



16 DAYS • NORTH AND SOUTH ISLAND NZ\$7,360 - \$9,200 pp (based on seasonality), twinshare, land only

On this Boutique Journey you will see and learn about New Zealand's amazing geothermal activities, experience authentic Maori culture and hospitality, and explore the vast range of jaw-dropping scenery that makes New Zealand a magnificent location for the ultimate vacation.

Featured Experiences

- Delve into Maori life and enjoy a powerful cultural performance and feast
- A private guide around a geothermal valley with geysers, mud pools and hot
 springs
- Explore the site of a buried village devastated by an 1886 eruption
- Scenic Interislander Ferry journey across the Cook Strait
- Wine tasting at one of Marlborough's premier wineries
- Cruise the turquoise waters of Abel Tasman National Park
- Visit world-famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki
- Explore the historic gold rush village of Arrowtown
- Cruise, with a picnic lunch, on the breathtaking Milford Sound
- Enjoy true kiwi hospitality with morning tea at a local home on the shores of Lake Tekapo
- Relax as you're guided along Christchurch's Avon River on an authentic Edwardian punt

Culinary Inclusions

19 meals included: 15 breakfasts (B)
 1 lunch (L) 3 dinners (D)

DAY 1 • AUCKLAND Haere mai – welcome! Arrive into Auckland where you will be met and transferred to your accommodation. Spend the afternoon and evening at your leisure exploring the 'City of Sails'. M Social, Auckland

DAY 2 • AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA (B,D)

This morning enjoy a Auckland City tour including panoramic views from Bastion Point, the informative Maori and Pacific Islands displays at the Auckland Museum, quaint Parnell Village, and some of the most popular waterfront areas. Departing Auckland we travel to Rotorua – the heart of New Zealand's famous thermal and cultural region. On arrival we will enjoy a city tour, before checking into our central accommodation. This afternoon we have some time out to relax before travelling to a local Marae (Maori Village). Experience a formal welcome (powhiri) including the hongi – that is sharing breath. Delve into Maori life, both past and contemporary. Listen to their fascinating reality - how things are and what is important to their family, their connection to their land, the importance of whakapapa (lineage) and life amongst their people. Finally, this evening enjoy a powerful cultural performance, storytelling and Hangi (feasting). Prince's Gate Hotel, Rotorua

DAY 3 • ROTORUA TO WELLINGTON (B)

Rotorua is the epicentre not only of New Zealand's geothermal activity but of Maori heritage, and no visit to Rotorua would be complete without including Te Puia, not only an active geothermal site, but the nation's centre for indigenous arts and crafts and a Kiwi conservation project. At Te Puia it's part of their culture to welcome, guide, entertain, and treat you like part of the family and you are treated to a private guide throughout your time here. Next travel out to visit the Blue and Green Lakes, and Lake Tarawera – site

of the Buried Village to see remains of the Maori village Te Wairoa that was devastated by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Tarawera during the night of June 10, 1886. The excavated village offers a first-hand insight into the chaos and destruction that ensued following the eruption of Mt. Tarawera. This eruption also destroyed the famed Pink and White Terraces, once considered to be the eighth wonder of the world. This afternoon fly to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. which seems to be clinging to steep hillsides around a magnificent harbour at the southern tip of the North Island. The geographical heart of the country, it is also the political and administrative centre. The city has a cosmopolitan flavour with offices jostling for space with department stores, boutiques, galleries, trendy cafes and restaurants. On arrival enjoy a city tour including viewing famous landmarks such as New Zealand's magnificent Parliament Buildings and the iconic 'Beehive' building. Then into your hotel located within the central business and shopping precinct of Wellington. James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

DAY 4 • WELLINGTON TO NELSON (B)

Your day commences with one of the most beautiful ferry journeys in the world. Travelling through the waters of Cook Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound the ferry is often accompanied by dolphins riding the

bow waves. Disembarking in Picton travel the short distance to Blenheim in the heart of the Marlborough wine country. What better way to enjoy this region famous for its Sauvignon Blanc than with wine tasting at one of Marlborough's premier wineries? From Marlborough cross to the Nelson district a corner of the South Island blessed with a sunny microclimate and your base for the next two nights.

AUCKLAND

ASHBURTON

PUNAKAIKI

FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

Heritage Rutherford Hotel – 2 nights

DAY 5 • ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

(B) Paradise found! Abel Tasman National Park is a mosaic of golden coves and turquoise lagoons sheltered by forested ranges to the south. With few roads in this pristine wilderness, most journeys are made by boat.

This morning from Kaiteriteri, your tour includes a choice of one activity from these three options:



a) Non - Walking Option: Full Park Scenic Cruise (3-4 hour cruise)

Enjoy a morning cruise exploration of New Zealand's smallest National Park. View world-famous Split Apple Rock, New Zealand Fur Seals, golden sands and the turquoise waters of Anchorage, Bark Bay, Tonga Quarry, Awaroa and Totaranui Beach. Return to Nelson city for some time this afternoon at leisure.



- b) Walking Option 1: Astrolabe Beaches and Bays (7km, 2.5 hour walk) After the Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Apple Tree Bay for a self-guided walk to fabulous Anchorage Beach. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.
- c) Walking Option 2: Forest and Swing-Bridge (10.5km, 4 hour walk) After the Full Park Scenic Cruise, disembark at Medlands Beach for a rewarding and varied self-guided walk to Anchorage Beach including the scenic highlights of the South Head lookout, the famous Falls River swingbridge and Cleopatra's Pool. Late afternoon shuttle transfer back to Nelson.

DAY 6 • NELSON TO PUNAKAIKI (B)

Driving via the Nelson Lakes National Park an enchanting alpine landscape of rugged peaks, forests, stunning glacial lakes and the beginning of the awe-inspiring Southern Alps make a stop at the quaint village of Saint Arnaud on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. Turn inland to follow the Buller River Gorge - one of the world's best but least-known scenic drives, carved out of the forest by 19th century prospectors, it follows the deep river gorge. often crossing it on single-track bridges. Emerging from the forest the road hugs the coastline south to the small settlement of Punakaiki - renowned for its wild, rugged coastline and the famous 'Pancake Rocks' - these stratified limestone stacks are an extraordinary monument of nature. Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

DAY 7 • PUNAKAIKI TO FOX GLACIER (B)

Journey south along the Great Coast Road which was recently voted one of the top ten coastal drives in the world by Lonely Planet. Pass through historic towns reaching Hokitika and its galleries specialising in pounamu

(greenstone) jewellery and art works. Stretch your legs at the dramatic Hokitika Gorge where the blue/green waters pass through the rugged rocks. Continue south through forests and farmland, with views of the Alps to the east and the Tasman Sea to the west, to Franz Josef then on to the small remote village of Fox. The huge rivers of snow and ice of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers flow from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps, down almost to sea level. Weather permitting, an optional helicopter ride with a snow landing is a terrific way to experience the sheer grandeur of these West Coast glaciers (extra cost). Distinction Hotel Fox Glacier

DAY 8 • FOX GLACIER TO WANAKA (B) Have

your camera ready for your visit to nearby Lake Matheson for a morning stroll - when conditions are right the lake perfectly mirrors beautiful Mount Cook in its still waters. Head over the Haast Pass along the river road beside the icy river and deep into Mt. Aspiring National Park. The atmosphere lightens as we reach lovely Lake Wanaka, reflecting the mountain peaks that in winter offer superb skiing, and the pretty resort town of Wanaka. Edgewater Resort, Wanaka – 2 nights

DAY 9 • WANAKA (B) This morning you have the choice of two excursions:



a) Today join a passionate local eco-guide as you depart Wanaka by boat and quickly leave civilization behind as you cruise across the lake to a predator-free island. The walking track leads from the landing and climbs steadily through native vegetation filled with very vocal birdlife to the top to the "island's secret"- a lake on top of the island with small islands in it! Unique and very photogenic, the echo of birdsong here is astounding. Carrying on

a little further you come to the very top of the island and have a sweeping 360-degree view of Lake Wanaka, its surrounding mountains and valleys, and the Arethusa Pool below. This is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy the panorama. The flightless Buff Weka often join visitors on the island; this rare flightless bird has been extinct on Mainland NZ since 1920.

b) Experience New Zealand's most authentic 4WD adventure - the perfect mix of incredible scenery, history, heritage and farming life. Explore remote and seldom travelled back roads of an authentic New Zealand High Country farm overlooking sparkling Lake Wanaka. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, glaciers and wild river valleys you'll see farm animals including Red Deer, cattle and sheep up close and in their natural environment. Visit historical sites and experience what life was like for Wanaka's first farmers. With two optional walks, through pristine alpine meadows and ancient lakeside forests, this journey offers an unique insight into Wanaka's rich history, heritage, modern-day farming life and breath-taking scenery.

This afternoon is at your leisure to relax or enjoy your own choice of activities.

DAY 10 • WANAKA TO TE ANAU (B)

Depart Wanaka with your first stop at the much photographed Cardrona Pub before traversing the Crown Range road to visit historic Arrowtown – a delightful gold rush village nestled below the beautiful peaks that surround the sparkling Arrow River. Continue your journey via the road pinned between the base of the Remarkables mountain range and spectacular Lake Wakatipu. Journey through a glacial formed valley that is now farmland, to reach Lake Te Anau, the largest (by volume) freshwater lake in the South Island and gateway to Fiordland National Park. Distinction Hotel Luxmore, Te Anau

DAY 11 • TE ANAU TO MILFORD SOUND

TO QUEENSTOWN (B,L) The journey from Te Anau to Milford Sound is one of the most scenic experiences you can have on four wheels. Fiordland National Park, part of the Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. The scenery is spectacular with lofty mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age glaciers. Described by Rudyard Kipling as the 'eighth wonder of the world,' Milford Sound is breathtaking in any weather. Board a comfortable vessel for a cruise past towering Mitre Peak to the Tasman Sea. Keep an eye peeled for

seals and dolphins which are often seen in the waters of the fiord. Following the cruise, retrace your journey back to Te Anau travelling via the Cleddeau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and the lovely Eglinton Valley then across the Southland farmlands and around spectacular Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown.

Scenic Suites Queenstown – 2 nights

DAY 12 • QUEENSTOWN (B) Surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and the unique energy of Queenstown create the perfect backdrop for a visit full of adventure, exploration or relaxation. Today is free for you to do your own thing: thrill-seekers may choose to zip-line at Bob's Peak, get drenched on a Shotover jet-boat ride or go white-water rafting. Other enjoyable but less hair-raising activities include the gondola ride up to Bob's Peak, or a 4WD safari to Skippers Canyon. Boutique wineries and local gardens welcome visitors and the classic steamship TSS Earnslaw is an elegant way to discover Lake Wakatipu during a cruise to Walter Peak High Country Farm.

DAY 13 • QUEENSTOWN TO MT. COOK

TO TWIZEL (B) Continue north through the rugged Kawarau Gorge, past pretty Lake Dunstan and across the distinctive Central Otago countryside to the Lindis Pass. Descend into the unique Mackenzie Basin where the Southern Alps dominate the horizon. Take a beautiful drive along Lake Pukaki to Mt. Cook Village, home to New Zealand's tallest peak, Aoraki/Mt. Cook.

Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel

DAY 14 • TWIZEL TO RURAL CANTERBURY

(B,D) Visit a local home set on the shores of Lake Tekapo and learn the secrets of making a Pavlova - a truly Kiwi dessert! Enjoy morning tea the taste your pavlova as you drink in the views of this beautiful lake. View the Church of the Good Shepherd, one of New Zealand's most-photographed spots: a tiny church set against a majestic backdrop of the Southern Alps. Pass across the high country's tussock plains, through the small rural towns of Fairlie and Geraldine and onto Ashburton.

- Accommodation
 a) Rural homestay: Here you are met in small groups by your hosts who will extend their hospitality to you to with a tour of their property, perhaps a visit with the animals, and a delicious home-cooked dinner before a cosy night's stay in a local
- b) **Local hotel:** spend the night in a local hotel enjoying dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 15 • ASHBURTON TO CHRISTCHURCH

(B,D) After breakfast re-assemble to travel across the fertile Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. This most English of New Zealand cities suffered a succession of terrible earthquakes in 2010/11. The city is now reinventing itself with exciting new sights including the 'Cardboard Cathedral' and various pop-up bars and restaurants. Upon arrival in central Christchurch punting boatmen, resplendent with straw boaters and traditional Edwardian dress take you for a relaxing cruise in flat-bottomed punts along the River Avon through the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Enjoy a journey in style onboard a beautifully restored heritage tram through the changing face of Christchurch's city centre. This is the final part of our journey together so tonight we enjoy a relaxed farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

DAY 16 • DEPART CHRISTCHURCH (B) Haere ra – farewell from New Zealand. After breakfast you are transferred to the Christchurch Airport for your return home taking with you fond memories of your time in New Zealand. Alternatively, should you wish to extend your stay, we can assist you with additional travel arrangements.

