

The Royal Tour



13 Days - North and South Islands

Absolute
NEW ZEALAND

Outline Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive Auckland, New Zealand
Drive Auckland to Waitomo Caves
Accommodation: Kamahi Lodge

Day 2

Drive to Rotorua
Accommodation: Treetops Rotorua

Day 3

Drive to Taupo
Accommodation: Huka Lodge

Day 4

Drive to Wellington
Accommodation: The Ohtel

Day 5

Ferry Crossing to Nelson
Accommodation: Stonefly Lodge

Day 6

Abel Tasman National Park
Accommodation: Stonefly Lodge

Day 7

Drive to the Wild West Coast
Accommodation: Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 8

Fox & Franz Joseph Glacier
Accommodation: Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Day 9

Drive to Wanaka
Accommodation: Aoturoa Luxury Lodge

Day 10

Drive to Queenstown
Accommodation: Eichardt's Private Hotel

Day 11

Drive to Milford
Overnight Milford Sound Cruise

Day 12

Drive to Te Anau
Accommodation: Fiordland Lodge

Day 13

Drive to Queenstown
Fly Queenstown to Auckland and Fly Home or Onward

Kamahi Cottage - Waitomo

Kamahi Cottage is a boutique country cottage located an easy 30 minute drive to the world famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves. It offers luxury country Bed & Breakfast accommodation in a tranquil setting.

Enjoy stunning sunsets, panoramic uninterrupted views, a stress free setting and warm hospitality. Tastefully designed and decorated, Kamahi Cottage is ideal as a romantic retreat or a place to unwind. It's a charming haven where you can relax on the veranda in hammock chairs; take an invigorating walk over the farm or a farm tour in the comfort of our own 4 Wheel Drive vehicle. Enjoy a gourmet breakfast and delicious home-cooked meals with fresh seasonal produce.

Sophisticated finishing touches and attention to detail make this spacious handcrafted cottage the perfect place to relax and unwind.



Treetops Lodge & Estate - Rotorua

New Zealand, or Aotearoa, is a mythical land steeped in legend and mystery. The diverse landscape of Rotorua is where adventure abounds. Treetops Lodge offers the ultimate in world class luxury accommodation. Nestled amidst magnificent native forests and valleys, Treetops Lodge & Estate offers a uniquely New Zealand experience.

The Lodge with its' elegant architectural style derived from this country's pioneering past; timber and stone finishes echo the beauty and simplicity of the great outdoors. A sanctuary and retreat of breathtaking terrain in 2,500 acres of secluded native forest and game reserve, seven trout streams, four lakes, over 70 kilometers of hiking trails, mountain bike riding, and horse riding and the ultimate in tranquillity and splendour.

Come and share in the dream, one man's dream to preserve a piece of paradise for people to enjoy for generations.



Huka Lodge - Taupo

The Huka Lodge is located in Taupo, in the central North Island of New Zealand.

Enter into the world of seclusion and luxury. Situated on the banks of the Waikato River, it is surrounded by natural beauty and a feeling of tranquillity. Huka Lodge started out as four simple canvas-clad huts and has established itself as one of the world's most famous retreats. There is everything the discerning visitor could ever want.

Nearby Lake Taupo's crystal clear waters fed by mountain streams is home to some of the most sought-after Rainbow trout in the world and Huka Falls; a spectacular and mighty cascade of water are a short walk from Huka Lodge, on the banks of the Waikato River.

However long you stay at Huka Lodge, you will take away memories of a very special time spent in a very special place.



The Ohtel - Wellington

Located in the Capital city's exclusive seaside neighbourhood of Oriental Bay, is a brand new 10 room boutique Hotel.

The Ohtel building itself is a stunning, contemporary 4 storey concrete structure, embedded into the base of a steep coastal cliff face.

While modern urban boutique hotels aren't unique, the 'Mid-Century' furnishings that adorn the interior spaces of Ohtel certainly are. From chairs to ceramics, tables to clocks - these are all statements within the hotel.

Ohtel provides true international class Urban Chic.



Featuring

Stonefly Lodge - Nelson

Centrally located between three of New Zealand's major National Parks, (Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi) Stonefly Lodge offers access to world class brown trout rivers, spectacular New Zealand scenery and wilderness activities, all within an hours drive. For the non fishing person the region offers a wide variety of spectacular tours from hiking, wine tasting, kayaking, and exploring one of New Zealand's recognised boutique arts and craft regions. Luxury accommodation is provided up stairs with 4 guest rooms all with spectacular views from private balconies overlooking the Motueka River and beyond to the Mt Arthur Range in Kahurangi National Park. Fine linen sheets, top quality duvets, hand crafted furniture, local New Zealand art, all add to the ambiance of the spectacular wilderness setting. All rooms are equipped with private ensuites, writing desk, luggage storage, hairdryer, heated towel rails, and bath robes.



Te Waonui Forest Retreat - Franz Joseph Glacier

At one with nature, Te Waonui Forest Retreat is the ultimate coming together of luxury escape and environmental awareness.

Great care has been taken to ensure this exceptional forest retreat steps lightly upon the earth, from the organic cotton bedspreads to its recycled local building materials.

Discerning travellers will appreciate the hotel's attention to detail, which starts with attentive personal service upon arrival, and continues throughout all the hotel facilities and every aspect of your stay. You will enjoy exceptional quality and service, including: luxuriously appointed guest rooms and savouring quality local cuisine, including an indulgent five-course degustation dinner 'The Canopy' restaurant.



Aoturoa Lodge - Wanaka

Situated in New Zealand's beautiful Southern Lakes region between Queenstown and Wanaka you find Aoturoa Luxury Villa, a 5 star boutique lodge offering quiet seclusion and understated luxury accommodation. This exclusive Wanaka accommodation gives visitors to New Zealand a stunning high country experience.

Aoturoa, (which means "World of Light") provides luxury boutique lodge accommodation. This unique villa is tucked away on the Clutha River terrace at the end of a one kilometre private drive. The river is a two minute stroll from the lodge with mountain views in all directions and barely a building in sight. You could be hundreds of kilometres away from civilisation yet a short 15 minute drive from the accommodation finds Wanaka Township with its boutiques, restaurants, art galleries, & magnificent sightseeing.

Enjoy the Aoturoa Lodge & Pisa Range Estate Food and Wine Experience; a fabulous dinner with the wine maker.



Eichardt's Private Hotel - Queenstown

Eichardt's Private Hotel provides fine accommodation in five luxurious Hotel Suites and four Lakefront Cottage Suites located in the historic district on a premium lakefront position at the heart of Queenstown's café and restaurant precinct.

Eichardt's opulent suites invite you to soak up a sense of quiet before exploring one of the world's truly remarkable locations.

The hotel reflects contemporary provincial elegance, its modern features in perfect harmony with the distinctive antiques and luxurious furnishings of this New Zealand icon. The Hotel's Parlour offers guests the ideal setting for lingering over breakfast, with awe inspiring views over Lake Wakatipu and the comforting crackle of an open log fire, complimented by overstuffed chairs and sofas against a backdrop of exquisite antiques and objects d'art.



Fiordland Lodge - Te Anau

The open architecture of Fiordland Lodge reflects the vastness of the Fiordland National Park. Echoes of the forest are found in the striking natural timber construction; high ceilings, full trunk pillars and a massive riverstone fireplace provide a warm spacious environment.

On forty acres of land, Fiordland Lodge is set on a superb site with commanding views out across Lake Te Anau. This is a rural setting with rolling grass lands surrounding the Lodge, Lake Te Anau being a mere ten minute walk away.

Across the lake to the west lie the mountains of Fiordland National Park, an area of over three million acres of untouched wilderness and part of the much larger South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. The ten luxury guest rooms - one an executive suite with separate lounge area for private entertaining are simply luxurious.



The Royal Tour Itinerary

Day 1

Auckland to Waitomo Caves

CAR COLLECTION AND DRIVE TO WAITOMO

ACCOMMODATION
Kamahi Cottage
The Cottage

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS
Spellbound Tour,
Ruakuri Caves, Saint
Benedict's Caverns,
Black Water Rafting

Welcome to Auckland "The City of Sails". After clearing customs and immigration you can refresh, take a shower, have a meal before collecting your car. Let your Journey begin!

As you cruise down the southern motorway, suburban scenery gradually gives way to the farmland of South Auckland, an area favored by bloodstock breeders. The mighty Waikato River will accompany you for much of your journey to Hamilton the hub of cattle country. At the southern end of the city's main street you'll discover a wide variety of excellent restaurants and cafes, ideal to take a break before the arriving in Waitomo.

The caves at Waitomo are one of New Zealand's most commanding wonders - a celebration of nature's work over the last one hundred thousand years. Above ground, the area around Waitomo is also popular for horse riding and bush walking.



Day 2

Out of the Depth's and into the Cauldron - Rotorua

DRIVE TO ROTORUA

ACCOMMODATION
Treetops Rotorua
Lodge Suite

MEALS
Full Breakfast and Gourmet
Dinner

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS
Caving in Waitomo, Scenic
Floatplane over Geothermal
Rotorua, Mud Bath & Spa,
Polynesian Spa, JetBoat,
Tamaki Maori Village,
Guided Nature Walk

Above ground, you would be forgiven for wondering what all the fuss is about, but this sleepy little town in the bush hides a labyrinth of over two thousand known caves and with only one thousand of those actually mapped, there is a lot of scope for exploration.

Your journey to Rotorua will take you through a mixture of farmland, lakeland and forest. Te Kuiti is the only major town you'll encounter, so stock up on picnic supplies in preparation for the drive. Serious walkers can explore the beautiful Pureora Forest Park, which is home to several rare bird species. Trout fanciers can try their luck at Lake Whakamaru. The hydro power station at Atiamuri is an interesting stop. You'll know you've arrived in the city of Rotorua when you see (and smell!) the geothermal steam plumes of Whakarewarewa. Rotorua sits squarely on the Pacific Ring of Fire, so there's evidence of volcanic activity everywhere you

look. Explore the geothermal areas and discover the unique culture of New Zealand's Maori people.



Day 3

Lake Taupo - The Biggest Volcanic Crater in the World

DRIVE TO TAUPO

ACCOMMODATION

Huka Lodge
Lodge Room

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Pre-Dinner
Drinks, 5 Course Dinner

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Lake Taupo Scenic Cruise,
Skydive Taupo, Bungy
Jump, Helicopter Scenic
Flight, JetBoat to Huka
Falls, Shawn's Walk Tour,
The Tongariro Crossing

Impressive is the word best used to describe Lake Taupo, after all, it is the Biggest Volcanic Crater in the World! Lake Taupo is set amidst clean, green countryside, spectacular mountain scenery, beautiful native bush and some of the largest pine forests in the Southern hemisphere.

Thermal activity in this region includes natural hot pools and springs, steaming craters and boiling mud pools.

Taupo is also the North Island adventure equivalent of Queenstown! Visit the mighty Huka Falls look out and the Prawn Farm, take a Jet Boat down the Waikato river to see the Falls or even better do the full on Rapids Jet experience for a real thrill, partake in the New Zealand craze of Bungy Jumping, Sky Dive from 12,000 ft or take a fast boat around Lake Taupo to view the rock carvings and much more.



Day 4

Wellington - New Zealand's Art's Capital

DRIVE TO WELLINGTON

ACCOMMODATION

The Ohtel
Suite

MEALS

Full Breakfast

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

3 Hour Boutique Beer
Tasting Tour, Nocturnal
Tour, Helicopter Flight,
Te Papa - New Zealand's
National Museum

One of the more spectacular scenic drives in New Zealand is to be found on the Desert Road (State Highway 1) whilst driving between Taupo and Wellington. The 46-kilometre Desert Road reaches 1,074 metres at its summit and passes through the dramatic centre of NZ's most volcanic region and offers amazing views of Tongariro National Park's volcanoes. The vista is dominated by the active volcanic mountains of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, and Tongariro. Tongariro was the first national park in New Zealand and it is also a dual World Heritage area.

The capital city, Wellington is a picture perfect city. It is set between a magnificent harbour and rolling green hills situated at the southern tip of the North Island. It is also a compact city where funky shops, exciting galleries and great restaurants are within easy walking distance. The city has long been recognised as the cultural and arts capital of New Zealand (with festivals almost every month): The cosmopolitan nature of Wellington is reflected in the 350 restaurants and cafes serving innovative New Zealand and ethnic cuisine.



Day 5

Wellington to Nelson

FERRY CROSSING TO PICTON, THEN DRIVE TO NELSON

ACCOMMODATION Stonefly Lodge

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Dinner and all Beverages at Stonefly Lodge

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Helicopter Scenic Flight, World of Wearable Art and Classic Cards Museum, Tandem Hang Gliding Flight over Tasman Bay, Afternoon Wine Tour in Marlborough.

The passage across Cook Strait and through the Marlborough Sounds is one of the most scenic ferry trips in the world.

You will arrive in Picton, and then the drive to Nelson first takes you to the town of Havelock, which is known as the Green Shell Mussel Capital of the World. Nearby Canvastown is a place to explore old gold mining fields - thousands tried to get rich here in the 1860s. At Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve you can enjoy a bush walk or a swim, depending on the time of the year. And if you'd like a glimpse of local life in 1890, Rai Valley has a beautifully preserved cottage museum.

The city of Nelson is home to a fascinating community of beach, bush and art lovers. From here you can organise yourself an eco-adventure or become immersed in the local creative culture. Every year the city hosts the Montana New Zealand Wearable Art Awards, where art comes off the wall and onto the body.



Day 6

Abel Tasman National Park

ACCOMMODATION Stonefly Lodge

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and all Beverages

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Kayaking Abel Tasman National Park, Seals, Bush and Beach Walk, Sailing Abel Tasman, Cruise and Walk Abel Tasman National Park

The Abel Tasman is New Zealand's smallest national park at 225sq km. Small in size but big on beauty!

Golden beaches border the translucent turquoise sea, and sandy estuaries fringed by natural forests. The walking tracks here, both in land and coastal are world famous for their outstanding beauty. You can enjoy one of the many shorter, day walk options using a cruise boat, sailing catamaran, water taxi or sea kayak to enter into the Abel Tasman.

If that all sounds just a little energetic just kick back on one of the many unspoilt beaches you will discover along the way. Plus you have the added bonus of face-to-face encounters with marine wildlife and birds. Tonga Island is located in the Marine Reserve or the Abel Tasman National Park and is home to the ever-entertaining seal colony. And who knows you may be lucky enough to spot visiting dolphins and Orcas playing in the Abel Tasman National Park waters.



Day 7

The Wild West Coast to Franz Joseph Glacier

DRIVE THE WEST COAST TO FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER

ACCOMMODATION

Te Waonui Forest Retreat
Deluxe Room

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Dinner

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Heli-Rafting the Murchison River, The Charleston Glow Warm Cave Tour, Buller Swingbridge - Adventure and Heritage Park, Punakaiki Valley and Pancake Rocks Beach & Bush Horse Trek.

Today is a day of contrasts as you drive from the tranquility of Abel Tasman to the South Islands West Coast. Wild and rugged, yet immensely beautiful, the South Island's West Coast region evokes a string of superlatives.

Wave-pounded coastlines, lush temperate rainforests, the island's highest mountains and most accessible glaciers all feature. The region's first settlers came in search of gold and the coast has its share of ghost towns, but there are also thriving communities like Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika, now dependent on coal mining and increasingly, tourism. Fur seals and colonies of rare black petrels, white herons and blue penguins breed along the coast, whose national parks offer some of New Zealand's best and quietest hiking trails.

Franz Josef Glacier located in Westland National Park, together with the Fox Glacier 20 km to the south, it is unique in the fact that it descends from the Southern Alps to just 200 metres above sea level amidst the greenery and lushness of a temperate rainforest.



Day 8

The Twin Glaciers Fox and Franz Joseph

ACCOMMODATION

Te Waonui Forest Retreat

MEALS

Full Breakfast, Lunch and
Dinner

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Heli Hike Franz Joseph and
Fox Glacier, Full Day Hike
And Terminal Face Walk
Franz Joseph, Fox Glacier
Scenic Helicopter Flight,
Ice Climbing Fox Glacier,
White Heron Sanctuary Tour
Massage & Soak in Glacier
Thermal Pools

The Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers are unique relics of the last ice age. Mighty rivers of solid white, tumbling down ice-hewn rock valleys, they are classically beautiful in the glacial sense.

Nowhere else in the world have glaciers advanced so close to the sea at this latitude.

At 13 kilometers in length, Fox Glacier is the largest West Coast glacier. It is fed by the vast snowfields that drain the Southern Alps. Nearby Lake Matheson is a kettle lake formed by a decaying glacier as it retreated back to the existing valley. Franz Josef village is small, and is located only ten minutes from the Glacier.

While in the area, you can choose from a wide range of adventure activities (mostly involving glaciers and mountains).



Day 9

Scenic Drive from the Glacier's to Wanaka

DRIVE TO WANAKA

ACCOMMODATION

Aoturoa Luxury Lodge
Double Room

MEALS

Full Breakfast

ACTIVITY OPTION

Twilight in the Tussock
Experience.

The scenery is impressive all the way, and once over the Haast Pass it changes dramatically as you head into the mountains and bid farewell to the coastline. Continuing up the Haast River into Mount Aspiring National Park and Central Otago. You follow Lake Hawea nearly all the way through to Lake Wanaka. This drive is world class, some of the vistas to watch are just amazing.

Wanaka is located on the southern shores of Lake Wanaka, embraced by the Southern Alps. The crystal-clear waters of Lake Wanaka, New Zealand's fourth largest lake, reflect the snow-capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park. Here you can absorb the unstoppable beauty of pristine wilderness and know that it will be easy to find a great restaurant for dinner.

The township is a magnet for visitors who want to find the perfect combination of outdoor adventure and indoor luxury. The lake, mountains and around-the-year events calendar will keep you looking forward to tomorrow.



Day 10

Queenstown - The Adventure Capital

ACCOMMODATION

Eichardt's Private Hotel
Cottage Suite

MEALS

Full Breakfast

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS

Southern Alps Ballooning
Adventure, JetBoat Safari,
Steam Boat Trip, Heli Wine
Tours, Adventure Combos,
Guided Fly-fishing, HeliBike,
Tandem Sky Diving, Day
Walk, Round of Golf

In less than an hour, you will be in Queenstown, the Southern Hemisphere's premiere four seasons alpine and lake resort.

Nestled in the corner of Lake Wakatipu and framed by 360 degree vistas of snow-capped mountains this place is known for year round action-packed thrills, such as jet boating, white water rafting, para-punting and bungee jumping. It was here that AJ Hackett introduced the world to bungee jumping.

In winter, Queenstown turns into an alpine playground - skiers and snowboarders come from all over the world to join in the fun. Golfing, fishing and wine tasting offer other opportunities in this stunning region.



Day 11

Queenstown to Milford Sound - Overnight Cruise

DRIVE TO MILFORD

MILFORD MARINER OVERNIGHT CRUISE

ACCOMMODATION
Milford Mariner Vessel
Cabins with Ensuite
Bathroom

MEALS
Full Breakfast, 3 Course
Dinner

Moody Dramatic and Stunning - Milford Sound is simply breathtaking. Milford Sound offers what is probably the most spectacular fiord scenery in the southern hemisphere, and the well-known and striking views of Mitre Peak from the head of the fiord form the subject of innumerable paintings, postcards, posters, and pictorial postage stamps.

The scenic beauty of this place is hard to surpass. Rudyard Kipling called Milford Sound the "eight wonder of the world." In Maori legend, the fiords were created not by rivers of ice, but by Tu Te Raki Whanoa, a godly figure who came wielding a magical adze and uttering incantations. When the day visitors depart a silence descends...

An overnight cruise amidst spectacular Milford Sound is a "once in a lifetime" experience. Cruise the full length of spectacular Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea before anchoring for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. Go exploring with our nature guide in our tender or in one of the Kayaks. Then enjoy a delicious evening buffet meal in the spacious dining saloon, before retiring to your cabin.



Day 12

Milford Sound to Te Anau

DRIVE TO TE ANAU

ACCOMMODATION
Fiordland Lodge
Lodge Room

MEALS
Full Breakfast, Dinner

ACTIVITIES OPTIONS
Te Anau Glow Worm Caves,
Sky-Dive Fiordland

Following a full breakfast, there is further cruising before returning to the Milford Wharf. From here you will drive to Te Anau

Te Anau is a township of tranquil beauty nestled on the tranquil shores of Lake Te Anau.

It is located close to the main southern walking tracks such as the Hollyford, Routeburn, Greenstone and Kepler tracks which traverse the Fiordland National Park. Other activities based at Te Anau include flightseeing, fishing, kayaking, sailing and horse riding as well as a variety of trips on the lake itself. You can also visit the underground waterfall and glowworm grotto of the Te Anau Caves.

This mountainous region of unspoilt forests and lakes was the home of two of the more remote regions of the Lord of the Rings movies.



Day 13

Te Anau to Auckland

DRIVE TO QUEENSTOWN AND
FLY TO AUCKLAND

PRIVATE TRANSFER TO THE
INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

MEALS
Full Breakfast

It's time now to enjoy your last hours in Fiordland National Park before driving to Queenstown and flying back to Auckland.

You will drop off your car at Queenstown Airport for your connection flight to Auckland.

Upon arrival to Auckland, you will be met and transferred from the Domestic Terminal to the Auckland International Terminal for your departing flight home.

- Absolute New Zealand Arrangements End -

