



# **BEST OF NEW ZEALAND**

11 nights / 12 days







# **DAY-WISE ITINERARY:**

#### **DAY 1: ARRIVAL AUCKAND**



On arrival, depending on your preferred travel choice, you will either be met and privately transferred, or self-drive to your accommodation.

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city, set between two harbours with gentle sandy shores on the east and black sand, wild surf beaches on the west. Home to sheltered, sparkling blue waters dotted with beautiful emerald islands, we recommend getting out on the water when you are here. Overnight: Auckland

#### DAY 2: AUCKLAND - WAITOMO - HOBBITON - ROTORUA



Journey through the rolling green hills of Waitomo and enjoy a tour through an underground wonderland of caves decorated with galaxies of glowworms. Continue to Matamata for a charming tour of unique, character Hobbit homes, gardens and the watering hole just as you see in the movies. Finishing off a visually fulfilling day, continue Rotorua, a bubbling and steaming destination like nowhere else. Overnight: Rotorua Auckland-Waitomo: 195km (approx 2hrs, 30mins) Waitomo-Matamata: 102km (approx 1hr, 20mins) Matamata-Rotorua: 67km (approx 55mins)

**INCLUDED ACTIVITES:** 

Waitomo Glowworm Caves Guided Tour & Hobbiton Movie Set

# **DAY 3: ROTORUA**



Rotorua is surrounded by a fascinating geothermal landscape with its unique steam vents, spouting geysers and bubbling mud pool set alongside freshwater lakes and majestic native forests. It is also a region immersed in fascinating Maori myths and legends. Today you'll visit one of the local geothermal attractions before a sensory evening display in the forest. Overnight: Rotorua

# **INCLUDED ACTIVITES:**

Waimangu Geothermal Valley Treewalk Nightlights



# DAY 4: ROTORUA - CHRISTCHURCH (FLIGHT NOT INCLUDED)

Depart on your domestic flight to Christchurch. (Airfare is NOT included).

Flight Time Rotorua to Christchurch is approx. 2 hours Christchurch is set between the deep blue Pacific Ocean and the mighty snow-capped Southern Alps. This is a vibrant, ever-changing city with inner city parks and gardens delightfully interwoven by the meandering Avon River. Overnight: Christchurch.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITES:** Antarctic Centre

#### **Xplore Destination**





#### **DAY 5: CHRISTCHURCH - GLACIER REGION**



Depart across the Canterbury Plains, a fertile patchwork made with every shade of green, through the spectacular scenery of Arthurs Pass National Park and on to the West Coast. New Zealand's rugged West Coast is a wild and untamed place known for its rivers, rainforests, glaciers and geological treasures. Here, mighty rivers of solid white ice, relics of the world's last ice-age, tumble down the rocky valleys.

Overnight: Glacier Region

Christchurch - Glacier Region: 240-380km (approx 3.5-5hrs)

**DAY 6: GLACIER REGION** 



A temperate climate at a low altitude make Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers among the most convenient to visit in the world. Steep valleys bear scars from where glaciers have retreated and advanced over millennia and here, the ice age is still underway.

Today is a free day to add your preferred activity. Make a visit to Punakaki's Pancake Rocks or, for an absolute bucket list experience, take to the air on a scenic flight with a glacier landing and a thrilling

hike across the icy wonderland. Overnight: Glacier Region

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITES:** 

Franz Josef Glacier Heli-Hike

**DAY 7: GLACIER REGION - QUEENSTOWN** 



Travel through wilderness towns, waterfalls and river scenery on today's scenic journey to Queenstown. We recommend stopping for a break, and to stretch the legs, at Makarora's Blue Pools. Overnight: Queenstown

Glacier Region - Queenstown: 350km (approx 4hrs, 35mins)

#### **DAY 8: QUEENSTOWN**



Magnificent vistas and majestic mountains dominate this compact alpine resort town and with such an expansive natural physical environment it is not surprising that Queenstown has been described as the Adventure Capital of the World. Today is a free day to add some of the endless optional activities on offer. Overnight: Queenstown

# **Xplore Destination**





### DAY 9: QUEENSTOWN - MILFORD SOUND - QUEENSTOWN



Fiordland is one of the world's last great wildernesses. Today's stunning journey takes you past mirror lakes, spectacular waterfalls and water-sculpted rocks. Venture into Milford Sound, a New Zealand treasure carved by ice age glaciers and famously described as the eighth wonder of the world. After a big day out, reflect on memories of a lifetime on your return to Queenstown. Overnight: Queenstown

Queenstown - Milford: 287km (approx 3hrs, 50mins) each way **INCLUDED ACTIVITES:** 

Milford Sound Cruise

# DAY 10: QUEENSTOWN - TEKAPO/MT COOK



Today's journey takes you to a scenic wonderland with golden tussocks, snow-capped mountains and turquoise lakes. Hug the shores of beautiful Lake Pukaki to a rugged land of ice and rock, home to Aoraki Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. Overnight: Tekapo or Mt Cook

Queenstown – Tekapo/Mt Cook: 256-266km (approx 3hrs, 15mins)

#### DAY 11: TEKAPO/MT COOK - CHRISTCHURCH



Be sure to stop for a while at Lake Tekapo where the 'Church of the Good Shepherd' takes pride of place against the backdrop of a vivid blue glacier-fed lake. Then continue northeast where braided rivers and familiar plains will signal your arrival back into Christchurch. Overnight: Christchurch

Tekapo/Mt Cook - Christchurch: 230-230km (approx 3-4hrs)

#### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITES**

Dark Sky Experience

# **DAY 12: DEPART CHRISTCHURCH**



Arrangements conclude today with a departure transfer or return of your rental car.

# **Please Note:**

(i) Rental Car "Days" are based on a 24 hour hire.

Early arrivals into and/or late departures out of New Zealand may necessitate a longer hire period.

(ii) Adding Optional Tours may necessitate an additional nights' stay in that location.

**Xplore Destination** thanking you for your patronage.

# Take Away Sweet Memories...!!

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