

New Zealand and the Cook Islands

16 days / 15 nights

From
\$3,599

Per person/Double occupancy/Land package
Valid for travel: May 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

Day 1: Auckland

Arrive at Auckland Airport and proceed to the Budget Rental Car counter located within the arrivals hall to collect your rental car. Make your way to your accommodation.

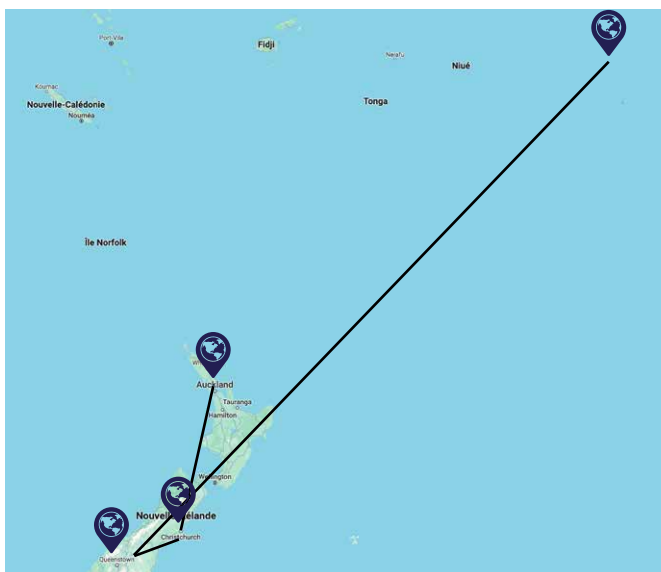
Auckland is an exciting, sporting, and cultural city, sprawled on a narrow isthmus between two harbours. The Waitemata and Manukau Harbours are a main feature of the city, along with numerous volcanic cones such as Mount Eden and Rangitoto Island. The city's many beaches, marinas, and parks, make it 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.

Included are tickets to the Total Tower Experience - Sky Deck which is accessible until 6pm or 8pm depending on the day of the week.

Overnight: Studio Room at the Adina Apartments



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Day 2: Auckland

Today is a free day to explore on your own. Included is general admission to the Auckland Museum which can be visited until 5pm most days of the week.

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 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: Studio Room at the Adina Apartments

Day 3: Auckland – Waitomo - Rotorua

Depart Auckland and travel south on State Highway – perhaps visit Manukau, with its large Polynesian community and the Otago Street Market. Travel over the Bombay Hills until you reach Hamilton which has a sprawling public park featuring Italian Renaissance to Japanese and traditional Maori gardening styles. At Otorohanga follow the road signs to the Waitomo. Please check in 30 minutes prior to departure.

Your tour begins at the upper entrance of the cave and proceeds along a low narrow passage to the Tomo, a deep limestone shaft. Your experienced tour guide will deliver a highly informative commentary about the formations, sharing stories, cultural legends and the

natural wonders of this living masterpiece and the history of the area. The highlight of your tour is an unrivalled boat trip through the spectacular Glowworm Grotto.

Marvel at Mother Nature's light display as you glide silently through the starry wonderland of the Glow-worm Grotto. Duration: 45mins. At the conclusion of the tour, follow the road signs leading to 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.

Check in to your hotel. This evening, visit to Te Puia and enjoy a guided tour of the valley with one of Te Puia's world-renowned guides. You will visit New Zealand's national carving and weaving schools and award-winning interactive galleries. See a kiwi bird up close and hear stories as told by the descendants of the valley. To conclude the tour, visit the geyser and mud pools and then be invited to have a short rest prior to the beginning of the evening experience.

Te Po is Te Puia's authentic evening cultural experience - a feast of food, culture, and friendship. It begins every night at Te-Heketanga-a-Rangi (The Heavenly Origins). Hear the stories of the past and see how these traditions live on today. Feeding guests is regarded by Maori as an honour and a sign of a tribe's mana (standing), so a sumptuous banquet is provided during the evening. 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.

Overnight: Superior Room at the Sudima Lake Rotorua

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Day 4: Rotorua - Christchurch (flight - own arrangements)

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, 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: Standard Room with 2 double beds at the Ibis Hotel Christchurch

Day 5: Christchurch – Lake Tekapo - 3-hour drive

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 well worth doing - a flight over the Mount Cook National Park or you can drive to the summit of Mt. John for a panoramic view of the Alps, glaciers, and lakes.

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

Wanaka is best known for boating, fishing, and skiing at the Cardrona and Treble Cone ski-fields.

Overnight: Upstairs Studio at the Lake Tekapo Village Motel

Day 6: Lake Tekapo – 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, bungy-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.

Try an optional tour on the TSS Earnslaw paddle wheeler 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 – noon departure from Steamer Wharf.

Overnight: Standard Room at the Heartland Hotel 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.

Overnight: Standard Room at the Heartland Hotel 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: Standard Room at the Heartland Hotel 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 to the lovely Cook Islands for some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Overnight: Garden Studio with tropical breakfast at the Lagoon Breeze Villas - 1 night

Day 10: Cooks Islands

After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, our team in the Cook Islands will review your itinerary and take you to your resort with the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Garden Studio with tropical breakfast at the Lagoon Breeze Villas - 5 nights

Day 11-15: Cook Islands at Leisure

Rarotonga is a very small island and can be easily driven (30kms around the whole island) either by scooter, car or the local bus which stops right outside the resort.

The friendly staff at the resort will be happy to help by showing you the tours that are available - whether it is a lagoon cruise, swimming with the turtles or deep-sea fishing. There is a lot to see and do or you can just sit back and relax at the pool or on the lovely beach just across the road.

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Day 16: Rarotonga Departure

This morning, say farewell to paradise as you are transferred to the airport for your departure flight.

The package is built around Air New Zealand flights from Vancouver departing on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with connection through Auckland for flights to the Cook Islands. Flight not included in the package.

The Package Includes:

- 15 nights accommodation: 9 nights in New Zealand and 6 nights in the Cook Islands
- New Zealand: 9-day Budget Rent a Car: CVAR (G) -Compact Auto SUV Vehicle (1-2 pax) - Inclusive Rates
- Admissions as outlined for inclusive admission prices only:
- Auckland: Total Tower Experience - Sky Tower/Sky Deck
- Auckland Museum: General Admission Only
- Waitomo Caves Tour
- Te Puia: Te Po Combo
- Waimangu Thermal Valley: Self-guided Walk
- Milford Sound Cruise - Cruise/Coach/Cruise Option
- Skyline Queenstown: Gondola ride
- All tours on Join-in basis

The package does not include:

- Any flights
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Parking fees at hotel, if applicable
- Any transfers

Land package 16 days / 15 nights, price per person

Departures	Double occupancy
May 1 – September 30, 2024	\$ 3,599
October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	\$ 3,749
Single room supplement	On request

Surcharges may apply for stays during Christmas, New Years, and special events in New Zealand. Rates were issued at press time and can change at any time due to exchange rates, new promotions, or fuel surcharges. Prices advertised on our site are valid if you purchase services during the same session. If you log out of our site, the prices may be different the next time you log in.

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