New Zealand Adventure

16 days from $6,774 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco ($6,495 air & land inclusive plus $279 airline taxes and fees)

It’s a tale of two islands as our small group journeys from New Zealand’s North to its South, through lively cities and pristine fjords, past lush farmland and enchanted forests in a land where the outdoors is the national shrine. Add engaging “Kwis” and intriguing indigenous cultures—it’s a pure New Zealand experience.

We see 7½-mile-long Franz Josef Glacier up close on a guided walk through the glacier valley on Day 12.

Days 1 & 2: Depart U.S. for Auckland, New Zealand

Day 3: Arrive Auckland We arrive in New Zealand’s largest city early this morning and transfer to our hotel, where our rooms are ready for early check-in. After time to relax and freshen up, we take a casual walking tour of the area around our hotel. This evening we attend a briefing on the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner.

Day 4: Auckland This morning we tour cosmopolitan Auckland, an eminently livable city. One of only a few world cities straddling two harbors on separate bodies of water, Auckland offers an abundance of natural beauty. A highlight of our tour is the visit to the Auckland Museum, with its prized collections of Maori and Pacific Islander art and artifacts (Auckland has the largest Polynesian population of any city in the world). After lunch at a local restaurant, we embark on a cruise around glittering Auckland Harbour. We return to our hotel early this afternoon; the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 5: Auckland/Rotorua En route to Rotorua today, we stop at Ruakuri Caves to see the unique glowworms that illuminate the underground grottoes and caves. Late this afternoon we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Maori Cultural Center for a traditional hangi dinner and performance.

Day 6: Rotorua With its geysers, bubbling mud pools, and hot thermal springs, Rotorua ranks as a geothermal wonder, as well as a center of indigenous Maori culture. We encounter this intriguing town on a morning tour that includes a visit to Rainbow Springs Nature Park, a popular showcase of native New Zealand flora, fauna, and birds set amidst an expanse of forest studded with aviaries, pathways, an underwater viewing pool, and other educational exhibits. Our guided tour here includes a visit to the National Kiwi Trust, dedicated to rehabilitating injured kiwis, housed on the park’s grounds.

Day 7: Rotorua/Napier Today we set out for one of New Zealand’s celebrated wine regions: Hawke’s Bay and the seaside city of Napier. We sample the local terroir at a wine tasting and lunch at Church Road Winery, one of the country’s oldest and most acclaimed. Reaching Napier after lunch, we embark on a guided walking tour of the city’s 1930s Art Deco architecture. After an earthquake leveled the city in 1931, it was rebuilt in “Deco” style; today, Napier ranks as one of the most authentically Art Deco cities in the world. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

New Zealand’s unspoiled natural scenery • Auckland sightseeing and harbour cruise • Geothermal Rotorua • Art Deco walking tour in Napier • TranzAlpine train excursion • Two-night Franz Josef stay, with guided walk through the glacier valley • Scenic Doubtful Sound excursion • Outdoor mecca of Queenstown
Day 8: Napier/Wellington  We travel today to New Zealand's capital of Wellington, stopping along the way at a private farm where we learn about the country's vital sheep farming industry. We see the sheep dogs at work and watch a sheep-shearing demonstration then enjoy a barbecue lunch. We continue on, reaching Wellington late this afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own in this city known for its vibrant restaurant scene.  \(B,L\)

Day 9: Wellington  We encounter this genial waterfront city on the southern end of the North Island on this morning's tour featuring a ride on the historic Wellington Cable Car for panoramic views of the city and harbor. We also visit acclaimed Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum with interactive exhibits spanning art, history, native cultures, and the natural environment. Then the remainder of the afternoon is free to explore as we wish, perhaps to stroll along bohemian Cuba Street; visit the Wellington Zoo; or wander the lively waterfront area. We dine together tonight at a local restaurant.  \(B,D\)

Day 10: Wellington/Christchurch  Today we fly south to Christchurch, New Zealand's “Garden City.” Highlights of our city tour include the Botanic Gardens, the “green heart” of Christchurch dating to 1863; and Cathedral Square, for 150 years, the beating heart of Christchurch and site of Christchurch Cathedral. This afternoon is at leisure to explore independently; we dine tonight at our hotel.  \(B,D\)

Day 11: Christchurch/Franz Josef  Early today we embark on one of the world's great rail journeys aboard the TranzAlpine train: along the open farmland of the Canterbury Plain, through the foothills of the Southern Alps then into the snowcapped peaks themselves. We travel across steel girder bridges above deep gorges and through tunnels on our journey to Arthur’s Pass, where we board a motorcoach for the scenic drive to the village of Franz Josef, reaching our hotel this afternoon and dining there tonight.  \(B,D\)

Day 12: Franz Josef  In Westland National Park this morning, we encounter one of New Zealand's most spectacular sights: Franz Josef Glacier, the mass of ice that descends from the frigid upper reaches of the Southern Alps to a rainforest at sea level. With a local guide we take a walk through the glacier valley, where we have spectacular views of this natural wonder. Then we visit the West Coast Wildlife Centre with its rare kiwi birds, an animal linked so closely to New Zealand that its residents are known colloquially as “Kiwis.” This afternoon is free to enjoy the splendid surroundings as we wish. We dine tonight at our hotel.  \(B,D\)

Day 13: Franz Josef/Queenstown  Traveling to Queenstown today, we stop first in the lakeside resort of Wanaka for lunch on our own then in the Central Otago region at a local winery for a private tasting and tour of the wine cave. Late this afternoon we reach Queenstown and our hotel, where we dine tonight.  \(B,D\)

Day 14: Queenstown/Doubtful Sound  More scenic overload is in store on our full-day excursion to Fiordland National Park and Doubtful Sound, one of New Zealand's top attractions. We travel by boat across Lake Manapouri then by coach over Wilmot Pass to reach the “Sound of Silence,” as Doubtful is called for the remarkable serenity that prevails here and in the surrounding mountain peaks, rainforest, and waterfalls. This enchanting woodland may seem familiar to moviegoers: director Peter Jackson filmed *The Lord of the Rings*’ Fangorn Forest here. Among the wildlife we may see on our three-hour catamaran cruise: dolphins, fur seals, Fiordland crested penguins, and even whales. Surrounding us: rugged mountain peaks, rainforest, waterfalls. After this exhilarating excursion we return to Queenstown early this evening; dinner is on our own.  \(B,L\)

Day 15: Queenstown  Today is at leisure to enjoy this outdoor mecca with a spectacular setting on Lake Wakatipu as we wish. Options abound, from jet boating and fly fishing to art gallery hopping or riding the Skyline gondola for outstanding views of this unusually scenic city. Tonight we celebrate our New Zealand adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.  \(B,D\)

Day 16: Depart for U.S.  We depart this morning for the airport and our return flights home.  \(B\)

“THE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES WITH UCLA ALUMNI TRAVEL ARE AT THE TOP OF MY LIST.”

— CAROL COMPARSI, FRIEND

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Tour Departs: April 7, 2022

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees:

- Los Angeles, San Francisco $6,774
- Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle $7,074
- Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa $7,174
- Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC $7,274
- Land Only (transfers not included) $5,495

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $279, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add $1,495. Your $500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days before departure. All 2022 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: Business Class – $5,995 per person; Premium Economy – $2,495 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.