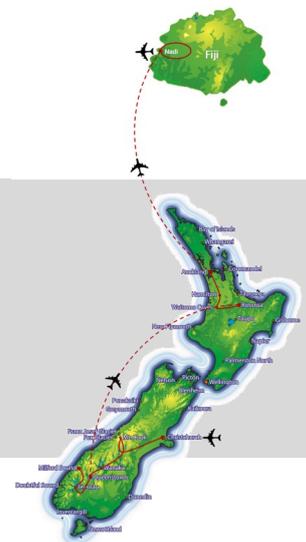


# Pacific Island Paradise

*Self Drive, Private Car Touring or Group Tour*

## 14 Days / 13 Nights

Sample the delights of the South Pacific featuring the best of New Zealand followed by a relaxing break in Fiji. Experience the dramatic alpine scenery of Mt Cook, the vibrant resort of Queenstown and the wilderness of Fiordland National Park. In Rotorua feel the heat of boiling mud pools, and enjoy the hospitality of the Maori people. Experience cosmopolitan Auckland City before heading to the Fiji Islands for a tropical island getaway. Spend time relaxing on the beach, gain an introduction to the history and culture of Fiji and participate in a kava ceremony.



### DAY 5 MILFORD SOUND DAY EXCURSION

Travel around Lake Wakatipu, through Te Anau and the Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. Fiordland National Park, part of the [UNESCO Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area](#) is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. [Cruise Milford Sound](#) past [Mitre Peak](#) to the Tasman Sea. Afterwards retrace your journey back to Te Anau and Queenstown travelling via the Cleddau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and lovely Eglinton Valley.

### DAY 6 QUEENSTOWN / ROTORUA

Today fly Queenstown to Rotorua in the North Island. Located in the heart of New Zealand's thermal region, Rotorua forms part of the geologically active 'Pacific Rim of Fire' and is renowned for Maori cultural activities.

### DAY 7 ROTORUA

Sightseeing highlights today include a guided tour of [Te Puia](#) visiting the [New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute](#) and the [Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve](#) to see boiling mud pools and geyser activity. Visit the entertaining [Agrodome Sheep Show](#) plus [Rainbow Springs](#) to see the rare Kiwi bird. This evening visit a local [Marae](#) (Maori Village) to experience a [concert of Maori song and dance](#) including the famous Haka. Following the concert, enjoy a [buffet dinner](#) including food from the [hangi](#) (traditional Maori method of underground cooking). Enjoy the hospitality and humour of your Maori hosts throughout the evening.

### DAY 8 ROTORUA / WAITOMO / AUCKLAND

Travel across the Mamaku Ranges to the Waitomo Caves region for a guided tour of the famous limestone [Waitomo Caves](#). A highlight is a silent boat ride on an underground river into the magnificent [Glowworm Grotto](#). Drive north through the Waikato Valley, across the Bombay Hills and into Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

### DAY 1 ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

Welcome to New Zealand! Transfer to your accommodation. Remainder of today is at leisure.

### DAY 2 CHRISTCHURCH / MT COOK

Travel south stopping at the quaint [Church of the Good Shepherd](#) on the shores of [Lake Tekapo](#) then continue along the shores of glacial Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook Village in the Mt Cook National Park. At the heart of New Zealand's most spectacular alpine region is Mt Cook, at 3754 metres the tallest peak in Australasia. Experience the wonder of the National Park, which features 19 peaks and 5 major glaciers. Mt Cook is also known by the Maori name, Aoraki.

### DAY 3 MT COOK / QUEENSTOWN

Today pass the small towns of Twizel and Omarama then at the southern end of the [Mackenzie Country](#) the road climbs through bleak rugged hills to the summit of the [Lindis Pass](#) before descending into Central Otago. The road follows the mighty Clutha River into recently created Lake Dunstan then through the spectacular rugged [Kawarau Gorge](#) to Queenstown. Nestled among glacier-rounded hills and dramatic rugged mountain peaks, Queenstown is New Zealand's premier alpine resort.

### DAY 4 QUEENSTOWN

From Glenorchy at the head of Lake Wakatipu take a [Dart River Wilderness Safaris jetboat ride](#) on crystal clear waters in a wild and picturesque landscape, amidst the towering peaks, glaciers and ancient forests of [Mt Aspiring National Park](#). Learn about the flora and fauna, history, and geology of this [World Heritage Area](#) from experienced guides. This 6-hour experience includes travel in jetboat, coach and by foot to explore this unique alpine environment. This evening is at your leisure to sample Queenstown's excellent cafés and restaurants.



## DAY 9 AUCKLAND

Auckland is a modern city set on a narrow isthmus between the restless Tasman Sea and the calmer waters of the Pacific Ocean. The Waitemata Harbour, one of the city's greatest treasures, is a mecca for sailors, and the popularity of sailing on the harbour has led to the affectionate term, 'City of Sails'. **City sightseeing tour** today includes the panoramic city and harbour views from **Mt Eden**, the Domain Gardens, the boutique shopping area of Parnell Village and the Waterfront Drive. Visit the **Auckland Museum** which gives an excellent introduction to the people of the Pacific and New Zealand. This afternoon enjoy a **1½-hour coffee cruise** under sail on a **Pride of Auckland 40-ft yacht** on the magnificent Waitemata Harbour. Sit back, relax and take in the sights or help the professional crew steer the yacht and trim the sails. Evening at leisure.

## DAY 10 AUCKLAND / NADI, FIJI

Transfer to Auckland International Airport for your flight to Nadi, Fiji. Arrive at Nadi International Airport. You will be welcomed then escorted to your resort. Remainder of day to enjoy the activities available at your resort.

This evening experience the magical world of Fiji commencing with **Fijian warriors beating the lali** to herald the evening, followed by a **torch lighting ceremony**, fire dance, fire walking and cultural shows. A **Meke dance** retells the legends of Fiji – demonstrating the ancient lifestyle of their ancestors. This will be a perfect introduction to the unique culture and history of the Fijian islands.

## DAY 11 NADI SIGHTSEEING

Morning at leisure - perhaps enjoy the miles of beaches, other resort activities, indulge in a Spa treatment or enjoy the gym.

This afternoon enjoy a **Discover Nadi sightseeing** tour. Highlights include visits to the Gardens of Sleeping Giants and Veseisei Village. A visit to Nadi wouldn't be complete without seeing the famous **Gardens of Sleeping Giants**. Created by Raymond Burr in 1985, this garden is enclosed in a natural bush setting with acres of exotic orchids, native trees and beautiful ponds. Then take a step back in time with a visit to **Veseisei Fijian Village**, where the first Fijian landed 3,000 years ago. Witness the early Fijian life and view a range of authentic Fijian handicrafts. Time also in Nadi Town to explore some of the island shopping.

## DAY 12 MYSTERY ISLAND DAY EXCURSION

Today set sail aboard the magnificent 110ft former Governor General's Brigantine '**Ra Marama**' for an all day cruise and island adventure to **Mystery Island**. Sunbathe in the bowsprit and enjoy the music and entertainment as you cruise to **Tivua Island**. Surrounded by a white sandy beach and 500-acres of coral gardens, Tivua is your own personal oasis. Spend time **snorkelling** and marvel as the marine environment comes to life on a **glass-bottom boat tour**. Enjoy a delicious **tropical barbeque**



**buffet luncheon** along with morning and afternoon tea, music and entertainment. While on the island you have the use of canoes, snorkeling equipment and beach mats and for the more energetic, beach volleyball is available. No visit to Fiji is complete without the ritual of a Kava ceremony. Take part in a ceremony - one of the central Fijian traditions.

## DAY 13 DISCOVER THE CORAL COAST

Sit back and enjoy a truly relaxing tour today. Travel south via **Nadi Town** viewing a range of handicraft shops then drive via the main highway towards Sigatoka passing sugar cane fields and pine forests. Arrive at the famous **Sigatoka Sand Dunes** for a short stop to view the magnificent views of the **Coral Coast** and the beaches. Take a short drive to **Sigatoka Valley**, Fiji's famous 'Salad Bowl' and some of the best sights in the country – river valleys and highlands, lush forests and village scenes – past ancient tribal forts, chiefly burial sites, villages and Hindu temples.

Time for lunch then afterwards continue to '**Kula Eco Park**' for a chance to go behind the scenes of the world's only captive breeding centre for Fiji's rare crested iguana and peregrine falcon. Wander along beautiful wooden walkways and bridges through pristine coastal rainforest. Your knowledgeable guide will point out Fiji's flora and fauna. You will also have a chance to see the Kula's marine display and peregrine falcon incubation centre. Meet parrots, iguanas, fruit bats, fruit doves, turtles and more.

Return to your accommodation via the famous **Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park**, one of the most unique natural wonders of Fiji. This distinctive landscape covers an area of 650 acres with 390 acres protected as Fiji's first National Park since 1989.

## DAY 14 DEPART FIJI

Your final day in the Fiji Islands, enjoy the miles of activities or just soak up the sun and sea before transferring to Nadi Airport for your flight home.

