

Essence of New Zealand – 12 Days / 11 Nights



Day 1 Arrive Auckland

Private Car/Driver Auckland Domestic Airport to City Hotel - Luxury Mini Van

Operated by Tourcorp Ltd

Known as the 'City of Sails', Auckland city extends over a narrow isthmus between the Waitemata Harbour on the Pacific Ocean, and the Manukau Harbour on the Tasman Sea. Auckland has spectacular natural features, including 49 dormant volcanoes. This cosmopolitan city has a population of around 1.7 million and the city's subtropical climate, lush vegetation and easy access to the coast and outdoor activities consistently earns it a place in the top five rankings in international lifestyle surveys.

A melting pot of different ethnicities, Auckland is the world's biggest Polynesian city. This diversity is reflected in the lively arts and culture scene, a wide range of food and craft markets, vineyards, a hip cafe culture and outstanding restaurants. The dozens of islands of the Hauraki Gulf form a distinctive aspect of the Auckland landscape and provide a magnet for boaties, fishing enthusiasts and hikers.



All Blacks Experience Guided Tour (Shared Activity)

Operated by All Blacks Experience

Embark on a 45 minute guided journey not only about rugby but about Kiwi culture. Experience first-hand the excitement and emotion of game day. Discover the stories behind some of world rugby's most famous players, moments and matches. Friendly and knowledgeable guides kick the experience off with an introduction to the game of rugby. Your guide will then lead you through a state-of-the-art experience combining sound, images, interactive technology and hands-on activities. Be entertained and educated with the story of New Zealand's deep passion for our national sport. You can experience the full force of the All Blacks haka, tackle interactive zones where you can try out your kicking, catching, line-out and accuracy skills against legendary All Blacks. Allow an extra 30 minutes at the end of your guided tour to enjoy the interactive zone.

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes (45 minute guided tour plus approximately 30 minutes to enjoy the interactive zone and retail outlet)

Months: Year round | **Days:** Daily

Open: Daily 9.30am to 5.00pm - first tour 10.00am, last tour 4.00pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Accommodation at QT Auckland

1 Double QT Deluxe King for 2 Nights

Taking its dramatic style notes from nature and the sparkling harbour, this hotel puts delicious touches on every agenda. Centrally located just a short walk from Viaduct Harbour, Victoria Park and the waterfront dining precinct of Wynyard Quarter. Sip pretty at the rooftop bar, or recharge in one of the hotel's luxurious rooms or suites. Discovery awaits, as textures and hues mix to celebrate the local surrounds, complete with plush furniture, sleek bathrooms and all the creature comforts.



Day 2 Waiheke Island

Ferry Service Auckland to Waiheke Island - Reserved Departure Time, Return

Operated by Fullers360 Experiences and Cruises

Includes: Prebooked ferry departure time.

Board your ferry and enjoy the scenic 40-minute cruise to Waiheke Island through the beautiful Hauraki Gulf. This stunning island just off the Auckland coast boasts 92 square kilometres of beautiful beaches, vineyards, olive groves, native bush and laid back seaside villages.

Duration: 40 minutes (each way) | Days of operation vary depending on season.

Waiheke Island is known for its array of beautiful vineyards, olive groves and beaches, all just a 40-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland. In landscape, lifestyle and experience, Waiheke is a world away. There is plenty to keep you busy, choose from award-winning wineries, beautiful beaches, zip lines and much more. The white sandy beaches at Oneroa, Palm Beach and Onetangi slope gently down into the Hauraki Gulf and are perfect for swimming, kayaking, or having a picnic. If you're a walker, explore the island's trails which meander along cliff tops, down to the beaches and into cool enclaves of native forest. At the eastern end of the island the Stony Batter walkway leads you to a system of World War II gun emplacements and underground tunnels.

Full Day Zipline Combo with Half Day Wine Tour with Lunch (Shared Small Group Tour)

Operated by Ananda Tours

Includes:

Waiheke Island hotel or Waiheke ferry terminal pick up and drop off, 3 200m dual flying fox ziplines, tastings and vineyard lunch.

Excludes:

Ferry transfer Auckland to Waiheke Island and return, beverages during lunch.

Embark on your 8.75 hour guided tour. You will be greeted on the Waiheke wharf by EcoZip Adventures who will transport you to the EcoZip Adventures site on Trig Hill for a flying fox zipline and guided hike experience. Three 200m dual flying fox ziplines will fly Guests smoothly side-by-side with a partner, friend or relative down into a stunning tract of original and regenerating native bush (forest). Then join Ananda Tours, visit two vineyards for wine tasting with a delicious vineyard platter-style lunch at the second vineyard, including a glass of wine. If time allows, after lunch head towards Onetangi, a 1.87-kilometre long, north-facing beach with beautiful old Pohutukawa trees on the foreshore. For many years it has been the site of the Onetangi Beach Races. If you wish, we can drop you off at a dinner venue after the tour and make your own way back to the ferry when you are ready or alternatively the guide will return you to the Waiheke Wharf in time to catch the 5pm ferry back to Auckland.

Weight restriction for EcoZip: 30kg min 125kg max

Duration: 8 hours and 40 minutes (7 hours on island) | **Months:** Year Round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 9.00am (ex Auckland) | **Ends:** 5.40pm (arrives Auckland)

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec), Boxing Day (26 Dec).



Day 3

Auckland to Rotorua

Full Day Auckland to Hobbiton Movie Set to Rotorua (One way) (Shared Small Group Tour)

Operated by Cheeky Kiwi Travel

Includes: Hotel pick up and drop off from/ to selected properties, guided tour of Hobbiton Movie Set with beverage, bottled water, snacks.

Excludes: Lunch.

Leaving Auckland in the morning, an 8 hour journey through the lush farmland of the Waikato and King Country regions and on to Rotorua. Arriving at Hobbiton, you will change vehicles and board one of the green Hobbiton coaches and depart on your 2 hour fully guided tour of the amazing 12 acre movie set with a professional Hobbiton guide to ensure you get the most out of your visit. During your tour you will step into the lush pastures of the Shire, visit 44 hobbit holes, see amazing gardens, hear the secrets and stories about the making of the movies. Journey past Bag End, explore the inside of the newly completed Hobbit Hole™ on Bagshot Row and into the world-famous Green Dragon™ Inn, where you will be presented with a complimentary, exclusive Hobbit™ Southfarthing™ beverage. After your Lord of the rings experience you will be guided back through the Alexander Family Sheep Farm before continuing south to the active geothermal area of Rotorua. During the trip we will pass through the unique town of Tirau (the corrugated iron sculpture capital of the world), the stunning Fitzgerald Glade, plus many more attractions to see along the way. In Rotorua we will guide you past many of the city's famous and historical sites including Lake Rotorua, The Government Gardens, Blues Bath, Thermal Springs and the Polynesian Spa. At the end of the tour we will drop you at your accommodation in central Rotorua.

Duration: 8 hours | **Months:** Year Round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 6.00am | **Ends:** 2.00pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec), New Years Day (01 Jan).



Rotorua is the centre of an extensive thermal region. Geysers, bubbling mud pools and steaming, sulphurous lakes give evidence of nature's fascinating power. Rotorua and the surrounding lakes provide some of the world's best trout fishing. The Maori culture contributes greatly to the attractions of this holiday city. Here you can enjoy the culture and entertainment of our native Maori people.



Accommodation at Regent of Rotorua Boutique Hotel

1 Double Premium Room (new wing) for 2 nights

Born from a 1950's Motel built on the site, this boutique hotel has been transformed and renovated into a chic, central city hotel. With its prime central location, it is the perfect base for exploring Rotorua. The beautiful lakefront boardwalk and Government Gardens are in easy walking distance. Each beautifully appointed room and suite is designed for comfort and relaxation, featuring elegant furnishings, modern amenities, and thoughtful touches. Unwind in the heated outdoor pool or rejuvenate in the indoor mineral-rich thermal pool. Eat Street, Rotorua's dining precinct, is just footsteps away



Day 4 Rotorua

National Kiwi Hatchery Aotearoa - Behind the Scenes Tour (Private Activity)

Operated by The National Kiwi Hatchery

This exclusive 1 hour tour offers an extra special look into kiwi conservation in action. Here you are able to view the incubation and hatching technology at the largest kiwi hatching facility in New Zealand, and learn more about the kiwi recovery programme 'Operation Nest Egg' from the National Kiwi Hatchery's knowledgeable guides. Your tour offers the opportunity to join the expert husbandry team in a staff-only area where the kiwi chicks are cared for until they are ready to go to the outdoor enclosures. From here you are guided into a Nocturnal House to view kiwi in a more natural environment behind glass. In the wild, only 5% of kiwi chicks reach 6 months of age - this is because of introduced predators such as the stoat. If kiwi are removed from the wild at this vulnerable age and released into the wild at a stoat-proof 1 kg they have a much improved 65% survival rate. The tour concludes in a display area where you are able to compliment your kiwi-learning with audio-visual material.

This experience is available year-round, however, most chicks and eggs will only be seen during kiwi hatching season (approximately September to March). If visiting outside kiwi hatching season, there is the opportunity to see a juvenile kiwi health check in the outdoor kiwi creche.

Duration: 1 hour | **Months:** Year round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 10.00am, 12.00pm | **Ends:** 11.00am, 1.00pm (Note times do vary, contact National Kiwi Hatchery for latest times/availability)

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Tu Te Ra - Maori Cultural Dining Experience (Shared Tour)

Operated by Te Pa Tu

Includes: Return transfers from Rotorua accommodation, cultural performance, aperitif and canapes, three-course Māori-fusion feast.

Excludes: Drinks

This 3.5 hour cultural dining experience is aligned with the maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar. Explore concepts, rituals, and stories of ancient Māori warfare and of peace. Tū Te Rā is a time of year when our days are longest and the sun expresses its optimal energy – a time for harvesting and celebrating. It is also a time for warfare, for settling old scores and for forging peace. Enjoy drama, performance and divine seasonal kai (food) shared against a backdrop of blazing bonfires, towering Tawa trees, and a natural forest amphitheatre. Designed by award winning Māori chefs, staple favourites like hāngi share the table with fusion dishes. The evening includes activities that are outside in a forest setting for up to an hour and operate rain or shine so please pack/dress accordingly to the weather. Dinner may also be served al fresco on warmer nights and indoors when cooler.

Please note: Special dietary preferences can be catered for if advised in advance. Dinner is served on shared plates and avoidance of cross-contamination for guests with allergies can not be guaranteed. Te Pa Tu operate a cashless site, accepting all major credit and debit cards for bar purchases.

Duration: 4 hours | **Months:** Oct to Apr | **Days:** Daily

Show times: 6.15pm (hotel pickups commence 5.30pm, departure from venue at 9.30pm)

Duration: 4 hours | **Months:** May to Sep | **Days:** Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Show times: 5.00pm (hotel pickups commence 4.15pm, departure from venue at 8.15pm)

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Day 5

Rotorua to Christchurch

Flight Domestic Air Sector Included (Shared Activity)

Operated by Air New Zealand

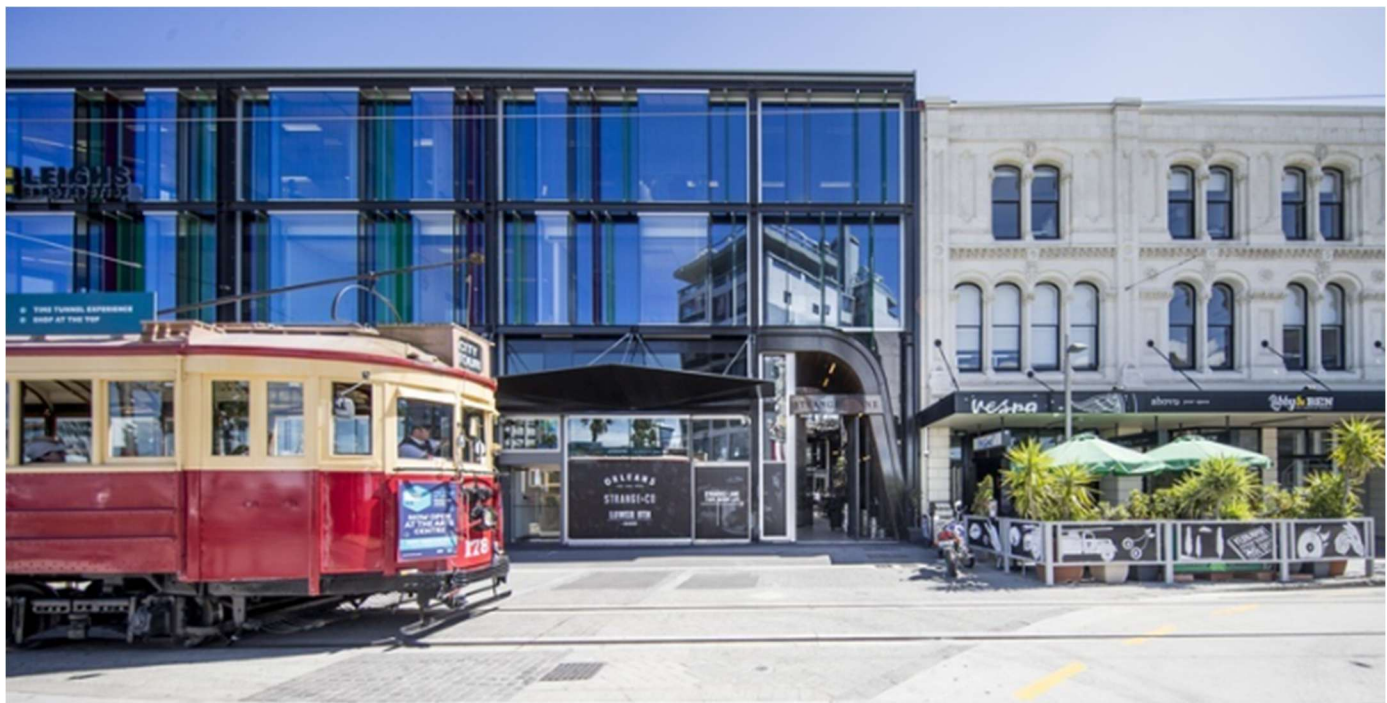
Depart: Rotorua
Arrive: Christchurch

Christchurch

Private Car/Driver Domestic Airport to City Hotel

Operated by Christchurch Touring Company

Often referred to as the Garden City, Christchurch features many majestic trees and extensive parks and gardens, the most notable of which is expansive Hagley Park in the heart of the city. Bordering the park you will find the botanical gardens and Gothic revival buildings that house Christ College. The Avon River gently winds its way around these inner city landmarks and out through sprawling suburbs to the Pacific Ocean. Visitors to Christchurch today will witness a virtual rebirth of the city rebuilding following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. The urban city centre is full of new secrets to discover. Prepare for new architecture and immense street art, cocktail bars and bustling restaurants, laneways and green public spaces. In contrast to the flat cityscape and the surrounding Canterbury Plains, the skyline to the south is dominated by the tussock and rocky outcrops of the Port Hills. The hills separate the city from the volcanic Banks Peninsula and Lyttelton Harbour, where English settlers arrived by ship in 1850 to establish New Zealand's first city.



Hidden Gems City Sights (Shared Small Group Walking Tour)

Operated by Amiki Cultural Food Tours

Includes: 90 minute guided walking tour, at least 1 tasting and a sweet treat.

Excludes: Hotel pick up/drop off.

On this 1.5 hour walking tour you will be introduced to the meaning behind the name Ōtautahi (Te Reo Māori for Christchurch) and follow ancestral footsteps while your guide shares many traditional māori and settlers stories and ways of life. Experience Āmiki's guiding principle of manaakitanga (care for all things, people and planet) including their whakatauki (proverb) 'kia atawhai ki te iwi' - care for your people. Learn a traditional māori greeting, walk past traditional mahinga kai (food gathering) and historical pā (māori village) sites while bringing to life the stories of the past and present and how they have been woven into this emerging city.

Note: This tour includes up to 2kms (1.25mi) of walking over flat, sealed terrain with stops along the way. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. A hat and sunscreen are recommended.

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes | **Months:** Year round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 3.00pm | **Ends:** 4.30pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec), Boxing Day (26 Dec)



Accommodation at Mayfair Hotel

1 Double Mayfair King for 2 Nights

A fresh take on modern luxury, this boutique hotel has been thoughtfully designed creating a relaxed, modern environment that taps into the regenerative spirit of the central city. Located on vibrant Victoria Street, the hotel is just a 15 minute drive from Christchurch International Airport, a 10 minute walk to the central retail and hospitality precinct, and minutes away from the iconic Hagley Park. The 5 story hotel boasts views over the Southern Alps, Hagley Park, and Christchurch city. All rooms feature individually controlled air conditioning and opening windows or balconies to promote the flow of fresh air. Alongside the accommodation is a daytime cafe and come evening, bar and kitchen, offering quality fare and an extensive beverage list.



Day 6 Akaroa

Full Day Akaroa & Harbour Cruise (Shared Small Group Tour)

Operated by Canterbury Trails

Includes: Hotel pick up and drop off, cruise, morning or afternoon tea, lunch and (subject to availability) a cheese factory visit.

Embark on an 9 hour tour to Akaroa, a charming French settlement nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of the Banks Peninsula. Your adventure begins with a scenic drive from Christchurch, traversing the picturesque high summit route, offering panoramic views of rolling farmlands, the vast Canterbury Plains, and secluded coastal bays that punctuate the coastline. Upon arrival in Akaroa, embark on a two-hour nature cruise from the main wharf to witness the magic of the Hector's dolphin, the world's smallest and rarest dolphin species, as they playfully frolic in their natural habitat. Keep your eyes peeled for adorable little blue penguins and a variety of local birdlife soaring above the waves. Your knowledgeable skipper will share fascinating insights into the region's rich history and geology, pointing out the volcanic cliffs that guard the harbour entrance. As you continue your journey, you'll have the opportunity to visit Barry's Bay Cheese Factory, where you can sample artisanal cheeses, the Little River Art Gallery, showcasing local artistic talent, and Birdling's Flat, a picturesque coastal area (time/weather permitting).

What to bring: Camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottle.

Duration: 9 hours | **Months:** Year Round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 8.00am | **Ends:** 5.00pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Day 7

TranzAlpine Scenic Train & West Coast

TranzAlpine Train - Christchurch to Greymouth - Scenic Plus Rail Service

Operated by The Great Journeys of New Zealand

Includes: Scenic Plus carriage which includes scenic panoramic viewing experience, dining menu paired with local wines and table service and specialist Scenic Plus hosts. Priority check in & boarding (Christchurch departures only).

Travel from one coast of New Zealand to the other on the Tranz Alpine today, one of the world's great scenic railway journeys. From your carriage you'll see the fields of the Canterbury Plains and farmland, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Your train then climbs into the Southern Alps before descending through lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Greymouth. This rail trip is 223.8 kilometres long and takes just four and a half hours. There are 19 tunnels and 4 viaducts, the highest being the Staircase standing at 73 metres.

Scenic Plus offers an all inclusive experience on the unique TranzAlpine scenic rail journey to invigorate all the senses! Feast your eyes on epic scenery while you savour regionally inspired cuisine paired with sumptuous wine and beer all from the comfort of your luxurious seat – a hosted dining experience like no other. Quite simply, we have done everything we can to ensure you feel at peace as you sink back in your seat and soak up the scenery.

Enjoy free Wi-Fi on board the train. You also have the option to download the complimentary Great Journeys New Zealand Infotainment App to access audio commentary during your scenic rail journey. Please note the commentary is only accessible with headphones. These aren't supplied, therefore, please don't forget to bring your own.

Duration: 4 hours and 55 minutes | **Months:** 11 Jul 25 to 30 Jun 28 | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 8.15am | **Ends:** 1.10pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec) + track maintenance dates



West Coast/Glaciers

Today collect your rental vehicle from Budget Rent A Car

Group G - Compact SUV – All Inclusive for 5 Days Rental

Vehicle Description:

Mazda CX-30 or similar, Automatic Transmission, 5 Door Urban SUV, Air Conditioning, Airbags, Reversing sensors or camera.

Upon collection of your rental vehicle, please present your driver's license which must be issued in English.

Pick up: 01:00 pm on day 7

Greymouth Railway Station, MacKay Street, Ph (03) 768 4343

Drop-off: 05:00 pm on day 12

Queenstown Airport Terminal, Ph (03) 442 3450

Includes:

Unlimited kilometres, motor vehicle insurance with nil excess. Airport/Ferry Fee, one way fees and additional driver fees (additional drivers must be registered on the rental agreement and present their current drivers license to a Budget representative prior to driving).

From 01 April 2026 only one additional driver is included in rates. Each additional driver will cost NZ\$5.00+GST per day up to a maximum of NZ\$25.00+GST per rental

Budget provides 24-hour emergency breakdown assistance (operated by AA New Zealand) for any mechanical breakdowns.

In cases such as flat tyres, keys locked in the vehicle, refuelling (i.e., where the driver might be considered 'at fault') charges will apply.

For information on safe and enjoyable driving in New Zealand, please visit www.drivesafe.org.nz

Valid 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

Additional Charges to be paid locally at the rental counter:

1. A late fee of NZ\$50+GST will apply for vehicle collection which takes place at a ferry location after 1830 hours.
2. A credit card must be presented at the time of rental, for minimum NZ\$100+GST security and any additional charges.
(GST is 15% Goods and Services Tax)
3. Inclusive rates include tyre and windscreen replacement.
4. **From 01 April 2026.** One additional driver is included in rates. Each additional driver will cost NZ\$5.00+GST per day up to a maximum of NZ\$25.00+GST per rental

Drive Greymouth to Franz Josef

(172 kms/107 miles - 2 hours non-stop drive time)

Depart Greymouth and head south on State Highway 6 to arrive in Hokitika. From here, the road dips in and out of dense bush for many miles, crossing beautiful stretches of countryside scattered with farming settlements to Franz Josef, the first of the West Coast's two well known Glacier settlements.

Accommodation at Legacy Te Waonui Hotel (formerly Te Waonui Forest Retreat)

1 Double Deluxe Room for 2 Nights

Includes:

Full breakfast daily and dinner on first night of stay (please note last dinner seating is 7.30pm).

Nestled within native West Coast rainforest, the resort hotel offers an immersive stay in one of New Zealand's most dramatic natural environments. The hotel has been thoughtfully designed to preserve the surrounding forest, with a central canopy of mature trees creating a tranquil atmosphere and a strong sense of place. The property is designed to minimise environmental impact through sustainable architecture, energy and water efficiency, and the use of locally sourced, renewable materials that blend seamlessly with its natural rainforest setting. The retreat also actively supports conservation and community initiatives. The spacious guest rooms are designed with comfort in mind and are all complemented with private balconies or courtyards with rainforest views. Interiors reflect a warm, natural aesthetic using earthy tones and quality materials. Dining is offered at the on-site restaurant, which showcases fresh New Zealand produce with menus inspired by regional flavours, complemented by a relaxed bar and lounge setting. Ideally located for exploring the region, the hotel provides easy access to local activities such as scenic helicopter flights, rainforest walks, and nearby hot pools, making it an excellent base for discovering Glacier country.



Day 8

Franz Josef/West Coast

Today, you have the choice between two epic nature experiences. Choose between a combination of an exhilarating helicopter ride, jaw-dropping scenery and a two and a half hour heli hike through the most spectacular glacier features, operated by Franz Josef Glacier Guides. Alternatively, explore some of Westland's oldest untouched rainforest by kayak and on foot. You'll paddle gently with your guide across the Lake, enjoying views of the mountains before hopping out on the far side for a guided nature walk. Learn about the kiwi conservation, spot native birdlife, unique plant-life and experience the pristine wilderness of the West Coast.

Option 1: 4 hour Heli Hike, West Coast/Glaciers

Operated by Franz Josef Glacier Guides

Includes: 10 minute scenic helicopter flight, glacier landing and pickup, all essential equipment (glacier boots, socks, ice crampons, walking sticks and waterproof jacket).

This up to 4 hour experience offers a combination of an exhilarating helicopter ride, jaw-dropping scenery and a two and a half hour heli hike through the most spectacular glacier features. After your pre-trip safety briefing, you will take a short walk to the helicopter pad where your pilot will whisk you away over the jaw dropping landscape - an opportunity to take in the full panoramic majesty of Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere. You will land high up on the main ice fall of the glacier, where your guide will help you make the final preparations for your adventure. Did you know? The Franz Josef Glacier is the fastest commercially guided glacier in the world? As a result, its features are constantly changing, with a good change of seeing the glacier calving around you. You might find yourself sliding through narrow crevasses, navigating between staggering ice towers, squeezing through ice caves or if you are lucky, all three! You can be sure that you're seeing the glacier in a unique state and no two trips are ever quite the same.

Please note: Maximum weight limit is no more than 115kg/253.5lbs.

Duration: 4 hours | **Months:** Year round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 7.30am, 7.45am, 10.00am, 10.15am** | **Ends:** 11.30am, 11.45am, 2.00pm, 2.15pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Option 2: 4 hour Kayak & Walk, West Coast/Glaciers
Operated by Franz Josef Wilderness Tours

Includes:

Courtesy transport. Splash jackets, dry bags and high quality paddling gear, souvenir photo

Explore some of Westland's oldest untouched rainforest on this 4 hour private rainforest track! You'll paddle gently with your guide across the Lake, enjoying views of the mountains before hopping out on the far side for a guided nature walk. On this kayak tour you will learn about the kiwi conservation, spot native birdlife, unique plant-life and experience the pristine wilderness of the West Coast. A true wilderness experience suitable for all ages!

What to bring: Packed lunch, a water-bottle, camera (free photos are provided), cap or sunglasses and sunscreen. (No Demin)

Duration: 4 hours | **Months:** Apr to Oct | **Days:** Daily
Starts: 9.00am, 1.00pm | **Ends:** 1.00pm, 5.00pm

Duration: 4 hours | **Months:** Nov to Mar | **Days:** Daily
Starts: 9.00am, 2.00pm | **Ends:** 1.00pm, 6.00pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec)



Day 9

Franz Josef/West Coast to Queenstown

Drive Franz Josef to Queenstown

(404 kms/250 miles - 5.5 hours non-stop drive time)

Depart Franz Josef and travel through a former sawmilling area to Fox Glacier. On through the forests of red and white pine to Bruce Bay, an old goldmining settlement. Pass through attractive bush scenery and see tranquil Lakes Paringa and Moeraki, the haunt of the fabulous white heron, to the township of Haast. Drive through the Haast Pass Highway viewing en route Mt Brewster Glacier. There is a long descent of 82 km to Wanaka, passing Lake Hawea Dam, water storage for the Roxburgh Hydro-Electric Station. From Wanaka, continue over the undulating countryside and skirt Lake Hayes to descend via the Lower Shotover Bridge to Queenstown.

Queenstown

Located on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is a year-round alpine resort nestled in a magnificent setting amid steep mountain ranges and pockets of native bush with the jagged peaks of the Remarkables Range rising from the lake. The town is compact enough to travel around on foot and features a great range of restaurants, bars and boutique stores. The lake was created by glacial action thousands of years ago and a mysterious phenomenon causes the lake to vary several inches in depth every few minutes, giving credence to a Maori legend of an ancient Taniwha (demon) still breathing beneath the surface.



Accommodation at The Rees Apartment Hotel

1 Double Executive One Bedroom Apartment - Executive Lake View for 3 Nights

Showcasing breath taking panoramic lake and mountain views, this sophisticated property is conveniently located just a gentle lakeside walk from Queenstown's town centre. Boasting luxurious accommodation options including hotel rooms, apartments and 5 Lake Front Residences, all offer full service, complimentary WiFi, free movies, a fine dining onsite restaurant, an extensive wine cellar, purpose-built gymnasium, complimentary ski lockers, spa treatment services, library and private jetty.



Day 10 Milford Sound

0700 Milford Business Class - Premium Vehicle- Extended Heli (Shared Small Group Tour)

Operated by Altitude Tours & RealNZ

Includes:

Hotel pick up and drop off from selected central Queenstown Hotels, free wifi, luxury glass roof transport, morning tea stop with barista-made coffee and fresh pastries. Premium 2 hour Milford Sound Cruise with welcome glass of sparkling wine (non-alcoholic option available). Multi tasting lunch menu. Dedicated host. Extended helicopter flight back to Queenstown.

Embark on this 9-10 hour tour. This premium way of touring offers panoramic windows and glass roof for the best views. Enjoy personalised commentary from your experienced guide as you travel to and from Milford Sound. Travel along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and through the rolling countryside to Te Anau. After a morning tea break, the coach continues along the spectacular alpine route of the Milford Road through impressive, awe-inspiring scenery. Considered one of the most beautiful drives in the world, experience this journey in a luxury vehicle. Upon arriving in Milford, board a spectacular premium cruise with onboard nature guide. The vessel stops at various points and offers excellent viewing of waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Keep a look out for seals basking on the rocks, dolphins and penguins. Enjoy scenic highlights such as Mitre Peak and Pembroke Glacier. The cruise is accompanied by comprehensive commentaries, a series of culinary delights and complimentary sparkling wine. Following the cruise, transfer to Milford Sound Airport and return to Queenstown via a scenic extended helicopter flight. A transfer will be provided to your hotel (flight is subject to weather)

What to bring: Comfortable shoes, waterproof jacket, warm clothing and insect repellent.

Please note: Flights are weather dependant, if flight does not operate you will return to Queenstown by road via the same route, Which will be over a 12 hour day returning to Queenstown late. If any scenic flights are cancelled, please contact your agent about any refunds due. Note that this service operates on a fully cashless payment system.

Duration: 9-10 hours | **Months:** Year round | **Days:** Daily

Starts: 7.00am | **Ends:** 4.00-5.00pm

Does not operate: Christmas Day (25 Dec) + survey period late July to mid-August



Day 11

Queenstown

Today is free to explore Queenstown at your leisure. Queenstown and its surrounds are a true outdoor playground with much to offer for adrenaline-seekers, the active, wine lovers, and families alike.

Known as the adventure capital of the world, **thrill-seekers** have an abundance of options to choose from. Queenstown is ground zero for commercial bungy jumping anywhere in the world. Choose between Kawarau Bridge, where it all started, or head to the Nevis Bungy site for the most daring and highest bungy jump in the world (134m high!) – or go for a combination of the two and supplement it with a canyon swing or catapult experience. Experience the excitement of a high speed jet boat ride: skim across the water, whizz round corners and shoot through narrow rocky gorges!

A busy **soft-adventure** playground is located on top of Bob's Peak, high above town. It can be reached by the iconic Skyline Gondola and offers activities like lugeing (part go-kart, part toboggan), zip lining (flying fox), dining with a view and stargazing.

There is no better way to appreciate Queenstown's location amid the Southern Alps than from a **bird's eye perspective**. Take a scenic helicopter flight, paraglide flight or take to the skies with a tandem skydive.

If you feel more comfortable on the ground, activities are plentiful, too. Cycling tours and mountain biking trails in Queenstown are a great way to explore and discover remote parts of this beautiful region! Or take to one of the many walking and hiking trails along the lakeshore or up the many hills and mountains.

For **heritage-lovers**, a cruise on Lake Wakatipu on board the iconic vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw is a must as is a visit of the historic town of Arrowtown, a gold-rush village.

A little further afield lies scenic Glenorchy that can be reached by a 45-minute drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu. The views are spectacular and Glenorchy itself offers a range of activities, including walks, scenic jetboating, horse-riding and **film locations** from Lord of the Rings and Narnia. These are best be visited by 4x4 tour.

Wine devotees should not miss a trip out to nearby Gibbston Valley, home to some of the world's best Pinot Noir, to explore cellar doors and restaurants to find your favourite vintage. This can be done independently by car or bicycle or as part of a guided tour.

In winter, Queenstown transforms itself into a **ski resort**. Ski fields like The Remarkables, Coronet Peak and Cardrona offer options for experienced skiers and snowboarders and novices alike. Or, if you would like to try something new, why not head out for a snow shoeing experience?

Day 12

Depart Queenstown

Today marks the end of your holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand. We trust you have made lasting memories and hope to welcome you back in the future.

Please remember to return your rental car with a full tank to avoid extra charges. Once you have returned your rental car at the Queenstown airport branch, please make your way to the international terminal and check in for your departure flight.

End of your arrangements

During the process of planning and scheduling your New Zealand travel arrangements Southern World New Zealand have taken every care to minimise your personal risk exposure through diligently crafting an itinerary that is well balanced and through the careful selection of travel vendors and providers that rigorously adhere to New Zealand's strict health and safety regulations.

However, all travel inherently has a degree of associated risk and if at any point during the process of planning your New Zealand visit or at any stage of your journey you feel uncomfortable at your level of risk exposure or hazards, please immediately contact Southern World New Zealand to enable us to provide advice and assistance.