

12-Day New Zealand Explorer

Queenstown
Arrowtown

•

Milford Sound
Cruise

•

Christchurch

•

Rotorua

•

Waitomo

•

Auckland

New Zealand, known as the youngest country on earth, is the last land mass to be discovered. The first inhabitants are the Maoris who migrated from the Polynesian Islands. Follow by extensive European migration in the mid-19th century and Asian and Pacific Islanders in the 20th century, help shape New Zealand into a vibrant and diverse multi-cultural society. It is also know for its natural beauty with stunning landscapes, lush vegetation and unique wildlife. The country is comprised of two major islands - North and South - together about 1,600 km in length and similar size to Great Britain or State of Colorado.



The North Island is the smaller of the two major islands, and home to the country's debonair capital, Wellington and the country's largest and most cosmopolitan city, Auckland. The northern areas of the North Island enjoy a sub-tropical climate and a variety of landscapes. The centre of the island is primarily a volcanic landscape with vast forests, volcanic peaks, and picturesque lakes, rivers full of trout and peaceful riverside settlements surround *marae* (Maori meetinghouses). The eastern side of the island is covered with vineyards. Cape Reinga, the northernmost point of the North Island, is where the Maori believed their souls, in their afterlife, depart for the long journey back to their mythical ancestral land, Hawaiki.



The South Island, though less populated, is the larger of the two major islands of New Zealand. It is full of breathtaking natural sceneries. The variety of its geological repertoire is astonishing; from mighty glaciers to subtropical rainforest, snow-capped mountain to sandy beaches; alpine passes to serene lakes, beautiful fjords to fertile plains, mysterious caves to friendly coastal towns, the opportunity for enjoying the great nature and adventure are endless.



AIR NEW ZEALAND

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Tour Itinerary:

Day 01: U.S.—Queenstown
Depart U.S. for Queenstown.

Day 02: Queenstown
Arrive Queenstown, transfer to your hotel.
Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Queenstown.

Day 03: Queenstown
A half day tour will take you to visit the Queenstown Hill where you can have a panoramic view of Queenstown, Lake Waikaitu and the Remarkable Mountain Range; AJ Hackett Bungy Bridge, birthplace of bungy jumping; Gibbston Valley Wineries and Arrowtown with its well preserved colonial style architecture. (B)

Day 04: Queenstown-Milford Sound-Queenstown
Tour to Milford Sound via Te Anau, Eglington Valley and the Homer Tunnel; and enjoy a lunch cruise on the world famous fjord runs from the Tasman Sea. (B/L)

Day 05: Queenstown
Day at leisure for you to explore Queenstown at your own pace. (B)

Day 06: Queenstown—Christchurch
Travel through the Central Otago region to Lake Pukaki and Mt Cook, known as the 'cloud piercer' among the Maoris. Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd at Lake Tekapo before travelling across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. (B)
Accommodation: Heartland Hotel Cotswold.

Day 07: Christchurch
A morning city tour takes you to visit the Avon River, Caterpillar Garden, Sign of the Takahe, Sumner Redcliff and Seaside Village, and Container Village.

Day 08: Christchurch
Day free at leisure for you to explore Christchurch at your own pace. (B)

Day 09: Christchurch-Rotorua
Transfer to Christchurch airport for domestic flight to Rotorua; transfer to hotel after arrival. (B)
Accommodation: Millennium Rotorua.

Day 10: Rotorua
A morning tour will take you to visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve. Following this visit Paradise Valley Springs to see New Zealand's trout, birds and wildlife before continuing on to the Agrodome for a New Zealand farm show featuring sheep dog demonstrations, cow milking and an introduction to the stars of the country's sheep industry. Afternoon visit to the Hobbiton movie set, location of the movie Lord of the Ring and Hobbit. In the evening, enjoy an authentic Maori Hangi (feast) and concert. (B/D)

Day 11: Rotorua-Waitomo-Auckland
Travel north to Waitomo and tour the famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves and continue on to Auckland, the largest city in the country. (B).
Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Auckland.

Day 12: Auckland

A morning tour will take you to see the city of Auckland, visiting the Harbour Bridge; the Viaduct, site of the latest American Cup; Queen Street, Auckland's main shopping district; Mount Eden, a dormant volcano with panoramic view; Auckland domain, the city's oldest park; the trendy area of Parnell; Tamaki Drive, the scenic waterfront area and Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World. (B).

Day 13: Auckland-U.S.

Transfer to Auckland airport for departure. (B)

2013 Departure Tour Cost:

Airfare: airfare is seasonal and varies depending on availability and fuel surcharges. Please call for information.

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| Tour cost per person based on double occupancy | \$2,789 |
| Single room supplement | \$960 |



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