

Signature | Flavours of Aotearoa Tour

Auckland to Queenstown – 18 Days

Day 1

Auckland

Welcome to Auckland

Kia Ora!

Your unforgettable journey starts in Auckland. Check-in to your hotel then enjoy a warm welcome from your tour guide. Dive into the experience, meeting your fellow travelers and exclusive tour guide, enjoying refreshing welcome drinks at the hotels vibrant bar.

Then, indulge in a delightful welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant, immersing yourself in the local flavors. After dinner, take a leisurely stroll back to the hotel, anticipating the exciting adventures awaiting you.

Stay tuned as your guide unveils tomorrow's enchanting voyage to Waiheke Island.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Auckland)

Meals Included

Dinner with Welcome Drink

Activities

Welcome Dinner

Day 2

Auckland & Waiheke Island

Discover Waiheke

Indulge in a leisurely breakfast at your hotel.

Today, embark on a journey with the Waiheke Island Wine & Dine experience. Gather in the lobby your hotel, where your guide awaits to escort you on a stroll to the ferry terminal.

Board the 9am ferry, setting sail for Waiheke Island on a 40-minute voyage. Upon arrival, join your guide for an insightful bus tour around the island, absorbing the scenery and local commentary.

Pause for a moment of culinary delight at Stonyridge, where lunch awaits, accompanied by a glass of wine. Delve into the island's charm as your guide explains the freedom to explore aboard the Waiheke hop-on-hop-off bus at your leisure.

As the day unfolds, continue your island exploration independently or join your guide for a ferry ride back to Auckland city at a designated time.

Whether you choose to extend your island adventure or return with the group, today promises an unforgettable escapade filled with culinary delights and scenic wonders.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Auckland)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Fullers 360 Wine & Dine

Day 3

Auckland to Hamilton

Explore Waikato, Hamilton & Surrounds

Wake up to breakfast at your hotel, setting the perfect tone for a day of exploration and discovery.

In the morning you'll board your luxury coach as we whisk you away to the captivating Sanctuary Mountain. Along the journey, we'll make a brief stop for a quick morning tea or coffee break, ensuring you're energized for the adventures ahead.

Immerse yourself in the wonders of Sanctuary Mountain with a bespoke two-hour tour blending the enchanting Secrets of the Tautari Wetland and the fascinating Rongoa Rakau, offering insights into Māori medicinal practices. Prepare for an unforgettable journey into the heart of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage.

After our sanctuary adventure, we return to Hamilton City where you'll check in to your hotel.

With the afternoon free to explore, Hamilton beckons with its myriad of attractions and experiences, promising a relaxing and enriching continuation of your journey.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Hamilton)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Sanctuary Mountain

Day 4

Hamilton

High Teas and Highlights in the Gardens

Indulge in a delicious breakfast spread at your hotel to start the day.

Today our journey begins as we depart from Hamilton in style aboard our exclusive coach, as we travel to the enchanting Zealong Tea Estate, where an immersive 1.5-hour tour and tea ceremony await, followed by the renowned Signature High Tea experience. Discover the art of tea-making amidst breathtaking surroundings.

At midday, we bid farewell to Zealong and head to the Hamilton Gardens for a captivating 75-minute Highlights tour, commencing at 1 pm. Immerse yourself in the beauty and history of these renowned gardens. *(Please note: No packed lunch included)*

Our journey continues into the afternoon as we board our coach for a visit to the Hamilton Museum, where you'll have the opportunity to explore its treasures at your leisure.

After an enriching day of exploration, the afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Let your curiosity guide you as you uncover the wonders of Hamilton at your own pace.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Hamilton)

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Zealong Tea Estate tour & High Tea

Hamilton Gardens Highlights tour

Hamilton Museum

Day 5

Hamilton to Tongariro National Park

The Northern Explorer Scenic Train

Rise with an indulgent breakfast at your hotel before our adventure begins as we depart for Hamilton Frankton Station.

Embark on a journey like no other as we board the Northern Explorer train from Hamilton Station. Prepare for a feast for the senses with our Scenic Plus dining experience, offering unparalleled views and culinary delights.

Our train adventure leads us to Ohakune Station, where the next leg of our journey awaits. Embark on a scenic drive along the breathtaking Ohakune Mountain Road.

After a day of exploration, we return to your accommodation in Ohakune for the next two nights' stay.

As evening falls, indulge in culinary delight with a two-course dinner included for the entire group, promising a perfect end to an unforgettable day of adventure and discovery.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities

Northern Explorer Scenic Plus
Tour of Ohakune & Surrounds

Day 6

Tongariro National Park & Taumarunui

Lunch in the Lavender

Enjoy the morning with breakfast at your accommodation, then set off on a journey of discovery to Taumarunui.

Delight your senses with a visit to the Forgotten World Gardens. Enjoy the ambiance as you spend a few hours in Taumarunui, exploring a local garden before your lunchtime feast at Laurens Lavender Farm. Indulge in a hot meat dish accompanied by an array of refreshing salads, followed by a walk amidst the fragrant lavender fields and a visit to the lavender shop.

After your garden escapades, you'll return to Ohakune, where the evening is yours to spend how you like. Opt for relaxation in the inviting hot tubs or immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Ohakune at your leisure.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Ohakune)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Laurens Lavender Farm

Day 7

Tongariro National Park to Wellington

Northern Explorer Ohakune to Wellington

Enjoy breakfast at your accommodation.

Head away on an adventure, exploring the wonders of Tūroa with the opportunity to ascend the Sky Waka (at your own cost), offering unparalleled views of the majestic landscape. Conclude your morning journey at National Park station, ready for the next leg of your adventure.

Embark on the Northern Explorer Scenic Plus experience from National Park to Wellington. Indulge in an afternoon tea and dinner served onboard the train, enhancing your journey's breathtaking vistas.

As evening approaches, Transit will transfer you from Wellington Station to your Hotel where comfort and relaxation await, promising the perfect end to a day of discovery.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on the Train

Activities

Tour of Tūroa & National Park
Northern Explorer Scenic Plus

Day 8

Wellington

Culture and Dining in Wellington City

Start your day with breakfast at your accommodation and relax before starting a tour at Te Papa museum.

Step outside and immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere as you cross the road to enter Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Embark on a captivating journey with a 90-minute Māori Experience Kīnaki Tour at Te Papa, led by a knowledgeable Māori guide. Explore the rich cultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand as you discover the unique tools, foods, and medicines of the iwi taketake (first peoples of the land). Conclude your tour with a traditional food tasting experience, and engaging conversations with your hosts.

The afternoon is yours to explore the charms of Wellington at your leisure, with optional activities awaiting your discovery.

Gather in the lobby of your hotel to welcome new guests joining the tour, fostering connections and shared experiences.

Indulge in an included dinner at a renowned Wellington restaurant, savoring culinary delights that reflect the vibrant flavors of New Zealand, promising a perfect end to an enriching day of exploration and cultural immersion.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Wellington)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Te Papa Kīnaki Tour

Day 9

Wellington to Marlborough Sounds

Cook Strait and the Marlborough Sounds

As the sun begins to rise, gather in the lobby bright and early, ready to embark on a day of adventure. Our luxurious transfers will transport you to the Interislander ferry terminal, setting the stage for a scenic journey ahead.

Board the Interislander ferry, where the Premium Lounge awaits,

offering breakfast and a complimentary bar service, ensuring a journey of indulgence and relaxation.

At midday, the Interislander docks in the picturesque town of Picton, marking the beginning of the next leg of your adventure in the South Island.

Embark on an unforgettable experience as you set sail on the Mailboat Cruise with Beachcomber Cruises, immersing yourself in the stunning scenery of the Marlborough Sounds. Indulge in a delightful packed lunch onboard as you soak in the beauty of the surroundings before arriving at Portage Resort.

As the day draws to a close, indulge in a culinary delight with a sumptuous three-course dinner included at Portage Resort, promising a perfect end to a day filled with unforgettable experiences and breathtaking vistas.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities

Interislander Premium Lounge
Beachcomber Cruises Mailboat

Day 10

Picton

Tasting, Dining & Wining in the Sounds

Awake to breakfast awaiting you at Portage Resort, with a view into the Kenepuru Sound setting the perfect tone for a day of culinary and scenic delights.

Let the adventure begin as Beachcomber Cruises arrives to whisk you away from Portage Resort.

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of the Paua Pearl Farm Tour, a journey filled with morning tea and Paua tastings.

On arrival back in Picton, embark on an unforgettable afternoon with Sounds Connection. Indulge in a gourmet experience as you journey through the renowned Marlborough region, savoring a three-course lunch menu at Allan Scott Wines Bistro, accompanied by a glass of wine with your main meal.

After lunch, the adventure continues with visits to two more wineries for included tastings, and a stop at the Makana Boutique Chocolate Factory, promising a sweet conclusion to your day.

After checking in to your hotel, take the evening to savor the memories created, with no dinner included, allowing you the freedom to explore the delights of Picton at your leisure.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night in Picton)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch

Activities

Beachcomber Cruises Arapawa Paua Pearl Farm Tour
Sounds Connection Marlborough Wine Tour

Day 11

Picton to Kaikōura

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus Experience & Kaikōura

Indulge in a free morning in Picton, allowing you to explore the charms of this coastal gem at your leisure, from strolls to seaside views. Enjoy breakfast at your hotel.

Embark on a journey aboard the Coastal Pacific, where every moment is elevated in the Scenic Plus class. Delight in a light lunch complemented by beverages, followed by afternoon tea amidst breathtaking vistas.

It's late afternoon and train arrives in Kaikōura, where transfers await to take you to your hotel. Prepare for an evening of culinary delights as you indulge in an included dinner at a renowned Kaikōura restaurant, enjoying the flavors of the region.

Retreat to the comfort of your hotel in Kaikōura.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (1 night)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus

Day 12

Kaikōura to Christchurch

Kaikōura Dolphins & The Coastal Pacific

Wake up at your hotel, where breakfast awaits you. Energized and ready for adventure, set sail from Encounter Kaikōura on an enchanting dolphin viewing escapade, immersing yourself in the beauty of the marine world.

As noon approaches, return to Kaikōura, where the afternoon is yours to enjoy. Explore the charming streets and waterfront, indulging in a leisurely lunch at one of the local eateries (*at your own expense*), and discover the hidden gems of this coastal paradise.

Gather again for the next leg of your journey. Late afternoon, board the Coastal Pacific for the Scenic Plus experience, treating yourself to unparalleled vistas as you glide along the coastline. Revel in dinner and drinks, included with your Scenic Plus package, as you unwind and soak in the breathtaking scenery.

As the sun begins to set, arrive at Christchurch Station, where a coach awaits to transfer you to your accommodation in Christchurch, concluding a day filled with unforgettable moments and scenic wonders.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Dolphin Encounter

Coastal Pacific Scenic Plus

Day 13

Christchurch

Explore Christchurch City

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your accommodation in Christchurch. Fuel up for the adventures ahead as you prepare to delve into the vibrant culture of this charming city.

Join a cultural food walking tour of Christchurch, a journey blending history, storytelling, and tantalizing local tastings. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of flavors and traditions as you explore the city streets, guided by knowledgeable locals sharing their tales.

With the afternoon at your leisure, explore Christchurch at your own pace. Delve into the city's past at Quake City Museum or Ravenscar Museum, or opt for leisurely pursuits like punting along the Avon River or riding the iconic trams. For those seeking a bird's-eye view, ascend the Gondola for panoramic vistas of the Canterbury Plains and Southern Alps.

For dinner, gather for a culinary delight at a renowned Christchurch restaurant with your tour group.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Christchurch)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Dinner

Activities

Walking Cultural Food Tour

Day 14

Christchurch to Franz Josef

The TranzAlpine & Culture of the West Coast

Embark on a breathtaking journey through New Zealand's South Island. Prepare to be enchanted as you board the TranzAlpine train in the morning, enjoying the Scenic Plus package that treats you to a sumptuous breakfast and lunch against the backdrop of unparalleled vistas.

Your adventure continues as the TranzAlpine pulls into Greymouth. Here, your transport awaits to whisk you away to Hokitika, where a truly authentic experience awaits. Join Rachel from Hokitika Scenic Tours and a local Iwi member for an immersive pounamu (jade) experience, followed by a guided walk around the mesmerizing Hokitika Gorge loop track, led by Rachel and the Iwi.

Mid-afternoon, bid farewell to Hokitika as coaches depart for Franz Josef, where your accommodation awaits. After checking in, indulge in a delicious dinner included at the hotel, rounding off a day filled with awe-inspiring landscapes, cultural immersion, and unforgettable experiences.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Franz Josef)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Activities

TranzAlpine Scenic Plus

West Coast Cultural Experience

Day 15

Franz Josef & Ōkārito

Franz Josef Experience

Embark on a day of wonder and exploration of the south, beginning with breakfast included at your hotel. As the morning unfolds, seize the opportunity to elevate your experience with an *optional* helicopter tour, treating yourself to breathtaking aerial views of Franz Josef and its surrounding landscapes.

Set off on a scenic coach journey from Franz Josef to the picturesque village of Ōkārito. Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the natural wonders of Ōkārito with the Ōkārito Heritage EcoTour. This enriching experience combines a captivating walking tour with a tranquil lagoon boat tour, offering insights into the area's rich history and biodiversity. Indulge in a delicious lunch featuring local delicacies, included as part of your tour.

With approximately two hours of free time, marvel at the beauty of Ōkārito before returning to Franz Josef, where the afternoon beckons with a myriad of optional activities. Whether you choose to relax and unwind or embark on further adventures, the choice is yours to make the most of your time in this stunning region.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Franz Josef)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Ōkārito Heritage Tour

Day 16

Franz Josef to Queenstown

A Journey along the West Coast

Enjoy breakfast included at your hotel as anticipation mounts for your adventure ahead.

Bid farewell to Franz Josef as you set off for the unforgettable Haast River Safari. Immerse yourself in the captivating Haast River Safari Experience, a journey through pristine wilderness and exhilarating rapids that promises to leave you in awe.

During your safari, make a stop at the charming Fruit Emporium, where you can indulge in locally sourced delights and refreshments. Please note that there will be no stop at Arrowtown today, as this enchanting destination will be covered on the following day of your itinerary.

As your safari concludes, anticipation builds as you arrive in the vibrant town of Queenstown, renowned for its stunning scenery and endless adventures. The evening is yours to savor at your leisure, perhaps exploring Queenstown's culinary scene or simply relaxing and soaking in the atmosphere.

You'll enjoy the luxurious Naumi The Dairy Hotel Queenstown, providing a perfect retreat after a day filled with excitement and discovery.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Haast River Safari Experience

Day 17

Queenstown

An Excursion to Historic Arrowtown

Indulge in a leisurely morning as your day begins with a continental breakfast included at the Naumi Hotel, featuring a tempting spread of croissants, cold meats, and cereals, ensuring you start your day on a delicious note.

With the morning at your leisure, explore Queenstown at your own pace, immersing yourself in the array of optional activities this vibrant lakeside town has to offer.

Around noon, embark on a delightful journey with Ayrburn Arrowtown, as their coaches collect you from Naumi The Dairy Hotel. Prepare for a treat as you're transported to Ayrburn for a wine tasting experience paired with a buffet lunch. Following this culinary adventure, take some time to wander around the charming Arrowtown township, soaking in its quaint charm, before returning to Queenstown aboard the coach. This serves as a farewell function, marking the end of your tour with memorable flavors and experiences.

As the day winds down, retreat to the lounge at Naumi The Dairy Hotel for happy hour. Enjoy complimentary drinks and canapés, raising a toast to the adventures of the tour and the memories made.

Accommodation

4 - 4.5 Star Accommodation (2 nights in Queenstown)

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch

Activities

Ayrburn Arrowtown

Day 18

Queenstown

Departing Queenstown

As your journey ends, enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel letting you relish those last moments of your stay.

It's time to say goodbye as you check out of the hotel. As you prepare to depart, rest assured that your departure transfer is included, ensuring a seamless transition as you head towards your next destination.

Reflect on the memories created during your stay, carrying with you the experiences and adventures that have enriched your journey.

Meals Included

Breakfast

Activities

Transfer to Airport