

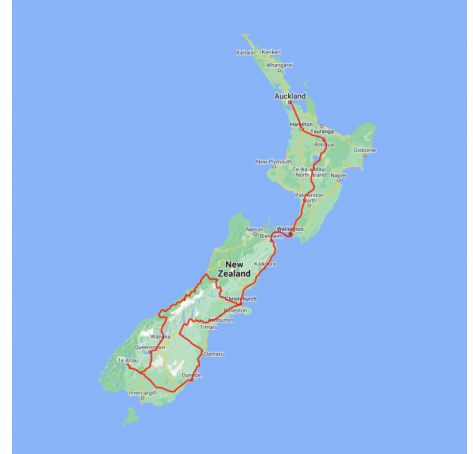


AAT Kings New Zealand Vista 25/26

You could spend eons exploring New Zealand's North and South Islands. But you can also experience a New Zealand tour in two weeks – if you have the right advice. Follow us for Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere tours, train rides through alpine tundra, Milford Sound/Piopiotahi cruises in the company of dolphins and whales, glowing Waitomo Caves tours... and some down time amid wineries and city restaurants that take home awards.

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Christchurch
Length: 14days / 13nights
Accommodation: Hotel 3 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included: Wellington City Tour
Included: TSS Earnslaw cruise & dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown
Included: Te Puia Indigenous Experience
Included: Queenstown Orientation Tour
Included: Maori Village Experience & Hangi (dinner), Rotorua
Included: Indoor Dark Sky Experience
Included: Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk
Included: Cruise on the Interislander Ferry

Included: Christchurch Orientation Tour
: 13 breakfasts, 7 dinners

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
Included: Christchurch City Tour

Included: Waitomo Glow Worm Caves
Included: TranzAlpine Train

Included: Rotorua Orientation Tour
Included: Milford Sound Cruise
Included: Interislander Ferry

Included: Huka Falls
Included: Dunedin Orientation Tour
Included: Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo
Included: Auckland City Tour

Day 1

Auckland never fails to turn on the charm, as you'll discover while exploring the city before meeting your fellow adventure-seekers. Peruse waterfront precincts filled with yachts or hit up the CBD to discover local designers. Turns out Kiwi creativity is surging. This evening, your Travel Director will welcome you and will brief you on your tour.

Staying in:

- Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre (1 night)
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Day 2

After a morning Auckland tour, set your GPS for the Waikato River to Waitomo Caves. Here, your cruise route is cast in a magical light by thousands of glowworms. It's a landscape almost as otherworldly as Rotorua, where mud pops and jettisons from bubbling geysers, and steam rushes skywards from cracks in the Earth. Tonight, delve deep into Maori culture and traditions at Te Puia. The Te Pō Indigenous Experience begins with a delicious buffet dinner of locally sourced cuisine and an authentic Māori twist in each dish. Following dinner, view an exhilarating cultural performance that takes place in our beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. Afterwards, enter the geothermal valley on our waka (electric shuttle) and discover one of New Zealand's most magnificent geothermal wonderlands – featuring dramatic geysers, bubbling mud, and beautiful native bush. Enjoy a hot chocolate, while seated on a naturally heated rock terrace overlooking the powerful Pōhutu Geyser.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
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Day 3

We're leaving you up to your own devices today. But have plenty of North Island tour travel tips, depending on your mood. Want a bit of down time? Bliss out at Wai Araki Hot Springs & Spa. Hobbit fans will want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the sights featured in The Lord of the Rings movies at Hobbiton. These beautiful landscapes are not only a bucket list tour for Hobbit fans, but a gorgeous countryside getaway. The choice is yours.

Staying in:

- Ibis Rotorua Hotel (1 night)
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Day 4

A staggering 220,000 litres of water thunder over Huka Falls' 11-metre high escarpment every second. It creates quite the calamity. From here, the road ahead unfolds in a broad panorama of Lake Taupo, its waters so vivid and blue they resemble an Ice Mint. Traverse the Kapiti Coast to New Zealand's cool little capital, Wellington, where there are so many restaurants and bars to choose from, you'll need a guidebook. Wait, you have an in-the-know Travel Director to talk to.

Staying in:

- Travelodge Wellington (1 night)
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Day 5

Forget everything else you have to do today and focus on one thing: getting a cup of Wellington's amazing coffee. The city is known for its uber-cool cafes, designed to fuel you through a session at Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand (entrance fee applies). Wellington sightseeing done and dusted: onwards to the interisland ferry for a cruise across Cook Strait, from the North Island to the South, through a maze of arms and inlets into the sleepy seaside village of Picton.

Staying in:

- Picton Beachcomber Inn, Picton Yacht Club (1 night)
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Day 6

There aren't many beaches more dramatic than the sands of Kaikoura. Bonus points if you spot a sea lion or sperm whale frolicking offshore,

Kaikoura is the marine wildlife centre of New Zealand. Talk to your Travel Director for tips on the essential restaurants to dine in tonight – Christchurch has reinvented itself in more ways than one.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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Day 7

From its devastating 2010/11 earthquakes, Christchurch has become one of the most forward-thinking cities in the world when it comes to design. Case in point the mind-bending Transitional Cathedral, made largely of cardboard, and Turanga, the gold-clad central library. This Christchurch tour is as eye-opening as it is educational. From here, your outlook is the Canterbury Plains: the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo, snow-capped mountains and atmospheric towns. Your Indoor Dark Sky Astronomy Experience at Tekapo, hosted by passionate guides, will forever change the way you see the night sky. You'll see for yourself it may be one of the quietest spots on the planet, yet it has one of the busiest skies in the universe.

Staying in:

- Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel (1 night)
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Day 8

Oamaru may have supplied other NZ cities with limestone, but it kept some for itself – and the result is glorious leafy streets with grand 1800s buildings that stand proud before you journey further south toward Dunedin. It's easy to while away the afternoon in 'little Edinburgh's' atmospheric art-lined alleys. Or venture further afield to discover the wildlife that thrives in this pretty pocket of the country – fur seals and penguins among them.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (1 night)
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Day 9

Dunedin's Scottish ancestry is everywhere you look, from the manicured grounds of Otago University to the city's main George Street. Rolling green hills dotted with doe-eyed sheep are replaced by soaring mountains as you weave your way into Fiordland National Park and the South Island's biggest lake and the town of Te Anau. Soak up the serenity – it doesn't get any better than this.

Staying in:

- Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1 night)
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Day 10

There are some travel days that blaze into your memory. Today is one. Your route through Fiordland National Park is an intoxicating union of beech forests, alluvial flats, meadows and mirror-like lakes. Gin-clear rivers carve the countryside, with all roads leading to Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. Cruising this World Heritage listed expanse will give you goosebumps, a string of waterfalls creating a misty curtain across sheer escarpments.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 11

Queenstown is known as NZ's adventure capital for good reason. But don't take our word for it. Feel the wind in your hair on a high-octane jet boat ride, skidding, twirling and zipping along white-water river. Nature lover? Discover some of New Zealand's feathered friends at a wildlife centre. Wherever you wander, make sure you're back in time to glide across Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a gourmet barbecue dinner.

Staying in:

- Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown (1 night)
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Day 12

Journey past shimmering Lake Hawea and through Haast Pass with its powerful waterfalls and dramatic mountain backdrops to the pretty town of Franz Josef/Waiau.

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (1 night)
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Day 13

Swap white at Franz Josef Glacier/Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere for green at Hokitika: the pounamu (native jade) found here is the stuff jewellery dreams are made of. Just when you thought your adventure couldn't get any better, you'll aboard the TranzAlpine train bound for Christchurch, through tunnels and over viaducts with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, icy rivers, beech forests, gorges and river valleys.

Staying in:

- Ibis Hotel Christchurch (1 night)
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Day 14

Two islands, two weeks. It's remarkable what you can see when you have the right people guiding you.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Guided Coach Tour
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	14
Accommodation:	Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:	

Included activities

Includes	7 dinners
Includes	13 breakfasts
Includes	Airport transfers
Includes	Interislander ferry crossing
Includes	TranzAlpine Train from Arthur's Pass to Christchurch
Includes	Tamaki Maori Village show and dinner, Rotorua
Includes	Waitomo Glow Worm Caves
Includes	Huka Falls Taupo
Includes	TSS Earnslaw cruise and dinner at Walter Peak high country farm, Queenstown
Includes	Te Papa Museum of New Zealand
Includes	Wellington City Sights Tour
Includes	Greenstone Jade craft experience

Accommodation summary