

11 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND



Day-01 Arrive in Auckland (D)

Arrive at Auckland International Airport. Meet & greet on arrival and airport seat-in-coach transfer to your hotel for check in. Tonight, walk along to a buffet dinner at Fortuna Restaurant (inside SkyCity Hotel Auckland). Enjoy free time on own leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day-02: Auckland – Waitomo – Rotorua (BD)

Enjoy a scenic tour from Auckland to Rotorua, including a guided tour of the Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Leaving Auckland in the morning we travel through the Waikato and King Country regions, passing by flourishing farmland and picturesque countryside. Your experienced local driver guide will provide entertaining commentary and point out highlights along the way, such as Rangiriri, where in 1863 a major battle was fought between colonial forces and those loyal to the Māori King. On arrival in the small town of Waitomo, take a trip underground with a 45-minute guided tour through the world famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves, a series of limestone caves formed over 30 million years ago. Learn all about stalagmites, stalactites and other intriguing rock formations as you walk through the caverns, and finish the tour with an enchanting boat ride through the Glowworm Grotto, illuminated by thousands of tiny glowworms. Your journey to Rotorua continues, passing through the beautiful Fitzgerald Glade where trees arch over the road to form a tunnel of natural greenery. A delicious picnic-style lunch can be pre-booked (optional extra) and is served on board the coach. The tour concludes in Rotorua, a city where you can view geothermal activity, Māori culture, spectacular scenery and more.

Te Po Maori Hangi Dinner at Te Puia this evening.

Day-03: Rotorua Sights – Hobbiton - Rotorua (B)

Discover three of Rotorua's best visitor attractions on this morning Rotorua sightseeing tour. Gain an insight into New Zealand's Māori culture at Te Puia, then experience Rotorua's famous geothermal activity with a tour of the neighbouring Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley - a place where mud pools bubble and boil and geysers shoot steam high into the air. You'll also see Te Puia's woodcarving and weaving schools and see how these ancient Māori art forms are being passed

Then see our agricultural industry in action at the Agrodome, a working organic farm where you can find out all about farming life in New Zealand, watch a sheep shearing display and see sheep dog trials where the hard-working farm dogs show off their amazing skills. New Zealand wildlife and natural scenery is on display at Rainbow Springs Nature Park, where you can get up close to all kinds of native flora and fauna including the famous kiwi, a flightless native bird. Wander through native forest and discover New Zealand birds, fish and lizards (including the ancient tuatara), as well as exotic animals from around the world.

Afternoon, take a half-day tour from **Rotorua** to the Hobbiton Movie Set and take a tour of the farm that was transformed into a Middle-earth filming location. Your Hobbiton tour starts with a scenic drive across the Kaimai Ranges to the small town of Matamata.

3 star4 star

Twin: US\$ 2,990.00

US\$ 3,310.00

Triple: US\$ 2,860.00

US\$ 3,150.00

Single: US\$ 4,000.00

US\$ 4,630.00

Valid: 01 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018

Pax: 2 adults minimum

Note: Hotel is subject to availability. In case standard room is not available, an upgrade surcharge is additional fee or alternative hotel of the same category has to offer.

During your coach trip your local driver guide will entertain you with stories and information about the region and its history.

Just outside the town of Matamata is your destination: Middle-earth! Sir Peter Jackson and his team knew this private farm would make the perfect spot to build the village of Hobbiton for the award-winning The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit movie trilogies. Take a guided tour and see the picturesque village you saw on screen in living colour before you.

See the Hobbit holes, the Green Dragon Inn, the Party Tree, the Mill and many other structures from the movies, while learning about how the set was built. You might even hear a few secrets from behind the scenes!

After your Hobbiton movie set tour, return to Rotorua.

Day-04: Rotorua – Wellington (B)

Journey to Taupo and along the shore of the huge lake to spectacular Tongariro National Park comprising of massive active volcanoes and site of North Island's ski fields. From the barren land of this plateau, you descend to Palmerston North to the "Capital City". Arrive Wellington by early evening. Transfer to hotel.

Note: This is no commentary on this trip.

Day-05: Wellington – Inter-Island Ferry – Picton - Christchurch (B)

Morning transfer to the ferry terminal to board the Inter-Islander ferry to Picton. The 3hour cruise crosses Cook Straits separating the 2 islands and along the serene and picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound. The sparkling waters and lush forest is a breathtaking introduction to the South Island. Connect the intercity bus and coach to Christchurch, arriving Christchurch in the evening.

Day-06: Christchurch– Mt. Cook–Queenstown (B)

Experience the beauty and grandeur of the Southern Alps on a sightseeing day tour to Mount Cook. Leaving Christchurch in the morning, we travel through the fertile farmland of the Canterbury Plains to the shores of the stunning, glacier-fed Lake Tekapo, where you can view the solitary Church of the Good Shepherd and take in the sights of the spectacular Southern Alps. We then continue to the location of New Zealand's tallest mountain, Aoraki / Mount Cook, situated in a national park and UNESCO World Heritage site. Rising to 3,724 metres high, Aoraki certainly lives up to its name, which in Māori can be translated as 'cloud piercer'. Legend tells of a young boy named Aoraki who was stranded with his brothers when their canoe struck a reef. As it tilted, the brothers climbed to the high side, where they were frozen by the south wind and turned into stone. Aoraki and his brothers now form the Southern Alps.

Enjoy lunch (own expense) at the famous Hermitage Hotel in Mount Cook Village. After lunch you'll have time to explore the village and soak up the view. Alternatively there is time to experience a scenic helicopter or ski plane flight for incredible views of mountain peaks and glaciers (additional cost, weather permitting – this flight can be arranged with your driver guide on the day).

The tour continues south, past Lake Pukaki and through the tawny tussock of the Mackenzie Country. En route, enjoy afternoon tea (own expense) in the quaint village of Omarama and if time permits, visit the Jones Family Orchard near Cromwell. Your tour concludes in the evening upon reaching Queenstown, the adventure capital of New Zealand.

Day-07: Milford Sound (BL)

Your coach will provide amazing views of the dramatic skyline as you cross the Main Divide of the Southern Alps, with stunning mountain peaks all around. Stop at Monkey Creek and sample some of the purest water in the world (but watch out for cheeky kea - native mountain parrots!). Travel under the mountains through the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km passageway drilled into solid rock, then experience The Chasm, a short but impressive walk over footbridges spanning a series of powerful, swirling waterfalls and rapids.

At Milford Sound, board your 1 hour 45 minute cruise and set off to explore the region that Rudyard Kipling called the 'eighth wonder of the world'. Travel the length of the fiord and out to the Tasman Sea, gliding past glacier-scarred rock walls and waterfalls that tumble into the sea. Lush native forest clings to steep cliffs, while wildlife including seals, penguins and dolphins are regular visitors to the icy waters. Mountain ranges surround the fiord, including Mitre Peak which rises dramatically from the depths to a height of 1,692 metres above sea level.

Lunch onboard cruise.

After your cruise, return to Queenstown by coach.

Day-08: Queenstown Highlights (B)

Spend a morning exploring Queenstown on a guided tour, taking in some of the region's best sights and activities.

Your friendly local driver guide will provide entertaining and informative commentary throughout your tour.

Discover the secrets of bungy-jumping with a behind-the-scenes tour of AJ Hackett's world famous Bungy Bridge and watch the jumpers from the viewing deck.

Visit the award-winning Gibbston Valley Winery, founded by a pioneer of the Central Otago wine industry, and sample a selection of wines produced on site.

Afternoon is free at own leisure.

Day-09: Queenstown – Franz Josef (B)

Take a sightseeing day tour from Queenstown to Franz Josef and discover the wild beauty of New Zealand's West Coast.

Leaving Queenstown, travel by luxury coach through the stunning scenery of the South Island. Your driver guide will provide entertaining commentary and point out sites of interest as you pass by the crystal-clear waters of Lake Dunstan, Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea.

After a morning tea break in Makarora on the border of Mount Aspiring World Heritage Park, you'll travel through the Haast Pass, journeying through native beech forest and over the Southern Alps, before emerging on the West Coast. This remote area has a ruggedly beautiful landscape of vast rainforests, gushing waterfalls and snow-capped mountains.

Skirt the coast and see waves crashing on rocky beaches before returning inland. Pass tree-fringed lakes and stop at a boutique salmon farm on the Paringa River, before arriving in the afternoon at the small village of Franz Josef. From here you can explore the world famous Franz Josef Glacier.

The German explorer Julius von Haast named the Franz Josef Glacier after Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria. Located in Westland Tai Poutini National Park, it is approximately 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) long. Explore its spectacular scenery with one of the many local guiding companies or optional for a flightseeing tour via helicopter or plane.

Day-10: Franz Josef – Greymouth - Christchurch (B)

Proceed To Greymouth while visiting to the town of Hokitika to view some of the local specialty high-quality arts and crafts which includes greenstones products. Journey from Greymouth on the spectacular scenic Tranz Alpine train ride that travel thought the mountainous and spectacular.

Note: This is no commentary on this trip.

Day-11: Christchurch - Departure

Breakfast from your hotel . Free until check out time. You will be transfer to Christchurch Airport terminal for your flight bound home taking with you the unforgettable and fond memories of a wonderful New Zealand.

- End of tour services -

INCLUSIONS:

- New Zealand Good & Services Tax
- Accommodation with daily breakfast inside hotel
- Seat-in-touring coach with English speaking driver guide
- Meals as specified
- Round trip Airport Transfers based on seat-in-coach (In & Out AKL/CHC Apt)

EXCLUSIONS:

- All international & domestic air tickets
- Local guide(s)
- Any extra meals
- Drinks ordered during meals
- Optional tours and activities not mentioned on the brief itinerary.
- New Zealand Airport Departure Tax if any.
- Gratuities for drivers / guides / porters. (Min. of NZ\$ 6.00 per person per day depending on the level of satisfactions on the services rendered.)
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, pay movies, room services, mini bars laundries or other expenditures during the tour.

Hotel Selections

<u>3 Star</u> Auckland City Hotel or similar	<u>4 Star</u> Crowne Plaza Hotel or similar
Ibis Hotel Rotorua or similar	Millennium Hotel Rotorua or similar
Aspen Hotel Queenstown or similar	Millennium Hotel Queenstown or similar
Bay Plaza Hotel Wellington or similar	James Cook Grand Chancellor Wellington or similar
Heartland Fox Glacier or similar	Scenic Hotel Franz Josef or similar
Elms Hotel Christchurch or similar	Novotel Hotel Christchurch or similar

Please note: Information concerning tour inclusions and resort/hotel facilities has been compiled as accurately as possible. However there may be times when certain amenities, facilities and/or inclusions are not available. Such situations may be dictated by weather conditions, maintenance/refurbishment, local regulations and national or religious holidays. While we will endeavor to advise clients of any changes to itinerary inclusions, we cannot accept responsibility for any such situations which are outside our control.