

Day 1: Auckland

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and has a great waterfront location on the Hauraki Gulf. It is a cosmopolitan city with a wide range of dining and wining options and it is also home to Sky Tower, the tallest tower in the Southern Hemisphere - a trip to the viewing platform provides superb views of the city and Hauraki Gulf, Waiheke Island and the volcanic island of Rangitoto Island.



Accommodation at **Hotel DeBrett** for 2 nights including daily continental breakfast and a complimentary pre-dinner drink. Hotel DeBrett is in the centre of Auckland, a short walk from the restaurants and bars of Viaduct Harbour and the Sky Tower. The hotel has 25 rooms, each with their own style and mood and hotel facilities include a guest drawing room, a DVD and book library, a bar and a restaurant.

Day 2: Auckland & Tiritiri Matangi

Today you will join a cruise to Tiritiri Matangi Island out in the Hauraki Gulf. Here you will be given the opportunity to see some of New Zealand's most endangered birds including the kokako and saddleback in this protected sanctuary and a guided walk will provide expert commentary on the fauna and flora and the historical and archaeological features of the island.

Day 3: Auckland – Maungatautari (near Cambridge)

You will collect your hire car this morning and a 2½ hour drive will take you south to Maungatautari. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari is New Zealand's largest native flora and fauna restoration project. 47km of pest proof fence surrounds 3,500 hectares of virgin native forest, providing sanctuary for the original inhabitants of the forest.



Accommodation at **Out in the Styx** for 2 nights including daily breakfast and dinner. Out in the Styx is a wonderful guesthouse nestled at the foot of Sanctuary Mountain, half an hour from the towns of Cambridge and Tirau. It is a unique rural retreat situated in 4.5 acres of privately owned farmland. Facilities include a restaurant, three hot tubs and two guest lounges.

Day 4: Maungatautari & Sanctuary Mountain

You will spend today exploring Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain. Surrounded by the world's longest pest-proof fence, Sanctuary Mountain's ancient forest offers a

sanctuary for populations of many of our most endangered species – from birds to bats, frogs to reptiles, tuatara to giant weta.



Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari

Day 5: Maungatautari – Blue Duck Station

A 4 hour drive today will take you south towards Tongariro National Park and then west towards Whanganui National Park and Blue Duck Station.

Blue Duck Station is a special and unique place in that it combines farming, tourism and conservation in a truly wild and remote place with a special emphasis on protecting the endemic whio or blue duck. Activities available include canoeing on the Whanganui River, hiking, horse riding, conservation hunting and assisting with the blue duck conservation programme.

*Accommodation at **Blue Duck Station** in a self-contained cottage for 2 nights including breakfast and dinner at Blue Duck Café.*

Day 6: Blue Duck Station

At leisure.

Day 7: Blue Duck Station – Hawkes Bay

A 5 ½ hour drive today will take you east to Hawkes Bay. After the Hawke's Bay region was devastated by an earthquake in 1931, the main towns of Napier and Hastings were rebuilt in the architectural style of the time and now boast an impressive selection of Art Deco buildings.



Hawke's Bay also has the distinction of being New Zealand's sunniest region, its second largest wine growing region and just about the gourmet capital of New Zealand. Chardonnay predominates with Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah also

being grown and there are numerous wineries in the area that are open for tours and tastings. Many of the wineries also have excellent innovative restaurants that bring out the best in New Zealand's superb natural produce.



The gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers

Your accommodation is located at Cape Kidnappers which is home to the largest and most accessible mainland gannet colony in the world.

Accommodation at **The Farm at Cape Kidnappers** for 2 nights including daily dinner and breakfast. The Farm, arguably the best luxury lodge in New Zealand, is set amongst 6,000 rolling acres of pasture land and the buildings are made from a combination of stone and weathered wood and are beautifully finished and furnished.

Panoramic views of the farm, golf course and Pacific Ocean are enjoyed from each suite's private balcony and lodge facilities include a swimming pool and luxury spa. You may also wish to follow one of the nature walks and enjoy a picnic whilst taking in the magnificent views of the beautiful Cape Kidnappers.

Day 8: Hawkes Bay

Today you may want to join the Lodge Guide on the Kiwi Discovery Walk. You will walk for up to an hour to locate the Kiwi's habitat and observe the guide checking the Kiwi's transmitter and watch it being weighed and measured. You will have the opportunity to hold the Kiwi and take photographs.

Day 9: Hawkes Bay – Kapiti Island

A 4 hour drive today will take you southwest to Paraparaumu where you will take a short ferry journey over to Kapiti Island. Your stay with Kapiti Island Lodge is one of the most unique alternatives to Wellington hotels you could possibly find providing a comfortable, relaxing, nature inspired experience in one of the world's great conservation environments, with genuine Maori hospitality.



Kapiti Island has been carefully managed by the New Zealand government to protect its flora and fauna and, apart from a small area of Maori tribal land, the entire island is a nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary with a number of excellent walking tracks.

*Accommodation at **Kapiti Nature Lodge** in an ensuite glamping unit with shared bathroom facilities for 2 nights including dinner and breakfast, a kiwi spotting tour and a guided nature walk.*



Kapiti Island

Day 10: Kapiti Island

You will spend today exploring Kapiti Island with a Maori family with guided walks and tales of past Maori history. Join the family on a night time walk to see the rare kiwi, a native of New Zealand which only comes out at night.

Day 11: Kapiti Island – Wellington

You will return to Paraparaumu this morning by ferry and a drive of an hour will take you south to Wellington where you will drop off your hire car.



Wellington is the capital of New Zealand and it is a cosmopolitan city with a great waterfront location and fantastic dining. It is also home to Te Papa Tongarewa, the superb national museum of New Zealand which offers a complete insight into the human and natural history of the country.

Another fascinating attraction only a mile and a half from the centre of the city is Zealandia and Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Zealandia is a beautiful 225 hectare area of native forest that is completely enclosed by predator proof fencing which protects the wide variety of rare New Zealand wildlife inside from introduced predators such as stoats and rats. Tonight you will join a guided night walk at Zealandia that will take you into the bush in search of little spotted kiwi.

*Accommodation at **InterContinental Hotel** for 1 night including evening cocktails & canapés and daily breakfast served in the club lounge. InterContinental Wellington has a great location adjacent to the waterfront. There is a choice of dining options and facilities include a swimming pool and sauna.*

Day 12: Wellington – Golden Bay

At 9.00am you will take the 3 hour Interislander ferry journey across Cook Strait sailing through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds to Picton. On arrival at 12.30pm you will collect your new hire car and continue your journey to Golden Bay – a drive of about 3 hours.

With its great climate, beautiful beaches and clear waters, Golden Bay and the nearby Abel Tasman National Park are perfect for coastal walks, sea kayaking or a combination of the two. Golden Bay in particular has become something of a magnet to those seeking an alternative lifestyle with small farms producing gourmet and organic products, art studios and galleries and trendy cafes and restaurants.

*Accommodation at **Adrift in Golden Bay** for 3 nights including breakfast. Adrift in Golden Bay is located on 10 acres on the water's edge overlooking the quiet, private and sandy Tukurua Beach. The Studio has a large sunny deck and tea and coffee making facilities.*

Day 13: Golden Bay

Today you will join a guided 4WD safari along the stunning Farewell Spit, the longest natural sandbar in the world which is home to a wide variety of bird life. We arrange trips along Farewell Spit on a not for profit basis with our commission being donated to controlling introduced pests such as rats and stoats - for every couple who we book on a trip, Paddy Gillooly of Farewell Spit Safaris will place and maintain one new predator trap.

Day 14: Golden Bay

At leisure.

Day 15: Golden Bay – Okarito

A 6½ hour drive today will take you south along the west coast to Okarito. Okarito is a tiny community situated right on the beach between the Tasman Sea and the mountains of the Southern Alps. It is also famous for its lagoon, more than 3,000 hectares of shallow open water, wetland, salt marsh, dunes and forest. The area is home to a huge variety of birdlife and offers some of the most peaceful and memorable kayaking in New Zealand.



Accommodation in a self-catering holiday home for 2 nights on a room only basis.



Kayaking on Okarito Lagoon

Day 16: Okarito

Today you will take a boat tour on Okarito Lagoon. You will also be able to see the work this tiny village is doing as part of the Predator Free NZ project to eradicate

predators and regenerate native vegetation. This evening you will join a night time kiwi spotting tour.

Day 17: Okarito – Wanaka

A 4½ hour drive today will first take you south through Glacier Country and along the coast to Haast. You will then head inland and uphill through the Haast Pass to Wanaka.



Wanaka is beautifully positioned on the shores of Lake Wanaka and is overlooked by the mountains of Mount Aspiring National Park. Whilst here you may wish to take one of the best one day hikes in New Zealand which takes you to Rob Roy Glacier and provides breathtaking views of the West Matukituki valley. And then there is the more challenging walk to Roys Peak with a total ascent of 1,300m.

Accommodation at **Waiorau Homestead** in a Lodge Room for 1 night including breakfast and dinner. Waiorau Homestead is a lovely rural property with just 3 rooms situated in the Cardrona Valley, 20 minutes from Wanaka on the road through the mountains to Queenstown.

Day 18: Wanaka – Te Anau

A 4 hour drive today will take you to Te Anau. First you will take the spectacular drive that is the Crown Range Road, the highest main road in New Zealand which will lead you to Queenstown. Another 2 hours or so will take you south and then west to Te Anau.



Te Anau is the access point for Fiordland National Park and some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world.

This evening you may wish to join a cruise across Lake Te Anau to the fascinating Te Anau Glowworm Caves.

Accommodation at **Dock Bay Lodge** for 2 nights including daily breakfast. Dock Bay Lodge is a luxury hosted B&B property with just 5 guest rooms and it has a fantastic location on a 12 acre site overlooking the lake and golf course. The facilities include a gym, sauna, spa pool and use of golf clubs.

Day 19: Te Anau & Lake Hauroko

A 1½ hour drive this morning will take you south to Lake Hauroko, New Zealand's deepest lake, where you will join a full day jet boat trip on the Wairaurahiri River. This trip will take you through dense and remote forest all the way to the south coast of the South Island



and it is a particularly special experience because of the vital wildlife conservation work conducted by the owners Johan and Joyce.

We book trips with Johan and Joyce on a not for profit basis with the proceeds being donated to their stoat trapping programme – introduced stoats are the single biggest threat to the survival of New Zealand’s unique and rare bird species.

Day 20: Te Anau – Stewart Island

A 3 hour drive today will take you through Invercargill to Bluff on the south coast where you will leave your car in a secure lock up before taking the hour long passenger ferry journey across Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your accommodation.



Stewart Island is New Zealand’s third largest island and 85% of it forms Rakiura National Park. It has a permanent population of less than 500 people and only 17 miles of roads. Because it is too far off the beaten track for the majority of visitors to New Zealand, it is a true hidden gem of the country.

There are miles of walking tracks, crystal clear waters for diving and snorkelling, friendly locals and rare wildlife abounds – this is one of the few parts of New Zealand where it is possible to see kiwi in the wild.

*Accommodation at **Observation Rock Lodge** for 3 nights including daily breakfast and dinner tonight. Observation Rock is a luxury retreat with panoramic views of Paterson Inlet. It is less than a 10 minute walk to the village.*

Day 21: Stewart Island & Ulva Island

This morning you will join a guided tour of Ulva Island which is situated within Stewart Island’s Paterson Inlet and is an Open Island Sanctuary. Introduced rats have been eradicated from the island and as a result it is one of the few places in New Zealand where you can view near pristine podocarp forest that is full of rare native birds. Your guide takes only small groups of people and has an expert knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area. The tour is taken at a very leisurely pace enabling you to really engage and interact with the environment.



An endemic and very rare mohua on Ulva Island

This afternoon you will be collected from Ulva Island for a cruise that will explore the coastline and islets of Paterson Inlet and take you out to the open sea to view some of New Zealand's pelagic birds including albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels and terns.

To round off a great day of wildlife and nature, tonight you will join a guided tour to Ocean Beach in search of Stewart Island brown kiwi.

Day 22: Stewart Island

At leisure.

Day 23: Stewart Island – Dunedin

You will take the ferry back to Bluff this morning and, after collecting your car, a 4½ hour drive will take you to Dunedin via the Catlins. The Catlins is on the south coast of the South Island and is an area of rolling hills, native forest and deserted surf pounded beaches. It is one of the quietest parts of New Zealand, well off the normal tourist trail. You will then continue east around the Catlins coast before heading north to Dunedin.



Dunedin was built by Presbyterian Scots on the back of the 19th century Otago gold rush and is one of the best preserved Victorian and Edwardian cities in the Southern Hemisphere. It also has the largest and oldest university in New Zealand which was

founded in 1869. The Dunedin Botanic Gardens make for a fabulous stroll around the 28 hectares which contain over 6,800 plant species. The gardens were established in 1863 and are the oldest in the country.

A half day return trip on the historic Taieri Gorge Railway will take you through rugged and spectacular scenery over wrought iron viaducts and through hand carved tunnels.

Out at Taiaroa Head on the Otago Peninsula is the world's only mainland breeding colony of southern royal albatross and it is well worth the trip to see these majestic birds at close quarters as well as numerous other pelagic species. Other wildlife on the peninsula includes New Zealand sea lions, fur seals and the rare endemic yellow-eyed penguin.

*Accommodation at **Kaimata Retreat** for 2 nights including breakfast provisions. Kaimata Retreat has just 3 rooms and is situated amongst 5 acres of coastal hillside. Kaimata offers fantastic views of the waterscape of Papanui Inlet on the Otago Peninsula and is a 30 minute drive from Dunedin.*

Day 24: Dunedin & Otago Peninsula

This morning you will visit Orokonui Ecosanctuary, the flagship biodiversity project for the South Island where multiple species of plants and animals are protected from predators. A predator fence surrounds 307 hectares of Coastal Otago forest, pests have been removed, habitat enhanced with weed control and planting, and many rare and endangered species re-introduced. Orokonui Ecosanctuary is a fantastic example of conservation in action and a great place to see a variety of rare and endangered native wildlife.

Then in the afternoon you will join a 5 to 6 hour wildlife tour of the Otago Peninsula. Wildlife seen includes Hooker's (also known as New Zealand) sea lions, yellow-eyed penguins, blue penguins and New Zealand fur seals. Your tour includes a visit to the albatross colony at Taiaroa Head.

Day 25: Dunedin – Home

Today you will make your way to Dunedin Airport where you will return your hire car. You will then check in for your flights home.