

New Zealand 11 nights 12 Days itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Auckland

On arrival pick up your rental car and self-drive to your accommodation.

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city, set between two harbours with gentle sandy shores on the east coast and black sand, wild surf beaches on the west coast. Home to sheltered, sparkling blue waters dotted with beautiful emerald islands, we recommend getting out on the water when you are here.

Overnight: Auckland

Day 2 Auckland - Waitomo - Hobbiton in Rotorua

Journey through the rolling green hills of Waitomo and enjoy a tour through an underground wonderland of caves decorated with galaxies of glow-worms. Continue to Matamata for a charming tour of unique, character Hobbit homes, gardens and the watering hole just as you see in the movies. Finishing off a visually fulfilling day, continue on to Rotorua, a bubbling and steaming destination like nowhere else.

Overnight: Rotorua

Included

- Waitomo Glow-worm Caves
- Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

Day 3 Rotorua

Rotorua is surrounded by a fascinating geothermal landscape with its unique steam vents, spouting geysers and bubbling mud pool set alongside freshwater lakes and majestic native forests. It is also a region immersed in fascinating Maori myths and legends. Today you'll visit one of the local geothermal attractions before a sensory evening display in the forest.

Overnight: Rotorua

Included

Waimangu Geothermal Wonderland or Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland (when open)

Redwood Tree walk Nightlights

Day 4 Rotorua to Christchurch (Flight NOT included)

Depart on your domestic flight to Christchurch. (Airfare is NOT included).

Flight Time Rotorua to Christchurch is approx. 2 hours

Christchurch is set between the deep blue Pacific Ocean and the mighty snow-capped Southern Alps. This is a vibrant, ever-changing city with inner city parks and gardens delightfully interwoven by the meandering Avon River.

Overnight: Christchurch

Day 5 Christchurch to Glacier Region

Depart across the Canterbury Plains, a fertile patchwork made with every shade of green, through the spectacular scenery of Arthurs Pass National Park and on to the West Coast. New Zealand's rugged West Coast is a wild and untamed place known for its rivers, rainforests, glaciers and geological treasures. Here, mighty rivers of solid white ice, relics of the world's last ice-age, tumble down the rocky valleys.

Overnight: Glacier Region

Christchurch - Glacier Region: 240-380km (approx. 3.5-5hrs)

Day 6 Glacier Region

A temperate climate at a low altitude make Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers among the most convenient to visit in the world. Steep valleys bear scars from where glaciers have retreated and advanced over millennia and here, the ice age is still underway.

Today is a free day to add your preferred activity. Make a visit to Punakaki's Pancake Rocks or, for an absolute bucket list experience, take to the air on an optional scenic flight with a glacier landing and a thrilling hike across the icy wonderland.

Overnight: Glacier Region

Day 7 Glacier Region to Queenstown

Travel through wilderness towns, waterfalls and river scenery on today's scenic journey to Queenstown. We recommend stopping for a break, and to stretch the legs, at Makarora's Blue Pools.

Overnight: Queenstown

Day 8 Queenstown

Magnificent vistas and majestic mountains dominate this compact alpine resort town and with such an expansive natural physical environment it is not surprising that Queenstown has been described as the Adventure Capital of the World.

Today is a free day to add some of the endless optional activities on offer.

Day 9 Queenstown to Milford Sound to Queenstown

Fiordland is one of the world's last great wildernesses. Today's stunning journey takes you past mirror lakes, spectacular waterfalls and water-sculpted rocks. Venture into Milford Sound, a New

Zealand treasure carved by ice age glaciers and famously described as the eighth wonder of the world. After a big day out, reflect on memories of a lifetime on your return to Queenstown.

Overnight: Queenstown

Included

Milford Sound Cruise including Lunch

Queenstown - Milford: 287km (approx 3hrs, 50mins) each way

Day 10 Queenstown to Tekapo/Mt Cook

Today's journey takes you to a scenic wonderland with golden tussocks, snow-capped mountains and turquoise lakes. Hug the shores of beautiful Lake Pukaki to a rugged land of ice and rock, home to Aoraki Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.

Overnight: Tekapo or Mt Cook

Day 11 Tekapo/Mt Cook to Christchurch

Be sure to stop for a while at Lake Tekapo where the 'Church of the Good Shepherd' takes pride of place against the backdrop of a vivid blue glacier-fed lake. Then continue north east where braided rivers and familiar plains will signal your arrival back into Christchurch.

Overnight: Christchurch

Day 12 Depart Christchurch

Arrangements conclude today with the return of your rental car.