



# 9 DAYS NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

## 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 (B/D)

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 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.



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 - Queenstown (B/D)

Breakfast from your hotel this morning. Then, you will be pick up and transfer to Rotorua domestic airport for your flight into Queenstown. **Flight is not included.** Welcome to South Island. Meet & greet at the airport and shuttle coach transfer to your hotel. Tonight enjoy your buffet dinner at Stratosphere Restaurant along with Gondola Ride and time permitting, 2x Luge Rides.

The rest of today is free at own leisure.

#### Day-05: Milford Sound (B/L)

Your glass-roof 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

	<u>3 star</u>	<u>4 star</u>
Twin:	US\$ 2,090.00	US\$ 2,280.00
Triple:	US\$ 1,920.00	US\$ 2,170.00
Single:	US\$ 2,780.00	US\$ 3,150.00

Valid: 01 May – 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.

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-06: 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.

You can also browse the winery's well-stocked gift shop and the region's only cheesery. Have your camera at the ready as you are transported into Middle-earth at the Kawarau Gorge, film location for the 'Pillars of the Kings' in The Lord of the Rings. Then discover beautiful Arrowtown's captivating history and colonial architecture. Highlights are the Lakes District Museum and the Chinese miners' settlement, as well as plus boutique shopping, great cafés and restaurants.

#### Day-07: Queenstown-Mt. Cook - Christchurch (B)

After breakfast from your hotel, coach journey to Christchurch via Mt. Cook National Park. Travel through the Central Otago region to Lake Pukaki and Mount Cook National Park Village. Set at the foothill of the alps, you have a close up view of Mt. Cook-highest mountain peak in the country. Descend the mountain range to arrive in Christchurch in the evening.

The rest of today is at your own leisure.

Note: There is no commentary on this trip.

#### Day-08: Christchurch - Auckland (B)

Enjoy brief Christchurch City Tour in the morning. Discover the fascinating history of Christchurch on a half day city sightseeing tour. Take in the sights of the central city and its surrounds and see how this beautiful city is recovering from the devastating 2011 earthquake.

Step on board a classic open top double decker for a one-hour bus tour around central Christchurch. Your guide will tell you about the history of the city from its pioneering days to the present day. You will view some of the areas affected by the earthquakes, see how Christchurch is preserving some of its iconic heritage buildings and learn about the latest plans for restoration of the inner city.

Then, you will be headed to Christchurch domestic airport for your flight into Auckland.

**Flight is not included**

Upon arrival in Auckland, you will be transfer to your hotel. The rest of today is free at own leisure.

#### Day-09: Depart Auckland

Breakfast from your hotel. Free until check out time from your hotel. You will be transfer to Auckland International terminal for your International flight bound home taking with you the unforgettable and lasting 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 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.
- Australia 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> SkyCity Hotel or similar
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Ibis Hotel Rotorua or similar	Millennium Hotel Rotorua or similar
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Aspen Hotel Queenstown or similar	Millennium Hotel Queenstown or similar
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**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.