



Intrepid Travel: Premium New Zealand Encompassed

Dramatic peaks, glittering glaciers and geothermal wonders await on this Intrepid Premium adventure through New Zealand's North and South islands. With a passionate local leader to guide the way, you'll experience a landscape that has been shaped by the elements over thousands of years. Taste local wines at picturesque cellar doors and wineries, set out in search of kiwis, explore the mythical world of Hobbiton and explore the volcanic landscapes of Tongariro. From the pure spectacle of Milford Sound to the simmering geysers of Rotorua, this adventure is sure to blow you away.

Starts in: Auckland
Finishes in: Queenstown
Length: 18days / 17nights
Accommodation: Hotel 4 star
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.

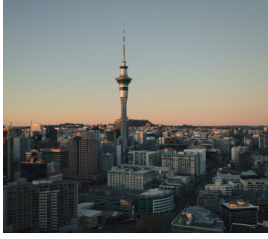


Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
Included: Criffel Station foraging & lunch experience with local chef
Included: West Coast TreeTop Walk
Included: Waiheke Island winery visits with tasting & lunch
plus much more...

Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
Included activity: Intrepid Travel
Included: Gibbston Valley Winery
Included: Wellington Harbour Evening Cruise
Included: Wai O Tapu thermal reserve

Day 1



Welcome to New Zealand! Your adventure on the volcanic North Island begins in Auckland – New Zealand's most populated city, fringed with beaches, harbours, volcanoes and farmland. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel, where you'll have a welcome meeting at 6 pm. If you arrive early, you might like to uncover the story of New Zealand rugby during an interactive All Blacks experience where you'll learn about the heritage of the sport and find out what it takes to wear the famous black jersey. After your meeting, get to know your group over dinner at a local bistro in the heart of the city, championing New Zealand producers.

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this time. If you are going to be late, please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

Activities:

- Auckland - Welcome Dinner
- Complimentary arrival transfer

Staying in:

- M Social or similar (1 night)
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Day 2



Leave the bustle of the big city behind and head offshore to Waiheke Island, famed for its sandy beaches and local wine. Board a ferry from Auckland – if you're lucky, you may even see dolphins or orcas along the way. When you arrive, you'll explore Oneroa, stopping at a local favourite coffee spot. Next, visit an art studio – Waiheke is home to a thriving arts scene, with many galleries, studios and public artworks scattered around the island. After browsing some local art, you'll visit an olive oil grove for a tour and tasting. Then visit the family-run Te Motu Vineyard for a wine tasting accompanied by their signature focaccia with extra virgin olive oil. For lunch, you'll have a two-course meal at a beachfront restaurant (maybe try some of the renowned local seafood). Close out your full day of savouring the sensory delights of Waiheke with an exclusive visit to Mawhitipana Ridge Estate. Meet the owners and hear the story behind their family-run vineyard while sampling their wines. Return to Auckland in the late afternoon with an evening free for your own discoveries.

Activities:

- Waiheke Island - Day Trip by Ferry

Staying in:

- M Social or similar (1 night)
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Day 3



After breakfast this morning, hit the road and drive to the Waitomo Glow Worm Caves – an extensive underground network of tunnels and caverns decorated with stalactites, stalagmites and luminous glow worms. Join a local expert for an in-depth tour of the cave system. See the limestone formations, hear the roar of subterranean waterfalls and learn about the glow worms that light up the caves. Continue to Hobbiton, where the epic Lord of the Rings movies were shot. Take a tour around the set with a local guide, hear stories about the production of these iconic films, explore Hobbit holes and enjoy a drink (and maybe a delicious pie) at the mythical Green Dragon Inn. Finally, travel to Rotorua, where you'll spend the evening.

Activities:

- Hobbiton - Visit to the Lord of the Rings Movie Set
- Hobbiton - Drink at the Green Dragon
- Waitomo - Glowworm Cave Tour

Staying in:

- Millennium Rotorua or similar (1 night)
-

Day 4



Spend this morning at your leisure, perhaps relaxing at the Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa or opting for a dose of adrenaline at the Redwoods Treetop Walkway. This evening, you will pay a visit to Te Pa Tu and be hosted by the people of Tamaki Maori Village. A local expert will guide you in celebrating the abundant harvest of this season, and you will explore concepts, rituals and stories of ancient Maori warfare and peace in a feast of culture and cuisine. Within the forest-formed amphitheatre you will hear stories relayed through haka, song and drama, before torch light guides you to an alfresco dining space where you'll sit down to a three-course feast.

Your trip leader has a rest day today, as per NZ legal requirements. Your trip leader will ensure you're ready to enjoy your time in Rotorua, before taking a 24-hour break. They will be available in case of emergencies.

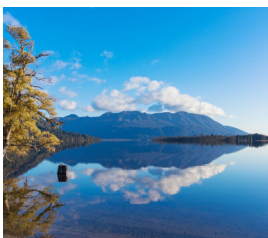
Activities:

- Rotorua - Visit Te Pa Tu Maori Village with Local Guide and Hangi Dinner

Staying in:

- Millennium Rotorua or similar (1 night)
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Day 5



Say goodbye to Rotorua and drive to Hawke's Bay – a region known for its abundance of wineries, acclaimed food scene, ideal weather and Art Deco architecture. On the way, visit Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, where you'll walk through thousands of years of geothermal history and volcanic features, including New Zealand's largest mud pool and bubbling basins bursting with vibrant colours. Then, continue to Hawke's Bay, where you'll check into your Feature Stay accommodation at Craggy Range Winery, beneath Te Mata Peak. You'll spend the next two nights in the heart of this acclaimed wine region, taking in the gorgeous landscapes and tasting local drops. Stay in a cosy cottage with ensuite bathrooms, a large, shared lounge and an outdoor area where you can enjoy the lush green vineyards and mountains surrounding you. Settle into your room, then join your group for a wine tasting and dinner.

Activities:

- Rotorua - Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland
- Hawkes Bay - Wine Tasting

Staying in:

- Craggy Range Winery (Feature Stay) or similar (1 night)
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Day 6



Consider heading out on an optional walk to the Te Mata Peak Lookout at sunrise – the views make the early start well worth it. This morning, you'll head to the town of Napier for an Art Deco walking tour. Napier is the self-proclaimed 'Art Deco capital of the world'. After the devastating Hawke's Bay earthquake of 1931, Napier town centre was destroyed and had to be rebuilt from the ground up. The result was a town that became a freezeframe of the popular architectural styles of the 1930s, including Stripped Classicism, Spanish Mission and Art Deco. After your walking tour, you'll have a free afternoon to do some exploring at your own pace. You might like to hire a bike to see Napier and its surrounds from a different perspective, or you could join a safari to see the largest mainland colony of gannets in the world.

Activities:

- Napier - Art Deco Walking Tour

Staying in:

- Craggy Range Winery (Feature Stay) or similar (1 night)
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Day 7



This morning, make tracks for Wellington – New Zealand's trendy capital city. After settling in, you'll head to Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, for a behind-the-scenes tour with a local Maori guide. Your guide will take you on a personal journey, sharing stories and connections from their iwi (tribe, nation or people) as they guide you through the museum's vast collection comprising more than 40,000 artworks including paintings, embroidery, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, moving image and more. You'll end this special tour by sharing some traditional 'kai' (food). Tonight, join your group for a farewell dinner at a waterfront restaurant – the perfect chance to reminisce about your North Island adventure.

Activities:

- Wellington - Te Papa Behind the Scenes Tour

Staying in:

- Naumi Hotel or similar (1 night)
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Day 8



This morning, check out of your hotel after breakfast and head to the South Island to begin the second half of your New Zealand adventure. Cross the Cook Strait on board a ferry, taking in some pretty unforgettable views along the way. Your introduction to New Zealand's South Island sets the tone for the rest of the journey – pass through the iconic landscapes of the Marlborough Sounds as you cruise into Picton Harbour. Travel on by private vehicle to Kaikoura. Settle into your accommodation and enjoy a free evening. Your travel time today will be approximately 9 hours.

Activities:

- Wellington - Ferry Cruise through Marlborough Sound

Staying in:

- Sudima Kaikoura or similar (1 night)
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Day 9



Continue your journey to Christchurch, where the day is yours to explore all that this city has to offer. You'll have a second welcome meeting at 6 pm to meet your new trip leader and group before you head out on a walking food tour with a local Maori guide. As you explore the city's less-trodden laneways and stroll along the riverside, make stops to try local bites that showcase excellent seasonal produce and learn about Maori culture and heritage. Your walking tour takes you to your final spot for tonight's dinner, where you can get to know your new fellow travellers and toast to the next leg of your adventure.

As this trip is a combination of shorter itineraries, the travellers in your group and your group leader are likely to change today.

Activities:

- Christchurch - Culinary Walking Tour Welcome Dinner
- Complimentary arrival transfer

Staying in:

- Sudima Christchurch City or similar (1 night)
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Day 10



This morning, board the TranzAlpine train for a scenic journey to Greymouth. This spectacular route takes you through the vast green of the Canterbury Plains, then passes through the Southern Alps, offering views of river gorges fringed with steep cliffs, glassy mountain lakes and winding rivers. As you soak up the views, you'll tuck into a menu inspired by the regions surrounding you. From your seat in the Scenic Plus carriage, you'll also have access to the open-air viewing carriage so that you can feel even closer to the nature around you. When you arrive, you'll explore Greymouth, stopping into a boutique studio to learn about the prized West Coast jade known locally as Pounamu (Greenstone). Arrive at Punakaiki Resort by late afternoon – located in Paparoa National Park, this resort lies next to Punakaiki Beach and the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes.

Your travel time today will be approximately 6 hours.

Activities:

- Greymouth - Pounamu (Greenstone) Studio Visit
- Christchurch - Leader-led Orientation Walk
- Christchurch - Tranzalpine Scenic Train

Staying in:

- Scenic Hotel Punakaiki or similar (1 night)
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Day 11



After breakfast, explore the Punakaiki Rocks and Blowholes before the drive to Franz Josef. Punakaiki, a town with less than 100 residents, is famed for its so-called Pancake Rocks. These layers of fossilised animals and plants, formed over 30 million years ago, were thrust above the surface by the moving earth and sculpted by wind and water. At high tide, the sea is forced through blowholes in the limestone to burst metres into the air – it's an entertaining sight! Along the way, stop for lunch and then pay a visit to Okarito where you'll take part in a hands-on restoration activity with the Okarito Plant Project, a community-led initiative focused on regenerating native forests and protecting the unique ecosystems of the West Coast.

Your travel time today will be approximately 4 hours.

Activities:

- Punakaiki - Rocks & Blowhole Visit
- Okarito - Plant Project Restoration Activity

Staying in:

- Rainforest Retreat Deluxe Tree Hut or similar (1 night)
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Day 12



Begin your day with a self-guided walk to see the icy wonderland created by the Franz Josef Glacier – one of the steepest glaciers in New Zealand. If you're feeling more adventurous, you may like to join an optional heli-hiking tour and get even closer to the glacier. Other optional activities include kayaking, a scenic cruise on Lake Mapourika or a soak in the hot tubs at Franz Josef. Ahead of your private tour tomorrow, you will also have access to the West Coast Wildlife Centre for you to explore at your own pace.

Your trip leader has a rest day today, as per NZ legal requirements. Your trip leader will ensure you're ready to enjoy your time in Franz Josef, before taking a 24-hour break. They will be available in case of emergencies.

Activities:

- Franz Josef – West Coast Wildlife Centre

Staying in:

- Rainforest Retreat Deluxe Tree Hut or similar (1 night)
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Day 13



This morning, take a private tour of the West Coast Wildlife Centre – home of the official breeding program for the world's rarest kiwi bird, the rowi. Also keep an eye out for tuatara (a reptile endemic to New Zealand). During your visit, your expert ranger will share behind-the-scenes insights into the conservation efforts taking place on the West Coast including how eggs are incubated and chicks are raised before being released into the wild. Then depart Franz Josef for the picturesque town of Wanaka, arriving by late afternoon. Located next to the resplendent Wanaka Station Park on the shores of Lake Wanaka, and a short stroll from Wanaka township, you'll be perfectly placed to enjoy all this popular town has to offer.

Your travel time today will be approximately 4.5 hours.

Staying in:

- Edgewater Hotel or similar (1 night)
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Day 14



Enjoy a sleep-in this morning or start your day with a hike up Mt Iron for a view over Lake Wanaka and the surrounding peaks. Central Otago is a region well-known for food and wine, and today you'll visit the spectacular Criffel Station deer farm. Here, you'll be shown around the farm by the family learning about the local produce and sustainable farming practices, followed by a delicious lunch.

Activities:

- Wanaka - Criffel Station Lunch Experience

Staying in:

- Edgewater Hotel or similar (1 night)
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Day 15



Say farewell to Wanaka after breakfast and begin the journey to Doubtful Sound / Patea – a lesser-known but stunning part of Fiordland National Park. Drive to Lake Manapouri, where you'll hop on a ferry for a journey across the water, followed by a scenic drive to Deep Cove via Wilnot Pass – a subalpine road surrounded by dense rainforest. Here, you'll board your vessel and meet the crew for your Doubtful Sound Cruise. This Premium Experience includes a delicious three-course dinner featuring local produce, and a resident naturalist who'll share insights about the fiord's history, flora and wildlife – including dolphins, seals and penguins. With fewer boats on the water than in Milford Sound and a more peaceful atmosphere, there's a higher chance these creatures will pop up to say hello! If weather conditions allow, you might also like to explore by kayak.

Your travel time today will be approximately 3.5 hours. Your leader will not be joining you on the overnight cruise, but they will be contactable via the boat crew if you need to contact them.

Activities:

- Doubtful Sound - Cruise

Staying in:

- Doubtful Sound Cruise (Feature Stay) (1 night)
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Day 16



Start your day with a hearty cooked breakfast as the mist rolls over the cliffs, then get ready to explore some of the other nooks of the fiord this morning. After, return to Deep Cove to take the ferry back to Lake Manapouri and continue to Queenstown, arriving in the late afternoon. The rest of the evening is free for you to relax or explore this resort town, famed for its picturesque scenery and dramatic location on the edge of the Southern Alps.

Your travel time today will be approximately 3 hours.

Activities:

- Doubtful Sound - Cruise

Staying in:

- Naumi Dairy Hotel or similar (1 night)
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Day 17



Soak up a free morning in Queenstown and wander at your own pace. Then, head to Arrowtown in the afternoon. This historic gold mining town is known for its heritage town centre and autumn festival – and is perfect to explore on foot. Learn about the town's history on a leader-led walking tour and browse its shops and cafes. Then, head to Gibbston Valley to sample some of Central Otago's famous drops at a well-known winery. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner with your group and say cheers to an amazing adventure.

Activities:

- Gibbston Valley - Wine Tasting
- Arrowtown - Walking Tour

Staying in:

- Naumi Dairy Hotel or similar (1 night)
-

Day 18



Your New Zealand adventure ends this morning after breakfast. As this trip spends little time in Queenstown, it's recommended that you spend an extra day or two if you want to experience all the town has to offer. Your booking agent will be happy to book additional accommodation for you, just get in touch ahead of time.

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Small Group Escorted Tour
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Queenstown
Tour length:	18
Accommodation:	Hotel 4 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary