

The Total Experience

Tour Highlights

17 Breakfasts
2 Morning tea
10 Lunches
14 Dinners
Art of Cheese factory tour
Kauri Museum
Ferry to Russell
Ascension Winery wine tasting
Waitomo & Ruakuri caves
Te Puia Maori Experience & Hangi dinner
Lunch cruise on Lake Taupo
Seleni Wine Estate cooking demonstration
Tastings at 2 Martinborough wineries
Boomrock Lodge experience
3 hour Interislander cruise
Water taxi to Awaroa Lodge
Abel Tasman National Park
Fox Glacier walk
Kingston flyer steam train ride
Cruise on Milford Sound
Aoraki/Mt. Cook national park
Scenic Milford Sound flight to Queenstown (optional)

Our 17 day, 18 night all inclusive tour of the North and South Islands

The combined North Island and South Island tour of New Zealand creates a travel experience and holiday memory that is truly unforgettable. Blending the majesty of the beautiful South Island landscapes with the emotionally charged cultural and heritage attractions in the North Island it is a once in lifetime experience.

DAY 1

Auckland – Bay of Islands

Travelling north to the seaside township of Paihia, via the West Coast, including the Art of Cheese experience in Puhoi, a visit to the Kauri Museum at Matakohe, followed by lunch at the Hokianga Harbour before arriving into the Bay of Islands. An evening cruise to Russell and dinner in a 5 star restaurant.

Accom: Paihia Beach Resort – 1 Bedroom Superior

DAY 2

Bay of Islands

Today is at your leisure to enjoy the Bay of Islands. A Dolphin encounter cruise, a trip up 90 mile beach to Cape Reinga, a Cape Brett Hole in the rock cruise, explore The Waitangi Treaty Grounds, golf at Carrington Resort or Kauri Cliffs are just some of the many optional activities on offer. Dinner will be at Paihia Beach Resort's award winning Pure Taste's restaurant.

Accom: Paihia Beach Resort – 1 Bedroom Superior

DAY 3

Bay of Islands - Matakana - Mangatawhiri Valley

Departing the Bay of Islands you travel via the towns of Ruakaka, Waipu, Kaiwaka towards the Matakana region and Ascension Winery for lunch and wine tasting before travelling onto the Mangatawhiri Valley where you will be greeted with wine and canapés at Hotel & Spa du Vin before a 3 course dinner.

Accom: Heritage Hotel & Spa du Vin – ‘Selection’ rooms

DAY 4

Mangatawhiri Valley – Waitomo - Rotorua

The astounding Waitomo and Ruakuri Caves are your first iconic attraction of the day before heading onto a country home and farm for lunch. Leaving the King Country you travel onto the unique volcanic region of Rotorua and dinner at sumptuous Peppers on the Point.

Accom: Millennium Hotel Rotorua – Club Rooms

DAY 5

Rotorua

Today is at your leisure to enjoy the selection of optional activities that only Rotorua has to offer. A visit the Blue & Green lakes or why not try New Zealand’s premier sheep shearing and farm show at the Agrodome or the adrenalin packed Kawarau Jet Rotorua. In the evening you will be transferred to Te Puia to experience a unique meal and unforgettable Maori cultural evening.

Accom: Millennium Hotel Rotorua – Club Rooms

DAY 6

Rotorua - Taupo - Napier

Today you will head southwest, stopping to view the magnificent Huka Falls before embarking on a 3 hour luncheon cruise on Lake Taupo. Then settle back for the scenic drive to the Hawkes Bay and Napier. This evening you will enjoy the extraordinary culinary delights of the Seleni Wine Estate as you participate in a cooking demonstration followed by a full dinner.

Accom: The Crown Hotel – Studio Rooms

DAY 7

Napier - Martinborough - Wellington

A tour of Napier’s art deco township starts the day before travelling through the beautiful Wairarapa region, stopping in the Martinborough township for lunch, followed by a visit to a number of the region’s award winning vineyards for wine tasting. You then travel onto New Zealand’s capital city; Wellington.

Accom: Duxton Hotel Wellington – Club Rooms

DAY 8

Wellington

A day of leisure to enjoy the cosmopolitan city of Wellington. You could start the day with the renowned Zest Walking Gourmet Tour, a visit Karori Wildlife Sanctuary or walk across from your hotel to the national museum Te Papa. Dinner tonight is at the spectacular Boomrock Lodge on the Westcoast, an experience you will not forget.

Accom: Duxton Hotel Wellington – Club Rooms

DAY 9

Wellington – Picton – Nelson

You will be transferred by limousine service to the Interislander ferry terminal for a cruise across the Cook Strait to the South Island. Be sure to remain on deck as the ferry leaves Wellington, the sight of the Marlborough Sounds, with its steep bush clad hills rising out of the sea and the heavily indented coastline, is always memorable. You will be met by your Diver/Guide in Picton and then travel onto Nelson where you will have dinner at a well known restaurant.

Accom: Monaco Hotel & Resort – Various Cottages

DAY 10

Nelson – Marahau – Awaroa Lodge

A very short trip this morning to Marahau Bay for your water taxi into the Abel Tasman National Park to be warmly welcomed at the Awaroa Lodge. The rest of the day is yours to experience the activities, wonders, peace and tranquillity of this National Park. You will enjoy dinner at the Lodge's restaurant tonight.

Accom: Awaroa Lodge – Superior Studio Units

DAY 11

Awaroa Lodge – Marahau – Fox Glacier

After your return water taxi to Marahau, you will then head through the Buller Gorge to the spectacular West Coast. Today is one of the most scenic in your tour of New Zealand with natural wonders like the 'Pancake Rocks' in Punakaiki, as a highlight. You then travel onto Fox Glacier for the evening. Dinner this evening will be in Te Weheka Inn's restaurant.

Accom: Te Weheka Inn - ROH rooms

DAY 12

Fox Glacier – Wanaka

Your day starts with an easy going guided walk on either the Fox or Franz Josef glaciers, followed by lunch before continuing your tour through the Haast Pass to picturesque Wanaka and the splendid Grand Mecure Oakridge.

Accom: Grand Mecure Oakridge – Superior Rooms

DAY 13

Wanaka – Te Anau

Today you travel into the Wakatipu Valley and onto the Kingston railway station for a short journey on the historic "Kingston Flyer" steam train, before lunching at a local café. The lakeside town of Te Anau is the destination for the day Optional activities such as the Te Anau Glowworm caves or lakeside guided nature walk are available. Dinner will be at the Te Anau Hotel's restaurant.

Accom: Te Anau Hotel & Villas – Villa Rooms

DAY 14

Te Anau – Milford Sound - Queenstown

A memorable day awaits with a scenic drive through the Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. You will then enjoy a luxurious small vessel luncheon cruise to the hidden mouth of the Sound, towering Mitre Peak and the cascading Stirling Falls. The highlights of today can be extended with an optional flight over the fiords and famous Milford track to your day's destination, Queenstown, where Limousines wait for your transfer to the Sofitel Queenstown. Upon arrival welcoming wine and canapés await you, followed by dinner at one of Queenstown's top restaurants.

Accom: Sofitel Hotel – Deluxe Lake View Rooms (2 nights)

DAY 15**Queenstown**

Today is at your leisure to enjoy the broad selection of relaxing or adrenalin packed optional activities that only Queenstown has to offer. Spa treatment, a round of golf at Millbrook Resort or Jacks Point, The Shotover jetboat experience, cruise Lake Wakatipu on the Earnslaw or Central Otago wine tasting, are just some of your options.

Accom: Sofitel Queenstown – Deluxe lake view room

DAY 16**Arrowtown – Mt Cook**

Your day starts with a stop in picturesque Arrowtown then you will travel over the Lindis Pass, to the Mackenzie Country before your lunch stop at the 'Wrinkly Ram' restaurant for a sheep show and lunch. Your journey continues via Lake Pukaki, following the shoreline to Mt. Cook village and the Hermitage Hotel, where you will also dine this evening.

Accom: Hermitage Hotel – Aoraki Wing Top 3 floors

DAY 17**Mt Cook – Christchurch**

This morning you will retrace your route along the shoreline of Lake Pukaki to Lake Tekapo, a turquoise glacial lake. A stop is made at the lake's edge to look at the simple stone Church of the Good Shepherd and nearby, the bronze sheep dog before continuing onto a renowned local lodge for lunch. Your ultimate destination for the day; Christchurch, waits where your final night's dinner will be at one of Christchurch's most awarded local restaurants.

Accom: Millennium Hotel - Executive suite

DAY 18**Depart Christchurch**

After waking to your full breakfast your limousine awaits at your leisure to transfer you to the Christchurch International Airport.