

# A Taste of New Zealand

**Destinations:** Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, Christchurch

**Your Itinerary Includes:**

- Internal coach class air in New Zealand
- Round trip airport transfers
- 1 night Auckland
- Waitomo Caves full day tour
- 2 nights Rotorua
- Rotorua half day city tour
- Rotorua Hangi dinner and concert
- 3 nights Queenstown
- Milford Sound full day tour
- Dart River jet boating
- 2 nights Christchurch
- Akaroa full day tour
- Rental car OR coach transfers between major cities
- 3 lunches 1 dinner

## **Day 1 Fly USA to Auckland**

*Please note international air from the USA has not been included in the package price.*

## **Day 2 You cross the International Dateline**

The International Date Line is an imaginary line on the earth's surface that approximately coincides with the 180th meridian (LONGITUDE), and separates the calendar date. Traveling east across the line takes the traveler back one day; traveling west, takes the traveler forward one day.

## **Day 3 Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand**

You will be met and transferred to your accommodation, or if you choose the rental car option, you will pick up your vehicle and self drive to your hotel.

Auckland, 'City of Sails', located between two stunning harbors, enjoys a mild year-round climate. Auckland is the country's most visited region and largest urban area, offering exciting activities and great shopping.

The city lies across a 7-mile wide volcanic isthmus separating two harbors. The Waitemata to the east opens into the Hauraki Gulf, and to the Pacific Ocean. The Manukau Harbour to the west offers many estuaries and surf beaches and opens to the Tasman Sea.

## **Day 4 Auckland to Rotorua Via Waitomo Caves**

Depart Auckland on board a motor coach for your ride south to Hamilton. Travel through the rich Waikato area, famous for its dairy farms, kiwi fruit orchards, thoroughbred horses.....and the Waitomo Caves! You will enter subterranean limestone caverns to view the Glow Worm Grotto. Surely one of the wonders of the world. Then continue over the bush clad Mamaku Ranges to Rotorua.

## **Day 5 Rotorua city tour**

See the highlights of Rotorua - this tour shows you the best of Rotorua's natural and man-made attractions. Your half day tour includes a visit to Rainbow Springs and Rainbow Farm for a sheep show and working sheep dog demonstrations. Continue to Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve to

see bubbling mud pools, steaming geysers and intricate Maori wood carvings.

### **Hangi dinner and concert**

This Twilight Cultural Tour offers transport to and from a Marae by coach. Tonight is a spiritual experience you will never forget with Marae protocol, entertainment, Maori culture and feasting.

En route to the Marae, the guide explains the protocol to take place. The group on board is prepared for the wero (challenge) and welcome to the Marae. Upon entering the exquisitely carved meeting house, you will hongi (greet - pressing of noses) with your host. The tradition means you are a friend and may consider yourself one of the family. Now sit back and enjoy the culture of the Maori people. See the fierce Haka (war dance), twirling of poi balls, stick games and other entertainment.

From here we move to the Hangi pit to see the traditional Maori method of food preparation before heading into the dining room for a Hangi (feast). After the feast, you are transferred back to your Rotorua accommodation by coach.

### **Day 6 Fly Rotorua to Queenstown (Via Christchurch)**

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Queenstown. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Nestled beside the deep blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, at the foot of the Remarkables Mountain Range, Queenstown is a year round resort, where you can be as active as you want, or just leisurely enjoy the magnificent scenery.

### **Day 7 Milford Sound tour**

An early start as you leave your hotel and coach through some of the most beautiful countryside in New Zealand. On arrival at Milford Sound, board the vessel for a leisurely cruise along the sound to the Tasman Sea. The vessel stops at various points and plenty of time is available to view waterfalls, rainforests, mountains and seals. You may even see dolphins frolic alongside the boat. A buffet lunch is included during the cruise.

### **Day 8 Dart River jet boating**

Transfer from Queenstown by coach to Glenorchy and the mouth of the Dart River. Here we board the 18 foot specially prepared jet boat and thread our way through a maze of channels between river flats in only inches of water. Snow capped mountains surround you as you view the World Heritage Grandeur, and waterfalls cascade into the lush bush clad valleys – a magical, untouched place.

Your guide shares his knowledge and explains all about the area, then pulls into a bank so that you may explore the area by foot. This optional 30-45 minute guided walk takes you into the native forests at an area called Paradise in the spectacular Rees Valley. You will then be collected by the 4 x 4 coach to take you back to Glenorchy, before transferring back to Queenstown. Trip duration is 6 hours. Your tour today will include a souvenir picture pack, which is a mini album from your day.

### **Day 9 Coach from Queenstown to Christchurch**

Travel from Queenstown to Mount Cook via the Lindis Pass and then down the Southern Alps to the Canterbury Plains and Christchurch. Lunch is included en route.

If you choose the self drive option, you will drive from Queenstown to Christchurch at your own pace.

### **Day 10 Akaroa full day tour**

On this amazing tour, visit the extinct volcanoes of Banks Peninsula and view the beautiful harbors & green farmland. Make photo stops at scenic places and enjoy morning & afternoon teas and a cheese tasting at the Barry's Bay Cheese Factory.

Once at Akaroa, included in your tour is a nature and harbor cruise on the Canterbury Cat. This cruise explores the volcanic harbor and sightings may be made of the world's smallest dolphin - the Hector's Dolphin, NZ Fur Seals and numerous seabirds.

If time allows, stroll through the village and along the waterfront, taking in the quaint French charm which is unique to Akaroa. Lunch is included today, and the return to Christchurch is around 5.30pm.

### **Day 11 Fly Christchurch to USA (Via Auckland)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Auckland. On arrival, make your way to the international terminal for your departure flight to the USA.