

# ITINERARIES 2008-2010

## 3 day The Bay (Code TB3)

Departs Auckland Sat (+ Wed 31 Dec 08 - 22 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am  
Finishes Auckland 8pm

Quad Share: NZD\$345

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$70

### Highlights

- Giant kauri trees
- Early settlement history
- Goat Island Marine reserve
- Native Bird Recovery Centre
- Scenery and wildlife spotting boat trip

### Day 1 - Auckland to Paihia

We head north from Auckland over the harbour bridge and on to a forest reserve for some giant 'kauri' trees and to learn about the early European settlement of New Zealand. We then take a back road to the Goat Island Marine reserve for a walk and to look at the amazing array of marine life – which you can see from the rocks or get in amongst and snorkel. It's then back to the main road and with a stop at the Native Bird Recovery Centre to meet and learn about New Zealand's amazing bird life on our way to Paihia. We stay 100 metres from the main beach at a lodge in the middle of Paihia for both nights. You may choose to go to the optional cultural show tonight or simply visit the town (D).

### Day 2 – Day in Paihia with optional activities

Today you can choose a day of exploring the Paihia area. There are great nearby beaches, or you can walk to the historic Waitangi Treaty grounds. Here you will see Maori artefacts and learn more local history. Alternatively you may hike to the Haruru falls nature reserve.

For those more adventurous, you will have the option of a recommended adventure bus trip to the Northern tip of New Zealand visiting Cape Reinga, including a section where the beach is the road. You will go to where the two oceans meet and Maori Spirits leave the land. Step on the top of New Zealand; see huge sand dunes and generally beautiful remote scenery. You arrive back late afternoon to the comfort of your lodge (No meals).

### Day 3 - Paihia to Auckland

In the morning there is time to relax or visit Russell and/or the Treaty Grounds for those that chose the Cape Reinga trip the day before. In the afternoon we have a boat trip, which travels through the Bay of Islands taking in many of the 144 islands, which give the place its name. There will also be the chance to see dolphins and whales. We depart at 4.30pm to arrive back at Auckland to our accommodation around 8.00pm (No meals).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, snorkelling gear for the marine reserve (summer only), Native Bird recovery centre (Wednesday departure only), boat trip spotting dolphins and other marine life.

**What to Bring:** Walking shoes, swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.



## **6 day Northern Highlights (code NH6)**

**Departs Auckland Tues (+ Sat 03 Jan - 25 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am      Finishes Auckland 5pm**

**Quad Share: NZD\$775**

**Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$140**

### **Highlights:**

- Cathedral Cove walk and Hot Water Beach (natural geothermal pools)
- Access to caving in Waitomo
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience
- Free geothermal park with bubbling mud
- Time to do the Tongariro Crossing in summer (rated as NZ's best one day walk)
- Overnight in dual World Heritage area
- Time to see Te Papa our National Museum



### **Day 1 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)**

We head south through the 'Waikato' and some of the world's best dairy farmland before crossing over a small mountain range and dropping down into the 'Coromandel region'. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove, explore Stingray Bay and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

### **Day 2 - Hahei to Rotorua**

Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast and passing through many idyllic beach towns, we stop for some great walks along the way. These may include Whangamata Beach, the Mt Paku Trig Walk, Bowen Town Heads, and Mt Manganui coastal hike. We then head to our unique Maori cultural stop at "Uncle Boys". We enjoy a hangi meal and a concert with the local Maori; have a chance to learn the Haka for men and the Poi for women. This is a truly different experience and a great photo opportunity. From here we make the small trip to Rotorua to our accommodation for the evening (B, D).

### **Day 3 - Rotorua to Waitomo**

This morning we explore the Rotorua area, visiting stunning lakes and hiking through Redwood forest. You will also of course visit a geothermal area to see the cause of the strange sulphur smell for which this town is famous. For those after some other adventure you have options of doing a skydive, going white water rafting, or simply wandering around and seeing some of NZ's most tacky souvenirs. We then take the back road to New Zealand's premier caving destination where you get a chance to take in the local farming culture and countryside. We do a walk where you can see the famous glowworms and give you options to do some amazing caving activities (D).

### **Day 4 - Waitomo to National Park**

An early start this morning as we head further south to the Central Plateau and the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. Today you get a chance to hike the Tongariro Crossing, which is highly regarded as New Zealand's best one-day walk. For those less active there will be shorter walks and a visit to the Department of Conservation (DOC) volcanic centre. If the weather is unfavourable we have great options, which include the smaller walks and the volcanic centre but also a visit to Lake Taupo and an option of swimming in geothermal pools. Tonight's accommodation is at an alpine lodge 'The Park' (B, D).

### **Day 5 - National Park to Wellington**

Following the great day we have had in National Park we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We have the afternoon to explore "Te Papa", NZ's national museum and strongly recommend the walk along Oriental Parade' and/or up Mt Victoria to get the best view of the city. We stay in central Wellington accommodation tonight (B).

### **Day 6 – Wellington to Auckland**

For those of you not continuing with us onto the South Island, we will head back to Auckland via Lake Taupo. Today is a long day's driving through picturesque New Zealand scenery, broken up with a walk and lunch in the Taupo region (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated including a traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience, Te Papa Museum.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The night in the Coromandel has quad share accommodation only.

## 9 day All North Island (ANI9)

Departs Auckland Sat (+ Wed 31 Dec 08 - 22 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am

Finishes Auckland 5pm

Quad Share: NZD\$1040

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$280

### Highlights

- Giant kauri trees and early settlement history
- Goat Island Marine reserve
- Scenery and wildlife spotting boat trip
- Cathedral Cove walk and Hot Water Beach (natural geothermal pools)
- Access to caving in Waitomo
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience with free geothermal park and bubbling mud
- Time to do the Tongariro Crossing in summer (rated as NZ's best one day walk) and an overnight in a dual World Heritage area
- Time to see Te Papa our National Museum

### Day 1 - Auckland to Paihia

We head north from Auckland over the harbour bridge and on to a forest reserve for some giant 'kauri' trees and to learn about the early European settlement of New Zealand. We then take a back road to the Goat Island Marine reserve for a walk and to look at the amazing array of marine life – which you can see from the rocks or get in amongst and snorkel. It's then back to the main road and with a stop at the Native Bird Recovery Centre to meet and learn about New Zealand's amazing bird life on our way to Paihia. We stay 100 metres from the main beach at a lodge in the middle of Paihia for both nights. You may choose to go to the optional cultural show tonight or simply visit the town (D).

### Day 2 – Day in Paihia with optional activities

Today you can choose a day of exploring the Paihia area. There are great nearby beaches, or you can walk to the historic Waitangi Treaty grounds. Here you will see Maori artefacts and learn more local history. Alternatively you may hike to the Haruru falls nature reserve.

For those more adventurous, you will have the option of a recommended adventure bus trip to the top of New Zealand visiting Cape Reinga, including a section where the beach is the road. You will go to where the two oceans meet and Maori Spirits leave the land. Step on the top of New Zealand, see huge sand dunes and generally beautiful remote scenery. You arrive back late afternoon to the comfort of your lodge (No meals).

### Day 3 - Paihia to Auckland

In the morning there is time to relax or visit Russell and/or the Treaty Grounds for those that chose the Cape Reinga trip the day before. In the afternoon we have a boat trip, which travels through the Bay of Islands taking in many of the 144 islands, which give the place its name. There will also be the chance to see dolphins and whales. We depart at 4.30pm to arrive back at Auckland to our accommodation around 8.00pm (No meals).

### Day 4 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)

We head south through the 'Waikato' and some of the world's best dairy farmland before crossing over a small mountain range and dropping down into the 'Coromandel region'. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove, explore Stingray Bay and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

### Day 5 - Hahei to Rotorua



Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast and passing through many idyllic beach towns, we stop for some great walks along the way. These may include Whangamata Beach, the Mt Paku Trig Walk, Bowen Town Heads, and Mt Manganui coastal hike. We then head to our unique Maori cultural stop at "Uncle Boys". We enjoy a hangi meal and a concert with the local Maori, have a chance to learn the Haka for men and the Poi for women. This is a truly different experience and a great photo opportunity. From here we make the small trip to Rotorua to our accommodation for the evening (B, D).

#### **Day 6 - Rotorua to Waitomo**

This morning we explore the Rotorua area, visiting stunning lakes and hiking through Redwood forest. You will also of course visit a geothermal area to see the cause of the strange sulphur smell for which this town is famous. For those after some other adventure you have options of doing a skydive, going white water rafting, or simply wandering around and seeing some of NZ's most tacky souvenirs. We then take the back road to New Zealand's premier caving destination where you get a chance to take in the local farming culture and countryside. We do a walk where you can see the famous glowworms and give you options to do some amazing caving activities (D).

#### **Day 7 - Waitomo to National Park**

An early start this morning as we head further south to the Central Plateau and the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. Today you get a chance to hike the Tongariro Crossing, which is highly regarded as New Zealand's best one-day walk. For those less active there will be shorter walks and a visit to the Department of Conservation (DOC) volcanic centre. If the weather is unfavourable we have great options, which include the smaller walks and the volcanic centre but also a visit to Lake Taupo and an option of swimming in geothermal pools. Tonight's accommodation is at our exclusive lodge 'The Park' (B, D).

#### **Day 8 - National Park to Wellington**

Following the great day we have had in National Park we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We have the afternoon to explore "Te Papa", NZ's national museum and strongly recommend the walk along Oriental Parade' and/or up Mt Victoria to get the best view of the city. We stay in central Wellington accommodation tonight (B).

#### **Day 9 – Wellington to Auckland**

For those of you not continuing with us onto the South Island, we will head back to Auckland via Lake Taupo. Today is a long day's driving through picturesque New Zealand scenery, broken up with some short walks in the Taupo region (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, snorkelling gear for the marine reserve (summer only), Native Bird recovery centre (Wed departure only), boat trip spotting dolphins and other marine life, meals as indicated including a traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience, Te Papa Museum.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The night in the Coromandel has quad share accommodation only.

## 5 day Top of South Island (code TSI5)

Departs Christchurch Sat (+ Wed 21 Jan 09 – 06 May 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 7.30am Finishes Chch approx 6.30pm  
Departs Picton Sun (+Thurs 08Jan 09 – 30 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 – 31 Mar 10) 11.45am Finishes Chch approx 6.30pm

Quad Share: NZD\$695

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$105

### Highlights

- Time to explore Abel Tasman National Park with free boat transfers and our exclusive campsite
- Hanmer Springs with hot pool options
- The Nelson Lakes for amazing walks
- Kahurangi National Park and Kaikoura (for seals, dolphins and whale spotting)

### Day 1 - Christchurch to Picton

We leave Christchurch this morning for a scenic drive to the port town of Picton with a stop to view a seal colony on the way. In the afternoon you have time to do the stunning Queen Charlotte Sounds Walk at the top of the South Island.

### Day 2 – Picton to Abel Tasman

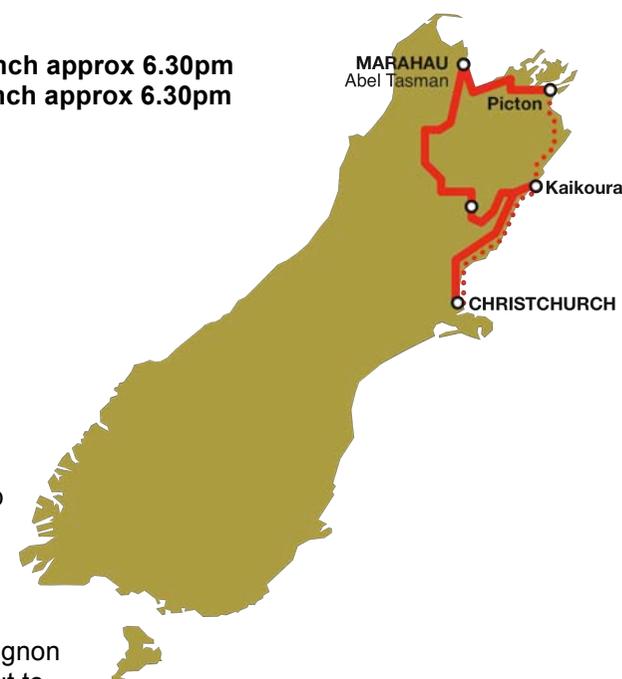
You have the morning at leisure to just relax or explore Picton further on foot or mountain bike before we head through to Marahau. We stop for a wine tour of New Zealand's premier wine region world-famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. After tantalising our tastebuds we head across to Nelson, the sunshine capital of New Zealand, then out to the Tasman region for the picturesque beaches and bays of the Abel Tasman National Park. We stay in our exclusive campsite, with cabins located adjacent to the national park. Dinner tonight includes a taste of the local seafood (B,D).

### Day 3 – Full day in Abel Tasman

An entire day to explore the Abel Tasman National Park. We have included a boat transfer out of the park so you can walk this famous coastal track, incorporating some of the world's best beaches. Your guide will take you on a walk varying in length from 2 to 3.5 hours. You can upgrade to one of the other great options available to explore this fabulous area including sea kayaking or sailing. Any way that you explore it you will be amazed by this stunning region. We self-cater tonight with BBQ facilities available and stay again at our exclusive campsite right beside the National Park (B).

### Day 4 - Abel Tasman to Hanmer Springs

Today we set off early and head deep into the interior of the upper South Island passing through two more national parks enroute to the tranquillity of Hanmer Springs. The Kahurangi and Nelson national parks boast fabulous scenery and some great small hikes with craggy mountain ranges draped with beech forest to the lake's edge. We then head for our first alpine pass to cross the main divide through the steep mountains, gorges, waterfalls, and trees, stopping in a number of places along the way to take it all in. We arrive in the afternoon to give you time to soak in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs. We go for a group meal tonight (D).



**Day 5 - Hanmer Springs to Christchurch via Kaikoura**

The day begins with a small drive to the coast to head north for Kaikoura, a stop that offers a sanctuary of marine life in a concentration unmatched anywhere in New Zealand. Regardless of what you elect to do you will encounter marine life in many forms. Seals, dolphins, whales or the king of the skies, the Royal Albatross are all available to see. After a five hour stop to give you time to do even the longest of options we express south to Christchurch, the largest South Island city (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated, boat transfers in the Abel Tasman National Park, a winery visit and a soak in the hot springs of Hanmer.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The 2 nights at Abel Tasman in our exclusive accommodation includes quad share cabins. For those starting in Picton there is one less night's accommodation included in the pass.

## **9 day Southern Highlights (code SH9)**

**Departs Christchurch Thu (+Mon 12 Jan 09 – 04 May 09 and 01 Nov 09 – 31 Mar 10) 7.30am**  
**Finishes Christchurch approximately 6.30pm**

**Quad Share: NZD\$1695**

**Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$175**

### **Highlights**

- Optional Tranzalpine train journey upgrade across the Southern Alps
- Wild West Coast
- Franz Josef glacier
- Mount Aspiring National Park with an exclusive wilderness stop at Makarora
- Two free days in Queenstown
- Exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound
- Central Otago historic mining area
- Otago Rail Trail with all-level mountain biking and an exclusive overnight.



### **Day 1 - Christchurch to Franz Josef**

We start early to cross the majestic Canterbury plains, over Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. An optional extra is doing the famous Trans-alpine rail journey. Along the way we will stop for some walks and photo opportunities as the scenery is changing constantly. You will be inspired as you travel from the plains of Canterbury, to the mountains of the southern divide, the beech forests, and then on to dense rainforest. We stop in the small town of Arthur's Pass in the heart of the national park before crossing to the wild west coast. We stop in Greymouth to collect our train passengers then head south to Hokitika, famous for pounamu (jade). From here to Franz Josef the coast is littered with ancient trees, huge mountains, glacial carvings and remanets, which look like a prehistoric world. We stop at the local Bushman's centre to learn about the local history before heading down to Franz Josef for its glacier. Lodge accommodation in the rainforest in the middle of Franz Josef tonight (D).

### **Day 2 – Full day at Franz Josef**

Today is free for exploring this World Heritage area. As well as being visually stunning Franz Josef is very different from other glaciers around the world as it cascades through rainforest to an elevation only 300 metres above sea level. Your guide will take you on one of the many great walks but we highly recommend that you also pay to go on one of the guided trips where they give you special ice shoes (crampons) so that you can get further onto the glacier. Self-cater tonight – there are great local cafes and a kitchen at the lodge (B).

### **Day 3 - Franz Josef to Makarora**

We follow the coast further south today for even more amazing scenery (including New Zealand's most photographed lake), three or four great walks, waterfalls, stunning alpine views and a breathtaking alpine pass. We will arrive mid-afternoon at our wilderness accommodation at the foot of Mount Aspiring National Park. The locals provide arguably the most amazing activities from scenic flights to wilderness jet boating or a combination of both. Our accommodation tonight is in chalets (B, D).

#### **Day 4 - Makarora to Queenstown**

We do a guided walk this morning in this stunning area then journey on to the adventure capital of the world, passing glacial carved lakes, mountains stripped of their trees by glacial activity, and a uniquely crafted landscape. We stop at Wanaka for lunch before heading to Queenstown via the Crown Range mountain pass in summer; and in winter following Lake Dunstan to the spiritual home of bungee jumping. Everyone has the option of observing or jumping themselves. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon ready for two days of whatever you choose to do, whether you want to scare yourself or simply enjoy this fantastic resort-style town. Your guide will take you on an orientation of the resort when we arrive and a tour of the town's night spots in the evening for a fun-filled night (B).

**Day 5 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 6 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

#### **Day 7 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound**

Today we start early for what is no doubt one of the major highlights of our New Zealand adventure. This morning we head to Fiordland National Park. The unique adventure begins at Manapouri town with a boat ride across this glacial carved lake to meet a bus which takes us up and over the Wilmot Pass where we board our vessel at Deep Cove for an involved wilderness experience in a place like no other. Doubtful Sound is truly an amazing place; one of the most remote and untouched places on earth where you will see fur seals, Fiordland Crested Penguins and dolphins. The scenery seems like a lost world. We spend the day and the night on a purpose built boat which includes a dedicated nature guide and sea kayaks. We overnight in a secluded bay in the Sound. Accommodation on the boat and all meals included (L, D).

#### **Day 8 – Doubtful Sound to Central Otago**

The morning is spent departing Doubtful Sound via two boat trips and a bus ride through the Fiordland National Park. We board our own mini-coach at midday and head on through the Otago region. We explore relics of the gold rush which was responsible for the European settlement of this area. We stay in our own exclusive accommodation in the middle of Otago gold country. (B, D).

#### **Day 9 – Central Otago to Christchurch**

We start with a fantastic unique activity. We grab our mountain bikes put them in our mini-coach and head out to sample part of the old Otago Gold Heritage Rail Trail. It is an ideal activity for riders of all abilities as you simply choose how far along the well-marked trail you want to be dropped to ride back to our base. We then get back on the bus, follow another historic pass and express our way along the Canterbury plains flanked by the Southern Alps to Christchurch, which is our home for the night (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated, exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound (Milford Sound overnight cruise in winter), mountain biking on the Otago Rail Trail.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The Doubtful Sound cruise is a truly unique experience, however most cabins are quad-share and therefore upgrades are limited. We will confirm at time of booking whether twin/double accommodation is available.

## 14 day All of South Island (code ASI14)

Departs Christchurch Sat (+ Wed 21 Jan 09 – 06 May 09 and 01 Nov- 31 Mar 10) 7.30am Finishes Christchurch approx 6.30pm  
Departs Picton Sun (+Thurs 08Jan 09 – 30 Apr 09 and 01 Nov – 31 Mar 10) 11.45am Finishes Christchurch approx 6.30pm

Quad Share: NZD\$2360

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$350

### Highlights

- Time to explore Abel Tasman National Park with free boat transfers and our exclusive campsite
- Hanmer Springs with hot pool options
- The Nelson Lakes for amazing walks
- Kahurangi National Park and Kaikoura (for seals, dolphins and whale spotting)
- Tranzalpine train journey option across the Southern Alps
- Time at Franz Josef glacier
- Mount Aspiring National Park with an exclusive wilderness stop at Makarora
- Two free days in Queenstown
- Exclusive overnight on the amazing Doubtful Sound
- Central Otago historic mining area and Otago Rail Trail with all-level mountain biking.



### Day 1 - Christchurch to Picton

We leave Christchurch this morning for a scenic drive to the port town of Picton with a stop to view a seal colony on the way. In the afternoon you have time to do the stunning Queen Charlotte Sounds Walk at the top of the South Island (No meals).

### Day 2 – Picton to Abel Tasman

You have the morning at leisure to just relax or explore Picton further on foot or mountain bike before we head through to Marahau. We stop for a wine tour of New Zealand's premier wine region world-famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. After tantalising our tastebuds we head across to Nelson, the sunshine capital of New Zealand, then out to the Tasman region for the picturesque beaches and bays of the Abel Tasman National Park. We stay in our exclusive campsite, with cabins located adjacent to the national park. Dinner tonight includes a taste of the local seafood (B,D).

### Day 3 – Full day in Abel Tasman

An entire day to explore the Abel Tasman National Park. We have included a boat transfer out of the park so you can walk this famous coastal track, incorporating some of the world's best beaches. Your guide will take you on a walk varying in length from 2 to 3.5 hours. You can upgrade to one of the other great options available to explore this fabulous area including sea kayaking or sailing. Any way that you explore it you will be amazed by this stunning region. We self-cater tonight with BBQ facilities available and stay again at our exclusive campsite right beside the National Park (B).

### Day 4 - Abel Tasman to Hanmer Springs

Today we set off early and head deep into the interior of the upper South Island passing through two more national parks enroute to the tranquillity of Hanmer Springs. The Kahurangi and Nelson national parks boast fabulous scenery and some great small hikes with craggy mountain ranges draped with beech forest to

the lake's edge. We then head for our first alpine pass to cross the main divide through the steep mountains, gorges, waterfalls, and trees, stopping in a number of places along the way to take it all in. We arrive in the afternoon to give you time to soak in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs. We go for a group meal tonight (D).

#### **Day 5 - Hanmer Springs to Christchurch via Kaikoura**

The day begins with a small drive to the coast to head north for Kaikoura, a stop that offers a sanctuary of marine life in a concentration unmatched anywhere in New Zealand. Regardless of what you elect to do you will encounter marine life in many forms. Seals, dolphins, whales or the king of the skies, the Royal Albatross are all available to see. After a five hour stop to give you time to do even the longest of options we express south to Christchurch, the largest South Island city (B).

#### **Day 6 - Christchurch to Franz Josef**

We start early to cross the majestic Canterbury plains, over Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. An optional extra is doing the famous Trans-alpine rail journey. Along the way we will stop for some walks and photo opportunities as the scenery is changing constantly. You will be inspired as you travel from the plains of Canterbury, to the mountains of the southern divide, the beech forests, and then on to dense rainforest. We stop in the small town of Arthur's Pass in the heart of the national park before crossing to the wild west coast. We stop in Greymouth to collect our train passengers then head south to Hokitika, famous for pounamu (jade). From here to Franz Josef the coast is littered with ancient trees, huge mountains, glacial carvings and remanets, which look like a prehistoric world. We stop at the local Bushman's centre to learn about the local history before heading down to Franz Josef for its glacier. Lodge accommodation in the rainforest in the middle of Franz Josef tonight (D).

#### **Day 7 – Full day at Franz Josef**

Today is free for exploring this World Heritage area. As well as being visually stunning Franz Josef is very different from other glaciers around the world as it cascades through rainforest to an elevation only 300 metres above sea level. Your guide will take you on one of the many great walks but we highly recommend that you also pay to go on one of the guided trips where they give you special ice shoes (crampons) so that you can get further onto the glacier. Self-cater tonight – there are great local cafes and a kitchen at the lodge (B).

#### **Day 8 - Franz Josef to Makarora**

We follow the coast further south today for even more amazing scenery (including New Zealand's most photographed lake), three or four great walks, waterfalls, stunning alpine views and a breathtaking alpine pass. We will arrive mid-afternoon at our wilderness accommodation at the foot of Mount Aspiring National Park. The locals provide arguably the most amazing activities from scenic flights to wilderness jet boating or a combination of both. Our accommodation tonight is in chalets (B, D).

#### **Day 9 - Makarora to Queenstown**

We have a guided walk this morning in this stunning area then journey on to the adventure capital of the world, passing glacial carved lakes, mountains stripped of their trees by glacial activity, and a uniquely crafted landscape, doing short walks. We stop at Wanaka for lunch before heading to Queenstown via the Crown Range mountain pass in summer; and in winter following Lake Dunstan to the spiritual home of bungy jumping. Everyone has the option of observing or jumping themselves. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon ready for two days of whatever you choose to do, whether you want to scare yourself or simply enjoy this fantastic resort-style town. Your guide will take you on an orientation of the resort when we arrive and a tour of the town's night spots in the evening for a fun-filled night (B).

#### **Day 10 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 11 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 12 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound**

Today we start early for what is no doubt one of the major highlights of our New Zealand adventure. This morning we head to Fiordland National Park. The unique adventure begins at Manapouri town with a boat ride across this glacial carved lake to meet a bus which takes us up and over the Wilmot Pass where we board our vessel at Deep Cove for an involved wilderness experience in a place like no other. Doubtful Sound is truly an amazing place; one of the most remote and untouched places on earth where you will see fur seals, Fiordland Crested Penguins and dolphins. The scenery seems like a lost world. We spend the day and the night on a purpose built boat which includes a dedicated nature guide and sea kayaks. We overnight in a secluded bay in the Sound. Accommodation on the boat and all meals included (L, D).

**Day 13 – Doubtful Sound to Central Otago**

The morning is spent departing Doubtful Sound via two boat trips and a bus ride through the Fiordland National Park. We board our own mini-coach at midday and head on through the Otago region. We explore relics of the gold rush which was responsible for the European settlement of this area. We stay in our own exclusive accommodation in the middle of Otago gold country. (B, D).

**Day 14 – Central Otago to Christchurch**

We start with a fantastic unique activity. We grab our mountain bikes put them in our mini-coach and head out to sample part of the old Otago Gold Heritage Rail Trail. It is an ideal activity for riders of all abilities as you simply choose how far along the well-marked trail you want to be dropped to ride back to our base. We then get back on the bus, follow another historic pass and express our way along the Canterbury plains flanked by the Southern Alps to Christchurch, which is our home for the night (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated, boat transfers in the Abel Tasman National Park, a winery visit, soak in the hot springs of Hanmer, exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound (Milford Sound overnight cruise in winter), mountain biking on the Otago Rail Trail.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The 2 nights at Abel Tasman in our exclusive accommodation includes quad share cabins. The Doubtful Sound cruise is a truly unique experience, however most cabins are quad-share and therefore upgrades are limited. We will confirm at time of booking whether twin/double accommodation is available. NB For those starting in Picton there is one less night's accommodation included in the pass.

## 18 Day North to South (code NS18)

Departs Auckland Tues (+ Sat 03 Jan - 25 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am

Finishes Christchurch approximately 6.30pm

Quad Share: NZD\$2895

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$455

### Highlights:

- Cathedral Cove walk and Hot Water Beach (natural geothermal pools)
- Access to caving in Waitomo
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience
- Time to do the Tongariro Crossing (rated as NZ's best one day walk)
- Time to see Te Papa our National Museum
- Abel Tasman National Park with boat transfers and our exclusive campsite
- Hanmer Springs with hot pool options
- The Nelson Lakes for amazing walks
- Kahurangi National Park and Kaikoura (for seals, dolphins and whale spotting)
- Tranzalpine train journey upgrade option across the Southern Alps
- Time at Franz Josef glacier
- Mount Aspiring National Park with an exclusive wilderness stop at Makarora
- Two free days in Queenstown
- Exclusive overnight on the amazing Doubtful Sound
- Central Otago historic mining area and Otago Rail Trail with all-level mountain biking.



### Day 1 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)

We head south through the 'Waikato' and some of the world's best dairy farmland before crossing over a small mountain range and dropping down into the 'Coromandel region'. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove, explore Stingray Bay and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

### Day 2 - Hahei to Rotorua

Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast and passing through many idyllic beach towns, we stop for some great walks along the way. These may include Whangamata Beach, the Mt Paku Trig Walk, Bowen Town Heads, and Mt Manganui coastal hike. We then head to our unique Maori cultural stop at "Uncle Boys". We enjoy a hangi meal and a concert with the local Maori, have a chance to learn the Haka for men and the Poi for women. This is a truly different experience and a great photo opportunity. From here we make the small trip to Rotorua to our accommodation for the evening (B, D).

### Day 3 - Rotorua to Waitomo

This morning we explore the Rotorua area, visiting stunning lakes and hiking through Redwood forest. You will also of course visit a geothermal area to see the cause of the strange sulphur smell for which this town is famous. For those after some other adventure you have options of doing a skydive, going white water

rafting, or simply wandering around and seeing some of NZ's most tacky souvenirs. We then take the back road to New Zealand's premier caving destination where you get a chance to take in the local farming culture and countryside. We do a walk where you can see the famous glowworms and give you options to do some amazing caving activities (D).

#### **Day 4 - Waitomo to National Park**

An early start this morning as we head further south to the Central Plateau and the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. Today you get a chance to hike the Tongariro Crossing, which is highly regarded as New Zealand's best one-day walk. For those less active there will be shorter walks and a visit to the Department of Conservation (DOC) volcanic centre. If the weather is unfavourable we have great options which include the smaller walks and the volcanic centre but also a visit to Lake Taupo and an option of swimming in geothermal pools. Tonight's accommodation is at our exclusive lodge 'The Park' (B, D).

#### **Day 5 - National Park to Wellington**

Following the great day we have had in National Park we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We have the afternoon to explore "Te Papa", NZ's national museum and strongly recommend walk along Oriental Parade' and/or up Mt Victoria to get the best view of the city. We stay in central Wellington accommodation tonight (B).

#### **Day 6 – Wellington/Picton to Abel Tasman**

In Wellington we head to the inter-island ferry where we drive on board with our mini-coach. The ferry trip includes fantastic scenery, particularly as we cruise through the Marlborough Sounds and on to the port of Picton for the trip through to Marahau. We stop for a wine tour of New Zealand's premier wine region world-famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. After tantalising our tastebuds we head across to Nelson, the sunshine capital of New Zealand, then out to the Tasman region for the picturesque beaches and bays of the Abel Tasman National Park. We stay in our exclusive campsite, with cabins located adjacent to the national park. Dinner tonight includes a taste of the local seafood (B,D).

#### **Day 7 – Full day in Abel Tasman**

An entire day to explore the Abel Tasman National Park. We have included a boat transfer out of the park so you can walk this famous coastal track, incorporating some of the world's best beaches. Your guide will take you on a walk varying in length from 2 to 3.5 hours. You can upgrade to one of the other great options available to explore this fabulous area including sea kayaking or sailing. Any way that you explore it you will be amazed by this stunning region. We self-cater tonight with BBQ facilities available and stay again at our exclusive campsite right beside the National Park (B).

#### **Day 8 - Abel Tasman to Hanmer Springs**

Today we set off early and head deep into the interior of the upper South Island passing through two more national parks enroute to the tranquillity of Hanmer Springs. The Kahurangi and Nelson national parks boast fabulous scenery and some great small hikes with craggy mountain ranges draped with beech forest to the lake's edge. We then head for our first alpine pass to cross the main divide through the steep mountains, gorges, waterfalls, and trees, stopping in a number of places along the way to take it all in. We arrive in the afternoon to give you time to soak in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs. We go for a group meal tonight (D).

#### **Day 9 - Hanmer Springs to Christchurch via Kaikoura**

The day begins with a small drive to the coast to head north for Kaikoura, a stop that offers a sanctuary of marine life in a concentration unmatched anywhere in New Zealand. Regardless of what you elect to do you will encounter marine life in many forms. Seals, dolphins, whales or the king of the skies, the Royal Albatross are all available to see. After a five hour stop to give you time to do even the longest of options we express south to Christchurch, the largest South Island city (B).

**Day 10 - Christchurch to Franz Josef**

We start early to cross the majestic Canterbury plains, over Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. An optional extra is doing the famous Trans-alpine rail journey. Along the way we will stop for some walks and photo opportunities as the scenery is changing constantly. You will be inspired as you travel from the plains of Canterbury, to the mountains of the southern divide, the beech forests, and then on to dense rainforest. We stop in the small town of Arthur's Pass in the heart of the national park before crossing to the wild west coast. We stop in Greymouth to collect our train passengers then head south to Hokitika, famous for pounamu (jade). From here to Franz Josef the coast is littered with ancient trees, huge mountains, glacial carvings and remnants, which look like a prehistoric world. We stop at the local Bushman's centre to learn about the local history before heading down to Franz Josef for its glacier. Lodge accommodation in the rainforest in the middle of Franz Josef tonight (D).

**Day 11 – Full day at Franz Josef**

Today is free for exploring this World Heritage area. As well as being visually stunning Franz Josef is very different from other glaciers around the world as it cascades through rainforest to an elevation only 300 metres above sea level. Your guide will take you on one of the many great walks but we highly recommend that you also pay to go on one of the guided trips where they give you special ice shoes (crampons) so that you can get further onto the glacier. Self-cater tonight – there are great local cafes and a kitchen at the lodge (B).

**Day 12 - Franz Josef to Makarora**

We follow the coast further south today for even more amazing scenery (including New Zealand's most photographed lake), three or four great walks, waterfalls, stunning alpine views and a breathtaking alpine pass. We will arrive mid-afternoon at our wilderness accommodation at the foot of Mount Aspiring National Park. The locals provide arguably the most amazing activities from scenic flights to wilderness jet boating or a combination of both. Our accommodation tonight is in chalets (B, D).

**Day 13 - Makarora to Queenstown**

We have a guided walk this morning in this stunning area then journey on to the adventure capital of the world, passing glacial carved lakes, mountains stripped of their trees by glacial activity, and a uniquely crafted landscape, doing short walks. We stop at Wanaka for lunch before heading to Queenstown via the Crown Range mountain pass in summer; and in winter following Lake Dunstan to the spiritual home of bungy jumping. Everyone has the option of observing or jumping themselves. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon ready for two days of whatever you choose to do, whether you want to scare yourself or simply enjoy this fantastic resort-style town. Your guide will take you on an orientation of the resort when we arrive and a tour of the town's night spots in the evening for a fun-filled night (B).

**Day 14 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 15 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 16 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound**

Today we start early for what is no doubt one of the major highlights of our New Zealand adventure. This morning we head to Fiordland National Park. The unique adventure begins at Manapouri town with a boat ride across this glacial carved lake to meet a bus which takes us up and over the Wilmot Pass where we board our vessel at Deep Cove for an involved wilderness experience in a place like no other. Doubtful Sound is truly an amazing place; one of the most remote and untouched places on earth where you will see fur seals, Fiordland Crested Penguins and dolphins. The scenery seems like a lost world. We spend the day and the night on a purpose-built boat which includes a dedicated nature guide and sea kayaks. We overnight in a secluded bay in the Sound. Accommodation on the boat and all meals included (L, D).

**Day 17 – Doubtful Sound to Central Otago**

The morning is spent departing Doubtful Sound via two boat trips and a bus ride through the Fiordland National Park. We board our own mini-coach at midday and head on through the Otago region. We explore relics of the gold rush which was responsible for the European settlement of this area. We stay in our own exclusive accommodation in the middle of Otago gold country. (B, D).

**Day 18 – Central Otago to Christchurch**

We start with a fantastic unique activity. We grab our mountain bikes put them in our mini-coach and head out to sample part of the old Otago Gold Heritage Rail Trail. It is an ideal activity for riders of all abilities as you simply choose how far along the well-marked trail you want to be dropped to ride back to our base. We then get back on the bus, follow another historic pass and express our way along the Canterbury plains flanked by the Southern Alps to Christchurch, which is our home for the night (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated including a traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience, Te Papa Museum, inter-island ferry, boat transfers in the Abel Tasman National Park, a winery visit, soak in the hot springs of Hanmer, exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound (Milford Sound overnight cruise in winter), mountain biking on the Otago Rail Trail.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The night in the Coromandel has quad share accommodation only. The 2 nights at Abel Tasman in our exclusive accommodation includes quad share cabins. The Doubtful Sound cruise is a truly unique experience, however most cabins are quad-share and therefore upgrades are limited. We will confirm at time of booking whether twin/double accommodation is available.

## 20/21 day Total New Zealand (code TNZ20 or starting Chch TNZ21)

**TNZ20 Departs Auckland Tue (+ Sat 03 Jan 09 - 25 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am Finishes Auckland 5pm**

**TNZ21 Departs Chch Sat (+ Wed 21 Jan 09 – 06 May 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 7.30am Finishes Chch 6.30pm**

(Includes free day in Auckland. Itinerary starts Day 19)

**NZH20 Quad Share: NZD\$2995**

**NZH21 Quad Share: NZD\$3195**

**Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$525**

**Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$560**

### Highlights:

- Cathedral Cove walk and Hot Water Beach (natural geothermal pools)
- Access to caving in Waitomo
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience
- Time to do the Tongariro Crossing (rated as NZ's best one day walk)
- Time to see Te Papa our National Museum
- Abel Tasman National Park with boat transfers and our exclusive campsite
- Hanmer Springs with hot pool options and the Nelson Lakes for amazing walks
- Kahurangi National Park and Kaikoura (for seals, dolphins and whale spotting)
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### Day 1 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)

We head south through the 'Waikato' and some of the world's best dairy farmland before crossing over a small mountain range and dropping down into the 'Coromandel region'. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove, explore Stingray Bay and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

### Day 2 - Hahei to Rotorua

Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast and passing through many idyllic beach towns, we stop for some great walks along the way. These may include Whangamata Beach, the Mt Paku Trig Walk, Bowen Town Heads, and Mt Manganui coastal hike. We then head to our unique Maori cultural stop at "Uncle Boys". We enjoy a hangi meal and a concert with the local Maori, have a chance to learn the Haka for men and the Poi for women. This is a truly different experience and a great photo opportunity. From here we make the small trip to Rotorua to our accommodation for the evening (B, D).

### Day 3 - Rotorua to Waitomo

This morning we explore the Rotorua area, visiting stunning lakes and hiking through Redwood forest. You will also of course visit a geothermal area to see the cause of the strange sulphur smell for which this town is famous. For those after some other adventure you have options of doing a skydive, going white water rafting, or simply wandering around and seeing some of NZ's most tacky souvenirs. We then take the back road to New Zealand's premier caving destination

where you get a chance to take in the local farming culture and countryside. We do a walk where you can see the famous glowworms and give you options to do some amazing caving activities (D).

#### **Day 4 - Waitomo to National Park**

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#### **Day 7 – Full day in Abel Tasman**

An entire day to explore the Abel Tasman National Park. We have included a boat transfer out of the park so you can walk this famous coastal track, incorporating some of the world's best beaches. Your guide will take you on a walk varying in length from 2 to 3.5 hours. You can upgrade to one of the other great options available to explore this fabulous area including sea kayaking or sailing. Any way that you explore it you will be amazed by this stunning region. We self-cater tonight with BBQ facilities available and stay again at our exclusive campsite right beside the National Park (B).

#### **Day 8 - Abel Tasman to Hanmer Springs**

Today we set off early and head deep into the upper South Island passing through two more national parks enroute to the tranquillity of Hanmer Springs. The Kahurangi and Nelson national parks boast fabulous scenery and some great small hikes with craggy mountain ranges draped with beech forest to the lake's edge. We then head for our first alpine pass to cross the main divide through the steep mountains, gorges, waterfalls, and trees, stopping in a number of places along the way to take it all in. We arrive in the afternoon to give you time to soak in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs. We go for a group meal tonight (D).

#### **Day 9 - Hanmer Springs to Christchurch via Kaikoura**

The day begins with a small drive to the coast to head north for Kaikoura, a stop that offers a sanctuary of marine life in a concentration unmatched anywhere in New Zealand. Regardless of what you elect to do you will encounter marine life in many forms. Seals, dolphins, whales or the king of the skies, the Royal Albatross are all available to see. After a five hour stop to give you time to do even the longest of options we express south to Christchurch, the largest South Island city (B).

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We start early to cross the majestic Canterbury plains, over Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. An optional extra is doing the famous Trans-alpine rail journey. Along the way we will stop for some walks and photo opportunities as the scenery is changing constantly. You will be inspired as you travel from the plains of Canterbury, to the mountains of the southern divide, the beech forests, and then on to dense rainforest. We stop in the small town of Arthur's Pass in the heart of the national park before crossing to the wild west coast. We stop in Greymouth to collect our train passengers then head south to Hokitika, famous for pounamu (jade). From here to Franz Josef the coast is littered with ancient trees, huge mountains, glacial carvings and remanets, which look like a prehistoric world. We stop at the local Bushman's centre to learn about the local history before heading down to Franz Josef for its glacier. Lodge accommodation in the rainforest in the middle of Franz Josef tonight (D).

#### **Day 11 – Full day at Franz Josef**

Today is free for exploring this World Heritage area. As well as being visually stunning Franz Josef is very different from other glaciers around the world as it cascades through rainforest to an elevation only 300 metres above sea level. Your guide will take you on one of the many great walks but we highly recommend that you also pay to go on one of the guided trips where they give you special ice shoes (crampons) so that you can get further onto the glacier. Self-cater tonight – there are great local cafes and a kitchen at the lodge (B).

#### **Day 12 - Franz Josef to Makarora**

We follow the coast further south today for even more amazing scenery (including New Zealand's most photographed lake), three or four great walks, waterfalls, stunning alpine views and a breathtaking alpine pass. We will arrive mid-afternoon at our wilderness accommodation at the foot of Mount Aspiring National Park. The locals provide arguably the most amazing activities from scenic flights to wilderness jet boating or a combination of both. Our accommodation tonight is in chalets (B, D).

#### **Day 13 - Makarora to Queenstown**

We have a guided walk this morning in this stunning area then journey on to the adventure capital of the world, passing glacial carved lakes, mountains stripped of their trees by glacial activity, and a uniquely crafted landscape, doing short walks. We stop at Wanaka for lunch before heading to Queenstown via the Crown Range mountain pass in summer; and in winter following Lake Dunstan to the spiritual home of bungy jumping. Everyone has the option of observing or jumping themselves. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon ready for two days of whatever you choose to do, whether you want to scare yourself or simply enjoy this fantastic resort-style town. Your guide will take you on an orientation of the resort when we arrive and a tour of the town's night spots in the evening for a fun-filled night (B).

**Day 14 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 15 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

#### **Day 16 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound**

Today we start early for what is no doubt one of the major highlights of our New Zealand adventure. This morning we head to Fiordland National Park. The unique adventure begins at Manapouri town with a boat ride across this glacial carved lake to meet a bus which takes us up and over the Wilmot Pass where we board our vessel at Deep Cove for an involved wilderness experience in a place like no other. Doubtful Sound is truly an amazing place; one of the most remote and untouched places on earth where you will see fur seals, Fiordland Crested Penguins and dolphins. The scenery seems like a lost world. We spend the day and the night on a purpose-built boat which includes a dedicated nature guide and sea kayaks. We overnight in a secluded bay in the Sound. Accommodation on the boat and all meals included (L, D).

**Day 17 – Doubtful Sound to Central Otago**

The morning is spent departing Doubtful Sound via two boat trips and a bus ride through the Fiordland National Park. We board our own mini-coach at midday and head on through the Otago region. We explore relics of the gold rush which was responsible for the European settlement of this area. We stay in our own exclusive accommodation in the middle of Otago gold country. (B, D).

### **Day 18 – Central Otago to Christchurch**

We start with a fantastic unique activity. We grab our mountain bikes put them in our mini-coach and head out to sample part of the old Otago Gold Heritage Rail Trail. It is an ideal activity for riders of all abilities as you simply choose how far along the well-marked trail you want to be dropped to ride back to our base. We then get back on the bus, follow another historic pass and express our way along the Canterbury plains flanked by the Southern Alps to Christchurch, which is our home for the night (B).

### **Day 19 - Christchurch to Picton/Wellington**

We leave Christchurch this morning for an express trip to Picton and Wellington. Enjoy the beautiful Marlborough Sounds and some great harbour shots of our capital city Wellington from the ferry (B).

### **Day 20 - Wellington to Auckland**

Today is an express journey from Wellington to Auckland; you will see some amazing scenery as we head through the Tongariro National Park and climb high up on to the Desert Road. We will stop on the way to have lunch in Taupo for a short walk and for you to see New Zealand's largest lake (B).

### **TNZ21 ONLY – Free Day Auckland**

Free day to explore New Zealand's biggest city, there are many options available from just relaxing, walking around the central city, heading up the Sky Tower or experiencing one of the many great sailing trips on the harbour (No meals).

The next travel day is Auckland to Hahei.

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated including a traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience, inter-island ferry, Te Papa Museum, boat transfers in the Abel Tasman National Park, a winery visit, soak in the hot springs of Hanmer, exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound (Milford Sound overnight cruise in winter), mountain biking on the Otago Rail Trail.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The night in the Coromandel has quad share accommodation only. The 2 nights at Abel Tasman in our exclusive accommodation includes quad share cabins. The Doubtful Sound cruise is a truly unique experience, however most cabins are quad-share and therefore upgrades are limited. We will confirm at time of booking whether twin/double accommodation is available.

## 23 day All of New Zealand (code ANZ23)

Departs Auckland Sat (+ Wed 31 Dec 08 -22 Apr 09 and 01 Nov 09 - 31 Mar 10) 8am Finishes Auckland 5pm

Quad Share: NZD\$3295

Twin/Double Upgrade Per Person: NZD\$630

### Highlights:

- Giant kauri trees and early settlement history
- Goat Island marine reserve
- Scenery and wildlife spotting boat trip
- Cathedral Cove walk and Hot Water Beach (natural geothermal pools)
- Access to caving in Waitomo
- Traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience
- Time to do the Tongariro Crossing (rated as NZ's best one day walk)
- Time to see Te Papa our National Museum
- Abel Tasman National Park with boat transfers and our exclusive campsite
- Hanmer Springs with hot pool options
- The Nelson Lakes for amazing walks
- Kahurangi National Park and Kaikoura (for seals, dolphins and whale spotting)
- Tranzalpine train journey option across the Southern Alps
- Bushman's Centre and time at Franz Josef glacier
- Mount Aspiring National Park with an exclusive wilderness stop at Makarora
- Two free days in Queenstown
- Exclusive overnight on the amazing Doubtful Sound
- Central Otago historic mining area and Otago Rail Trail with all-level mountain biking.



### Day 1 - Auckland to Paihia

We head north from Auckland over the harbour bridge and on to a forest reserve for some giant 'kauri' trees and to learn about the early European settlement of New Zealand. We then take a back road to the Goat Island Marine reserve for a walk and to look at the amazing array of marine life – which you can see from the rocks or get in amongst and snorkel. It's then back to the main road and with a stop at the Native Bird Recovery Centre to meet and learn about New Zealand's amazing bird life on our way to Paihia. We stay 100 metres from the main beach at a lodge in the middle of Paihia for both nights. You may choose to go to the optional cultural show tonight or simply visit the town (D).

### Day 2 – Day in Paihia with optional activities

Today you can choose a day of exploring the Paihia area. Your guide will take you to a good nearby beach, or you can walk to the historic Waitangi Treaty grounds. Here you will see Maori artefacts and learn more local history. Alternatively you may hike to the Haruru falls nature reserve.

For those more adventurous, you will have the option of a recommended adventure bus trip to the top of New Zealand visiting Cape Reinga, including a section where the beach is the road. You will go to where the two oceans meet and Maori Spirits leave the land. Step on the top of New Zealand, see huge sand dunes and generally beautiful remote scenery. You arrive back late afternoon to the comfort of your lodge (No meals).

### Day 3 - Paihia to Auckland

In the morning there is time to relax or visit Russell and/or the Treaty Grounds for those that chose the Cape Reinga trip the day before. In the afternoon we have a boat trip, which travels through the Bay of Islands taking in many of the 144 islands, which give the place its name. There will also be the chance to see dolphins and whales. We depart at 4.30pm to arrive back at Auckland to our accommodation around 8.00pm (No meals).

#### **Day 4 - Auckland to Hahei (Coromandel)**

We head south through the 'Waikato' and some of the world's best dairy farmland before crossing over a small mountain range and dropping down into the 'Coromandel region'. We head to our remote beach area to hike to the stunning Cathedral Cove, explore Stingray Bay and have a chance to bathe in the natural hot pools of Hot Water Beach (tide dependent). We stay in our exclusive campsite at the beach and enjoy a BBQ. Quad share cabins only (D).

#### **Day 5 - Hahei to Rotorua**

Travelling along the stunning Coromandel Coast and passing through many idyllic beach towns, we stop for some great walks along the way. These may include Whangamata Beach, the Mt Paku Trig Walk, Bowen Town Heads, and Mt Manganui coastal hike. We then head to our unique Maori cultural stop at "Uncle Boys". We enjoy a hangi meal and a concert with the local Maori, and have a chance to learn the Haka for men and the Poi for women. This is a truly different experience and a great photo opportunity. From here we make the small trip to Rotorua to our accommodation for the evening. Hangi dinner included (B, D).

#### **Day 6 - Rotorua to Waitomo**

This morning we explore the Rotorua area, visiting stunning lakes and hiking through Redwood forest. You will also of course visit a geothermal area to see the cause of the strange sulphur smell for which this town is famous. For those after some other adventure you have options of doing a skydive, going white water rafting, or simply wandering around and seeing some of NZ's most tacky souvenirs. We then take the back road to New Zealand's premier caving destination where you get a chance to take in the local farming culture and countryside. We do a walk where you can see the famous glowworms and give you options to do some amazing caving activities (D).

#### **Day 7 - Waitomo to National Park**

An early start this morning as we head further south to the Central Plateau and the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. Today you get a chance to hike the Tongariro Crossing, which is highly regarded as New Zealand's best one-day walk. For those less active there will be shorter walks and a visit to the Department of Conservation (DOC) volcanic centre. If the weather is unfavourable we have great options, which include the smaller walks and the volcanic centre but also a visit to Lake Taupo and an option of swimming in geothermal pools. Tonight's accommodation is at our exclusive lodge 'The Park' (B, D).

#### **Day 8 - National Park to Wellington**

Following the great day we have had in National Park we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We have the afternoon to explore "Te Papa", NZ's national museum and strongly recommend the walk along Oriental Parade' and/or up Mt Victoria to get the best view of the city. We stay in central Wellington accommodation tonight (B).

#### **Day 9 – Wellington/Picton to Abel Tasman**

In Wellington we head to the inter-island ferry where we drive on board with our mini-coach. The ferry trip includes fantastic scenery, particularly as we cruise through the Marlborough Sounds and on to the port of Picton for the trip through to Marahau. We stop for a wine tour of New Zealand's premier wine region world-famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. After tantalising our tastebuds we head across to Nelson, the sunshine capital of New Zealand, then out to the Tasman region for the picturesque beaches and bays of the Abel Tasman National Park. We stay in our exclusive campsite, with cabins located adjacent to the national park. Dinner tonight includes a taste of the local seafood (B,D).

#### **Day 10 – Full day in Abel Tasman**

An entire day to explore the Abel Tasman National Park. We have included a boat transfer out of the park so you can walk this famous coastal track, incorporating some of the world's best beaches. Your guide will take you on a walk varying in length from 2 to 3.5 hours. You can upgrade to one of the other great options available to explore this fabulous area including sea kayaking or sailing. Any way that you explore it you will be amazed by this stunning region. We self-cater tonight with BBQ facilities available and stay again at our exclusive campsite right beside the National Park (B).

### **Day 11 - Abel Tasman to Hanmer Springs**

Today we set off early and head deep into the interior of the upper South Island passing through two more national parks enroute to the tranquillity of Hanmer Springs. The Kahurangi and Nelson national parks boast fabulous scenery and some great small hikes with craggy mountain ranges draped with beech forest to the lake's edge. We then head for our first alpine pass to cross the main divide through the steep mountains, gorges, waterfalls, and trees, stopping in a number of places along the way to take it all in. We arrive in the afternoon to give you time to soak in the hot pools at Hanmer Springs. We go for a group meal tonight (D).

### **Day 12 - Hanmer Springs to Christchurch via Kaikoura**

The day begins with a small drive to the coast to head north for Kaikoura, a stop that offers a sanctuary of marine life in a concentration unmatched anywhere in New Zealand. Regardless of what you elect to do you will encounter marine life in many forms. Seals, dolphins, whales or the king of the skies, the Royal Albatross are all available to see. After a five hour stop to give you time to do even the longest of options we express south to Christchurch, the largest South Island city (B).

### **Day 13 - Christchurch to Franz Josef**

We start early to cross the majestic Canterbury plains, over Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. An optional extra is doing the famous Trans-alpine rail journey. Along the way we will stop for some walks and photo opportunities as the scenery is changing constantly. You will be inspired as you travel from the plains of Canterbury, to the mountains of the southern divide, the beech forests, and then on to dense rainforest. We stop in the small town of Arthur's Pass in the heart of the national park before crossing to the wild west coast. We stop in Greymouth to collect our train passengers then head south to Hokitika, famous for pounamu (jade). From here to Franz Josef the coast is littered with ancient trees, huge mountains, glacial carvings and remanets, which look like a prehistoric world. We stop at the local Bushman's centre to learn about the local history before heading down to Franz Josef for its glacier. Lodge accommodation in the rainforest in the middle of Franz Josef tonight (D).

### **Day 14 – Full day at Franz Josef**

Today is free for exploring this World Heritage area. As well as being visually stunning Franz Josef is very different from other glaciers around the world as it cascades through rainforest to an elevation only 300 metres above sea level. Your guide will take you on one of the many great walks but we highly recommend that you also pay to go on one of the guided trips where they give you special ice shoes (crampons) so that you can get further onto the glacier. Self-cater tonight – there are great local cafes and a kitchen at the lodge (B).

### **Day 15 - Franz Josef to Makarora**

We follow the coast further south today for even more amazing scenery (including New Zealand's most photographed lake), three or four great walks, waterfalls, stunning alpine views and a breathtaking alpine pass. We will arrive mid-afternoon at our wilderness accommodation at the foot of Mount Aspiring National Park. The locals provide arguably the most amazing activities from scenic flights to wilderness jet boating or a combination of both. Our accommodation tonight is in chalets (B, D).

### **Day 16 - Makarora to Queenstown**

We have a guided walk this morning in this stunning area then journey on to the adventure capital of the world, passing glacial carved lakes, mountains stripped of their trees by glacial activity, and a uniquely crafted landscape, doing short walks. We stop at Wanaka for lunch before heading to Queenstown via the Crown Range mountain pass in summer; and in winter following Lake Dunstan to the spiritual home of bungy jumping. Everyone has the option of observing or jumping themselves. We arrive at our accommodation in the afternoon ready for two days of whatever you choose to do, whether you want to scare yourself or simply enjoy this fantastic resort-style town. Your guide will take you on an orientation of the resort when we arrive and a tour of the town's nightspots in the evening for a fun-filled night (B).

**Day 17 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 18 – Full day Queenstown. Optional activities available (No meals).**

**Day 19 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound**

Today we start early for what is no doubt one of the major highlights of our New Zealand adventure. This morning we head to Fiordland National Park. The unique adventure begins at Manapouri town with a boat ride across this glacial carved lake to meet a bus which takes us up and over the Wilmot Pass where we board our vessel at Deep Cove for an involved wilderness experience in a place like no other. Doubtful Sound is truly an amazing place; one of the most remote and untouched places on earth where you will see fur seals, Fiordland Crested Penguins and dolphins. The scenery seems like a lost world. We spend the day and the night on a purpose built boat which includes a dedicated nature guide and sea kayaks. We overnight in a secluded bay in the Sound. Accommodation on the boat and all meals included (L, D).

**Day 20 – Doubtful Sound to Central Otago**

The morning is spent departing Doubtful Sound via two boat trips and a bus ride through the Fiordland National Park. We board our own mini-coach at midday and head on through the Otago region. We explore relics of the gold rush which was responsible for the European settlement of this area. We stay in our own exclusive accommodation in the middle of Otago gold country. (B, D).

**Day 21 – Central Otago to Christchurch**

We start with a fantastic unique activity. We grab our mountain bikes put them in our mini-coach and head out to sample part of the old Otago Gold Heritage Rail Trail. It is an ideal activity for riders of all abilities as you simply choose how far along the well-marked trail you want to be dropped to ride back to our base. We then get back on the bus, follow another historic pass and express our way along the Canterbury plains flanked by the Southern Alps to Christchurch, which is our home for the night (B).

**Day 22 - Christchurch to Picton/Wellington**

We leave Christchurch this morning for an express trip to Picton and Wellington. Enjoy the beautiful Marlborough Sounds and some great harbour shots of our capital city Wellington from the ferry (B).

**Day 23 - Wellington to Auckland**

Today is an express journey from Wellington to Auckland; you will see some amazing scenery as we head through the Tongariro National Park and climb high up on to the Desert Road. We will stop on the way to have lunch in Taupo for a short walk and for you to see New Zealand's largest lake (B).

**What's Included:** Experienced tour guide, accommodation transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated including a traditional Maori hangi meal and unique interactive cultural experience, snorkelling gear for the marine reserve (summer only), the Native Bird recovery centre (Wednesday departure only), boat trip spotting dolphins and other marine life, inter-island ferry, Te Papa Museum, boat transfers in the Abel Tasman National Park, a winery visit, soak in the hot

springs of Hanmer, exclusive overnight cruise on the incredible Doubtful Sound (Milford Sound overnight cruise in winter), mountain biking on the Otago Rail Trail.

**What to Bring:** Sturdy walking shoes (ankle high), swimming gear, hat and sunscreen, motion sickness tablets, water bottle, towel and toiletries, warm clothing and waterproof jacket, insect repellent, camera.

**Note:** The night in the Coromandel has quad share accommodation only. The 2 nights at Abel Tasman in our exclusive accommodation includes quad share cabins. The Doubtful Sound cruise is a truly unique experience, however most cabins are quad-share and therefore upgrades are limited. We will confirm at time of booking whether twin/double accommodation is available.