

New Zealand - Self Drive

9 days / 8 nights

From
\$2035

Double Occupancy -
From May 1 to September 30, 2021

Day 1: Auckland

On arrival in Auckland Airport, go to the Budget Rental Car counter located within the arrivals hall to collect your Budget rental car and make your way to your accommodation

Auckland is an exciting, sporting and cultural city, sprawled on a narrow isthmus, between two harbours. The Waitemata and Manukau Harbours, are a main feature of the city, along with numerous volcanic cones such as Mount Eden and Rangitoto Island. The city's many beaches, marinas and parks, make it ideal for outdoor pursuits such as yachting, rugby, cricket or a day at the beach. The Auckland metropolitan area is New Zealand's biggest city, and the population mix of European, Maori, and Pacific Islander, make Auckland the largest Polynesian city in the World.

Overnight: Auckland

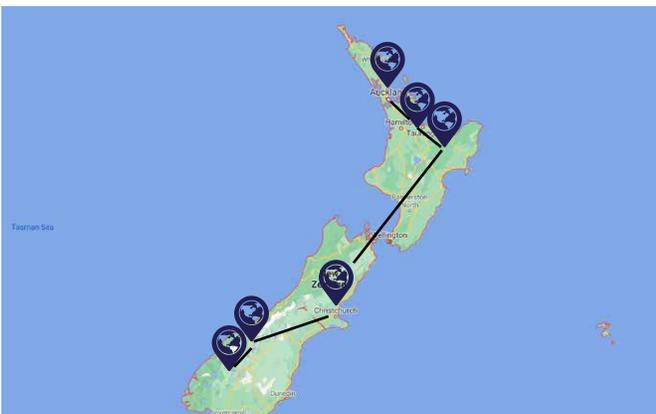


Day 2: Auckland

Today is a free day but admission to the Skytower (Sky Deck and main observation deck) is included as well as admission to the Auckland War Memorial – these tickets can be used whenever you choose.

We would suggest that you do the Skytower first to give yourself an overview of the city before heading out to the Museum.

At the Auckland War Memorial Museum where exciting stories of the Pacific, New Zealand's people, the flora and fauna and landforms of these unique islands, are told within a memorial dedicated to those who have sacrificed their lives for their country. In one of New Zealand's most outstanding historical buildings, boldly situated in the Domain - a central city pleasure garden - you encounter exhibitions



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showcasing the artistic legacy and cultures of the peoples of the Pacific; the monumental carvings, buildings, canoes and taonga (treasures) of the Maori; and the diversity of cultures which now combine to form the rich tapestry of race, nationality and creed which is modern New Zealand.

Overnight: Auckland

Day 3: Auckland – Matamata - Rotorua

This morning you depart Auckland and travel south about 160 kms. over the rolling Bombay Hills and through the Hauraki Plains to Matamata home to the Hobbiton Movie Set featured in the film Lord of the Rings.

Your tour starts with a drive through the picturesque 1,250-acre sheep farm with spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Your guide will escort you through the ten-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created.



The Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. After a buffet lunch, which is included, it is back on the road again for the short drive into Rotorua.

Rotorua is located on a volcanic plateau and formerly a spa town, it is most famous for its geothermal activity. As well, Rotorua is the main place in New Zealand where aspects of Maori traditions can be seen, from wood carvings, and meeting houses, to a Hangi Dinner and Maori dances.

After checking into your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure until this evening's visit to Te Puia where you will enjoy a guided tour and Te Po Hangi and Concert this evening.

You will visit award winning interactive galleries, see a kiwi bird up close, and most importantly, hear stories as told by the descendants of the valley. To conclude the tour, you will visit the geyser and mud pools. There is a little free time before the entertainment and meal commences. Traditionally, Te Po is an intimate time for sharing knowledge, but it is also Te Puia's authentic evening cultural experience – a feast of food, culture and friendship. It begins every night at Te-Heketanga-a-Rangi. This banquet combines contemporary cuisine with a traditional hangi (earth-cooked oven meal), where kai (food) is steam-cooked by hot rocks in the earth, giving it a delicious smoky flavour. Following dessert, enjoy the spectacular lighting of the Whakarewarewa Geothermal Valley.

Overnight: Rotorua

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Day 4: Rotorua - Christchurch

This morning before returning your car to the airport depot and catching your domestic flight to Christchurch explore the Waimangu Thermal Valley which is home to the Waimangu Geothermal System which is the newest in the World. Here you can see the Frying Pan Lake, Inferno Crater, and some rare and unusual plants and regenerating rainforest. Your admission today is for a Waimangu Valley Walk.

Upon arrival to Christchurch, pick-up your new car and make your way to your accommodation.

Overnight: Christchurch

Day 5: Christchurch – Wanaka

It is about a 400km drive from Christchurch through to Wanaka so you may wish to get an early start. It is a beautiful drive through the endless expanse of the Canterbury Plains and along the foothills of the Alps to the turquoise glowing Lake Tekapo. There are a couple of experiences based in Tekapo (not included) but well worth doing - a flight over the Mount Cook National Park or you can drive to the summit of Mt. John where there are fantastic panoramic view of the Alps, glaciers and lakes.

Continue via Omarama with its picture-book landscape, sheep and mountain peaks dominate the scenery. The last stage is crossing Lindis Pass where a photo stop is a must.

Wanaka faces north across Lake Wanaka, to views of the surrounding mountains, which are often reflected on the Lake's surface on calm days. Poplars and willows grow around the Lake's edge, affording a colourful show during Autumn. Wanaka is best known for boating, fishing and skiing at the Cardrona and Treble Cone ski-fields.

Overnight: Wanaka

Day 6: Wanaka – Queenstown

It is a short drive today as you head for Queenstown passing through the towns of Lowburn, Cromwell and Gibbston to Queenstown.

Queenstown is the South Island's most popular resort, set alongside the shores of Lake Wakatipu, under the gaze of the Remarkables Ranges. See the contrast of smooth glacier rounded hills, and jagged mountain summits that reach high above the ancient ice floor. The town is renowned for its jet boating, bungee-jumping, skiing and awe-inspiring scenery. Local story has it, that the gold prospectors of the 19th century pronounced the town as "fit for any Queen", and so she was called Queenstown.

We can recommend an optional tour on the TSS Earnslaw paddlewheeler up to Walter Peak Farm High Country Farm. It is a chance to view the countryside from a different perspective and includes a BBQ lunch at the Colonel's Homestead – departure time is 12 noon from Steamer Wharf.

Overnight: Queenstown



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Day 7: Queenstown – Milford Sound – Queenstown

Milford Sound with its stunning surroundings is at the heart of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. Luxuriant rainforest clings to sheer rock walls washed with waterfalls. In the foreground stands Mitre Peak, dominating the skyline. Whatever the fiord's mood, teeming with rain or with sun glistening on deep water, it will inspire you.

This morning you will travel from Queenstown along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and through rolling countryside to Te Anau. After a short break at Te Anau, continue via the spectacular Milford Road to Milford Sound. Board the Milford Mariner for a relaxing cruise of Milford Sound. The cruise provides excellent viewing opportunities and plenty of time is available to enjoy waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife.

A picnic lunch is included on board the cruise.

Overnight: Queenstown



Day 8: Queenstown

After the long day yesterday, today is a free day in Queenstown. Before wandering around the town area, we suggest that you go to the Skyline Gondola Base and ride the gondola to Bob's Peak for a stunning view over the lake and Queenstown. Lunch is available at the top if you wish (at your own expense) but the gondola ride is included.

Overnight: Queenstown



Day 9: Queenstown departure

Today you say farewell to this lovely city as you return your rental car to Queenstown Airport and check in for your Departure flight.

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3* - Hotel Option

City	Hotel	Room / Nights
Auckland	Adina Apartments	Studio Room (2 nights)
Rotorua	Sudima Lake Rotorua	Superior Room (1 night)
Christchurch	Heartland Hotel Cotswold	Standard Studio (1 night)
Wanaka	Mercure Oakride	Standard Room (1 night)
Queenstown	Heartland Queenstown	Standard Room (3 nights)

4* - Hotel Option

City	Hotel	Room / Nights
Auckland	Grand Millennium	Superior Room (2 nights)
Rotorua	Millennium Rotorua	Superior Room (1 night)
Christchurch	Distinction Hotel	Classic Room (1 night)
Wanaka	Edgewater Hotel	Hotel Suite (1 night)
Queenstown	Copthorne Lakefront	Superior Lakeview Room (3 nights)

5* - Hotel Option

City	Hotel	Room / Nights
Auckland	Skycity Grand	Premium Luxury City View (2 nights)
Rotorua	Regent of Rotorua	Boutique Suite (1 night)
Christchurch	The George	Executive Room (1 night)
Wanaka	Wanaka Haven	Superior Room B&B (1 night)
Queenstown	Queenstown Park Boutique	Gondola Room B&B (3 nights)

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Rates : Hotel Options 3*

Per person	Price per person : 1 May – 30 Sept. 2021	Price per person : 1 Oct. 21 – 30 Apr. 2022
1 pax travelling alone	\$3,339	\$3,895
2 pax – share Twin	\$2,035	\$2,330
3 pax – share Triple	\$1,859	\$2,145
4 pax – share Twin	\$1,899	\$2,195
Breakfast Supplement	\$315	\$315
Single Supplement	\$956	\$1,159

Rates : Hotel Options 4*

Per person	Price per person : 1 May – 30 Sept. 2021	Price per person : 1 Oct. 21 – 30 Apr. 2022
1 pax travelling alone	\$3,995	\$4,559
2 pax – share Twin	\$2,365	\$2,665
3 pax – share Triple	\$2,045	\$2,295
4 pax – share Twin	\$2,235	\$2,529
Breakfast Supplement	\$ 315	\$315
Single Supplement	\$1,290	\$1,490

Rates : Hotel Options 5*

Per person	Price per person : 1 May – 30 Sept. 2021	Price per person : 1 Oct. 21 – 30 Apr. 2022
1 pax travelling alone	\$5,215	\$5,849
2 pax – share Twin	\$2,985	\$3,319
3 pax – share Triple	\$2,625	\$2,899
4 pax – share Twin	\$2,850	\$3,185
Breakfast Supplement	\$190	\$190
Single Supplement	\$1,886	\$2,125

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The Package Includes:

- Accommodation in hotels as specified, share twin subject to availability.
- Goods & Services Tax 15%
- Travel documentation including Travel Wallet, detailed itinerary, and Welcome letter
- Budget Rent a Car (BCNZZ588X): CVAR (G) - Compact Auto SUV Vehicle (1-2 pax)
- Budget Rent a Car (BCNZZ588X): IFAR (P) - Intermediate SUV (3 – 4 pax)
- Admissions as outlined for inclusive admission prices only:
 - Auckland: Total Tower Experience - Sky Tower/ Sky Deck
 - Auckland Museum: General Admission Only
 - Hobbiton Movie Set Tours: FIT Guided Tour including Lunch
 - Te Puia: Te Po Hangi and Concert + guided tour
 - Waimangu Thermal Valley: Self Guided Walk
 - Milford Sound Nature Cruise/Coach with picnic lunch
 - Skyline Queenstown: Gondola ride

The Package Does Not Include:

- Airfares National or International
- Personal expenses & tips
- Drinks during meals (except water/tea/coffee)
- Any items of personal nature
- Optional activities
- Parking fee at hotel, if applicable
- Road toll and car ferry fee, if applicable
- Fuel for rental car
- Additional rental car charges (such as Airport pickup charges)
- Insurance excess and additional accessories (such as GPS unit, child car seat)

Possible Surcharges :

- Subject to surcharges beyond our control
- Public holiday/special event/Chinese New Year surcharges
- Subject to any increase in Goods & Services Tax (GST) currently 15%

Holder of a Quebec permit #703430