

# FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*



## 21-DAY LEGENDARY NEW ZEALAND TOUR

Starting from Auckland, we make our way down the beautiful and volcanic North Island to the capital, Wellington, before catching a ferry to cross the Cook Strait to get up close and personal with the South Island.

As with all our tours, we do include a few 'must-do' events, ranging from a Māori cultural night to learning to paddle a waka (Māori canoe), and a greenstone carving experience.

You will see a wide range of optional activities available to add, from bungee jumping and dolphin swimming to jet boating and scenic flights. Just add the ones you want!

Activities can be pre-booked or purchased on the road - just let your tour guide know. We can't always guarantee availability when booking on the road, so we suggest pre-booking any activities you especially want to do.

As the tour starts early in the morning, you can opt to book accommodation in Auckland with us the night before the tour - only having to walk downstairs on day 1 makes for a stress-free morning.

### ALL ADVENTURE TOURS INCLUDE

#### ORIENTATION TOURS

we give you the low-down on every location

#### COMFORTABLE TRANSPORT

with plenty of room to spread out

#### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST EVERY DAY

heaps of options for everyone (you too, vegans!)

Accommodation is included on the last night of your tour, but we can also book a few extra nights for you if you would like to extend your stay.

The tour price includes dorm share accommodation but if you would prefer your own space you have the option to upgrade to a private room for the duration of your tour.

In this itinerary, you'll find descriptions of the places you'll be visiting and the inclusions that you'll experience.

We've also provided an example timetable for each day to help give you a sense of what your days on tour may look like. Keep in mind though, that every tour is unique, with each guide bringing their own special flavour to the trip.

Each day also has a list of our favourite Haka Highlights, and the add-on activities and experiences that are available in that location.

#### HIGH-END HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

dorm share, upgrades available

#### EXPERIENCED LOCAL GUIDE

friendly, knowledgeable and passionate about NZ

#### SMALL GROUPS - MAXIMUM 16

because you're more than just a number!

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## AWESOME INCLUSIONS

**Walk up Maungawhau/Mt Eden** for stunning 360 degree views of all of Auckland

Stunning walk to the spectacular arched cavern of Coromandel's **Cathedral Cove**

Experience a **Māori cultural performance**

Learn a **haka and poi performance** with a local iwi (tribe)

Traditional **Māori hāngī meal** cooked in an underground oven

Follow your nose to Rotorua's **bubbling mud pools**

Discover what makes **Huka Falls** the most visited natural attraction in NZ

Check out the **views from Matairangi/Mount Victoria**, Wellington

Fall in love with Wellington's **cafe and craft beer** culture

**Iconic ferry ride** between the North and South Islands across the Cook Strait

Get up close to Kaikōura's cutest residents at a local **seal colony**

**Explore downtown Christchurch** and see its inspiring regeneration since the 2011 quake

Visit the tiny **Church of the Good Shepherd**, nestled by the shores of Lake Tekapo

Unparalleled stargazing opportunities in **Tekapo's Dark Sky Reserve**

Visit the charming, historic gold rush village of **Arrowtown**

Carve your own **pounamu (jade) pendant** in Franz Josef

Visit the Mountain Jade Factory in Hokitika

Visit the famous **Pancake Rocks of Punakaiki**

Two nights and a full day to play in the coastal paradise of **Abel Tasman National Park**

**Learn to paddle a waka (Māori war canoe)** along the Abel Tasman coastline

**Visit the Centre of New Zealand** in Nelson

Plus many **surprise stops** along the way



## ITINERARY SUMMARY

- DAY 1 – AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL **B**
- DAY 2 – COROMANDEL TO WAITOMO **B**
- DAY 3 – WAITOMO TO MURUPARA **B** **D**
- DAY 4 – MURUPARA TO ROTORUA **B**
- DAY 5 – ROTORUA TO TAUPŌ **B**
- DAY 6 – TAUPŌ **B**
- DAY 7 – TAUPŌ TO WELLINGTON **B**
- DAY 8 – WELLINGTON TO KAIKŌURA **B**
- DAY 9 – KAIKŌURA TO CHRISTCHURCH **B**
- DAY 10 – CHRISTCHURCH TO LAKE TEKAPO **B**
- DAY 11 – LAKE TEKAPO TO QUEENSTOWN **B**
- DAY 12 – QUEENSTOWN **B**
- DAY 13 – QUEENSTOWN TO WANAKA **B**
- DAY 14 – WANAKA TO FRANZ JOSEF **B**
- DAY 15 – FRANZ JOSEF **B**
- DAY 16 – FRANZ JOSEF TO PUNAKAIKI **B**
- DAY 17 – PUNAKAIKI **B**
- DAY 18 – PUNAKAIKI TO ABEL TASMAN **B**
- DAY 19 – ABEL TASMAN **B**
- DAY 20 – ABEL TASMAN TO WELLINGTON **B**
- DAY 21 – WELLINGTON TO AUCKLAND **B**
- DAY 22 – AUCKLAND



- B** Breakfast included
- D** Dinner included

- ★ Tour start/end
- ① 1 night at this location
- ② 2 nights at this location



## DAY 1 – AUCKLAND TO COROMANDEL

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Meet your guide and group for breakfast and introductions
- ◆ Stroll up Maungawhau/Mount Eden for an amazing view of Auckland
- ◆ Jump in the Haka bus for a jaw-dropping scenic drive to the Coromandel

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Pause for lunch in a beachside village (*not included*)
- ◆ Dig your own hot tub at Hot Water Beach

#### EVENING

- ◆ Get to know Whitianga with an orientation tour from your guide

### HIGHLIGHTS

**STUNNING 360 DEGREE VIEWS OF AUCKLAND**  
from the top of Maungawhau/Mount Eden

**A SPECTACULAR COASTAL DRIVE**  
that we reckon is one of the best on the North Island

**DIG YOUR OWN PERSONAL HOT TUB**  
at Hot Water Beach

After breakfast, we kick off the tour in New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. Have you noticed that it's pretty hilly? Those aren't just hills, they are actually 48 volcanic cones! Before we leave town we will walk up one of the most famous ones – Maungawhau, also known as Mount Eden – for 360 degree views of both city and sea.

The Coromandel Peninsula is a paradise of beautiful beaches and misty rainforests. The drive here is epic – the road twists and turns dramatically round the coastline and the ocean gets clearer and more pristine before your eyes. Cameras ready – the views are magnificent!

The Coromandel is home to the famous Hot Water Beach – thousands visit each year to dig their own personal hot tub here. If the tide times allow, we'll definitely grab our buckets and spades and get busy!

We arrive in Whitianga with plenty of time for your guide to show you around. Sample the sandy beaches, take a surf lesson with the locals, or simply enjoy the vibes.

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Today is a great time to enjoy the mellow, beachy Coromandel vibe before we pick up the pace tomorrow.



## DAY 2— COROMANDEL TO WAITOMO

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Unleash your inner film buff with a short hike or kayak to Cathedral Cove

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Explore the Waikato region on your drive across to Waitomo

#### EVENING

- ◆ Kick back and relax before a day of caves and glow worms tomorrow

This morning we'll walk out together along the cliffs and down to Cathedral Cove (which you might recognize from the Chronicles of Narnia). With perfect beaches and massive rock arches and columns, it's one of the most popular spots in the Coromandel.

Alternatively, take an optional guided Cathedral Cove kayak trip and check out this stunning coastline from a different angle, accompanied by a local dolphin or two if you're lucky!

Later today we say goodbye to the east coast and hello to the west as we head for the tiny town of Waitomo. If you can't wait until tomorrow to meet the resident glow worms, tonight's optional cave-walking tour is a must. Or kick back with a beer and admire the stars – they put on a great show here when the skies are clear.

### HIGHLIGHTS

STUNNING COASTAL WALK  
to Cathedral Cove

STAR GAZING OPPORTUNITIES GALORE  
in peaceful Waitomo

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Sea Kayaking – Coromandel

Glow Worm Cave Tour – Waitomo



## DAY 3 – WAITOMO TO MURUPARA

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ♦ Breakfast
- ♦ Check out Waitomo's caves through your chosen add-on activity (*not included*)

#### AFTERNOON

- ♦ Jump on the bus for a drive from the morning's natural splendour to the cultural immersion of the rest of the day
- ♦ Experience Māori culture first-hand at a dazzling kapa haka performance (*included*)
- ♦ Learn a basic haka or poi performance (*included*)

#### EVENING

- ♦ Enjoy a traditional hāngī meal for dinner (*included*)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### A HALF DAY IN WAITOMO

famous home of the glow worms

#### MĀORI CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

and delicious hāngī meal in Murupara

#### LEARN A HAKA AND POI PERFORMANCE

from members of the local iwi (Māori tribe)

Have you been caving in a place with twinkling glow worms on the ceiling? Now's your chance!

Daredevils can abseil 100 metres into the caverns on an epic 4-hour caving adventure. Or float along on an underground river on an optional Cave Tubing trip as the glow worms light your way. There are also excellent guided walking tours of the caves available if heights or wet feet aren't your thing.

This evening is a major tour highlight – we are welcomed to a Māori community for an unmissable cultural performance featuring combat demonstrations, beautiful poi performance, and – of course – the breathtaking haka.

You will also have the privilege of learning a haka or poi dance from local Māori. A traditional hāngī meal, cooked in an earth oven, will fill your puku (belly) right up.

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Cave Tubing

Lost World Caving Experience

Glow Worm Tour



## DAY 4 – MURUPARA TO ROTORUA

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Take a short drive up to Rotorua for natural wonders and plenty of exhilarating activities

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Spend the afternoon getting your adventure on with an add-on activity (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- ◆ Share tales of your day's adventures with your group over dinner (*not included*)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### A FULL DAY TO PLAY

in the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua

#### FOLLOW YOUR NOSE

to Rotorua's bubbling mud pools

While the majority of the North Island is volcanic in some way, Rotorua is exceptional for its geothermal activity. With neon blue and red lakes, steaming rivers, active volcanoes and geysers galore, there are more unique natural wonders to be found in Rotorua than many other places in the world.

On the way to Rotorua, we stop at what really makes the town famous, along with giving it its unique smell: one of several extraordinary geyserlands and thermal parks.

There's heaps of time to get amongst Rotorua's diverse attractions while you're here. We'll get you started with an orientation tour, taking in sights like the lakefront and the flower-filled Government Gardens.

*Lord of the Rings* fans, channel your inner hobbit with an optional visit to picturesque Hobbiton – have a ginger beer at the Green Dragon pub for us!

If adrenalin's your thing, the highest commercial waterfall drop in the world, on the Kaituna River, is begging to be conquered on an exhilarating rafting trip. Or let your guide coax you into thundering down grassy hills in a giant air-cushioned inflatable ball (or OGO) – you won't regret it!

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

Forest Zipline Canopy Tour

Rafting Kaituna River

OGO

River Sledging



## DAY 5 – ROTORUA TO TAUPŌ

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Final chance for Rotorua activities and exploration
- ◆ Experience the mighty Waikato River on the drive to Taupō

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Check in at your accommodation
- ◆ Throw yourself into your next adrenalin fix with a Taupō add-on activity (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- ◆ Sleep easy after a big day!

This morning there's time to explore Rotorua or squeeze in any last-minute add-on activities. It's only a short drive to our next destination, Taupō, and there's plenty to discover along the way. From mesmerising mud pools to the thundering rapids of the Huka Falls and Aratiatia Dam, your trusty Haka Guide will make sure you don't miss a thing.

Taupō is a beautiful lakeside town with a stunning mountain backdrop. Lake Taupō is New Zealand's largest lake – believe it or not, it's roughly the same size as Singapore!

This place is all about the thrills and spills, and there are plenty of options in store this afternoon. Get your hair wet with a water touch bungy jump, take an unforgettable skydive or a sunset lake cruise for amazing lake and mountain views.

Psst – bring your swimwear today, one of our favourite secret stops is on the cards!

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### FOLLOW YOUR NOSE

to Rotorua's bubbling mud pools

#### WITNESS THE POWERFUL RAPIDS

of Huka Falls and the Aratiatia Dam

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Water Touch Bungy

Skydive

Lake Taupō Sailing





## DAY 6 – TAUPŌ

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Challenge yourself or unwind in style – it's your day to explore or pick an add-on activity *(not included)*

#### EVENING

- ◆ Swap stories of your awesome day over dinner *(not included)*

A full day in Taupō... are you in the mood for peaceful lakeside tranquility or unlimited adrenalin and adventure? Either way, Taupō's got you covered.

For many, the ultimate adventure on offer here is the hiking (or tramping, as we Kiwis know it). The Tongariro Crossing is among the top 10 full-day walks in the world. This 19.4-kilometre mountain trek boasts emerald green lakes, venting steam, lava flows and craters. You'll come back grinning from ear to ear before falling into bed and sleeping like a baby.

If you'd prefer to relax, jump on a boat for a sailing trip to view Māori rock carvings. Or head to Spa Park and soak until your fingers are wrinkly. However you choose to spend today we guarantee you won't forget it.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**PACK IN A DAY OF ADVENTURE IN TAUPŌ**  
with recommendations from your Haka guide

### EPIC ADD-ONS

The Tongariro Crossing  
Skydive  
Water Touch Bungy  
Lake Taupō Sailing



## DAY 7— TAUPŌ TO WELLINGTON

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Head south on the Desert Road towards Wellington – get your camera ready

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Stop off at a quirky provincial town for lunch (*not included*)
- ◆ Arrive at the coolest little capital in the world

#### EVENING

- ◆ Soak up Wellington's artsy vibe

It's a big drive from Taupō to Wellington, but there's some unmissable scenery on offer. *Lord of the Rings* junkies, you're in for a treat!

Our journey takes us through Tongariro National Park via the Rangipo Desert (bet you didn't know New Zealand had one of those!). Some of your favourite *Lord of the Rings* battle scenes were filmed right here.

The Desert Road boasts incredible views of three active volcanic peaks – Mount Tongariro, Mount Ngauruhoe, and Mount Ruapehu. You may know Mount Ngauruhoe as Mount Doom, so be sure to snap a Mordor selfie!

We pass through two of the North Island's quirkiest towns – as ever, your Haka Guide has a couple of surprises up their sleeve...

We pull into Wellington in the afternoon, with just enough time for film buffs make a trip to Weta Workshop, where the special effects of *Lord of the Rings* and *Avatar* were produced.

New Zealand's capital is famous for its bars and eateries, and is a paradise for lovers of craft beer – you'll be spoilt for choice tonight!

### HIGHLIGHTS

**SCENIC DRIVE THROUGH TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK**  
known to the rest of the world as Mordor!

**EPIC PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES**  
for snaps of Mount Ruapehu, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro

**ADMIRE THE VIEW OF WELLINGTON**  
from the top of Matairangi/Mount Victoria

**FALL IN LOVE**  
with Wellington's cafe and craft beer culture

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Weta Workshop Tour



## DAY 8 — WELLINGTON TO KAIKŌURA

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- Breakfast
- Head up Mount Victoria for the best views of Wellington

#### AFTERNOON

- Catch a ferry across Cook Strait from Wellington to Picton
- Make your way down the South Island until you get to Kaikōura

#### EVENING

- Settle in for the night beside the sea

Packed with quirky cafes and beautiful street art, and famous for its wind, Wellington will blow you away in more ways than one! Your guide will introduce you to some of our favourite spots this morning. We take a trip up Mount Victoria for the best views in town.

This afternoon we say farewell to the North Island with a scenic ferry journey across the Cook Strait. The South Island has a stunning welcome in store for us – gliding through the Marlborough Sounds as we approach Picton Harbour, you'll feel like you're in another world.

Our next destination, Kaikōura literally means “to eat crayfish”, and the area is teeming with them. The nutrient-rich waters of this area attract a wide variety of marine wildlife including the stars of the show – whales and dolphins.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**STUNNING COOK STRAIT FERRY CROSSING**  
from Wellington to Picton

**WELCOME TO THE SOUTH ISLAND**  
where you will find some of the true jewels of New Zealand

### EPIC ADD-ONS

No optional activities – today's a travelling day with time to unwind aboard the Cook Strait ferry



## DAY 9 — KAIKŌURA TO CHRISTCHURCH

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Launch into the Pacific Ocean to get up close with dolphins or whales (*not included*)

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Say kia ora to the Kaikōura kakerangi (seals)
- ◆ Voyage southward to Christchurch

#### EVENING

- ◆ Settle into Christchurch for the night

The chance to swim with dolphins in the wild is a massive New Zealand highlight for many travellers, and Kaikōura is one of the best places to find them, with pods of up to 300 of these playful creatures hanging out here at any one time.

If you want to get up close to the giants of the ocean, a whale watching tour here is the way to do it. Humpbacks, sperm whales and orca all stop by at various times of year, so this is a great chance to meet some of them.

After visiting the local seals on our way out of town, our road trip continues to our home for the night – Christchurch, known as the “Garden City” for its peaceful parklands and lazy rivers.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**VISIT THE ROCKS BY THE KAIKŌURA SHORE**  
they're usually seals in disguise

**360 DEGREE VIEWS OF THE OCEAN AND MOUNTAINS**  
from our favourite Kaikōura lookout

**CHANCE TO SWIM WITH DUSKY DOLPHINS**  
the world's most playful cetaceans!

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Dolphin Encounter

Whale Watching



## DAY 10— CHRISTCHURCH TO TEKAPO

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- Breakfast
- Explore Christchurch
- Grab lunch (*not included*)

#### AFTERNOON

- Head off in the Haka bus to stunning Lake Tekapo
- Check out the Southern Alps from above in a scenic plane ride (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- Wander the beautiful lakeshore of Tekapo
- Stargazing in one of the world's best dark sky reserves

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### EXPLORE DOWNTOWN CHRISTCHURCH

and see its inspiring regeneration since the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes

#### VISIT THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

nestled by the shore of Lake Tekapo

#### REACH FOR THE STARS

with unparalleled stargazing opportunities in Tekapo's Dark Sky Reserve

This morning we'll explore iconic downtown Christchurch and your guide will show you the cool and creative ways the city is being rebuilt after the life-changing 2011 earthquake here. Christchurch folk are an innovative and creative bunch – the Transitional Cathedral, created from cardboard, is totally inspirational.

After lunch we leave the city behind and head for Lake Tekapo. The lake's breathtaking turquoise colour and mountain backdrop is a photographer's dream come true.

The tiny Church of the Good Shepherd stands right at the water's edge, proving that small is definitely beautiful. Grab some confetti and congratulate any passing brides – couples travel from all over the world for wedding shots in front of the chapel!

Tekapo has been declared an International Dark Sky Reserve and the super clear skies make it the best place in New Zealand to see the stars and galaxies on a clear night. Sit back, relax and enjoy.

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Hot Air Ballooning

Scenic Flight



## DAY 11— TEKAPO TO QUEENSTOWN

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ♦ Breakfast
- ♦ Hike up Mt John
- ♦ Drive through the starkly beautiful Mackenzie country to Queenstown

#### AFTERNOON

- ♦ Optional bridge bungy at Kawarau Gorge en route (*not included*)
- ♦ Get to know vibrant Queenstown with an orientation from your guide
- ♦ Explore Queenstown your own way!

#### EVENING

- ♦ Grab dinner with your Haka crew (*not included*)

This morning if you're feeling energetic, hike up to the summit of Mt John. With awesome views of the Southern Alps, you'll feel on top of the world. Speaking of views, today's scenic drive to Queenstown is a show-stopper.

From the golden tussocklands of Mackenzie country – where epic battles of *Return of the King* were filmed – to the dramatic peaks of the Southern Alps, it's like you're driving into a postcard.

We'll pause for lots of photo stops en route to give your camera a workout, including a stop at the spectacular Kawarau Gorge. This also happens to be the World Home of Bungy, give it a go or enjoy watching the jumpers scream their way through the gorge!

Whether you're an adrenalin junkie, an avid hiker, wine taster or scenery lover, Queenstown has something for absolutely everyone. With two nights and plenty of daylight hours here, get ready – this town certainly knows how to live life to the max!

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### A SCENIC DRIVE TO DIE FOR

with mountain passes and gorgeous gorges

#### WELCOME TO QUEENSTOWN

the Adventure Capital of New Zealand!

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Scenic Flight

Bungy Jump

Paragliding



## DAY 12 – QUEENSTOWN

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Tackle your chosen activities for the day

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Further time for exploring and add-on activities

#### EVENING

- ◆ Return to Queenstown from your day of adrenalin
- ◆ Head to your accommodation to relax before a night on the town.
- ◆ Make a night of it at one (or several) of Queenstown's many bars!

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### FULL DAY IN QUEENSTOWN

to scratch your adrenalin itch or soak up the scenery

With a full day in Queenstown, let's work on that bucket list! There are heaps of options to choose from: paragliding over the lake, mountain bike parks and trails to die for, bungee jumping while your Haka friends cheer you on, horse riding through *Lord of the Rings* scenery, and swinging through a canyon are just a few of our favourites.

Hikers: the Ben Lomond day walk (not for the faint-hearted) will be right up your alley. This is a firm tour guide favourite, and they can recommend great shorter walks too.

For scenery lovers, Milford Sound is a must-see. Whether you fly or drive, the scenery en route is as awesome as the destination. Once on the Sound, sailing beneath thundering waterfalls and towering cliff faces, you'll understand why some call it the "8th Wonder of the World"

Tonight you have around 40 bars to choose from – your guide will fill you in on their favourites – to share your adventures with your travel buddies, and party the night away.

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Visit Milford Sound

Canyon Swing

Bungee Jumping

Skydiving

Paragliding

Shotover Jet Boat

Canyoning

Horse Trekking

Middle Earth 4WD Tour

Heli-Mountain Biking



## DAY 13 – QUEENSTOWN TO WANAKA

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Explore charming historic Arrowtown
- ◆ Check out Cardrona en route to Wanaka

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Explore Lake Wanaka and the township by foot, bike or boat
- ◆ Head up in the air or out on the water with an add-on activity (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- ◆ Take a walk around the shores of Lake Wanaka
- ◆ Up your Insta cred with a snap of #thatwanakatree

After the excitement of Queenstown, today is a chance to chill. Wanaka is Queenstown's slightly quieter little sister, a mere one hour drive away. On the way we'll stop in at charming Arrowtown, a historic gold rush village with heaps of old world character.

Blessed with towering peaks and a glacial blue lake, you'll soon see why Wanaka's considered to be one of New Zealand's most beautiful mountain towns. There are stunning hikes and bike rides all around for a welcome chance to chill.

One of the best ways to admire Wanaka is from the air. Treat yourself to a skydive or a scenic flight in a vintage plane – you can even take a flying lesson, or if you prefer to keep your feet closer to the ground, stroll or bike around the lake and check out the famous Wanaka Tree, standing all alone in the water. As always, it's your trip and your choice: you do you.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### VISIT ARROWTOWN

and experience this charming and historic gold rush village

#### SOAK UP THE BEAUTY OF LAKE WANAKA

while getting to know this stellar town

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Skydiving

Tiger Moth Aerobatic Plane Ride

Wanaka Bike Tours

Lake Cruise & Island Nature Walk





## DAY 14 – WANAKA TO FRANZ JOSEF

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Spend the morning exploring Wanaka or trying any last minute activities

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Hit the road on the Haka bus for the most magical drive of your whole tour
- ◆ Special stops en route to gaze out at Lake Hawea and check out some short walks
- ◆ Arrive at our glacier stop for the night – Franz Josef

#### EVENING

- ◆ Grab some Kiwi kai (food) with your team *(not included)*

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### SUPER SCENIC DRIVE

through the Fiordland, Mt Aspiring and Tai Poutini (Westland) National Parks

#### WONDROUS WATERFALL WALKS

as we hit the Haast Pass

#### TRY LOCAL DELICACY WHITEBAIT

when it's in season (September to December)

After a relaxing morning in Wanaka, the journey to Franz is another stunner – many of our Haka Guides rate it as their favourite drive in New Zealand.

As we hit the road, we'll stop at one of our favourite lakeside lookout points at Lake Hawea or Lake Wanaka. Your guide will keep an eye on the weather and pick the best option.

From the cascading waterfalls of Haast Pass to classic Kiwi coastal views, you won't want to nap on the bus in case you miss anything. Your guide will have some epic surprise photo stops and short walks along the way.

Between September and December it's whitebait season (a small fish that's a delicacy in New Zealand). Fried up with eggs and served on toast, it's a local treat and shouldn't be missed. We'll stop at one of the local spots for a taste during the season.

We roll into Franz Josef around late afternoon/early evening. This UNESCO World Heritage area is famous for its spectacular glacier, just 5 kilometres from town, which is begging to be explored tomorrow.

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Wanaka Bike Tours

Lake Cruise & Island Nature Walk



## DAY 15 — FRANZ JOSEF

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Learn to carve a pounamu pendant with your group (*included*)
- ◆ Set out on one of the many glacial activities on offer – see our Epic Add-ons section below for ideas

#### EVENING

- ◆ Head back to your accommodation to get changed and give your muscles a rest!
- ◆ Dine out with your Haka pals (*not included*)
- ◆ Sing your heart out at karaoke!

### HIGHLIGHTS

**TAKE IN THE STAGGERING BEAUTY**  
of the West Coast's natural features

**CARVE YOUR OWN PENDANT**  
from pounamu (greenstone/jade)

With Aoraki/Mount Cook (New Zealand's highest mountain) twinkling behind the glaciers, Franz Josef is about as beautiful a setting as you can find in New Zealand.

Te Wahi Pounamu (which means 'the place of pounamu/greenstone' in Māori) is the name given to this part of the West Coast because of the abundance of pounamu to be found here. Included in your tour today is a special opportunity to carve your very own pounamu pendant at a local gallery.

There are heaps of ways to enjoy Franz Josef Glacier; weather permitting, to get up onto the bluest ice you can take a scenic helicopter flight and hike onto the glaciers. Maybe you'd prefer to kayak on a glacial lake; or just relax in the steamy hot springs down below.

As well as the awesome glacier activities you could also try out quad biking, horseback riding and even a bit of group karaoke tonight in Franz Josef!

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Glacier Heli Hike

Scenic Helicopter Flight With Snow Landing

Kayak in Glacier Country



## DAY 16 – FRANZ JOSEF TO PUNAKAIKI

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- Breakfast
- Trek further up the wild west coast
- Visit Hokitika, the home of pounamu
- Get face-to-face with a kiwi at the National Kiwi Centre *(not included)*

#### AFTERNOON

- Check into your rainforest retreat
- Explore and hike around Punakaiki

#### EVENING

- Rustle up dinner with your group *(not included)*

Driving along the incredible coastal road and exploring the lush forests around Punakaiki, it almost feels like you've stepped back in time. It's a rare treat to experience such remote prehistoric landscapes, so make the most of this awesome opportunity to unplug from the outside world.

Get excited; our trusty guides always have some surprises up their sleeves for this part of the trip, including a spot or two to get your feet wet.

We'll visit one of the famous artisan pounamu factories in Hokitika as we make our way north, as well as passing through some old gold mining towns before arriving in Punakaiki.

One of Punakaiki's many natural wonders is the subtropical rainforest – and we are staying in the heart of it for the next two nights!

Cook up a group dinner in this rainforest paradise, and be sure to end the day watching the sun set over the ocean tonight.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**VISIT THE MOUNTAIN JADE FACTORY**  
in Hokitika

**SLEEP AT A RAINFOREST RETREAT**  
in Paparoa National Park

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Chilling, chilling and more chilling are on the menu today. Leave the outside world – and your troubles – behind.



## DAY 17 – PUNAKAIKI

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ♦ Breakfast
- ♦ Check out the famous Pancake Rocks of Punakaiki

#### AFTERNOON

- ♦ Hike through rainforest and explore dramatic west coast beaches
- ♦ Opt for underground cave tubing (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- ♦ Gaze at the starry night skies above the Tasman Sea before a final night in the rainforest

Whether you decide to soak up the sun on the unspoilt beaches or stroll through the rainforest to a chorus of birdsong, you'll shed your cares in this magical place.

A short walk to see a giant stack of pancakes is a must-do today: Punakaiki's limestone Pancake Rocks developed over 30 million years ago. You'll see what water pressure can do when the waves power through some seriously impressive blowholes – watch out for that spray!

Today you could try your hand at kayaking or exploring the region's underground caves by tube. There are also opportunities for horseback riding in Paparoa National Park. Or simply chill by the beach near your rainforest home.

On a clear night, head to the beach with your buddies and watch the stars come out to play – seriously, is there a better way to end the day?

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### VISIT PANCAKE ROCKS

the legendary formations that make Punakaiki famous

#### SPEND ANOTHER NIGHT RELAXING

in your rainforest paradise

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Underground Rafting



## DAY 18 — PUNAKAIKI TO ABEL TASMAN

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Take in beautiful scenery on the route to Abel Tasman National Park

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Enjoy your afternoon alongside the tranquil waters of Abel Tasman!

#### EVENING

- ◆ Head back to your accommodation for a restful national park night

Cruising up north from Punakaiki, the scenery gets better and better. The powerful, untouched coastline gives way to rivers and gorges before we drive over the hills and down towards the bayside town of Nelson, to stock up on supplies before our next remote hideaway.

Marahau, the gateway to Abel Tasman National Park, boasts golden beaches, tranquil lagoons and crystal clear waters. Abel Tasman is the perfect contrast to the wildness of the rainforests and mountains.

Why will you fall in love with Abel Tasman? Lush forests, sandy beaches, sheltered bays, and jaw-dropping views... not to mention the resident wildlife. Get ready to lose your heart to the most popular National Park in New Zealand.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**STAY AT THE GATEWAY TO ABEL TASMAN**  
to enjoy this breathtaking National Park

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Skydiving



## DAY 19 – ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Get to know the beautiful beaches and lush forests in this stunning national park with an activity of your choosing (*not included*)

#### EVENING

- ◆ Sit down for your final South Island dinner with your Haka whānau (*not included*)

Abel Tasman... you beauty. Lush forests, golden sandy beaches, sheltered bays, and jaw-dropping views... not to mention the local seals, dolphins and bird life..

You might like to hike part of the Abel Tasman Coast Track – one of New Zealand's nine Great Walks – or paddle a kayak to Split Apple Rock. You could jump, slide, abseil, float and zipline your way through the park on an awesome canyoning adventure.

Fancy a relaxing day instead? Choose yourself a golden beach and make yourself at home.

In the warmer months we'll stay another night at the edge of the national park. In winter we'll drive a little further and stay in quirky Nelson with its cosy pubs, cool craft beers and artsy vibes.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**PARADISE FOR NATURE LOVERS AND THRILL SEEKERS ALIKE**  
a full day in NZ's most popular national park

**EXPERIENCE MAJESTIC SCENERY AT ITS BEST**  
while hiking one of New Zealand's Great Walks

### EPIC ADD-ONS

Sea Kayaking

Canyoning



## DAY 20 – ABEL TASMAN TO WELLINGTON

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Flex your muscles and learn to paddle a waka
- ◆ Wind around the beautiful roads of the Tasman and Marlborough districts to get to Picton

#### AFTERNOON

- ◆ Catch the ferry to Wellington
- ◆ Settle into your accommodation for a restful night before the last full day of your tour

Today you'll start things off by learning to paddle a traditional waka (a Māori war canoe). Experience a karakia (blessing for protection), and learn tikanga (waka etiquette) all while getting out on the water to enjoy this unique included activity.

Our road trip continues along the northern edge of the South Island this afternoon. We'll stop for tasting at a local winery, and there's a chance to taste some famous New Zealand mussels in Havelock as we wind our way towards Picton to catch the evening ferry to Wellington.

As the lights of Picton Harbour fade into the night, relax on board together for a chilled evening.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**WALK TO THE CENTRE OF NEW ZEALAND**  
in sunny Nelson

**ENJOY BEAUTIFUL RIVER AND FOREST SCENERY**  
at the Pelorous Bridge Scenic Reserve

**STOP AT A WINERY**  
in the Marlborough region, world famous for sauvignon blanc and pinot noir

### EPIC ADD-ONS

No optional extras today – it's a great day for scenery, exploring new towns and sampling the local food and wine wherever you can!



## DAY 21— WELLINGTON TO AUCKLAND

### THE DAY AHEAD

#### MORNING

- ◆ Breakfast
- ◆ Zoom on up State Highway 1 to Auckland

#### EVENING

- ◆ Farewell dinner with your travel companions and guide (*not included*)

Our final day of the tour is an optional transfer drive from Wellington to Auckland, which is super handy if you have booked your return flights from the City of Sails. Crank up your favourite tour tunes and enjoy reflecting on the awesome time you have had in New Zealand while the North Island passes you by.

We arrive in Auckland early- to mid-evening. Why not have a final dinner and a few drinks with your new travel buddies? Your accommodation tonight is included so you can treat yourself to a lie-in tomorrow morning!

Please note that you're free to stay in Wellington tonight in you prefer – we can help with additional accommodation here, just let us know.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### UNWIND FROM YOUR TOUR

Crank up the tunes in the bus, settle into your seat, and laugh at your Haka Guide's cheesy jokes for one last drive before saying goodbye.

### DAY 22 — AUCKLAND

Your tour ends after breakfast on Day 22. We're sure you'll have a whole lot of incredible memories to take home with you.

We've shown you our New Zealand – we hope we will see you again.

*Haere tū atu, hoki tū mai.*





## FAQ

### WHERE DOES THE TOUR START AND END?

This tour starts in Auckland at 8am on Day 1 and wraps up after a final night in Auckland at on Day 22.

Most customers stay with us the night before the tour starts, which means a super relaxed start to your Haka experience. You can choose to do this as you build your tour online.

### DO YOU VISIT MILFORD SOUND ON THIS TOUR?

We offer an optional trip to the wonderful Milford Sound while in Queenstown. There are a few different options for the excursion, which you can view online.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES ON THIS TOUR?

Everyone has their own favourites, but in general we find that these are the most popular:

- Milford Sound Day Trip – departs Queenstown
- Skydiving – Wanaka or Abel Tasman
- Nevis Bungy – Queenstown
- Heli Hike – Franz Josef
- Underground Caving – Hokitika

Please be aware that your Haka guide will fit your activities in the best way possible depending on what activities are selected – so they may take place on different days or times than those listed on this itinerary.

### I AM TRAVELLING ALONE – CAN I JOIN THIS TOUR?

Yes! Around 70% of our guests are solo so you can absolutely join this, or any other of our tours. There are no single person supplements.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I BUDGET PER DAY FOR FOOD AND WHAT FOOD IS INCLUDED?

Your guide will supply a continental breakfast each morning of your tour. This will consist of cereal, toast, tea, coffee and juice. And we take any special requests also.

Lunches and dinners are at your own expense. Our guides know the best places in each town and city depending on your budget and what you are after, and they will point these out on the way into each location. Some nights the tour group may choose to cook a meal together. You will head to a supermarket to get everything and then cook as a group at the hostel. Whoever joins in splits the cost, and it usually works out to be about \$10 NZD per person. A fun, social and cheap dinner.

Likewise the tour group and guide often head out to a local pub for a beer and a meal. Meals can range from \$15 upwards. In summer it's not uncommon to have a BBQ washed down with a few drinks.

# FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL

*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*



## FAQ

### DO YOU CATER FOR VEGETARIANS/VEGANS?

Yes – we often have vegetarian/vegan guests and all cafes and restaurants in New Zealand offer these options. If you can't see any on the menu just ask, as most places will happily prepare something for you.

### HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I MAKE A BOOKING?

We recommend booking as soon as you know you can travel, and have decided on which tour you would like to go on. Some of our tours can be quite popular so it's best to secure your spot as soon as possible. Your spot can be booked with just a \$99 deposit and full balance is due 45 days prior to departure. You can log into your account at any time up until 45 days prior to pay off part of your tour balance, add activities and customise your tour.

### WHAT AGES IS THIS TOUR FOR?

We have guests that are in their late teens to their 60s but the average ages is around 25–45. More important than age is attitude – we have found over the years that if you have a thirst for adventure then age is no barrier. Please do keep in mind though that a reasonable level of fitness is required – we can talk you through any specifics.

The minimum age of joining a tour is 18 years old. Sometimes the group may head out to a bar where everyone needs to be 18 years old, and New Zealand has strict alcohol policies.

### CAN I UPGRADE MY ACCOMMODATION?

If you would prefer to have your own room while on tour, it is a good idea to upgrade. Most private rooms will have an ensuite bathroom attached; however in some locations you will have a private room with shared bathroom facilities due to the hostel layout. You can read more information about our accommodation upgrades online.

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR THE BEST PRICES AND SERVICES**

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

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