

Fourteen-day New Zealand Highlights Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Auckland

Upon arrival at Auckland Airport you will be met by a representative of Ultimate New Zealand, who will hand over your travel documents and assist you with the uplift of your medium sized rental car. Optional sightseeing to include The Sky Tower, Kelly Tarltons Underwater World, sail aboard an America's Cup Yacht, take a short ferry ride to Devonport. Accommodation for one night including breakfast at The Sebel Suites

Day 2: Auckland to Coromandel Peninsula

Drive south to Coromandel - visit Thames and Coromandel Town (approximately two and a half hour drive). Accommodation for two nights including dinner and breakfast at Kuaotunu Bay Lodge

Day 3: Coromandel Peninsula

Spend the day exploring the Coromandel with your personal guide, wander through pristine native forest viewing the majestic Kauri tree, cross crystal clear streams that flow from the mountains above. Enjoy a picnic lunch whilst viewing the natural wonders of Cathedral Cove, after lunch visit Hot Water Beach. This is undoubtedly some of the most spectacular mountain and coastal scenery to be seen.

Day 4: Coromandel Peninsula to Rotorua

Drive to Rotorua (approximately three hour drive) visit Rainbow & Fairy Springs to view the famed rainbow trout, continue on to The New Zealand Maori Arts & Craft Centre, at Whakarewarewa. Accommodation for one night including dinner and breakfast at Kawaha Point Lodge

Day 5: Rotorua to Hawkes Bay via Lake Taupo

Today drive south-east to Hawkes Bay, approximately 30 kilometres south of Rotorua visit Waiotapu Thermal Reserve to experience one of the region's thermal wonderlands with boiling mud, geysers and volcanic activity abounding. Continue on to Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake, we would recommend a stop to view the Huka Falls on the mighty Waikato River. Travel on to Hawkes Bay. Accommodation for two nights including dinner and breakfast at Greenhill.

Day 6: Hawkes Bay

Spend the morning with your personal guide and enjoy meeting local artists, view their works, taste the wonderful wines, explore stunning scenery whilst absorbing local history. Spend time with interesting Maori and experience a Powhiri (Maori Welcome) on top of legendary Te Mata Peak. Lunch is included in a winery restaurant. This afternoon you may wish to take a Gannet Safari, Cape Kidnappers, is the largest and most accessible mainland colony in the world.

Day 7: Hawkes Bay to Nelson

Drop off your rental car at Napier Airport prior to your flight to Nelson. Pick up your rental car at Nelson Airport. This afternoon visit Høglund Art Glass Studio. Accommodation for two nights including breakfast at Aporo Pondsiders

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Day 8: Abel Tasman National Park

Spend a day either sea kayaking or walking and cruising in New Zealand's smallest national park, Abel Tasman has a mild climate, golden beaches and sandy estuaries fringed by natural forest.

Day 9: Nelson to Blenheim

This morning drive to Blenheim. Recommend visiting Seresin Estate, Grove Mill and Cloudy Bay Vineyard. We would suggest lunch today at Alan Scott Wines. Alternatively enjoy a walk on part of the Queen Charlotte Track. Accommodation for one night including dinner and breakfast at The Bell Tower.

Day 10: Blenheim to Christchurch via Kaikoura

Drive to Kaikoura, Kaikoura is one of the leading eco-tourism destinations in the country. Enter the world of one of nature's most magnificent mammals – the giant sperm whale. View this awesome creature in its natural environment with dusky dolphins, seabirds and fur seals on a three-hour whale watch excursion. Continue on to Christchurch. Accommodation for two nights including breakfast at Hartford House

Day 11: Christchurch

Full day local optional sightseeing sights to include Christchurch Arts Centre, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery International Antarctic Centre and Mona Vale Homestead and gardens

Day 12: Christchurch to Queenstown

Fly to Queenstown. Pick up your rental vehicle at Queenstown Airport. Accommodation for two nights at Shotover Lodge

Day 13: Queenstown/Milford Sound/Queenstown

Take a flight of a lifetime by helicopter to magnificent Milford Sound. Fly through the Mount Aspiring National Park before crossing the Southern Alps to the rugged West Coast, view seals and bird life and sometimes penguins in their natural habitat. Enter the mouth of Milford Sound from the Tasman Sea fly the length of the Sound before landing at Milford. After leaving Milford Sound, fly deeper into Fiordland up the Arthur Valley to Lake Quill, the source of the Sutherland Falls, before returning passing Lake Te Anau and the famous Skippers Canyon.

Day 14: Depart Queenstown

Enjoy a jet boat ride on the Dart River into one of the world's great wild and scenic landscapes embracing both the spectacular Fiordland and Mt Aspiring National Parks. You will see mighty glaciers, waterfalls and walk through ancient native forest. This is a rare glimpse into one of the world's outstanding natural heritage sites.

Drop of your rental car at Queenstown Airport prior to your departing flight.

Arrangements Conclude