
Quintessential New Zealand

Sample Itinerary

Days
1-3

Arrive in the Bay of Islands where you can enjoy days cruising through secluded bays and exploring the wonders of the far north. Perhaps enjoy a scenic flight over deserted beaches up to the very northern tip of New Zealand - Cape Reinga.



Day
4

Enjoy a day exploring Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. Waiheke Island is a worthwhile day trip, a haven of vineyards, olive groves, beautiful galleries and local craft boutiques.



Days
5-6

Relax in The Coromandel - the place where New Zealanders go for holiday! Hot Water Beach has hot thermal springs that emerge on the beach itself. Check the tides, hire a spade and dig your own hot pool! Besides Hot Water Beach, Mercury Bay offers a beautiful coastline with Cathedral Cove being one of its jewels.



Days
7-8

Next, Rotorua, world-famous for gushing geysers, bubbling mud pools, and a palpable sense of Maori culture both past and present. Perhaps head to the skies to visit our most active volcano - White Island or visit the fascinating geothermals at Orakei Korako. In the evening enjoy an evening of Maori culture through a concert and a traditionally cooked meal.



Day
9

Taupo is a pretty lakeside town popular for recreational pursuits. With nearby thermal parks, plenty of backcountry for trekking, fishing & hunting and the lake itself, it is easy to understand why. Be sure to visit Huka Falls and enjoy a cruise on calm Lake Taupo (which is the size of Singapore!).



Day
10

Head to the Hawkes Bay to spend time exploring the Art Deco architecture of Napier and maybe join a tour to the Cape Kidnappers Gannet Colony where up to 20,000 birds populate the colony on dramatic cliffs high above the Pacific Ocean.



Day
11

Down to our capital Wellington, a compact city with its modern buildings complemented by traditional wooden houses that cover the surrounding hillsides. Enjoy brunch at one of the many fantastic cafes along with visiting the world class Te Papa Museum.



Day
12-13

Crossing the Strait now to Nelson where cruising, kayaking and hiking through the Abel Tasman National Park is a must. You will tour past Split Apple Rock, Kaiteriteri, Marahau, round sandy bays, Adele and Fisherman Islands and on to Tonga Island seal colony.



Day
14

Then to Blenheim, the heart of Marlborough, renowned for wine – in particular Sauvignon Blanc. Just to the west of the town on the fertile Wairau Plains are some of New Zealand's finest wineries including labels like Cloudy Bay, Allan Scott and Shingle Peak. With good wine should come good food, a tip for dinner this evening? Herzog is a sure bet.



Days
15-16

Stop in Kaikoura where giant sperm whales are the stars of the show and year-round residents. Other locals include New Zealand fur seals, pods of dusky dolphins and the endangered wandering albatross.



Days
17-18

In Christchurch explore the Garden City - early birds could take to the skies in a hot air balloon and drift over the Canterbury Plains with sweeping views of the Southern Alps. Other attractions include the very informative Antarctic Centre. From here experience the Tranzalpine Train to Greymouth through spectacular mountain scenery.



Day
19

Glacier Country is next. Head out by helicopter to view the glaciers and Mt Cook by air before having the chance to land amongst the snow. Afterwards enjoy a soak in glacial hot pools.



Day
20

Set in glacial valleys and surrounded by mountains, Wanaka is your next stop with the huge crystal clear lake which has drawn people to her edges for centuries. Wanaka is not too busy, not too quiet and has plenty to offer the visitor.



Days
21-22

Enjoy time in Fiordland National Park among the Fiords of Milford & Doubtful Sounds which were carved out by ice many years ago. Experience lake, valley, mountain and sea vistas, along with gushing waterfalls and great wildlife.



Days
23-24

Finish in Queenstown, often described as the 'adrenalin capital' of the Southern Hemisphere - it caters for every white-knuckle, heart-pumping activity you've ever heard of (and even some you haven't). It's also home to great vineyards and famous for its lively village with great restaurants, cafes and bars.

