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SSSC New Zealand South & North Adventure

Mar 14, 2023 - Apr 2, 2023

Trip Summary

March 14 - Tuesday - Early Arrival

Arrive Queenstown

Check in at Crowne Plaza Queenstown - Crowne Plaza Queenstown

March 15 - Wednesday- Early Arrival

Arrive Queenstown

Check in at Crowne Plaza Queenstown - Crowne Plaza Queenstown

March 16 - Thursday - Queenstown City Guide

Arrive Queenstown

Check in at Crowne Plaza Queenstown - Crowne Plaza Queenstown

What to do around Queenstown Thursday & Friday...

March 17 - Friday. Queenstown - Official arrival day

Arrive Queenstown

Check in at Crowne Plaza Queenstown - Crowne Plaza Queenstown

March 18 - Saturday. 9am. Queenstown (B/-/D) - Arrowtown; Wineries; Dinner at Stratosfare

Queenstown: Shotover Jetboat; Bungee; Wine Touring

Visit Arrowtown

Queenstown: Skyline Gondola & Dinner

March 19 - Sunday. 8:30am. Queenstown (B/W/D) - Arrowhead River Bike & Wine Tasting

At breakfast, snag something off the buffet for after our bike ride, or run down to the Bakery (Shotover Street) for a meat pie - if desired

Arrowhead River Bike Ride to the Winery

Lunch

1:30 Wine Tasting and Cave Tour

March 20 - Monday. 8:30am Check-Out. Shotover Jet; QT at leisure; 1pm Travel to Wanaka (B/-/-)

8:30am Check out of Crown Plaza Queenstown. Settle any bill. Bring all luggage to Room 108

Shotover Jetboat

The BRAVE 3 to bungee jump

Back in Queenstown at leisure 10:15a - 1:00

1pm. Travel to Wanaka

4pm Check in at Edgewater Resort Hotel / 1-night

March 21 - Tuesday. 9am. Travel to Franz Joseph. Blue Pools; Hard Antler Bar; Monroe Beach Penguins?? Eve- Glow Worm Walk (B/-/-)

Check out of Edgewater Resort Hotel

Wanaka -> Franz Josef - 4 hrs / 287 kms

Optional Franz Josef Scenic Helicopter Flight \$

Check in at Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef / 1-night - Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef

March 22 - Wed. 10am. Travel: Treetop Walk; Hokitika; Punakaiki (B/-/-)

10am. Check out at Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef

12:30 Hokitika Westcoast Treetop Walk

Travel: Hokitika - 10 minutes. EXPLORE Hokitika.

3:00 approx - Travel: Punakaiki - 1.5 hrs

Check in at Ocean View Resort / 2-nights - Punakaiki Resort

March 23 - Thursday. 10am. Underworld Cave Tour & Glowworm Tubing (B/-/-)

11am Check-In. Cave Exploration & Glowworm Tube Float adventure

March 24 - Friday. 9am. Blow Holes; Pancake Rock. Travel to Able Tasman NP - Kaiteriteri (B/-/-)

9am. Check out at Ocean View Resort - Punakaiki Resort

Punakaiki Pancake Rock & Blowholes

Travel to Able Tasman Natl Park - 4 hrs / 246 kms

Murchison - Lunch. Market / Liquor Store stop

Check in at Kaiteriteri Reserve Apartments / 3-nights

Afternoon at Leisure

March 25 - Saturday. 8:45am. Able Tasman NP - Kayak Adventure (B/L/-)

8:45am - Abel Tasman Kayaks, Marine Reserve Kayak and Boat Tour

March 26 - Sunday. Able Tasman NP - Optional 8:10am COASTAL TREK

8:10am Private Shuttle (via Jacob) to Marahou for Trek OPTIONAL - meet in front of Reception and do not be late

Day at Leisure - ReCharge, Rest, Explore...

March 27 - Monday. 11am. Fly to Rotorua at 2:00 (B/-/-)

11am. Check out at Kaiteriteri Reserve Apartments

2:00 Flight from Nelson to Rotorua (arrive airport 12:30pm)

Gratuity for our Guide :)

END OF SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

2:20 PM

Air New Zealand flight

5:20p Arrive in Rotorua - transfer to hotel

Check in at Novotel Rotorua Lakeside / 4-nights - Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

March 28 - Tuesday. 10:15am. Rotorua - Te Puia; 5:45pm. Maori Cultural Experience (B/-/D)

10:15am Te Puia

Rotorua: Mitai Maori Cultural Experience, Beauty of Night Meets People of the Land

March 29 - Wed. 6pm. Rotarua - Morning at Leisure; Redwood Sunset Tree Top Walk (B/-/-)

About Rotorua...

Rotorua: 6pm. Sunset Redwoods Tree Top Walk with nightlights

March 30 - Thursday. 10am. Lake Taupo - Bike the Lake & Sunset Lake Cruise (B/-/D)

Lake Taupo

Lake Taupo Bike Ride and Lake Cruise to Rock Art

March 31 - Friday. 9:45am. Travel to Auckland via Hobbiton (B/-/-)

Check out at Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

Travel to Auckland via Stop at Hobbiton Movie Set

Check in at M Social Auckland / 2-nights

April 1 - Saturday. Auckland - 10am. Driving City Tour / Dinner at Orbit (B/-/D)

10am Auckland Driving City Tour with stops

Dinner at Orbit Sky Tower - Included

April 2 - Sunday. Auckland - Departure for Home : (

ENDS ADVENTURE IN NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND!

Check out at M Social Auckland

Depart Auckland

March 14 - Tuesday - Early Arrival



Arrive Queenstown

All 20 of us are arriving on lots of different days, at lots of different times.

There are 2 group transfers on March 15th and March 16th.

For all others - you'll take a taxi. Upon arrival into Auckland or Queenstown (not sure where this will happen) you will go thru Passport Control / Customs.

Once into Queenstown, take a taxi to the hotel

Crown Plaza

93 Beach Street, Queenstown 9300, New Zealand

Phone: [+64 3 441 0095](tel:+6434410095)

Your hotel room is in your name.



Check in at Crowne Plaza Queenstown

Address: 93 Beach Street, Queenstown 9300, New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 441 0095



Crowne Plaza Queenstown

93 Beach Street, Queenstown, OTAGO, NZ, 9300

03-441 0095

March 15 - Wednesday- Early Arrival



Arrive Queenstown

All 20 of us are arriving on lots of different days at lots of different times.

There is ONE group transfer on March 15th for the arrival of the 10:05am flight.

Once thru Passport Control/Customs, proceed to the Exit Hall and look for the person with the sign that says "A Wild Adventure" (which is what we are going to have!)

For all others - you'll take a taxi. Upon arrival into Auckland or Queenstown (not sure where this will happen) you will go thru Passport Control / Customs.

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March 16 - Thursday - Queenstown City Guide



Arrive Queenstown

All 20 of us are arriving on lots of different days at lots of different times.

There is ONE group transfer for March 16th for the arrival of the 10:05am flight.

Once thru Passport Control/Customs, proceed to the Exit Hall and look for the person with the sign that says "A Wild Adventure" (which is what we are going to have!)

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03-441 0095



What to do around Queenstown Thursday & Friday...

WHAT TO DO:

BIKE THE FRANKTON TRACK Not only is the Frankton Track one of the top things to do in Queenstown, but it's arguably the most beautiful biking trail in New Zealand!

What makes it so enjoyable is that it's great for all skill levels.

The mostly flat pathway goes from Queenstown to Frankton and then out on the Peninsula Track. Get a full day bike rental so you can take your time swimming, grabbing lunch, and even a local craft beer while you cruise along the lake.

[Renting a bicycle in Queenstown](#) costs only about \$35 USD for a half day and \$55 USD for the full day. With a bike, you can explore many of the different cycling trails around Queenstown.

HIRE an ATV and get MUDDY There's nothing quite like going on an epic off-roading experience, and Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world, of course, has the perfect way to do it.

If you love driving fast, getting dirty and admiring world-class views, then make sure you [sign up for a 3.5-hour ATV ride](#) outside of town.

STROLL IN THE QUEENSTOWN GARDENS

The Queenstown Gardens are the perfect spot for an afternoon stroll and are located a short walk from the town beach. Take the path that goes along the waters edge then cut up to admire the colorful flowers and trees.

SHOP AT THE QUEENSTOWN MALL Queenstown Mall is actually a pedestrian only walking street in the center of town that cuts down to the water. So you can pass through here easily on your way to more fun Queenstown fun.

CRUISE Lake Wakatipu TSS Earnslaw Cruise

Take a ride on the old fashion Steamship to the end of the lake and do the Farm Tour.

Milford Sound Coach & Cruise Full-Day Trip

You can ride both ways (4 hrs each way), or ride over and fly back (plane or heli), or fly both ways. Your choice. Price varies greatly.

CHEAP GREAT PLACES TO EAT & DRINK:

Bakery on Shotover Street

Stop by for a Meat Pie for take-away. Chicken & Mushroom. Steak & Onion. Lamb & Mint. There are so many choices... New Zealand is famous for them - and they are delicious and inexpensive!

Fergburger - One of the most popular things to do in Queenstown is to [eat at Fergburger!](#) In fact, Fergburger CLAIMS TO BE the [best burger in Queenstown.](#)

You would think that a place like this would be expensive, but it isn't! A Classic Fergburger will only cost you \$17 NZD (\$11 usd)

1876 - One pub, in particular, that is famous among locals for cheap drinks is called [1876](#). During Happy Hour, they offer \$5 NZD tap beer or cider as well as the house wine. They also have great HH food specials! Big outdoor patio.

Live music - Wednesday thru Sunday

THE COW -Spaghetti, Pizza, Homemade Soup & Bread, Salad, & more...

The Cow has been operating from its historic premises since 1977, making it Queenstown's oldest continuously operating restaurant. Situated in Cow Lane, the stone barn housed cows which used to wander down the lane for daily milking.

Great atmosphere.

Spaghetti and/or Pizza - \$28 - \$30NZD (\$16 - 18usd)

??? PUB CRAWL - typically meet in town and then walk to 3-4 different pubs/clubs around Queenstown as a group led by a guide. At each location, there are often organized games or free shots. And since you'll be hanging with the same group of people all night, you're sure to make some friends and have a few laughs.

The names of the companies in town that do the pub crawls are [Big Night Out](#), and [Kiwi Crawl](#). The regular price is about \$25 NZD per person (\$17 USD) and you can [book this pub crawl that comes with 5 shots and pizza here!](#)

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Crowne Plaza Queenstown

93 Beach Street, Queenstown, OTAGO, NZ, 9300
 03-441 0095

March 18 - Saturday. 9am. Queenstown (B/-/D) - Arrowtown; Wineries; Dinner at Stratosfare



Queenstown: Shotover Jetboat; Bungee; Wine Touring

9am - We leave from the LOBBY at 9am sharp, so please arrive a few minutes beforehand and be ready for an action packed day.

You can bring a "BUS BAG" - a tote or backpack to leave on the Coach with your rain jacket, umbrella, water, snacks... whatever you need/want for the day.

OUR DAY:

10am Arrowtown

NOON Gibbston Brewery & Tavern

Pizza and Beer!!!! (Our own expense)

1:30 Kinross Vineyards

Wine Tasting \$15nzd pp

2:30 The beautiful Mt. Rosa Winery

Wine tasting \$20nzd pp

We should be back around 4pm-ish...





Visit Arrowtown

Arrowtown is built on the banks of the Arrow River, once a rich source of gold. In 1862, thousands of miners from around the world flocked to Arrowtown to make their fortune. The miners moved on, but their legacy has become a treasure in its own right.

Arrowtown is recognised as [Tohu Whenua](#) – a place that has shaped the nation and one of New Zealand's best heritage experiences.

Stroll down to [the Chinese Village](#) for a glimpse into life for early miners, then try your hand at gold panning.

Arrowtown's Chinese Settlement is a mute reminder and tribute to the contribution made by Chinese goldminers and business people to the region's gold mining, cultural and business history.

Many of the huts have been restored, offering visitors the chance to step back into that 'golden' era and see up-close the toil and modest living conditions of the 'other half' in this prosperous town.

Extensive interpretation panels in both English and Chinese tell the story of the Chinese gold miners in the area. You can read about who the miners were and about the challenges and rewards of everyday life in the settlement.



Queenstown: Skyline Gondola & Dinner Gondola & Dinner Skyline's Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar

Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00pm

We will wander over to the Gondola (about a 15 minute casual walk), and take the gondola up the hill.

We'll have some time to check out the views and walk around, ARE YOU UP FOR THE LUGE???, then maybe have a pre-dinner cocktail - then walk into the restaurant.

7:30 We will be treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner at Skyline's Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar at the top of the Gondola in Queenstown. As we dine, the floor to ceiling windows and panoramic views will captivate you day and night.

Dinner is included, but cocktails, beer, wine will be your own expense.

The signature buffet dining experience offers something for everyone; from locally sourced wild meats to seasonal vegetarian dishes and a delectable dessert bar to remember.

Sunset is approx 8:02pm



March 19 - Sunday. 8:30am. Queenstown (B/W/D) - Arrowhead River Bike & Wine Tasting



At breakfast, snag something off the buffet for after our bike ride, or run down to the Bakery (Shotover Street) for a meat pie - if desired



Arrowhead River Bike Ride to the Winery

9:00 Reservation.

Includes bike hire, helmet, cycle map, water

ARROW RIVER BRIDGES TRAIL

Bike Historic Arrowtown to Gibbston

9:30am - 12:30 with stop at Bungy Bridge

Grade 2 – Easy 13.7 km pedal one way (8.5 miles - about an 1.5 hours of gentle pedaling). Take your time and stop often.

We don't need to be at the Winery until 12:30 for our [optional] lunch reservation.

Today enjoy an independent cycling trip experiencing the best that Queenstown has to offer.

Your journey starts down by Dudley's Cottage and the Arrowtown Chinese Settlement on the 'true right' of the lovely willow-lined Arrow River - the home of the gold rush in the 1800s and is steeped in history.

The trail heads west along the banks of the Arrow River, a river of many moods, sometimes tranquil, often rushing over rocks and bluffs, then widening to limpid pools. There's no shortage of photo ops at each bridge. One of the most popular photo stops is midway across the awe-inspiring Southern Discoveries suspension bridge. A destination in itself and what a view!

Across the bridge, you'll ride past quaint cottages and grazing horses down Whitechapel country lane – a landscape painting straight out of a picture book. Stop at the Knights Family Underbridge and take in the spectacular downstream view of where the Arrow River drops into the gorge.

Yet another impressive feat of engineering, the graceful 80-metre Edgar Suspension Bridge is guaranteed to deliver gasps of appreciation at the views from its midpoint down into the Arrow Gorge. Once you've crossed the Edgar Bridge, be sure to stop at the Wall of Recognition and offer up a 'thanks' to the landowners and Queenstown community who had the vision to help make the Queenstown Trail a reality.

Getting across busy State Highway 6 is a piece of cake via the Barfoot Tunnel - and onto a part of the trail which follows the original goldminers' road into Queenstown. Breathe in the thyme-scented mountain air as you make your way over the historic Kawarau Suspension Bridge, home to the world's first commercial bungy jumping operation. The AJ Hackett Bungy Centre is a stunning piece of architecture, well worth a visit – and has a good café, toilets and of course tickets for that bungy jump you've been promising yourself. On the Bungy viewing deck there are many informative panels about the history of the area that are well worth a read.

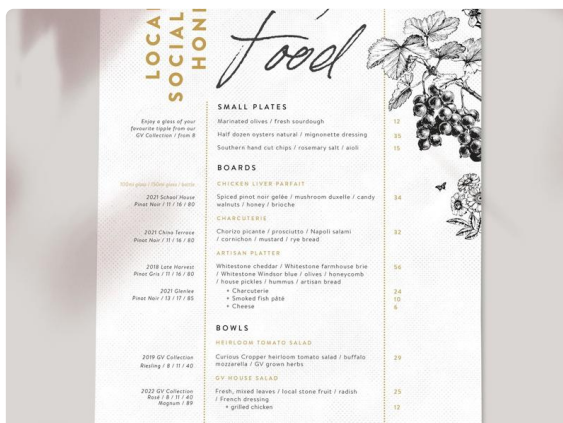


Lunch



12:30 We have a reservation to have lunch right at the Gibbston Valley vineyard. Lunch will be our own expense. See menu in photos.

Or if you choose, you can bring a lunch/snack/items from breakfast buffet, and picnic at the vineyard!



1:30 Wine Tasting and Cave Tour

1:30 After lunch (our own expense) we will have a guided tour of Gibbston Valley's winemaking facilities and vineyards, plus New Zealand's largest wine cave, including tastings of three premium wines.

2:30 Our Coach will pick us up at 2:30 to be transferred back to our hotel. We will be back around 3:00

March 20 - Monday. 8:30am Check-Out. Shotover Jet; QT at leisure; 1pm Travel to Wanaka (B/-/-)



8:30am Check out of Crown Plaza Queenstown. Settle any bill. Bring all luggage to Room 108

Please attached your Luggage number, and bring all your luggage to room # 108

Please bring your luggage to #108 between 8 - 8:25am.

We will leave the Hotel at 8:30.



Shotover Jetboat

8:30am - We leave from the LOBBY at 8:30am, so please arrive a few minutes beforehand and leave your luggage in Storage at the front desk,

9am Check-In at ShotOver Jet

9:30 - 10a Nothing you have experienced will have you prepared for the thrill and excitement of a **Shotover Jet ride**; it's an adrenaline rush you'll never forget!

YOU WILL GET A RAIN SLICKER, and life vest.

You probably won't get too wet, but bring water shoes if you brought them, or a change of shirt perhaps (just in case).

From the moment the accelerator hits the floor your adrenaline hits the roof as you speed in mere centimeters of water along the famous Shotover River and deep into the spectacular Shotover River Canyons.

It's an amazing ride, as the Shotover Canyon walls tower over you, your expert driver puts your 'Big Red' through its paces and skillfully whips the Jet Boat past rocky outcrops, skims around crags and boulders, and speeds through the narrow canyons. Rock faces blur in your peripheral vision, the opaque water sprays into myriads of white crystals with every turn, and you grip the hand rail for comfort and reassurance and then let out a whoop of excitement as your driver spins the boat around in its own boat length — wow, you've just experienced the World famous Shotover Jet full 360 degree spin.

Hold on tight and enjoy the thrill as you spin and without losing momentum keep speeding along the river. The best thing of all... this is actually good for you. Studies have shown a good thrill livens up your system, waking up dormant biochemical pathways that refresh, relieve stress and heal. You experience a sense of euphoria and well being as your brain receives a welcome cocktail of oxygen, sugar, adrenaline, cortisol and endorphins. The result — a natural high that makes you feel great!



The BRAVE 3 to bungee jump

Once the group of 15+ (or however many...) are dropped off at the Shotover Jet, Jacob will drive you few over to the Bungee Jumping Bridge. You will arrive there at arox. 9:30ish (for your 10:15 jump)

Jacob will be back for you at approx 11am
and take you to the Shotover Jet for your 11:30am check-in / 12 to 12:30 river ride.



Back in Queenstown at leisure 10:15a - 1:00

After our Shotover Jet , Jacob will pick us 15+ group up and take us back into Queenstown arriving approx 10:30ish to spend the rest of the morning at leisure in town until 1:00

Between 10:30 and 1:00, I will be getting caught up on some work, and will be working in room #108, so if you need anything from your luggage - I will be there to let you in the room. No worries!

Enjoy the rest of the morning in Queenstown (pray for only clouds...) and please meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for a 1pm departure to Wanaka.



1pm. Travel to Wanaka

From Lake Hayes climb up over The Crown Range which has stunning views back down the valley towards Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, make sure you stop and enjoy the vista. Over the Crown Range drive down through the Cardrona Valley to Wanaka.



4pm Check in at Edgewater Resort Hotel / 1-night

Edgewater Resort Hotel Edgewater Resort is situated on the edge of Lake Wanaka within the boutique township of Wanaka. With lawns stretching right to the water's edge of Lake Wanaka, Edgewater Resort is a welcoming retreat. All accommodation rooms provide spectacular views of the surrounding lawns, gardens, Lake Wanaka and beyond, to the magnificent Southern Alps.

Facilities:	Airport Transfers, Bar, Golf, Helipad, Restaurant, Sauna, Self-Service Laundry, Self-Service Parking, Spa Pool, Spa Services, Tennis Court, Wi-Fi
Address:	Sargood Drive, Wanaka

Phone:

+64 3 443 0011



March 21 - Tuesday. 9am. Travel to Franz Joseph. Blue Pools; Hard Antler Bar; Monroe Beach Penguins?? Eve- Glow Worm Walk (B/-/-)



Check out of Edgewater Resort Hotel

We leave from the LOBBY , so please arrive a few minutes beforehand and **line your luggage up in numerical order**,



Wanaka -> Franz Josef - 4 hrs / 287 kms

Blue Pools

Hard Antler Bar

Monroe Beach Penguins??

Eve - Glow Worm Walk

From Wanaka travel north between Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea through the Mt Aspiring National Park and Haast Pass to Haast on the West Coast. Through the dramatic gorges of the Haast Pass there are bushwalks signposted from the road, the most popular being to the '**Blue Pools**', which we will have a stop at.

A possible stop for lunch can be **Hard Antler Bar and Restaurant** on Marks Road in Haast (ph: +64 3-750 0034). We have a reserved table for lunch (our own expense) at 11:30am or 12pm.

From Haast hug the West Coast north, passing Lake Moeraki and the **penguins at Munroe Beach**, to the Glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef.

After you check into your resort and the sun goes down, **grab your torch and head off for a Glow Worm walk**. You may not think of glow worms and glaciers together in the same location, but there are many spots around the Fox and Franz Josef Glacier area where you will find these little creatures. One of the easiest spots to see glow worms when staying in **Franz Josef Glacier is along The Terrace Walk**, located just off State Highway 6 near the Westland Visitor Centre. Look for glow worms around or under large fallen trees.



Optional Franz Josef Scenic Helicopter Flight \$

WEATHER PERMITTING - WE CAN DO THIS TODAY/AFTERNOON OR TOMORROW EARLY MORNING???

Optional Franz Josef Scenic Flight –
 NZD \$295 pp - Flight time 25 minutes
 NZD \$395 pp- Flight time 35 minutes

Get up close and personal with the glaciers with a scenic helicopter flight. Fly over two of New Zealand's most famous glaciers and land at the head of either the Franz Josef Glacier or Fox Glacier. View the incredible natural

<https://glaciercountryhelicopters.co.nz/>

<https://www.glacierhelicopters.co.nz/franz-josef-glacier-snow-landing>

Optional Franz Josef Glacier Heli-Hike
 NZD \$500 per person - time 3 - 4 hours
 Book afternoon only

The fly-in, fly-out Heli-Hike combines the excitement of walking on the glacier with the thrill of helicopter flights. By flying in you are able to access and explore a part of the glacier that is otherwise very difficult to get to. It is here, shunted between two ice falls, that the awesome glacier forces work hardest and often create spectacular ice caves and arches. Your professional guide will lead you into the most spectacular icefall terrain that is usually seen only by experienced mountaineers.

[Heli Hike](#)

[Heli Hike](#)



Check in at Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef / 1-night

[Rainforest Retreat](#) is centrally located in the heart of Franz Josef Glacier Village yet is nestled in six acres of idyllic native bush at the foot of precipitous mountains. Rainforest Retreat offers accommodation comprising of Tree Houses, Tree Lodges, Tree Huts and Park Motels; each unit was built exclusively to embrace its beautiful, natural environment of the park providing guests with forest floor or mid canopy bush views.

Continental Breakfast Basket Included



Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef

46 Cron Street, Franz Josef, West Coast, NZ, 7886
 +64 3-752 0220

March 22 - Wed. 10am. Travel: Treetop Walk; Hokitika; Punakaiki (B/-/-)

10am. Check out at Rainforest Retreat Franz Josef

9:45am - Please pack up and have your luggage by your door (inside / door unlocked) at 9:45am, and they will come and pick it up and take it to Reception, where we can line up the luggage in numerical order, and get it into the trailer who's brake lights will hopefully work!

We will leave the resort at 10am.

It's a 1 hr 45 min drive to Treetop Walk



12:30 Hokitika Westcoast Treetop Walk

An exhilarating treetop adventure among temperate rainforest giants, experience life with the birds, high in the ancient Rimu and Kamahi tree canopy.

Thrill seekers will feel their hearts pump and the adrenalin rush as they climb to the top of Hokitika Tower 40 metres above the forest floor. Easy access for all to enjoy along a steel platform 20 metres high and over 450 metres long.

This activity takes approximately an hour.



Travel: Hokitika - 10 minutes. EXPLORE Hokitika.

After leaving the Franz Josef Glacier area, we follow the West Coast north to Hokitika, the jade capital of New Zealand and arts & crafts centre of the West Coast. We will stop and explore Hokitika.

1:30 - 3:00 - EXPLORE HOKITIKA. You will have lots of time for lunch, shopping or wandering the town, or perhaps watching some jade carving. Also known as greenstone or pounamu, jade is a highly valued rock found in southern New Zealand and has had multiple uses for generations in Maori history.



3:00 approx - Travel: Punakaiki - 1.5 hrs



Check in at Ocean View Resort / 2-nights

Standard Room, *Includes Breakfast*

The Ocean View Resort a truly unique tourism development on New Zealand's incredible West Coast. is an eco-tourism hotel, carefully designed to complement the stunning natural setting.

Situated close to the famous Pancake Rocks and Blowhole at Punakaiki, and adjacent to Paparoa National Park, the hotel takes pride in caring for this special environment.



Punakaiki Resort

State highway 6, Punakaiki, West Coast, NZ

March 23 - Thursday. 10am. Underworld Cave Tour & Glowworm Tubing (B/-/-)



11am Check-In. Cave Exploration & Glowworm Tube Float adventure

Make sure you have a big breakfast and bring along some snacks as you won't be able to have a proper meal until dinner. The Café is open on site before and after the tour if needed.

Provided: wet suits, wet suit socks, boots, gloves and helmets.

What to bring: Your swimwear (for under your wetsuit), a towel for a shower afterwards, and some warm clothes for later.

Underworld Rafting is a superb 4-hour Cave Exploration & Tube Float adventure in the enormous Nile River Cave System deep in the 'Untamed Natural Wilderness' of the Paparoa National Park.

On this adventure you will meet your guide at the Underworld Adventure Center in Charleston, who will equip you with wet suits, wet suit socks, boots, gloves and helmets. Dressed ready for your adventure, a short drive and the Nile River Rainforest Train will take you into the stunning West Coast Rainforest with towering limestone cliffs that create a magical backdrop for your adventure

A short walk leads to the cave entrances high above the Nile River. You will enter a hidden subterranean world leaving the daylight behind to explore a calcite paradise of stalactites and stalagmites, cross huge chambers, follow a maze of passages and wander through the heart of an ancient multi-leveled cave system. Enriched with illustrations, explanations and stories you will connect to the fragile precious world you explore and descend to the bottom level of the cave where the water guides you to a magical galaxy of glow-worms.

You leave this special place floating in your tube down the fun gentle rapids of the Nile River surrounded by the lush rain forest. Returning with the Rainforest Train back to Charleston this special hidden place stays behind but the memories will stay for a long time.

The adventure will end at approx 3:30.
The Cafe will be open for a snack or beverage.
You will then return to your Resort.



March 24 - Friday. 9am. Blow Holes; Pancake Rock. Travel to Able Tasman NP - Kaiteriteri (B/-/-)



9am. Check out at Ocean View Resort



Punakaiki Resort

State highway 6, Punakaiki, West Coast, NZ



Punakaiki Pancake Rock & Blowholes

Before leaving **Punakaiki**, we stop and see the famous “**pancake rocks**” at Punakaiki, an intriguing natural wonder and so named because they’ve evolved into strange sedimentary layers which resemble stacks of pancakes.

Behind these **limestone blowholes** is the Paparoa National Park, whilst small it is a gem – excellent options exist for bushwalks and kayaking amongst the gorges, caves and bush.

Take a late-afternoon stroll along the beach, to admire the crashing surf and wild beauty of it all.



Travel to Able Tasman Natl Park - 4 hrs / 246 kms

Travel north along the coast to Westport, with maybe visiting Cape Foulwind and the Fur Seal Colony. Inland to Murchison takes you along the dramatic Buller Gorge climbing through the scenic valleys and mountains. From Murchison continue to skirt the southern and eastern fringes of the Kahurangi National Park, with the Nelson Lakes National Park to the south, as you make your way towards the coast to the world renowned Able Tasman National Park.



Murchison - Lunch. Market / Liquor Store stop



Check in at Kaiteriteri Reserve Apartments / 3-nights

Two Bedroom Apartment, Quad Occupancy, King and Queen Split Beds, Includes Boxed Continental Breakfast

[Kaiteriteri Reserve Apartments](#) offer 8 contemporary apartments at the gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park. With golden sands, idyllic climate and four season recreation opportunities, Kaiteriteri is a unique destination. These premium beachfront apartments built in 2016 are positioned to ensure guests get the most out of everything on offer.

Dining:	Restaurants within walking distance
Facilities:	Bathroom; Private / Kitchen; Full Kitchen
Location:	One hour drive from Nelson Airport



Afternoon at Leisure

March 25 - Saturday. 8:45am. Able Tasman NP - Kayak Adventure (B/L/-)



8:45am - Abel Tasman Kayaks, Marine Reserve Kayak and Boat Tour

Includes Boxed Lunch

Marine Reserve Kayak Day Trip

Abel Tasman National Park's rocky coastline is a haven for a myriad of marine life and is always a fascinating place to explore. Abel Tasman Kayaks is one of only three operators authorized to undertake marine mammal viewing from sea kayaks at Tonga Island Marine Reserve, which is where you will go today. This is a stunning trip where the start and finish points of the kayaking section are around the tide timetable, offering the best part of the park to explore the marine reserve to the fullest.

Seals & Remote Coast Guided Kayak Day Trip

This morning you will be transferred by water taxi to start an amazing adventure by Kayak!

Please make your way on foot to the top of the beach and report with Abel Tasman Kayaks (ph: +64 3 527 8022) at 1 Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road in front of The Waterfront Restaurant in Kaiteriteri at 8:45am where you will board the water taxi to take you to your Remote Coast Kayak Trip and return you in the same spot at the end of the day.

Your day starts with a water taxi transfer to Awaroa where you get into your kayak. Visit Shag Harbour, a hidden inlet like nowhere else in the Abel Tasman. You will then paddle south, focusing on the Tonga Island Marine Reserve and its playful inhabitants - the NZ fur seal, Kekeno. After a great picnic lunch on one of the seven beautiful beaches you will paddle past delightful rock sculptures and peaceful lagoons to your final destination at Bark Bay Beach. Water taxi back to Marahau.

The best thing about this trip is that you see plenty of seals and very few fellow kayakers - hence the name of trip.



March 26 - Sunday. Able Tasman NP - Optional 8:10am COASTAL TREK



8:10am Private Shuttle (via Jacob) to Marahou for Trek OPTIONAL - meet in front of Reception and do not be late
OPTIONAL TREK

Marahau (Just north of Kaiteriteri) to either Apple Tree Bay OR further to Anchorage Bay - take Sea Shuttle back to Kaiteriteri

You have your choice of a **SHORTER TREK (1.5 - 2 hours)** or a **LONGER (3.5 - 4 hour total) trek**.
 You will **NEED TO BUY ON SATURDAY (today) YOUR RETURN SEA SHUTTLE TIX FOR TOMORROW**. Go to the **Sea Shuttle Booth next to the Waterfront Restaurant BEFORE 5:30** to get your tix for your return. See below for details on where/when/\$

SHORT TREK - Mārahau to Apple Tree Bay. 1.5 - 2 hours trek. 5.6km You'll begin your journey crossing Mārahau estuary using the causeway. On the far side of the estuary, pass through open country to Tinline Bay. The track rounds Gilbert Point to Apple Tree Bay.

At **NOON** - this is where you will board the Sea Shuttle for a return back to Kaiteriteri. Look for the black and white post - this is where the boat stops (there is **NO** dock).

You must have purchased your tix beforehand. \$36 nzd
 The ticket office is next to the Waterfront Restaurant and closes at 5:30p.

Bring: Lunch/snacks, water, bug repellent, ?beach towel??

LONGER TREK - continue from Apple Tree Bay to Anchorage Bay (another 2.5 hours)
 Continuing from Apple Tree Bay, then passes through beech forest with large kākūka trees. After Yellow Point it turns inland, winding in and out of several little gullies before emerging in open country overlooking Rākauroa/ Torrent Bay and the coast and islands to the north. Descend to the beautiful Anchorage Bay where there is a hut and campsite. Choose your return tix to come back either at 1:45 or 3:45. Anchorage Bay is where you will board the Sea Shuttle for a return back to Kaiteriteri. Look for the black and white post - this is where the boat stops (there is **NO** dock).

You must have purchased your tix beforehand. \$46 nzd
 The ticket office is next to the Waterfront Restaurant and closes at 5:30p.

Bring: Lunch/snacks, water, bug repellent, ?beach towel??



Day at Leisure - ReCharge, Rest, Explore...

From your accommodation in Kaiteriteri, you'll have plenty of things to do today including walking on world class tracks, boat trips, sailing, kayaking, mountain biking or just relaxing on the beach!



From your accommodation in Kaiteriteri you'll have plenty of things to do today including walking on world class tracks, boat trips, sailing, kayaking, mountain biking or just relaxing on the beach!

Check this website for all info:

<https://experiencekaiteriteri.co.nz/things-to-see-do>

OTHER THINGS TO DO :

Walk the Able Tasman Coastal Track

Hire a water taxi to take you north, and then walk back on the beautiful Coastal Track back to Kaiteriteri.

We can check with the Water Taxi Company to arrange this - and get advise on the starting point once leaving Kaiteriteri - to where best to "start" from after the water taxi ride.

<https://www.newzealand.com/int/feature/abel-tasman-coast-track/>

See maps below

<https://www.alltrails.com/new-zealand/nelson-tasman/kaiteriteri>

Kaiteriteri to Stephens Bay Walk

5 km - out & back (3.5 miles)

This is a beautiful coastal walk with stunning views and beaches along the way. It starts from Kaiteriteri and takes you via Kaiteriteri Lookout, Little Kaiteriteri Beach, Dummy Bay to Stephens Bay Beach. You can return via the same track or create a loop by walking along Stephens Bay Road and Riwaka - Kaiteriteri Road.

Enjoy this 5.0-km out-and-back trail near Motueka, Nelson-Tasman. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of 1 h 12 min to complete. This trail is great for camping, hiking, and walking, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring.

Abel Tasman Aqua Taxi

The Abel Tasman National Park's crystal clear waters and golden-sand beaches are set against a backdrop of lush native rainforest. All of these elements combine to make the Abel Tasman our most iconic national park.

Get closer to the Park Our water taxi base is located close to the entrance of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track. This makes it ideal for one-way trips into the Abel Tasman and then a walk back to your vehicle.

+64 3 527 8083

<https://aquataxi.co.nz/>

Abel Tasman Canyons

Abel Tasman Canyons offers guided trips through 5 different canyons. Each canyon has its own unique features. Some have more jumps, some have more abseils and some require more fitness.

+64 3 528 9800

<https://www.abeltasmancanyons.co.nz/>

Wilson's: Beaches, Bays & Seals Kayak

Experience guided kayaking in the Heart of the Park with Vista Cruise into Torrent Bay, then kayak to explore some of the most scenic parts of the coast. Your guide designs each day to make the most of tides and weather conditions. This can include Cleopatra's Pool, seals on Pinnacle Island and kayak sailing. Vista Cruise return to Kaiteriteri.

<https://www.abeltasman.co.nz/day-trips/kayak/beaches-bays-and-seals/>

+64 0800 223 582

9.20am Vista Cruise

Take a morning cruise the Abel Tasman coastline Kaiteriteri to Totaranui and return, including all the highlights along the spectacular granite coast.

- stay onboard as you call into popular beaches along the coast
- pause for photographs at famous Split Apple Rock
- view sea birds and seals at Tonga and Adele Islands

<https://www.abeltasman.co.nz/day-trips/vista-cruise/morning-vista-cruise/>

[+64-3-5282027](tel:+6435282027)

Abel Tasman Sailing Adventures

Scenic Sailing in New Zealand's most beautiful waters

Explore the beauty and sights of the [Abel Tasman National Park](#) and Nelson Bays on a comfortable sailing catamaran. Join with others or enjoy a private tour, whether for a few hours sailing or a multi day holiday.

+64 03 527 8375

<https://experiencekaiteriteri.co.nz/sailing>

Abel Tasman Eco Tours

Make treasured memories on our signature Eco Boat Tour, a fun and relaxing journey through the ecosystem of the Abel Tasman National Park. We explore the wonderful Islands, forests, beaches, rivers and seas of Te Tai Tapu (The Sacred Coast). Find out more about our authentic and inspiring Eco Boat Tour guided by locals who are passionate about conservation and preserving it.

+64 03 391 0010

<https://www.abeltasmanecotours.co.nz/>



March 27 - Monday. 11am. Fly to Rotorua at 2:00 (B/-/-)



11am. Check out at Kaiteriteri Reserve Apartments



2:00 Flight from Nelson to Rotorua (arrive airport 12:30pm)

We will be transferred to Nelson Airport (to arrive at airport at 12:30) for our 2:00pm flight to Rotorua.

Upon arrival into Rotorua, you will be met by your NEW driver/guide and vehicle and transferred to your accommodation. This driver and vehicle will be looking after you for your time in the North Island.



Gratuity for our Guide :)

Several people have asked about a tip for Jacob in the end on Monday.

Well, not including his two days off, we were together 7 1/2 days x \$5 USD per day (standard accepted gratuity) equals a \$38 USD tip.

So the long and the short of it – that equals NZD \$60 tip.

There is an ATM near the Store.

If Jacob did anything particularly nice for you, and you want to give MORE – or you want to give LESS... that is completely up to you.

This is just a suggested amount.

We will pass an envelope around when we're on the coach on Monday – or you are certainly welcome to personally give him yours...

Whatever you would like to do.

😊. ::::: Deborah



END OF SOUTH ISLAND TOUR



2:20 PM - New Zealand Daylight Time - 3 hr

Air New Zealand flight

Flight NZ8076

Mon 27 Mar 2023

Nelson to Auckland

Departure 2:00 PM Nelson NSN

Arrival 3:30 PM Auckland AKL

Mon 27 Mar 2023

Auckland to Rotorua

Departure 4:35 PM Auckland AKL

Mon 27 Mar 2023

Arrival 5:20 PM Rotorua ROT

Mon 27 Mar 2023

Operated by: AIR NEW ZEALAND

Economy - Seat + Bag Fare

Booking Class: Q

DURATION: 1 hour 25 mins

Standard Seat included



5:20p Arrive in Rotorua - transfer to hotel

We will be met and greeting by our new Guide and transferred to our beautiful hotel

Check in at Novotel Rotorua Lakeside / 4-nights

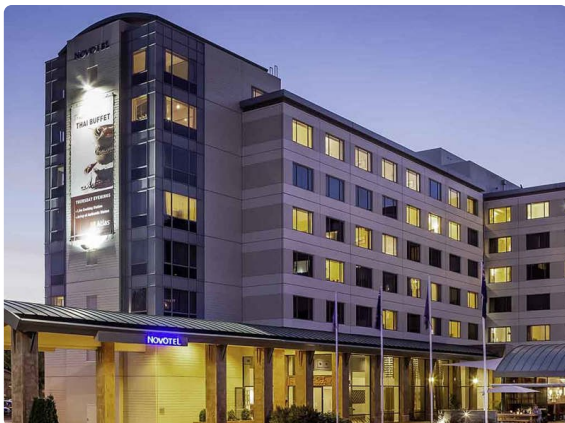


Rotorua Lakeside, City View Room, Includes Breakfast

[Novotel Rotorua Lakeside](#) is a 4-star property located on the picturesque shores of Lake Rotorua and set in park surroundings. The hotel is only minutes from the city centre, cafés, restaurants, Rotorua Convention Centre, Energy Events Centre, and major tourist attractions including water activities on the lake, a golf course, museum, and thermal reserves.

Facilities:

24 Hour Reception, Air Conditioning, Bar, Child Care, Gymnasium, Laundry Service, Restaurant, Room Service, Sauna, Self-Service Parking, Spa Pool, Spa Services, Swimming Pool, Wi-Fi



Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

Lake End Tutanekai Street, Rotorua, BAY OF PLENTY, NZ, 3010
07-346 3888

March 28 - Tuesday. 10:15am. Rotorua - Te Puia; 5:45pm. Maori Cultural Experience (B/-D)



10:15am Te Puia

Te Puia Guided Tour, Evening Maori Cultural Experience

10:15am You will leave for Te Puia Village located on Hemo Road in Rotorua for a guided tour.

You are booked for the 11:00am guided 90min tour. Please report at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the tour. You will be transferred back to your accommodation or into town after the tour for free time to have a late lunch. Your Driver will be available this afternoon for transfers/sightseeing, if required.

Te Puia –is New Zealand’s premier Maori Cultural and Geothermal Centre. Te Puia has a long history of delivering unique experiences to visitors from all over the world. This history, while short in a cultural, environmental and historic context is long in terms of its recognition as a tourism visitor attraction.

Te Whakarewarewa is New Zealand’s best known thermal area and contains a tremendous variety of geothermal activity. There are more than 500 springs in the reserve which vary from cold to boiling cauldrons.

Much of the water, that is released by the geysers and the clear boiling pools have a high silica content and as it flows over the nearby rocky ground, it leaves a deposit which builds up impressive and sometimes colourful terraces.

Most famous of all is the Pohutu Geyser. Nestled in the geothermal valley of Whakarewarewa, Pohutu Geyser bursts into life up to 20 times each day, shooting boiling water up to 30 metres (90 feet) skyward.

Also on display throughout the valley are steaming cauldrons of mud – varying in temperature, purpose, size and colour, these pools each hold significance and place in the day to day lives of local Maori. Visitors to Te Puia will see carvers at work (both students and masters) and also the weavers expertly transforming simple strands of flax into intricate pieces of art.

Performances of traditional and contemporary dancing are also a daily feature.

Maori guides share their heritage, pride and values that have been handed down through the generations. The Kiwi bird has been at home in New Zealand for over 70 million years. Te Puia is fortunate to have these native New Zealand icons available for visitors to view in the specially designed Kiwi house. Te Puia also partakes in a national breeding programme.



Rotorua: Mitai Maori Cultural Experience, Beauty of Night Meets People of the Land **5:45 Cultural Performance, Hangi and Rainbow Springs Night Tour**

This evening you will be collected from your accommodation between 5:45pm and 6:15pm by Mitai Tours to enjoy an evening of Maori culture through a concert and a traditionally cooked dinner.

The Mitai is a Maori Family, descendants of the local tribe of Te Arawa.

They will entertain and educate you in Maori tradition. This is an authentic and intimate Maori experience where you get to meet and hear stories of past bravery, love, heartbreak and adventure. In addition to the cultural concert, where you'll be captivated by songs, dances and games complete with the spine tingling "Haka" Maori war dance, you'll see warriors in traditional dress paddle a waka and glowworms in their natural habitat.

Learn about the traditional hangi, the art of Ta Moko, Maori customs, Musical instrument, Poi dance, Carving and Flora and fauna and their medicinal uses.

Following your visit to Mitai, you are **escorted through the bush to start your night lit extravaganza** of the Rainbow Springs Nature Park.

View wildlife and bush under an array of coloured lights. This is a truly magical blend of Maori Culture and Nature in a unique all-in-one night time package to be remembered forever.

A guided tour of the night-time Kiwi walk through enclosure is also included.



March 29 - Wed. 6pm. Rotorua - Morning at Leisure; Redwood Sunset Tree Top Walk (B/-/-)



About Rotorua...

Rotorua is world-famous for steaming hot springs, bubbling mud pools, and geysers. There is a palpable sense of Maori culture both past and present. During your free time today you can stroll around the picturesque and genteel Government Gardens. Nearby, overlooking Lake Rotorua, is the [Polynesian Spa](#) offering a range of hot mineral bathing experiences and spa therapies. If you felt like more of a walk today, take a stroll on one of the many marked trails, or enjoy the Blue and Green Lake bush walk.

This morning is all to yourself – sleep in, rest, explore Rotorua town, get a bike and take in the town sights... your choice.



Rotorua: 6pm. Sunset Redwoods Tree Top Walk with nightlights **Day at leisure, 6pm Redwoods Nightlights Walk**

Dave the Driver will be available this morning from 10:00am-2pm for transfers/sightseeing, if required.

Ideas for OPTIONAL activities:

Overlooking Lake Rotorua, is the **Polynesian Spa** offering a range of hot mineral bathing experiences and spa therapies. Hells Gate is another worthy experience with a bushland walk and nutrient rich mud bath experience.

If you felt like more of a walk today, enjoy the **Blue and Green Lake** bush walk.

For one of the best scenic nature trails around, we suggest joining the **water taxi across the lake to the Tarawera Falls walk** including a visit to a natural hot water pool.

You may wish to experience **Canopy Tours** as an outstanding **zipline** experience, flying through 1,000 year old native forest canopy, swing bridges. It's an outstanding forest and bird restoration story. You could visit the Waimangu Volcanic Valley.

Lunch and afternoon at leisure.

Meet in the lobby ready to leave at 6pm for the Redwoods walk.

Please **bring a jacket** - as it will probably be cool outside.

We are booked for the Redwoods Treewalk at 7:30pm.

But we will arrive early to walk around for an hour on any of the many short paths of the forest.

These towering trees, along with numerous other species and the fresh forest air, combine to create an invigorating atmosphere and a truly unique and special environment.

Sunset is at 7:15pm.

About the 7:30 TREEWALK:

MEET AT THE TREEWALK ENTRANCE AT 7:20

The Redwoods Treewalk is located 12-metres above the forest floor and constructed to traverse between 22 majestic 115-year old Redwood trees and existing plants, allowing them to remain untouched in their natural state.

The Redwood Forest is made up of both Californian Coastal Redwoods and Douglas Fir.

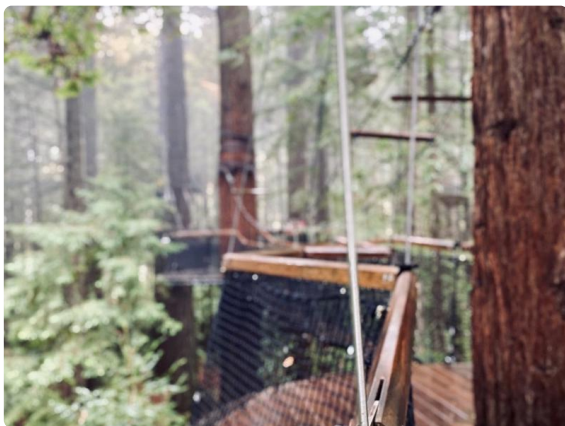
The tree platforms and bridges are suspended using a technologically designed sling suspended from the redwood trees.

The sling can hold up to five tonnes in weight and allows these 115-year-old giants to grow at their natural rate and remain undamaged.

The night-time walk is a unique Kiwi design-led tourism experience found nowhere else in the world and encompasses 30 lanterns designed by the world-acclaimed designer and sustainability champion, David Trubridge.

In addition to the Trubridge lighting, over forty infinite colour spots and feature lights illuminate the 115-year-old redwood trees, forest ferns and punga.

The lanterns are up to 2.5 meters tall and were made at the David Trubridge workshop in Hastings and assembled by a team in the forest by hand, taking care not to damage the forest environment.



March 30 - Thursday. 10am. Lake Taupo - Bike the Lake & Sunset Lake Cruise (B/-/D)



Lake Taupo

Taupo Town. 2:15 Bike Self-Guided Tour, Lake Cruise with Dinner

Be ready in the hotel lobby to leave at 10am

PLEASE NOTE: You will be gone all day, so please bring jacket, water and anything you may want for the day (returning at 9:30pm)

Travelling between Rotorua and Taupo (1 hour 10 minutes / 83 kilometres) on State Highway 5 you will pass through the Wairakei Park which features Craters of the Moon, Wairakei Terraces & Thermal Valley then Huka Falls. The Aratiatia Rapids are also accessible on an alternative route through to Taupo via Spa Road passing the Taupo Golf Club.

You will have some time at leisure to explore Taupo Township and have **lunch** (additional cost).

2:15 - Bike the Lake

Meet again with your driver and coach at 2:15pm (at a place to be arranged in the CBD), for your transfer to 5-mile bay, on Tawhaa Road (near the public restrooms) to collect your bikes.

Check-in is at 2:30pm to fit your bikes and departure scheduled for 3:00pm on your self-guided biking trip around the beautiful lake.

Cycle along The Great Lake Walkway, a 10km, easy paved ride that travels along the shoreline of Lake Taupo.

The trail offers majestic views across the lake to the snow-capped peaks of Mt Tongariro, Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu. This ride would take approximately 1.5hrs with stops.

You should plan on being done around 4:30ish... 5pm at the latest.

You'll finish your cycle at Taupo Boat Harbor, on Redoubt Street, Berth 3 where FourB Bike staff will meet you between 4:30 - 5:00pm and collect your bikes.

You will have some free time before your cruise check-in at 6:15pm.



Lake Taupo Bike Ride and Lake Cruise to Rock Art

6:15pm. Lake Cruise with light dinner

Return to the same location where you dropped off the bikes - Taupo Boat Harbor, on Redoubt Street, Berth 3 - to join your exclusive cruise boat for a two-hour cruise to view the Rock Carvings and enjoy a light dinner on board. The bar will open for refreshments at an additional cost.

Meet your Chris Jolly cruise vessel at Taupo Boat Harbour, Redoubt St, Taupo, 15 minutes prior your 6:30pm departure.

Enjoy the evening on Lake Taupo, visiting the many bays and inlets only accessible by watercraft. View the Maori Rock Carvings.

The scenery is stunning – and on a clear day the majestic volcanoes of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro can be seen at the Southern end of the lake.

During your cruise there is also the opportunity to fish or partake in clay bird shooting.

A Light Dinner on board and fishing licenses are included today.

Cruise returns at 8:30pm.



March 31 - Friday. 9:45am. Travel to Auckland via Hobbiton (B/-/-)



Check out at Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

Please have your luggage in the Hotel Lobby by 9:30 so we can load up and be on our way by 9:45am.



Travel to Auckland via Stop at Hobbiton Movie Set

Your destination today is Auckland via Hobbiton. Tour 11:20am

The drive is approximately 1 hour.

Experience Middle-Earth with a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set, the bucolic setting for The Shire that featured in the Peter Jackson directed films, The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies.

Please check in at the Hobbiton Movie Set & Farm Ticketing Office 15 minutes prior to your tour departing at 11:20am.

Your tour starts with a drive through the picturesque 1,250 acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Your guide will escort you through the twelve acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton Movie set was created. The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-Earth.

After the tour, have lunch in town (at own expenses) and travel to Auckland. The drive is approx. 2 hours.



Check in at M Social Auckland / 2-nights

Includes Breakfast

MSocial Auckland is a contemporary hotel for the curious, the explorers and those who thrive on new experiences. Functionally chic, this contemporary hotel features 190 rooms and suites designed for all travellers, overlooking the vibrant Princes Wharf that is home to a stunning array of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.

Facilities:	Bar, Gymnasium, Restaurant, Room Service, Valet Parking, Wi-Fi
Address:	196-200 Quay Street, Auckland
Phone:	+64 9 377 0349



April 1 - Saturday. Auckland - 10am. Driving City Tour / Dinner at Orbit (B/-/D)



10am Auckland Driving City Tour with stops 10:00am - Driving / Walking City Tour by our Coach

This morning you will be met at your accommodation at 10:00am for a 2 hours tour of New Zealand's biggest city. For great views of Auckland drive through established suburbs to the top of Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) in Cornwall Park or to Maungawhau (Mt Eden).

Afternoon SUGGESTIONS:

We suggest taking a short 10min ferry ride across Waitemata Harbour to Auckland's North Shore historical maritime village of Devonport with its many turn of the century buildings and restored villas. The village has a wonderful range of unique specialty shops, including art galleries, gift and book shops. Soak up the village atmosphere in one of the many street front cafes and explore the dormant volcanoes with spectacular views over the harbour and city. Stroll along sandy beaches or walk up to North Head.



Dinner at Orbit Sky Tower - Included

5:15pm. Make your way to the Skycity (10min walk) situated at the top of Auckland's Sky Tower (to arrive at approx 5:30pm).

This evening, to celebrate your last evening together as a group, enjoy dinner at Orbit Restaurant on the Sky Tower.

You are booked for a 6:30pm seating.

Your experience doesn't begin at the restaurant, you can also enjoy complimentary Sky Tower admission 45 minutes prior to and/or upon completion of dining.

Explore the many levels of the Sky Tower before dinner. **Then arrive for dinner at 6:20pm.**

Situated at the top of Auckland's Sky Tower, the dining room rotates once every hour, providing a truly unique experience with amazing 360-degree panoramas of the city, the Hauraki Gulf and beyond.

Orbit offers a modern dining experience in a relaxed, open atmosphere with a delicious kiwi-inspired à la carte menu that features the best local and seasonal produce.

As New Zealand's only rotating restaurant offering 360-degree views, it's an unforgettable experience that never ceases to delight.



April 2 - Sunday. Auckland - Departure for Home : (

ENDS ADVENTURE IN NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND!



Check out at M Social Auckland



Depart Auckland

Sadly our adventure comes to an end : (

There is One group transfer for 7 people

Air New Zealand (6 people) 8:15pm flight FI # 6 (plus 1 person on the 7:40p flight if she wants to come with us)

All others are all over the place in departure times... so you will each have to take taxis : (

Information & Documents



You need an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) to enter New Zealand

Starting **October 1, 2019**, U.S. citizens along with citizens of other countries who have a visa waiver agreement with New Zealand will need to obtain an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) before entering the country.

<https://nzeta.immigration.govt.nz/>

The fastest way to request your NZeTA is by downloading our free app to your mobile phone. If you use the app it will take you less than 5 minutes to complete your request.

You can use the app to scan your passport to instantly upload your details and scan your credit or debit card for ease of payment.

Download the free app now from the link above.

Cost and processing time

An NZeTA request costs NZD \$17 on our free app, or NZD \$23 if completed online.

Allow 72 hours for your NZeTA request to be processed.

Many requests will be processed more quickly.

You need:

- a valid passport that you will use to travel to New Zealand
- a credit card or debit card (Visa or Mastercard)
- an email address
- a photo of your face, or a device that can take one.

The IVL

If you are entering New Zealand **you must also pay an IVL**, which funds tourism infrastructure and helps protect our natural environment.

You pay the IVL at the same time as you request your NZeTA.

The IVL costs NZD \$35.



Arrival into New Zealand

Before departing the plane, you will be given an Entry Form to fill out.

Please note that New Zealand takes VERY SERIOUSLY the entry rules - especially that NO fruits, vegetables, animal products are brought in. NOTHING. So clear out your travel bag of any snacks you've brought for the plane. Throw away ALL fruit.

Make sure that you state that you have NOT been to a Farm.

Energy bars that are packaged should be fine.



Not Included...

Trip Does Not Include:

- > **Does not include international flight** round-trip from home.
- > **Does not include** in-country domestic flight from Nelson NSN (South Island) to your choice of Rotorua ROT (approx USD \$118 - continue with tour) or Auckland AKL (approx USD \$60 heading home)
- > **Does not include** gratuities, optional activities, adult beverages, meals where not noted, items of a personal nature.



Weather in New Zealand in March

March is the first month of autumn in New Zealand, but summery conditions tend to linger, and in many parts of the country March is almost as warm and sunny as February. The further south you go, however, the more autumnal the weather, with leaves on the trees turning orange.

Average March high temperatures are in the **high 60s F** (around 19-21° C) in the upper **North Island**, the low 60s F (17° C) in central parts of the country, including **Wellington** and the upper **South Island** - like Able Tasman National Park area.

And **high 50s F** (15° C) further south, including **Queenstown** and **Dunedin**. Mountainous and inland areas will generally be colder than coastal places, and it's not unusual to see a sprinkling of snow on the mountains in places like **Queenstown** and **Wanaka** in March.

New Zealand summers are generally quite dry, but rain increases from March. New Zealand gets a lot of rain throughout the year, **but March isn't a very wet month**. But bring your rain slicker, just in case.



PASSPORT

Due to airline security measures, **your passport name must match your airline ticket name** or you may be denied boarding. Your **passport's expiration date must be at least six months after your return** from your trip; if it is not, you should renew your passport.

It is your responsibility to ensure the validity of all travel documents! We recommend that you make copies of your important documents and papers (insurance cards, etc.). Leave a copy at home and have a copy with you. In the unfortunate situation that you lose your original documents, having copies facilitates the replacement process.

For US citizens, the [US Department of State](#) website is a good source of information. The *Country Information* tab in the International Travel section provides details about passport validity, blank passport pages required, etc.



CONVERSIONS for Europe

Celsius Fahrenheit

10°C	50°F
15°C	59°F
20°C	68°F
25°C	77°F
30°C	86°F
35°C	95°F
40°C	104°F

Meters Miles

1 Km62 mile
2 Km	1.24 mile
5 Km	3.10 mile
10 Km	6.2 mile
25 Km	15.5 mile
30 Km	18.6 mile
50 Km	31 mile

Time

12:00 hours	Noon
14:00 hours	2:00 pm
16:00 hours	4:00 pm
18:00 hours	6:00 pm
20:00 hours	8:00 pm
22:00 hours	10:00 pm
00:00 hours	Midnight