

21-day New Zealand Auckland – Queenstown

Day One: Auckland

Arrival into Auckland (Airline Flight TBC)

P/up at Auckland International Airport and transferred to **Westin Hotel**, your accommodation for the next two nights right down on **Auckland's viaduct harbour**.

Walk out the hotel front door and out into the viaduct exploring the shops, cafes and generally getting settled in, adjusting to 'down-under' time and having a local orientation of downtown Auckland.

Dinner is booked at Prego for 7.00pm, a fantastic Italian restaurant right in the heart of Ponsonby village, a 5 minute taxi ride from your hotel.

Day Two:

Take the **9am ferry to Waiheke Island** where a half-day tour of the vineyards, local art galleries and the white sand beaches will take place.

Lunch is at Te Whau, a winery perched on the cliff-top with stunning views back across the harbour to Auckland City.

Afternoon sightsee at 3000ft in your very own helicopter taking in Auckland's harbour islands, extinct volcanoes with an amazing sweep down the West Coast beaches.

Having returned back to the Westin for some relaxation before dinner, you have the option of dining in at the hotel or dining out at award-winning **French Café at 7.30pm**, again a short taxi up town.

You may decide to have a walk around the marina and into the viaduct before getting ready for dinner. This was the site of the 1999 America's Cup Sailing village, when New Zealand held both the Louis Vuitton cup and were defending the America's Cup.

[Your hotel:](#)

*Westin Hotel
21 Viaduct Harbour Ave
Auckland,
(09) 909 9018
www.westin.com*

Day Three: Coromandel Peninsula

Having had breakfast and checked out, pick up your car at **Hertz Rental Car (downtown office)**, approx **8.30am** and drive out of Auckland, through the beautiful rural farmland to **Pauanui**, situated on the stunning, bush-clad **Coromandel Peninsula**.

After a 2 hour drive, you will arrive at your accommodation, the **Puka Park Resort** and check in, chill out and take in the tranquillity.

Dinner tonight is at the restaurant, serving up the classic mouth-watering Kiwi fare. Following dinner, it's time for a good sleep as tomorrow will be a great day driving the lush, native bush-clad hills (they can be a bit windy) and meandering along the white sand beaches.

Day Four:

Wake this morning to a hearty breakfast before heading to out for the day's exploring to **Hahei, Cathedral Cove** and the famous **Hot Water beach**. Make sure you buy a small spade as you will need to dig, dig and dig (you sit on the sand with your feet in the hot water while the tide laps at your pool!!)

Be sure to take in Tairua (just across from Pauanui), Hot Water beach and Hahei. From Hahei, you drive up to the top of the hill (turn left at the only shop on the way in) and keep going. You must take your swimmers and towel and do the walk over to Cathedral Cove. It may be busy as it is that time of year, however it really is stunning.

Lunch today will be along the way in any café that you spot.

[Your hotel:](#)

*Puka Park Resort
Mount Avenue
Pauanui Beach
Coromandel Peninsula
(07) 864 8088
www.pukapark.co.nz*

Day Five: Rotorua

Check out of the hotel before the meandering coastal drive down to **Rotorua** – the land of boiling mud, spewing geysers and that ever-so-horrible smell of sulphur. On your drive, be sure to stop in at **Whangamata**, about 30 minutes drive from last night's resort.

The total driving time to Rotorua is around 2.5 hours however there are some great ocean views along the way.

After arriving into Rotorua and locating **Treetops Lodge**, there is no way you will feel like leaving so enjoy the surrounds and let Haiko and his staff spoil you for the next 3 nights. The lodge has incredible grounds with



walking tracks and activities on offer - they will be more than happy to help. This is a real slice of New Zealand paradise.

Dinner tonight is relaxed and at the lodge however be sure to enjoy a pre-dinner drink in the amazing grand entrance lobby.

Days Six and Seven:

Today is your first real taste of New Zealand's reputation as being 'the most adventurous country in the world.' There is so much on offer in Rotorua so here are the options that I think you need to do:

- Ride the gondola and do the luge, fantastic 'sled-like' trolley racing on a downhill course
- Throw yourselves into the '**Zorb**' and roll downhill in a giant cushioned ball, getting a good old wash while you are at it (so take a towel and swimmers)!
- Head to the '**Agrodome**' to see the farming side of New Zealand and work out where all the 'sheep jokes' come from!
- Take a walk in '**Wai-O-Tapu**' geo-thermal land and spot everything Rotorua is famous for – the mud, the smells, the sounds, the Maori heritage. Amazing.
- Take the **Kawarau Jet** across the lake and into another to soak in some hot springs, perfect for those aching muscles.
- Should you be keen, the fly-fishing around these parts is famous the world over and there are a multitude of rivers and lakes to try your hand

Your lodge:

Treetops Lodge
351 Kearoa Rd
RD1 Horohoro
Rotorua
(07) 357 2105
www.nicaralodge.co.nz

Day Eight: Hawke's Bay

This morning you will drive about 3 hrs to the **Hawke's Bay**, one of the world's most newly acclaimed wine growing regions. Famous not only for its white wines, the Air New Zealand wine awards (NZ's most prestigious wine awards) just awarded its Champion Wine of the Show trophy to the 'Church Road Reserve Syrah 2007.' Best you get some of that then.

Having had lunch at **Te Awa winery** (one of Hawke's Bays finest) you will drive 15mins through the vineyard country to your accommodation for the next 2 nights at **Greenhill Lodge**. A gorgeous rural homestead with all the 5-star lashings, look around and soak it up while the in-house chef prepares for you a 'feast of the region.'

Day Nine:

Today there are a multitude of superb wineries to visit, activities to do or you may just want to soak up the rural ambiance of the estate with a walk, a massage or both.

I would recommend heading into Napier, the 'Art Deco capital of the NZ' if you are looking for something to do. Take a tour of the restored buildings, the promenade and check out the amazing antique stores. The lodge can help you with these bookings.

Tonight (if you feel like a meal out) you can head into **Havelock North** to walk around and have a meal at **Pipi's**, a fantastic and quirky local's choice of dining. With rave reviews and food and wine to complement, this is a perfect finale to your 'Bay' experience.

Your Lodge:

*Greenhill Lodge
103 Greenhill Rd
RD4
Hastings 4174
(06) 879 9944
www.greenhill.co.nz*

Day Ten: Wellington

This morning you will have a sumptuous breakfast and having said your goodbyes, you will check out and drive to Napier airport. You'll need to leave your rental car here at the airport (and also visit the desk etc to check the car back in).

From here you fly from Napier to Wellington on NZ 8443 at 11.20am

On arrival into **Wellington**, you need to jump in a taxi and be taken to your accommodation for the night, **The Bolton** situated right in the CBD. This afternoon is downtime after a day on the go however I would highly recommend visiting **Te Papa**, the National Museum (that you will no doubt be able to see out your window) as well as just walking around the city centre.

For tonight's meal I would recommend **Scopa**, a great little Italian on **Cuba Mall** (also a great place to walk up and down but be sure to book a table).

Your Hotel:

*The Bolton
Cnr Bolton & Mowbray
Wellington
(04) 472 9966
www.boltonhotel.co.nz*

Day Eleven: Marlborough Sounds

The exciting town of Wellington will be left behind when boarding the '**Interislander**', the ferry that makes its way from the North to South islands and back again. Having checked out of the hotel, get a taxi to the ferry terminal.

You'll need to be on the 8.25am ferry sailing, arriving into Picton around 11.35pm.

Having arrived off the ferry there is a great little café for lunch, **Le Café** and Peter will look after you very well (I recommend anything seafood!)

Make sure you catch the 1.30pm sailing out to your resort for the next two nights, **the Bay of Many Coves Resort.**

Day Twleve:

This morning you will be walking one of the most amazing walks in the country, a part of the **Queen Charlotte** track. The site of Captain Cook's landing in 1770 and then becoming his NZ base, this is a great walk that is challenging for the first 1.5hrs (up and downhill). Taking you through stunning native bush, the walk then flattens out to a meander, following the Endeavour Inlet all the way to **Furieux Lodge** where lunch will be.

Transport to and from the track is on the Cougar Line again, picking you up from the lodge jetty at around **8.30am** and returning you from Furieux at around **3pm**. Ask the times if you are not sure.

[Your Hotel:](#)

*Bay of Many Coves
Queen Charlotte Sound
Private Bag
Picton
(03) 579 9771
0800 579 9771
www.bayofmanycoves.co.nz*

Day Thirteen: Kaikoura

Having checked out and taken the **9.30am Cougar Line back to Picton**, it is time to pick up another car from **Hertz in the ferry terminal.**

Having organised the vehicle, head south again and on down the Kaikoura Coast. Driving through Blenheim and the wineries beyond you will end up on the coastline, ducking through highway tunnels, stopping along the way to spot the NZ Fur Seal and anywhere in between for a coffee.

Tonight you are staying in what I believe is one of NZ's best kept secrets. **Hapuku Lodge** is amazing, and you will find out why on arrival. Just look out the window.

Take a walk down to the beach from right outside your doorstep but make sure to look both ways before crossing the train tracks!!!

Dinner tonight is around 7.30pm at the lodge.

Day Fourteen:

Today it's time to see some incredible wildlife with your **Dolphin Encounter** in the bay, just off the Kaikoura coast. There will be Royal Albatross, seals, Dusky dolphins (which I **highly** recommend swimming with as they are the world's most playful dolphin) and some incredible views of the mountains coming right out of the sea. An absolute must do!

Lunch can be had at '**The Beach House Café**' situated on the main road on the way back out to the lodge, or at the lodge itself. This afternoon I would just relax as the lodge was designed for doing just that.

Dinner tonight is at the lodge, or there is a great pizza place in town called '**Black Rabbit pizza**' that does some seriously good pizza combinations (and you could even get them picked up to have back in your tree-house)...

Your hotel:

Hapuku Lodge

SH1

Kaikoura

(03) 319 6559

www.hapukulodge.com

Day Fifteen: Christchurch

Today it is time to say goodbye to the whales, the mountains and the sea but only while you are in the car, as they are just all around you! Remember to check out of the lodge.

Head south down the coast about 3hrs to **Christchurch** where you will find yourself immersed in what we refer to as 'NZ's Garden city.' The abundance of flowers, trees, parks and gardens is what they in the South island pride themselves on. Park the car, have a walk and having found somewhere for lunch (Annie's Wine Bar in the Arts Centre is great) then head on out to the lodge (dir. Akaroa).

Our accommodation tonight is about 20mins out of Christchurch in some of the most stunning country grounds. **Otahuna Lodge** has been recognised as one of New Zealand's most beautiful restored homesteads.

Tonight your meal will be a peaceful one in the lodge. Order up a storm!

Day Sixteen:

Wake up for a relaxing breakfast and morning around the lodge

The highlight today will be heading over the hills and into the small harbour of Akaroa, where you will immediately be taken by the views and the charm of the Banks Peninsula. Take a trip on the harbour and try to spot some dolphins, walk around the cafés and galleries or simply try to understand the French speakers, as this place was the first to be colonised by the French before the English regained sovereignty in 1840.

Have lunch out at **French Farm winery**, located on French Farm Road near Duvauchelle, turning left off the Highway 75 (the same road you came in on) before the climb up the hill and back to the lodge.

Dinner tonight is again at the lodge and after last night, you'll understand why.

Your Lodge:

*Otahuna Lodge
224 Rhodes Rd
Tai Tapu 7672
Christchurch
(03) 329 6333
www.otahuna.co.nz*

Day Seventeen: Queenstown

Having checked out, head to the airport for your flight to **Queenstown** on **NZ 5001** departing at **11.25am**. Remember to drop the car back at Christchurch airport in time for your flight.

On arrival in Queenstown, you will head straight to your accommodation to get rid of the bags and explore the local area. **The Spire** is a beautiful, contemporary hotel situated right in the heart of the village. Walk straight out your door, turn right and off you go.

Dinner tonight is booked for **7.30pm at Wai Restaurant**, down on the lakefront beside the boat docks.

Make sure you sleep well. Queenstown really is going to blow your socks off! This is such an amazing town to get lost in doing whatever adrenalin activity you can think of. This is the 'birth-place of bungee', the 'home of the jet boat' and the centre of all things 'active.'

Day Eighteen and Nineteen:

The next few days are spent exploring this famous New Zealand region, dubbed the 'adventure capital of the world.' With a multitude of famous adrenalin activities, shops, wineries, galleries, restaurants and cafes, 'Central Otago' (the name of the province) really is a great place to finish off your NZ adventure.

There are many other options for your time in Queenstown. Some options that I can recommend are:

- * Dart River Safaris – an amazing wilderness experience taking you to some of Central Otago's most pristine countryside (Lord of the Rings filming locations!)
- * Walter Peak Station and the HMS Earnslaw cruise to one of NZ's oldest and largest high-country stations
- * Wine Tours around the Bannockburn/Cromwell area
- * Wanaka day trip with Mark, a fantastic local who will look after your every need including lunch!

Recommendations for dinner each night can be found at the concierge desk at the hotel and there is a huge range, depending on what particular cravings you have.

I would recommend Kappa for fantastic Japanese, the Cow for a relaxed pizza or The Bunker for finer dining.

[Your hotel:](#)

*The Spire
Church Lane
Queenstown
(03) 441 0004
www.thespirehotels.com*

Day Twenty: Departure Day

Having had almost 3 weeks exploring this very fine country of ours, it is time to bid you 'e noho ra'. Having had a beautiful breakfast, checked out and made it to the airport on time for your ongoing flight, we really do hope you have enjoyed yourselves.

It has been our pleasure to put this itinerary together for you and we look forward to hearing your feedback via our traveller questionnaire. Please take the time to complete it, as that is the best way for us to listen to whom we work for, change what we can and strengthen what we do.

Send us through some photos for the website, we would love to see them!!

All the very best in the future

Rob Grieve
KDI Director
rob@kiwidoesit.com
www.kiwidoesit.com

***** OPTIONAL EXTRA TWO DAYS IN WANAKA – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED *****

Day Twenty: Wanaka

Having checked out of your Queenstown hotel, you will be picked up by Wanaka Connections and transferred over the Crown Range and to your next lodge, **Whare Kea**.

After settling in and getting your bearings, take a walk into town from right in front of the lodge. This should take you around 1 hr one-way however there are cafes, restaurants and the lakefront beckons! You can always get a taxi back out when you are ready.

Dinner tonight is most definitely at the lodge as once you arrive you will never want to leave.

Day Twenty One:

This morning when you awake, you will look out your window and be blown away, whatever the weather. Be it rain, hail, sunshine or snow, this place is nothing short of breathtaking.

Today you have a day of exploring with a local guide who I know personally, and he is terrific. Mark will meet you at the lodge and take you under his wing. Enjoy. It will be walks, 4x4's, lunch and more and the best thing about it is you can do what you want!!

Your Lodge:

*Whare Kea
Mt Aspiring Rd
Wanaka 9343
(03) 443 1400
www.wharekealodge.com*

Day Twenty Two: The real departure day

Arrangements can be made with the lodge to help you get to your final destination or flights. Mark our local driver will be available for a transfer over to Queenstown airport, via Arrowtown for one last Central Otago wander.

Travel well and it has been a pleasure helping you to see our land. Until next time...



Rob Grieve
Kiwi Does It Ltd

Trip Summary:

Dates:

Duration: 19 nights/20 days
21 nights/22 days

Pick-up: Auckland, NZ

Drop-off: Queenstown, NZ

What's Included:

Westin Hotel: (Auckland)	All accommodation Breakfast
Puka Park Hotel: (Coromandel Peninsula)	All accommodation Breakfast
Treetops Lodge: (Lake Rotorua)	All accommodation All meals
Greenhill Lodge: (Hawke's Bay)	All accommodation All meals and dinner wine
The Bolton: (Wellington)	All accommodation Breakfast
Bay of Many Coves: (Marlborough Sounds)	All accommodation Breakfast
Hapuku Lodge: (Kaikoura)	All accommodation Breakfast
Otahuna Lodge: (Christchurch)	All accommodation All meals and dinner wine
The Spire: (Queenstown)	All accommodation Breakfast
Whare Kea Lodge: (Wanaka)	All accommodation All meals and dinner wine

