



Auckland



Bay of Islands



Queenstown



Wellington



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound

Blue Bus NZ Tours

Sample 16-Day Itinerary

DAY 1 - LOS ANGELES / AUCKLAND

Depart from your home airport to Los Angeles. We depart LAX at 10 p.m. for Auckland NZ aboard an Air New Zealand Flight, arriving 7 a.m. on Day 3. *(This is a 12.5-hour flight)*

DAY 2 - Cross the INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

DAY 3 - ARRIVE AUCKLAND

We travel to Matamata and Hobbiton, the famous filming location for *Lord of the Rings™* and *The Hobbit™* movies. Enjoy an included guided tour of the set, finishing at Shires Rest with a complimentary beverage. We spend the night at Hamilton where the Waikato River with its beautiful gardens and walking paths meanders through the city.

DAY 4 - WAITOMO & ROTORUA

Today we travel through lush rolling hill farmlands of the Waikato to tour the fascinating and popular Waitomo Glowworm Caves. As part of the included tour we take a boat ride, viewing some of the thousands of glow worms suspended from cavern ceilings. Next stop is Rotorua, a vast geothermal area with numerous geysers and hot pools. Tonight features an included Maori culture show and dinner.

DAY 5 - ROTORUA & LAKE TAUPO

Included in today's activities is a guided tour of Whakarewarewa Village, a living Maori community featuring geysers, hot pool bathing and cooking. Leaving Rotorua, we take the short drive to Huka Falls, a spectacular scene on the Waikato River where huge volumes of water are forced through narrow canyon walls. We spend the night at Lake Taupo, a colossal lake famous for trout fishing.

DAY 6 - LAKE TAUPO & WELLINGTON

Today, we travel through the central highlands of the North Island, passing 3 towering volcanos. We are likely to see steam coming from some of the vents, but we will be at a safe distance. There is a fabulous army museum where we will stop, enjoy the views, and take a look back into the military history of New Zealand. On the way into Wellington, the capital city, we will stop at Porirua and visit our friends, the Salmons, and tour the neighboring Porirua Marae and a golf course owned by U.S. Open Champion, Mike Campbell.

DAY 7 - WELLINGTON

There are many activities available in Wellington where the surrounding harbor and Victorian-style buildings are reminiscent of San Francisco. The vast Botanical Gardens, Parliament, and Te Papa museum are all within walking distance of our hotel.

DAY 8 - WELLINGTON & KAIKOURA

Today we board the Interislander Ferry for the crossing of Cook Strait which separates the North and South Islands. The sailing time is 3 hours, but most of that will be in the Marlborough Sounds with its still waters and lush forests. We disembark at Picton, making a short stop at the town of Blenheim before continuing on to Kaikoura. Kaikoura is nestled at the base of high mountains facing onto the Pacific and provides some of the best photo opportunities available anywhere in New Zealand. Many species of whale along with seals and giant squid are found in these waters.

DAY 9 - KAIKOURA

Enjoy one of several hiking trails with varying degrees of length and difficulty that have spectacular views of the mountains and ocean. You may choose an optional whale watching excursion, tour historic sites, explore art galleries, play golf at Kaikoura Golf Club, or kickback at our waterfront hotel.

TOUR COSTS

LAND PACKAGE PRICE:

\$3,500 per person double occupancy
\$1,100 single supplement

19-DAY OPTION:

\$3,900 per person double occupancy
\$1,400 single supplement

AIRFARE:

Will advise. Cost depends on class, season, and group rates.

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION, CONTACT

KENT or RUTH DAWSON

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Email: bluebusnztours.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Included in Your Tour Package

Accommodations, meals, transportation as stated per itinerary, sightseeing with entrance fees as stated per itinerary as "included".

Not Included in Tour Package

Meals not mentioned; tours not designated as "included"; international and domestic air; travel insurance; tipping and gratuities; and items of a personal nature such as telephone, internet, laundry, mini-bar, and medical.

Airfares

We will assist you in arranging flights. Where all participants book the same flights, group rates may be available. Some fares are non-refundable.

Travel Insurance

There is a wide variety of travel insurance available. Costs depend upon the coverage selected. Costs of medical care in New Zealand are due at the time of service, but may be reimbursed by your provider.

Visas

U.S. passport holders receive a visitors' visa upon arrival in N.Z. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months following return date.

Tour Reservations

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to commence reservations. The balance is due in full 60 days before departure.

YOUR DEPOSIT IS YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TERMS & CONDITIONS.

Tour Payments

Check or money order only

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received:

- 60 days or more prior to departure
All but deposit refunded
- 30 days or more prior to departure
50% of tour price refunded
- 29 days or less
No refund

Tour Documents

Final documents including e-tickets, hotel contact information, and a mobile emergency contact number will be provided 30 days prior to departure.

DAY 10 - KAIKOURA & CHRISTCHURCH

Our trip into Christchurch, the Garden City, will take us onto the Canterbury Plains, a unusually long stretch of flat lands along the Pacific Ocean. We stop at the Antarctic Experience, an included attraction, and get a realistic feel for the American Base at McMurdo Sound. Our hotel is within walking distance of the Botanical Gardens, Hagley Park, and downtown areas which are being rebuilt following the devastating earthquakes of 2010 & 2011.

DAY 11 - HOKITIKA & FRANZ JOSEF

Today we travel west through Arthur's Pass on the way to Hokitika and its greenstone factories. We travel through high mountain passes and vast valleys where you will see river beds several kilometers wide with unusual braided streams. The Kea, an Alpine parrot, is a frequent visitor to the vehicle parks of Arthur's Pass. On the way to the Glaciers of Franz Josef and Fox, we will be traveling through a World Heritage Area with rainforest and native ferns on all sides. This area of New Zealand can receive over 300 inches of rain each year. The Tasman Sea abuts this narrow stretch of land with the New Zealand Alps forming the backdrop. Sir Edmund Hillary practiced his hiking skills in these mountains before becoming the first person to conquer Mt. Everest.

DAY 12 - HAAST & QUEENSTOWN

Our next stop is Queenstown via Knight's Point and 2 vast inland lakes. On the way, we will stop at the Gibbston Valley Vineyards and also Kawarau Bridge, home of the world's first commercial bungee jump.

DAY 13 - QUEENSTOWN & TE ANAU

Today we arise early and travel to Milford Sound via Lake Te Anau. This drive includes some of the most incredible scenery in all of New Zealand. At Milford we will take an included 2-hour boat cruise out to the Tasman Sea. We return to Lake Te Anau for the evening.

DAY 14 - TE ANAU & QUEENSTOWN

On the return to Queenstown we will take an included tour of Manapouri Hydroelectric Power Station where underground turbines fed by 2 expansive lakes generate much of New Zealand's energy supply.



Maori art, culture & history



From wide-open vineyards



To lush meadows

DAY 15 - QUEENSTOWN

Included in today's activities are a cruise to Walter Peak High Country Farm, a gourmet lunch, and farewell dinner. Optional activities include jet boating, luge, fishing, hang gliding, golfing, and bungee jumping.

DAY 16 - QUEENSTOWN to AUCKLAND to LOS ANGELES

Our tour concludes today with a flight to Auckland, connecting to our homeward flight to Los Angeles. We re-cross the International Date Line, arriving home the same day.

19-DAY OPTION

BAY OF ISLANDS/OREWA

We will travel to our waterfront hotel at Paihia in the Bay of Islands. The Bay of islands area, famously described by Zane Grey, and one of the most beautiful places on earth, was at the center of much of the early history of New Zealand. Activities include admission to Waitangi Reserve Treaty House and grounds, location for the treaty between the Maori indigenous people and the British government; a short trip across the bay to the historic seaport of Russell; visit to citrus and kiwi fruit groves of Keri Keri; optional golfing at world famous Kauri Cliffs; and meet some locals with connections to the U.S.



Punting on the Avon River