket to one of its many international exhibitions or jump aboard the Wellington Cable Car - the only running funicular railway in the country. For those with an eye for boutique, fashion wander through Cuba St to sample some of the city's best vintage stores. Break for coffee at a hipster cafe and be sure to snap a pic outside the 'Beehive', New Zealand's parliamentary debate chamber. Go behind the scenes at Weta Workshop Experience, the Oscar Award Winning design studio behind Lord Of The Rings, The Hobbit, and Avatar. If you're a foodie at heart, a two-hour round trip to Martinborough is a must-do. Take your time as you wind through spectacular wine country. For an educational day out, learn about New Zealand's native species at Zealandia, the world's first fully-fenced eco-sanctuary and home to over 40 types of endangered and native birds.

Zealandia By Night Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Taking a night tour of Zealandia wildlife eco-sanctuary is an unforgettable experience and one that comes highly recommended. A conservation success and safe haven for some of New Zealand's rarest native animals, Zealandia is home to many remarkable species of birds, reptiles and insects living wild within a beautiful 225 hectare (one square mile) valley, just 10 minutes from the central 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 11



Wellington Scenic Half Day Private Tour

Discover Wellington's highlights on a private 3-hour scenic tour of New Zealand's vibrant capital. Begin with panoramic views from the iconic Mt Victoria and the Brooklyn Hill Wind Turbine, offering breathtaking vistas of the city and beyond. Relax as you enjoy a scenic drive along the picturesque Eastern and Southern Bays. Step into the world of film at the Weta Cave, where you can explore the magic behind movie-making. Savor a cup of Wellington's famous coffee, ride the historic Wellington Cable Car, and experience even more of what makes this city so special.

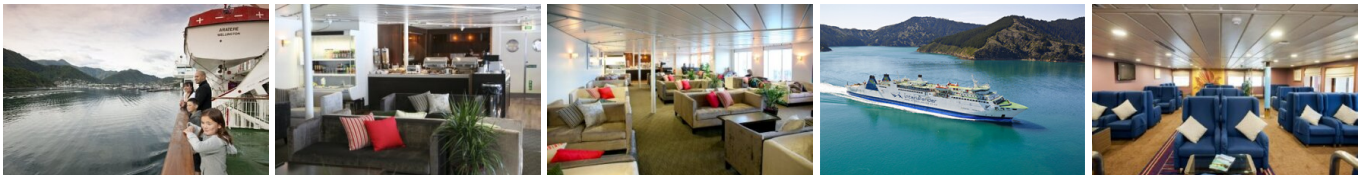
Your accommodation: Bolton Hotel Wellington

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 12



Return Rental Car to Wellington Ferry Terminal

Return your rental vehicle at the Wellington Ferry Terminal rental car depot and continue on the journey.

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.

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.

Your accommodation: Escape to Picton Boutique Hotel

Escape to Picton is a beautiful boutique hotel situated on the waterfront overlooking the marina in Picton. Just a two minute walk to the boats, where you can take advantage of the many activities on offer in the region.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 13



Picton to Kaikoura

From Picton head south on State Highway One towards Blenheim, and the wine-producing region of Marlborough. Ideally located to enjoy an afternoon sampling the local produce, stop for a guided wine tour with Full Day Marlborough Wine Tour. Crossing the dry hills of the Marlborough ranges you head towards one of the most spectacular coastlines of the South Island, the Kaikoura Coast. The road hugs the shore for around 50 kilometres and offers many chances to view the native wildlife such as seabirds and New Zealand fur seals. To the east is the Pacific Ocean and to the west you'll follow alongside the Kaikoura Ranges before arriving into the bustling Kaikoura Township.

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.

Star Flight with EcoZip Adventures Kaikōura

Join this unforgettable experience with renowned astro- and adventure-photographer Rachel Gilliespie – an extraordinary evening of ziplining beneath a breathtaking canopy of stars. This intimate small-group adventure creates a uniquely personal and immersive experience. By the time you reach the second zipline's landing deck, celestial darkness will have fully set in, unveiling a spectacular night sky. Here, under a cosmic masterpiece, you will be guided through the stars, and your guide will point out constellations, planets, and other celestial marvels. Depending on the time of year, you may witness distant galaxies, meteors streaking across the sky, or even the elusive glow of a passing comet. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity before travel. For more information, please see [here](#)

Your accommodation: Kahutara PurePod

The Kahutara PurePod is set 20 minutes inland from Kaikoura, parking near the farmhouse you will enjoy a short 10-15 minute walk to your special glasshouse in the hills. Overlooking the Seaward Kaikōura Mountain Range enjoy seclusion and native bird song during your stay.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 14



Ocean Safari Whale Watching Flight with South Pacific Helicopters

Explore Kaikoura's wildlife colonies from the air in this incredible 45-minute helicopter Ocean Safari. Fly over the Seaward Mountain Ranges and Kaikoura Peninsula before reaching the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, home to nature's most amazing marine life. Kaikoura is located on the migratory routes for Humpback Whales, Southern right whales, Orca, and even Blue whales depending on the time of year. Other mammals that may be sighted include Dusky dolphins, fur seals, and albatross. Land at an exclusive location to experience the vistas of the mountains and sea before finishing with a flight back to Kaikoura Airport.

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.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Swimming with the Dolphins with Encounter Kaikoura

Experience a magical swimming encounter with dusky dolphins off the coast of Kaikoura. You'll be taken out in the catamaran and have the chance to swim in the water with these wild mammals in a completely natural environment. The dusky dolphin inhabits the waters around Kaikoura for most of the year - making it one of the only places in the world where dolphins can be encountered every day. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information please see here.

Your accommodation: Kahutara PurePod

The Kahutara PurePod is set 20 minutes inland from Kaikoura, parking near the farmhouse you will enjoy a short 10-15 minute walk to your special glasshouse in the hills. Overlooking the Seaward Kaikōura Mountain Range enjoy seclusion and native bird song during your stay.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 15



Kaikoura to Akaroa

The drive from Kaikoura to Christchurch continues to follow the spectacular coastline before heading inland and through North Canterbury's major wine region, the Waipara Valley. You are also introduced to the South Island's most numerous inhabitant, the sheep. A great detour to take is the side trip to Hanmer Springs for a relaxing dip in the thermal pools.

Arriving into Christchurch City puts you close to the airport and the International Antarctic Centre and a visit is highly recommended. Here you can get as close to experiencing life on the frozen continent without actually visiting plus see New Zealand little blue penguins and ride in a Haaglund Tracked vehicle.

The Banks Peninsula offers a great contrast to the South Island's largest city. Just around a 1 1/2 hours drive from the city centre are rolling green hills, streams, golden sand beaches and small settlements that offer a unique insight into New Zealand's history and development.

Just on the other side of the Port Hills is Lyttelton, a busy port town that was crucial to the development of Christchurch and the Canterbury Plains. Following the road around the beautiful natural harbour the names, such as Magazine Bay, Battery Point, Corsair Point and Governors Bay, remind of the importance the navy placed on this harbour.

The Banks Peninsula itself is actually the remains of a long extinct volcano, the rim of which collapsed some time ago allowing the sea to flood into and create what is now the Akaroa Harbour. In 1840 French colonists settled in Akaroa in a bid to stake a claim for the South Island.

Unbeknown the British had already declared sovereignty and a long drawn out dispute ensued with the British eventually being given government. However the French stayed and made this stunning part of the South Pacific their home and still to this day the town boasts French street names and every year a French Festival is held.

The Harbour itself is teeming with wildlife and a nature cruise is a must do activity. One of the world's smallest and rarest dolphins, hectors dolphin, are often seen and cruises also offer excursions with the chance to swim amongst them.

Akaroa & the Banks Peninsula

The Banks Peninsula lies just around 1 hour from Christchurch city centre. Formed by ancient volcanic eruptions, the region's first settlers were Maori who recognised its potential for shelter and food. The sealers and whalers followed them, and European colonists founded and settled Akaroa, Little River and Lyttelton and many of the Peninsula's other bays. Abounding with wildlife and history, it's a great place to spend the day exploring.

The jewel is Akaroa, which lies just over 70 kilometres from central Christchurch, and the drive to this picturesque harbour town is a wonderful experience in itself, as it can either take you via the port of Lyttelton and along the bays or over the Summit Road of the Port Hills.

The well-signposted tourist routes will guide you on a loop around the peninsula and through some spectacular and rugged farmland scenery. As you approach the small settlement of Duvauchelle, you are greeted by New Zealand's oldest hotel.

The town of Akaroa has rather a French feel with many flags flying and cottages and streets with distinctly non-kiwi names. The reason being that 63 Frenchmen arrived here to settle the Banks Peninsula under the French Flag, only to find the British had beaten them by 5 days. Their influence on architecture, combined with a Victorian seaside feel, makes the town a delightful place to spend an afternoon. There are many activities, such as nature cruises and swimming with dolphins. Be sure to visit the quirky The Giant's House, a unique and whimsical garden and mosaic sculpture gallery.

Astronomy Bites - Sungazing to Stargazing with Akaroa Stargazing

Begin your journey with a safe and awe-inspiring sun-gazing experience, using a specialized solar telescope to witness the Sun's breathtaking beauty. Indulge in a carefully crafted grazing platter, featuring local flavours and delicacies, paired with refreshing drinks. Enjoy culinary delights whilst taking in the stunning views of Akaroa's best-kept secret sunset viewing spot. End your evening with an intimate and exclusive stargazing experience, gazing up at the starry night sky with a telescope, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of Akaroa.

Your accommodation: Beaufort House Akaroa

This beautiful historic home and garden has been lovingly restored with old world charm and modern conveniences offering quality accommodation. Relax on the verandahs or wander around the gracious traditional garden containing protected trees, rare camellias, roses and a small private vineyard. Secluded and private it is just a short stroll to the village and harbour.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 16



Akaroa to Lake Tekapo

Today you head into the heart of the South Island. Crossing the vast Canterbury Plains along the inland scenic route the first township of Geraldine offers an ideal refreshment stop before you head into Mackenzie country.

Passing through places such as Beautiful Valley it's not hard to understand where the names originate. Ascending Burkes Pass and onto the high country plateau and the picturesque town of Lake Tekapo, the first of the large Southern Lakes. It's a great place to take a scenic flight, enjoy a guided horse trek, a boat trip on the pristine lake or just enjoy the magnificent views.

Lake Tekapo

Tekapo is New Zealand's highest lake, and it is renowned for its astonishing turquoise waters. This vibrant hue is due to fine rock particles suspended in the glacier-fed lake, reflecting light. A highlight for visitors is the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd, a stone building dedicated in 1935, which incorporates timber from the old Tekapo bridge. Nearby, a bronze sheepdog statue honors the vital role of these animals in the local farming community. For breathtaking panoramic views, drive up or walk up Mt John to the Canterbury University Observatory. A short distance away, Lake Alexandrina offers a peaceful retreat as a wildlife reserve with no motorized crafts allowed. For an unforgettable perspective, consider a scenic flight over Mt Cook National Park and Tasman Glacier.

Tekapo Springs Hot Pools

Tekapo Springs offers three adjoining main Hot Pools for you to sit back, relax and enjoy yourself while looking out to the beautiful Two Thumb range and stunning Lake Tekapo. Pool temperatures range from forty degrees celsius to thirty-six degrees celsius and each pool offers something different - massage jets to assist in taking away any aches and pains and fountains to splash under.

Lake Tekapo Private Stargazing Tour with Alpha Crux

The Mackenzie Region is home to some of the clearest night skies in the world, and its Dark Sky Reserve was only the third of its kind in the world when it was created in 2012. The Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve was also the first to be given a gold tier status and is the largest at 4,367 square kilometers. This tour will allow you to marvel at fascinating stars and deep sky objects in the southern night sky, getting up close to star clusters, nebulae, and the Milky Way under some of the world's purest night skies - without having to leave your own property. You will also be given the opportunity to pose for an Astro-portrait of yourself underneath the starry sky as a keepsake and reminder of this spectacular experience.

Your accommodation: Galaxy Boutique Hotel

The Galaxy Boutique Hotel is a gem in the Mackenzie Region! Enjoy a unique, high-quality stay just 500 meters from Tekapo Village Center and the stunning shores of Lake Tekapo. Only an hour from the majestic Mount Cook National Park and three hours from Christchurch and Queenstown. Your unforgettable getaway starts here!

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 17



The Grand Traverse Scenic Flight with Air Safaris

The flight of a lifetime, the "Grand Traverse" is a spectacular scenic flight seeing experience allowing you to explore the Mount Cook and Westland National Parks. This magnificent flight encompasses two World Heritage National Parks and 200 km of New Zealand's most memorable and spectacular scenery. The contrast of colours is beautiful with the turquoise glacial lake against the tussock covered sheep stations. Your journey will bring you over Aoraki Mt Cook National park where you view New Zealand's longest glacier, The Tasman. From there you cross the main divide into the Westland National Park encompassing the Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers which spill down to the rainforests of the west coast. Their large and varied fleet especially selected for New Zealand air tour sightseeing ensures that every passenger has a window seat and all aircraft have wings-above to ensure optimum viewing below. Pilots provide a full and informative commentary with multi language commentary brochures supplied.

Dark Sky Project Summit Experience

Experience the cosmos like never before with the Summit Experience at Lake Takapō (Tekapo), one of the best places on Earth for stargazing. Located on the summit of Mount John within the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, this is your exclusive opportunity to explore the night sky from New Zealand's only professional research observatory. Guided by passionate astronomy experts, you'll delve deep into the universe using powerful telescopes, including a 16" telescope within a private dome. Discover distant galaxies, constellations, planets, and star clusters while gaining a richer understanding of both Māori and Western knowledge systems. You'll leave with a new perspective on the stars, all while surrounded by the stunning landscape and the clearest, darkest skies in the Southern Hemisphere.

Your accommodation: Galaxy Boutique Hotel

The Galaxy Boutique Hotel is a gem in the Mackenzie Region! Enjoy a unique, high-quality stay just 500 meters from Tekapo Village Center and the stunning shores of Lake Tekapo. Only an hour from the majestic Mount Cook National Park and three hours from Christchurch and Queenstown. Your unforgettable getaway starts here!

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 18



Lake Tekapo to Wanaka

Lake Pukaki is just another 30 minutes from Lake Tekapo and its from here you can be rewarded with spectacular views the full length of the lake and into Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. In Mount Cook Village a myriad of activities are available from glacier landings by ski plane or helicopter, kayaking on a glacial lake and a host of walks to suit all abilities and time frames. At The Hermitage Hotel the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre is a must see.

Twizel, just south of Aoraki Mount Cook was the location of many Lord of the Rings movie scenes and a little further on is Omarama, the gliding capital of New Zealand. Wrinkly Rams is a local cafe with great coffee and fresh homemade food. The Lindis Pass is one of New Zealand's highest roads with the summit reaching 971 metres. The tussock covered hills offer an unusual contrast as you pass from the Mackenzie Basin and into Central Otago.

Bendigo, just off the main highway, was one of Otago's original gold mining settlements and well marked paths will guide you to explore the remains of stone cottages and other buildings from this bygone era.

Approaching Wanaka the wonderful alpine lake welcomes you to the town. Despite its size Wanaka has a wide variety of activities available. In winter it is without doubt New Zealand's premier ski destination with its very close location to Treble Cone and Cardrona. Mt Aspiring National Park sits to western edge of the lake and offers some wonderful walking tracks for all abilities. Fishing, sailing and kitesurfing are popular pastimes on the lake and the many beach access points provide some great picnic and relaxing spots.

Stargazing Land Tour with Adventure Wanaka

This adventure is perfect for the daring and involves traveling in our custom-made vessel, which features the latest safety technology for nighttime excursions on the lake. While the ride can be cold and bumpy, you will be rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime stargazing experience in Mt. Aspiring National Park. Under the vast night sky and surrounded by majestic mountains, this trip offers an unparalleled view of the stars.

Your accommodation: Edgewater Wanaka

Edgewater is Wanaka's leading hotel located right on the edge of Lake Wanaka. A short stroll to the town centres shops, cafes and restaurants and close to many walking trails the resort is ideal to explore this wonderful Alpine setting.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 19



Wanaka to Te Anau

From Wanaka you cross the Crown Range via the highest sealed road in the country. As the road descends toward Queenstown you can enjoy spectacular views of the Wakatipu basin and the Remarkables mountain range.

Lake Wakatipu guides you south towards Te Anau and Fiordland National Park and at the southern end of the lake tiny Kingston Township is home to a classic steam train, The Kingston Flyer. The rolling farmland of Southland accompanies you as you pass through Garston, Athol and Five Rivers before turning west towards Mossburn, the deer capital of New Zealand.

You soon arrive into Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland National Park.

Te Anau

It is the gateway to Fiordland National Park and a perfect base to visit Piopiotahi-Milford Sound. The Milford Road originates here, and this is arguably one of the most scenic stretches of highway in the country. Te Anau sits on the shores of spectacular Lake Te Anau, which reaches depths of 417 meters. Te Anau Township is the starting point for many walking tracks, including two of New Zealand's Great Walks, the Milford track and the Kepler track. Apart from hiking, you could go kayaking, lake cruising, fishing, or exploring Te Anau Glowworm Caves. You could go for a bike ride alongside the lake towards Lake Manapouri, on a popular Lake to Lake biking route. Along the way, you will pass a bird sanctuary specialising in Takahe, and other native birds.

Your accommodation: Fiordland Eco Retreat

Discover tranquility at Fiordland Eco Retreat, where luxury meets sustainability. Nestled in lush wilderness, this haven offers stunning views, eco-friendly design, and tailored experiences. Immerse yourself in nature with scenery and stargazing. Perfect for relaxation or adventure, it's your gateway to the heart of Fiordland's beauty.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 20



Te Anau to Milford Sound, returning to Te Anau

The magnificent Milford Road leading to Milford Sound offers some of the most beautiful and iconic scenery in the country. Countless photo opportunities mean this drive should not be rushed. From crystal clear lakes and towering mountains to lush glacier-formed meadows, this area is abundant with picture-perfect scenes. Continue on through the Homer Tunnel, an engineering marvel at 1219 meters long. Arriving in the village of Milford, you will be greeted with an amazing view of Mitre Peak. A day cruise into the heart of the sound is not to be missed.

You'll learn about how this magnificent area was formed and experience the wonder of the falls that line the Fjord before back-tracking the way you came.

Milford Sound

Milford Sound is the best known of the sounds that lie throughout Fiordland National Park and is also the only fiord accessible by road. The Milford Road starting in Te Anau is considered one of the finest scenic drives in the world. Stunning alpine scenery and the famous Homer Tunnel make this road a journey in itself. Allow plenty of time to fully enjoy the drive.

Milford Sound is nestled within Fiordland National Park, it is a breathtaking natural wonder featuring dramatic cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and serene waters. Often called the "eighth wonder of the world," this iconic destination offers unforgettable experiences, from scenic cruises to kayaking amidst its tranquil beauty. Surrounded by lush rainforests and teeming with wildlife, including seals, dolphins, and penguins, Milford Sound is a must-see for every traveler seeking the essence of New Zealand's majestic landscapes.

Milford Premium Cruise with RealNZ

Get up close and personal with Milford Sound on a leisurely cruise of this spectacular fiord aboard the M.V Sinbad, an exclusive vessel for a premium experience. From thundering waterfalls to sky-high mountains to lush rainforests, Milford has it all. Experience the spray of a waterfall as you cruise close to sheer rock faces. With a glass of bubbles on arrival and canapes provided throughout the journey, this is the perfect way to explore Milford Sound. At a capped capacity of 45 people and a roaming nature guide providing informative commentary throughout the extended cruise, this experience allows guests to enjoy the Fiord at a relaxing pace. It is important you read and understand the risks associated with this activity. For more information, see here.

Stargazing Tour at Fiordland Eco Retreat

Uncover the magic of the southern night sky on an exclusive stargazing tour. Learn why this celestial view is so unique compared to the northern hemisphere, as expert guides share fascinating insights. Use astro-binoculars, a professional telescope, or simply your naked eye to locate stars, planets, galaxies, and nebulae. A captivating journey through the universe awaits.

Your accommodation: Fiordland Eco Retreat

Discover tranquility at Fiordland Eco Retreat, where luxury meets sustainability. Nestled in lush wilderness, this haven offers stunning views, eco-friendly design, and tailored experiences. Immerse yourself in nature with scenery and stargazing. Perfect for relaxation or adventure, it's your gateway to the heart of Fiordland's beauty.



Day 21



Te Anau to Manapouri

This short drive takes you along the lake edge of Te Anau and across lush southern farmlands to the small township of Lake Manapouri, gateway to Doubtful Sound.

Doubtful Sound Fiordland Navigator Overnight Cruise

Take in the tranquility of remote Doubtful Sound on this unique overnight wilderness cruise. Beginning in Manapouri with a short boat ride across the lake, you'll be taken by coach over the Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound. Board the Fiordland Navigator, a purpose-built vessel designed like a traditional coastal trading scow. Be accommodated in a private cabin with an ensuite bathroom or a quad-share bunk room with shared bathroom facilities. The Navigator has a large spacious deck for viewing the scenery and wildlife as well as a dining saloon, bar and observation lounge. As you take in the stunning scenery of the Fiord, you'll be provided with a running commentary of the area and its history, points of interest and wildlife. You'll have the opportunity to see dolphins, fur seals and, if you're lucky rare Fiordland penguins. After anchoring in a sheltered cove, choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or stabi-craft, or if you're really brave take a dip in the water. In the evening enjoy a buffet dinner prepared on board and served in the dining saloon. Enjoy beer and fine wines from the licensed bar, and spend time star gazing on the upper deck. Following hearty cooked breakfast the next morning you will spend your remaining time exploring other parts of the fiord before returning to Deep Cove for the trip back to Manapouri.

Pātea-Doubtful Sound

Doubtful Sound, known in Māori as Pātea, meaning "unencumbered" or "freed from burdens," is a tranquil wilderness famed for its serene 'Sound of Silence.' This pristine fiord is rich in diverse flora and fauna, with New Zealand Fur Seals and Fiordland Crested Penguins often seen on islets near its entrance. Towering cliffs covered in lush rainforest add to its beauty. At 421 meters deep and spanning 40 kilometres from Deep Cove to the Tasman Sea, Pātea-Doubtful Sound is New Zealand's deepest fiord, with three distinct winding arms.

Your accommodation: Fiordland Navigator Overnight Boat in Doubtful Sound

The Fiordland Navigator is purpose built for cruising in the fiords. The vessel offers spacious viewing decks, a comfortable dining saloon and observation lounge.

Meals included: Dinner



Day 22



Manapouri to Queenstown

Your Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise returns to Manapouri at midday.

Crossing the rolling tussock lands, pass through Mossburn, the deer capital of New Zealand. Continue north through lush Southland countryside towards Lake Wakatipu. The road now hugs the lake edge and the Remarkable mountain range towers over your approach to Queenstown, 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, bungy 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.

TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner

Enjoy a quintessential Kiwi experience, a delicious gourmet BBQ buffet meal, and a farm demonstration in a stunning lakeside setting. Take in the stunning views of Lake Wakatipu and its surroundings as you cruise across the lake to the historic Walter Peak high country farm aboard the TSS Earnslaw Steamship. Enjoy the ambiance of the heart of the stately homestead while your Colonel's Homestead Restaurant chef prepares a gourmet BBQ dinner. Your seasonal menu includes an extensive selection of local New Zealand produce, including succulent meats and a selection of delicious vegetables and salads. Complete your meal with your choice of delicious desserts, or New Zealand cheeses. After dinner, watch the farm dogs in action with a sheep-herding demonstration and say hello to the other farm animals. Finally, cruise home under the southern stars and enjoy the fresh night air as the lights of Queenstown draw ever closer.

Your accommodation: Azur Lodge

It's hard to imagine a more perfect view than the one from Azur Lodge, this luxury accommodation offers amazing vistas of Lake Wakatipu & the surrounding mountains. As well as the luxury guest villas, there is a main lodge for guest use, breakfast dining room & stunning guest lounge.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 23



SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Sunrise Balloon Adventures

Experience sunrise over the lakes and mountains from the serenity of a hot air balloon. You'll float gently with the breeze, enjoying incredible panoramic views, and your flight is followed by a champagne-style breakfast at your landing spot. Flights are at dawn when the air is cool and calm, and in the right conditions, you can expect to see views of Coronet Peak and The Remarkables ski areas, Mount Aspiring in the Southern Alps and Mount Tutoko in Fiordland National Park. You can also see Lake Wakatipu, Lake Hayes, the Shotover and Kawarau rivers. Additionally, a bonus for many is the views of some Lord of the Rings scenes, such as The Ford of Bruinen, Dimrill Dale, The Gates of Argonath and The Pillars Of The Kings. Also visible is Mount Earnslaw, one of the great mountains seen in Isengard. The flight is for approximately 1 hour, and you will be standing for the duration of the flight.

Everything Queenstown Private Tour with Remarkable Scenic Tours

Visit Queenstown's most popular and iconic landmarks in this incredible private experience with Remarkables Scenic Tours. Take off with your guide and journey to Arrowtown to explore the Chinese Village, with time to explore the shops and relax. If you enjoy wine, get taken to a winery in the Gibbston Valley, Central Otago's premier wine region, stopping at the best photo locations along the way. Learn about history and culture, discover hidden gems and listen to captivating stories from your local and knowledgeable guide.

Gondola and Stargazing tour with Skyline Queenstown

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. On a clear night, wander the outdoor viewing decks and follow your knowledgeable stargazing guides to the specially-constructed platform on Bob's Peak. With clear views of the night sky, away from any light pollution, gaze through a state-of-the-art 11" Celestron telescopes to reveal stunning sights not visible to the naked eye. On this stargazing tour, learn how to navigate using the iconic Southern Cross and further explore the incredible Milky Way. A truly unique and memorable experience, you may even spot other planets and galaxies before returning back to the Stratosfare Bar where you may wish to enjoy a delicious hot chocolate or mulled wine.

Your accommodation: Azur Lodge

It's hard to imagine a more perfect view than the one from Azur Lodge, this luxury accommodation offers amazing vistas of Lake Wakatipu & the surrounding mountains. As well as the luxury guest villas, there is a main lodge for guest use, breakfast dining room & stunning guest lounge.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 24



Return your rental car

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

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Nationwide Self Drive
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Queenstown
Tour length:	24
Accommodation:	Boutique Lodges & Hotels
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Park Hyatt Auckland
Day 2	Wild Canvas - Pohutakawa Tent
Day 3	Wild Canvas - Pohutakawa Tent
Day 4	On the Point
Day 5	On the Point
Day 6	On the Point
Day 7	Nightsky Cottage
Day 8	Nightsky Cottage
Day 9	The Martinborough Hotel
Day 10	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 11	Bolton Hotel Wellington
Day 12	Escape to Picton Boutique Hotel
Day 13	Kahutara PurePod
Day 14	Kahutara PurePod
Day 15	Beaufort House Akaroa
Day 16	Galaxy Boutique Hotel
Day 17	Galaxy Boutique Hotel
Day 18	Edgewater Wanaka
Day 19	Fiordland Eco Retreat
Day 20	Fiordland Eco Retreat
Day 21	Fiordland Navigator Overnight Boat in Doubtful Sound
Day 22	Azur Lodge
Day 23	Azur Lodge