

New Zealand - Self Drive

14 days / 13 nights

From
\$3525

Per person/Double Occupancy -

From May 1 to September 30, 2022, 3* hotels

Day 1: Auckland

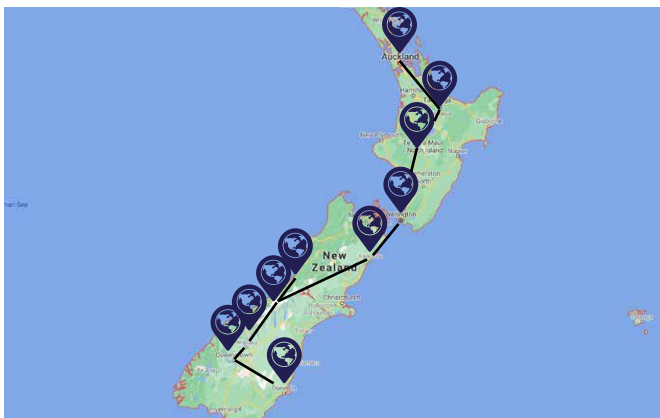
On arrival into Auckland Airport, go to the Budget Rental Car counter located within the arrivals hall to collect your Budget rental car and make your way to your accommodation

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.



Depending on your arrival time you may wish to go to the Skytower (Sky Deck and main observation deck) for an overview of the city – admission to it is included – there is no set time so you can visit the tower whenever you wish. If you want to get an early start tomorrow, you may choose to do the Auckland War Memorial today rather than tomorrow.

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.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Auckland

Day 2: Auckland – Waitomo Caves - Rotorua

This morning, depart Auckland on the Southern Motorway for about 195km towards Hamilton. The route takes you via the rolling Bombay Hills, Huntly and via the outskirts of Ngaruawahia, travel on the Waikato Express Way until you reach the Waitomo Caves.

During your 45 minute guided tour, you'll see majestic and ornate cave decorations, the deep limestone shaft known as the Tomo and the equally magnificent Cathedral. Your tour guide will deliver an informative and entertaining commentary, sharing stories, cultural legends and the natural wonders of this living masterpiece. Your visit concludes with a



brief, yet remarkably moving, boat trip through the Glowworm Grotto.

At the conclusion of the tour, return to the highway and continue the 150km into Rotorua which is located on a volcanic plateau and was formerly a spa town but now is most famous for its geothermal activity. 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. Native and introduced tree species abound locally and combined with several picturesque lakes, Rotorua is a fascinating mix of culture and nature.

After checking into your accommodation the rest of the day is at leisure until this evening when you will be picked up from your accommodation by a Tamaki Maori Village van. The Tamaki experience begins with a journey back in time. Your driver/guide will lead you back to pre-European times with stories, history and protocols in preparation for the ceremonies to follow as you travel by coach to the village, set deep in the forest around 15 minutes South of Rotorua. A traditional welcome ceremony signals entry in to the pre-European village. Huge crackling open fires in front of traditional whare (houses), the sound of ancient Maori instruments and the activities of the people of days gone by, create an palpable, electric atmosphere. At the heart of this village, the meeting house, Rangiatea culture group offer a special glimpse of many of the traditions, performance, songs and history of the Maori people. To top off this 3.5 hour evening experience, you will enjoy a traditionally-cooked feast from the earthen ovens and the lively entertainment and humour of your hosts, who will ultimately ensure your safe return home.

Overnight: Rotorua

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Day 3: Rotorua - Tongariro

Before departing for Tongariro, you may wish to visit Te Puia and the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where history is carved and woven into meeting houses, canoes, weapons and jewellery. You will also experience the wonders of the thermal area by stepping into an ancient valley where geysers, mud pools and boiling waters still play after 40,000 years.

About 20 minutes outside Rotorua, is Waimangu Thermal Valley which is home to the Waimangu Geothermal System. 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.

There is an interesting stop after visiting Waimangu – Huka Falls, the largest waterfall in New Zealand – well worth the side trip.

Encompassing the North Island's central volcanic plateau, Tongariro National Park is a huge domain for outdoor adventure. During summer walkers and trampers traverse its ruggedly alluring landscape, while icy rivers provide challenges for white water rafting and canoeing. In winter, when the mountains are smothered in snow, it becomes the North Island's premier ski resort. The park is dominated by its three active volcanoes – Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro.

After checking in to the hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure

Overnight: Tongariro

Day 4: Tongariro – Wellington (345 kms approximately)

After breakfast (own expense), depart Tongariro heading south to Wellington. You may wish to stop in Waiouru which is home to the country's principal Army training camp and has a great museum. There are many small towns along this route as you head towards the freeway which will take you into the center of Wellington City.

Wellington, the Capital city of New Zealand since 1865, is situated around Wellington harbour, its houses clinging precipitously to the steep hillsides. Wellington is renowned for its wind which is channelled through the Cook Strait and causes the wind to blow most days. A clever blend of buildings, old and new, beautiful vistas of the city and harbour, and a cosmopolitan mix of culture and arts give Wellington its heart, and vibrant atmosphere.

To get a good overview of the city, take a ride on the Wellington Cable Car which provides easy access to the Botanic Gardens, the Carter Observatory and the Cable Car Museum.

Overnight: Wellington





Day 5: Wellington

Today is a day at leisure for you to explore on your own.

Apart from its beautiful setting, art galleries and museums, Wellington is home to 'Middle Earth', being Peter Jackson's hometown and the home of 'Weta Workshop'. Wellington was the hub for many locations within 'The Lord of the Rings Trilogy'.

The city is very walkable and certainly a must see is New Zealand's National Museum - Te Papa. You can tour the museum with a guide or just view the interior on your own.

There are many lovely restaurants in the downtown area of the city where you can enjoy fare that is locally sourced and extremely flavourful.

Overnight: Wellington



Day 6: Wellington - Picton - Kaikoura

This morning return your rental car to Budget at the Interislander Ferry Terminal and board the ferry.

The Interislander Cook Strait ferry takes around three-and-a-half hours to travel between New Zealand's North and South Island. From Wellington, the Interislander journey begins with a tour around Wellington Harbour before crossing the narrow channel between New

Zealand's north and south islands, which is named the Cook Strait after Captain Cook, the English explorer who first mapped it.

Having crossed the Cook Strait, the final stretch of the Wellington/Picton ferry journey is through the magnificent Marlborough Sounds. This sheltered stretch of water is spectacularly scenic and has inspired many journalists to name the Interislander as "one of the most scenic ferry rides in the world". It is this hour-long cruise through the Marlborough Sounds that makes the Cook Strait ferry a must-do experience for anyone visiting or living in New Zealand.

On arrival in Picton, go to the Budget Car Rental Center and pick-up your car for the 162km drive to Kaikoura.

Kaikoura means "to eat crayfish", from the Maori words "Kai" meaning food, and Koura meaning crayfish. You can savour crayfish here in Kaikoura, view whales and dolphins at play, or visit local galleries and craft shops, or take a walk along the Peninsula Walkway. If you travel out onto the Kaikoura Peninsula and look back towards the mountains, an amazing tableau will appear before you. The seaward Kaikoura Range appears to rise from the sea, with the snow-capped Southern Alps as a backdrop. A whale watching tour has been included for you to experience one of the best things to do in Kaikoura.

Overnight: Kaikoura

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Day 7: Kaikoura – Punakaiki (376km)

You may want to get an early start today as you head across the South Island to the West Coast over Lewis Pass with a couple of interesting stops along the way. Take a detour to visit Cape Foulwind and the Tauranga Bay Seal Colony. Cape Foulwind is a prominent headland on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island, overlooking the Tasman Sea. It is located 16 kilometres west of the town of Westport. There are several walking options from a quick 15 minute up to an hour or more.

Punakaiki is the gateway to the dramatic limestone country of the Paparoa National Park. It lies halfway between Greymouth and Westport on one of the most spectacular coastal highways.

The Pancake Rocks that Punakaiki is famous for are limestone formations that began forming 30 million years ago. The seabed was raised above sea level by earthquakes to form the coastal cliffs and coastline. The sea, wind and rain have since etched out the soft layers to form the unusual rock formations we see today.

When conditions are right, large ocean swells thunder into the caverns beneath the rocks and huge water spouts blast skywards through the blowholes creating a spectacular sight.

Overnight: Punakaiki

Day 8: Punakaiki - Franz Josef

Today depart Punakaiki and travel south about 225kms on State Highway 6 via the towns of Greymouth and Hokitika to Franz Josef. A 4 hour heli-hike has been included so you may experience the glaciers.

After a thrilling flight, high above the rugged terrain, you will land on the glacier, ready to undertake a three-hour guided glacier hike. Your friendly guide will lead you through some of the most pristine and awe-inspiring glacier scenery in the world. Your guide will choose your route carefully as you go and, with an eye for the most spectacular ice formations, you'll soon be making your way through an extraordinary land of towering peaks and glistening blue ice.

You'll enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, and with plenty of photo opportunities, and the chance to learn more about this magnificent glacier, this will almost certainly be your most memorable New Zealand experience and one you will remember forever.

The small but lively Franz Josef village is surrounded by lush rainforest with the high snow-capped Alps above.

Within a short distance of the village are a number of great things to see. You can take a visit to the white heron colony or the world's rarest kiwi. Ten minutes' drive north of the Franz Josef village on State Highway 6 is the beautiful Lake Mapourika, a great place for fishing, birdwatching and kayaking.

Ōkārito Lagoon New Zealand's largest estuarine lagoon is a 20-minute drive north. It is well known for its walks and coastal birdlife, including the white heron (kōtuku). For a taste of gold mining history visit the Ōkārito settlement and explore its historic survivors.

Overnight: Franz Josef

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Day 9: Franz Josef – Wanaka

This 277km drive is considered by some as truly spectacular. This trip tracks down the West Coast through the breathtaking Haast Pass, into the heart of the Southern Alps. You'll travel through the spectacular glacier region, two national parks and past two of New Zealand's largest lakes, Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka. From coastal scrub, rain forest, glaciers and native bush, to alpine tussock lands, lakes and mountains - this road showcases the best of South Island scenery all in one go. You may wish to stop at Thunder Creek Falls located just off the Haast Highway and take a 30-minute walk to view the Haast Blue Pools.

Wanaka faces north across Lake Wanaka with views of the surrounding mountains, which are often reflected on the Lake's surface on calm days. Lake Wanaka is the gateway to Mount Aspiring National parks. It's filled with an alpine paradise of towering peaks, spectacular glaciers, rivers, and valleys. To put it frankly, it's simply an extremely gorgeous location.

Not only that, but you'll also find New Zealand's most photographed site - the iconic Lone Tree of Lake Wanaka. It's a willow tree in the lake. Be sure to stop by the lake at sunset, so you wouldn't be able to believe the amazing colors that you will witness in the sky.

Overnight: Wanaka



Day 10: Wanaka – Queenstown

Today's short drive into Queenstown is a very scenic one as you pass through the Crown Range which affords some great views of the mountains. The road leads to the small town called Arrowtown which is a definite must see. Arrowtown was founded way back in the 1860s, a direct result of the gold boom that swept the region. The Arrow River was teeming with gold, attracting thousands of miners from around the world. The town flourished. Today you can walk around Arrowtown and, if you're willing to use your imagination a little, imagine what it must have been like all those years ago.

After checking into your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.

You may wish to take advantage of a ride up the mountain on the Skyline Gondola to Bob's Peak which has been included. The sight from the top is amazing and there are lunch and dinner venues if you wish to eat.

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.

Overnight: Queenstown

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Day 11: Milford Sound

Today is a full day tour to Milford Sound with its stunning surroundings in 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 12: Queenstown – Dunedin

Although it is only a short distance to Dunedin, there are plenty of places you may want to stop and visit. Perhaps the Clyde Dam and Power Station on the Clutha River, Ophir Town a gold mining settlement or perhaps enjoy a bite to eat at the "Kissing Gate Café in Middlemarch – all worth a look.

Dunedin, often called the "Edinburgh of the South", was settled by the Scottish settlers that came to New Zealand. It is a city of spires, of towers, gables and roofs with turrets, and gracious, generally stone, buildings. Dunedin is also home to the Albatross and Penguin colonies plus many species of New Zealand wildlife.

Overnight: Dunedin

Day 13: Dunedin

Today is a free day to explore on your own. Make sure you check out the Dunedin Railway Station – it's a beautiful sight. We would suggest a tour to the Otago Peninsula combines tourism and conservation in a symbiotic relationship. Tours depart daily to provide unrivalled wildlife viewing of estuarine and marine wildlife including: Royal Albatross, Hooker's Sea lions, Yellow-eyed Penguins, Blue Penguins and a breeding colony of New Zealand Fur Seals with a further 25-30 other species seen during the experience. Close up unobtrusive viewing from beach locations and strategically placed observation. If history is of more interest to you check out Olveston House or visit Larnach Castle.

Overnight: Dunedin

Day 14: Depart Dunedin

Today return your rental car to Budget Dunedin Airport before your departure flight.

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3* - Hotel Option

City	Hotel	Room
Auckland (1)	Airedale Boutique Suites	Classic Studio Room
Rotorua (1)	Copthorne Hotel	Superior Room
Tongariro (1)	The Park Hotel Ruapehu	King or Twin Room
Wellington (2)	Travelodge Wellington	Guest Room
Kaikoura (1)	Kaikoura Gateway	Standard Queen Studio
Punakaiki (1)	Punakaiki Resort	Standard Hotel Room
Franz Josef (1)	Punga Grove	One Bedroom Unit
Wanaka (1)	Oakridge Resort	Standard Room
Queenstown (2)	Heartland Hotel Queenstown	Standard Room
Dunedin (2)	Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin	Standard Room

4* - Hotel Option

City	Hotel	Room
Auckland	Sudima Hotel Auckland	Superior King Room
Rotorua	Millennium Rotorua	Superior Room
Tongariro (1)	Chateau Tongariro	Standard Room
Wellington (2)	Citylife Wellington	1 Bedroom Executive
Kaikoura (1)	Kaikoura Gateway	Deluxe Studio
Punakaiki (1)	Punakaiki Resort	Eco Suite
Franz Josef (1)	Scenic Hotel Franz Josef	Douglas Wing
Wanaka (1)	Edgewater Resort	Garden View Room
Queenstown (2)	Millennium Queenstown	Superior Room
Dunedin (2)	Distinction Dunedin Hotel	Studio

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Rates : Hotel Options 3*

Per person	Price per person : 1 May – 30 Sept. 2022	Price per person : 1 Oct. 22 – 30 Apr. 2023
1 pax travelling alone	\$5,419	\$6,279
2 pax – share Twin	\$3,525	\$3,995
3 pax – share Triple	\$3,349	\$3,755
4 pax – share Twin	\$3,389	\$3,825
Breakfast Supplement	\$512	\$512

Rates : Hotel Options 4*

Per person	Price per person : 1 May – 30 Sept. 2022	Price per person : 1 Oct. 22 – 30 Apr. 2023
1 pax travelling alone	\$6,399	\$7,359
2 pax – share Twin	\$4,015	\$4,625
3 pax – share Triple	\$3,745	\$4,259
4 pax – share Twin	\$3,879	\$4,455
Breakfast Supplement	\$570	\$570

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Credit @ Matthew Crawford

The Package Includes:

- Accommodation in hotels as specified
- Goods & Services Tax 15%
- Travel documentation including Travel Wallet, detailed itinerary, and welcome letter
- Budget Rent A Car (BCNZZ588X): CVAR (G) –Compact SUV or Similar or
- Budget Rent A Car (BCNZZ588X): IFAR (P) - Toyota Rav 4 or Similar
- One way ferry (passengers only Wellington/Picton)
- Admission to:
 - Skycity Hotel Auckland: Total Tower Experience
 - Sky Tower/Sky Deck
 - Auckland Museum: Admission
 - Waitomo Glowworm Caves: Waitomo Caves Admission
 - Tamaki Maori Village: Feast + Concert
 - Te Puia: Thermal Valley 90 Minutes Guided Tour
 - Waimangu Thermal Valley: Self-guided Walk
 - Kaikoura Whale Watching Tour
 - Franz Josef Glacier Heli Hike
 - Skyline Queenstown: Gondola ride
 - Milford Sound - Coach/Nature Cruise/Coach with picnic lunch on board

The Package Does Not Include:

- Airfare domestic or international
- Meals unless mentioned
- Personal expenses
- Drinks during meals except where noted
- Gratuities

Possible Surcharges :

- Subject to public holiday/special event/surcharges
- Subject to any increase in Goods & Services Tax (GST) currently 15%

Prices do not include the contribution to the travel agency customer compensation fund of \$0.35 per \$1,000 for Quebec travel agencies. This amount will automatically added to your invoice. Rates were issued at press time and can increase or decrease any time due to exchange rates or new promotions. No contractual commitment. Contact your travel agent for updated pricing.

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