

NEW ZEALAND

# The South Island

A Guided Walking Adventure





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## Travel Style

This small-group Guided Walking Adventure offers an authentic travel experience, one that takes you away from the crowds and deep in to the fabric of local life. On it, you'll enjoy 24/7 expert guides, premium accommodations, delicious meals, effortless transportation, and local wine or beer with dinner. Rest assured that every trip detail has been anticipated so you're free to enjoy an adventure that exceeds your expectations.

And, with our **optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **Queensland Pre-Tour Extension** to complement this destination, we take care of all the travel to simplify the journey. Refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

## Overview

New Zealand is a land of astounding contrasts—two islands totaling the size of Colorado hold golden sand beaches, subtropical rainforests, crystal-clear lakes and rivers, volcanoes, and thermal springs. Green rolling hills dotted with sheep or vast forests are often just an hour's drive from rugged mountains and semi-desert areas. Glaciers plunge from snowy mountain peaks into lush rainforests. Geographically isolated New Zealand's unique evolutionary course has resulted in a diverse assortment of animal and plant life. With virtually no land mammals, birds flourished. The islands have more than 250 native bird species; several of them—like the country's mascot, the kiwi—are completely flightless.

During this nine-day adventure, you experience the unspoiled majesties of the South Island, following the footsteps of the Maori settlers in search of precious green stone (*pounamu*), and the later trails of miners seeking their fortunes in the gold buried deep in glacial riverbeds. Magnificent walks take you below glaciers, above rushing gorges, and along subtropical rivers to deserted coastal headlands. Welcoming inns and resorts are paired with excellent New Zealand cuisine and, on many days, unbeatable sunsets over the Tasman Sea.





# Daily Itinerary

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## DAY 1

Meet in Queenstown. Southern Lakes District and Wanaka: Jack's Point Track; 4 miles, easy

The tour begins in Queenstown, the South Island resort and outdoor adventure town situated on an alpine lake beneath the Remarkable Mountains, amidst some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery. You meet your guide(s) this morning for a walk along the shores of Lake Wakatipu with stunning views over open rolling grassland and the surrounding peaks, also learning about the region's European settlers and gold-mining history.

After lunch, an approximate 1 ½-hour drive brings you to Wanaka and the day's final destination, your lakeside resort hotel. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wanaka, spacious rooms offer views of the lake or Alps, each offering a private balcony or patio.

### Edgewater Resort, Wanaka

This resort hotel is located on magnificent Lake Wanaka, with extensive lawns and gardens extending to the water's edge against a backdrop of high peaks. Spacious guest rooms offer views from a patio or balcony. On-site facilities include tennis courts, sauna and spa, and putting green, as well as mountain bike or kayak rentals.

## DAY 2

Wanaka and Mount Aspiring National Park: Rob Roy Glacier; 7 miles, moderate to challenging with an elevation gain of 1,200 ft or Lake Wanaka; 3-4 miles, easy to moderate

A scenic drive of approximately one hour starts the day as you travel through the Matukituki Valley into Mount Aspiring National Park—a majestic alpine region of wide valleys, secluded flats, and massive mountains. The highest peak, the park’s namesake, is also known as Tititea (“peak of glistening white”) to the Maori. The walk to Rob Roy Glacier (elevation gain of approximately 1,200 feet) begins along a stretch of open flats to the Rob Roy stream. You cross a suspension bridge, then climb steadily for 3.5 miles through beech forest, with the massive ice cliffs of Rob Roy Glacier looming overhead. After picnicking with spectacular views of the glacier, you return to the valley in the afternoon, looking for kea (a unique alpine parrot) along the way. An easier option follows the shores of Lake Wanaka, also offering stunning views of the valleys and mountains.

Late afternoon, enjoy a wine tasting featuring some local and well-loved samples before dinner in a favorite restaurant.

### Edgewater Resort, Wanaka

## DAY 3

Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain; 4.5 miles, moderate, 1400-ft. elevation gain; easier options available

A short drive brings you to the starting point for this morning’s 3-hour walk, which begins on a gravel pathway and stepped trail to a viewing platform above the small, aptly named Diamond Lake. Those looking for an easier option may wish to pause here and then embark on a short loop before descending to the starting point. The more moderate option continues steadily upward to the 1,400 foot summit of Rocky Mountain. You’re rewarded at the top with wonderful views in every direction: bright blue Lake Wanaka and its islands to the East; and to the West, the Southern Alps, including Mount Aspiring.

Then it’s on to Lake Moeraki, which in Maori means “to sleep or dream by day.” An easy walk takes you through luxuriant coastal forest to the remote Monro Beach. Here, you discover the bird life, ferns, and ancient trees of this truly



magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site. Between July and December, tawaki (Fiordland crested penguin) might be seen in the surf and on the beach.

Later, you drive approximately one hour to your inn, located in the village of Fox Glacier, just a few miles away from the actual glacier.

### **Te Weheka Inn, Fox Glacier**

This boutique hotel located just minutes from the charming town of Fox Glacier offers spacious rooms and private balconies with views of the surrounding mountains. Common areas include a cozy fireside lounge with superb mountain views, a dining room, and a well-stocked guest library.

### **DAY 4**

Lake Matheson Circuit; 1.6 miles, easy. Fox Glacier: Te Moeka o Tuawe Valley; 5.3 miles, easy to moderate

After a hearty breakfast, your day begins a few miles from Fox Glacier Village at Lake Matheson. Hollowed out by the receding glacier during the last ice age 14,000 years ago, the lake was “discovered” by tourists far more recently, in the 1950s. Your 1.6 mile circuit of the lake crosses a suspension bridge on the way to a jetty, from which on a clear day you will see New Zealand’s highest peaks, Mt. Cook and Mt. Tasman, reflected in the dark waters. You’ll have more glimpses of these forest-shrouded reflections as you complete the circuit of the lake.

This afternoon affords an “up close and personal” encounter with the Fox Glacier itself on the Te Moeka o Tuawe Valley walk. Like its neighbor, Franz Joseph, Fox Glacier is one of the world’s most accessible, and is the lowest-lying glacier outside of the Arctic regions. It starts its descent in barren icy peaks at around 8,500 feet, then winds 8 miles through valleys of steep rock and green bush (New Zealanders’ word for “forest”), finally terminating roughly 1,000 feet above sea level amid lush rainforest. Walking directly from town along the Fox River, you pass glacial moraine deposits and then begin to glimpse the glacier after about 10 minutes on the trail. You’ll cross several small creeks and climb a short uphill section of the trail just before you reach the viewing area, only 1,500

feet from the glacier terminal face. A spectacular view and memorable experience!

Dinner is on your own this evening, so enjoy one of Fox Glacier Village's several small restaurants.

### **Te Weheka Inn, Fox Glacier**

#### **DAY 5**

Westland region: Hari Hari coastal walk and Hokitika visit; 5 miles, easy to moderate

This morning, you travel north into the heart of Westland, a region unlike any other place in the world. Over 14,000 years ago, the last ice age retreated, leaving lowland areas covered in rainforests, grasslands, lagoons, and gravel-lined glacier lake beds. In the morning, you enjoy one of the most scenic walkways on the West Coast—taking in spectacular views of forest, rivers, mountains, and coastline while walking through estuaries, bogs, and also a wetland forest. The track features remnants of old pack tracks, an old log tramway, and whitebaiters' huts. You visit the quaint town of Hokitika, once the “Goldfields Capital” at the heart of the gold rush. While the prospectors are long gone, the town now thrives as a center of farming, art, tourism, and conservation. Here you have time to browse the craft shops for leather, pottery, woodenware, and other regional crafts, or for something exceptional made from the iron-hard green stone called *pounamu* (nephite jade), prized by the Maoris for making weapons.

Later, you drive approximately 1 hour to your inn, located close to the beach in Paparoa National Park and within easy walking distance of the famous Pancake Rocks. The non-stop views continue this evening over a drink and dinner on the beachfront balcony or by the fireside if it's chilly.

### **Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki**

In a stunning ocean-side location, this sustainable resort complex is built among lush grounds just steps from the beach. Spacious suites are contemporary and comfortable and common spaces include an ocean-view restaurant, wide deck, and fireside lounge.





## DAY 6

Pancake Rocks and Blowholes; 1 mile, easy. Inland Pack Track; 2 miles, easy. Cape Foulwind and Tauranga Bay Seal Colony coastal walk; 2 miles, easy

You may choose to start the day with a stroll along the beach before breakfast. Today's short first walk features another extraordinary example of New Zealand

geology. Pancake Rocks consist of limestone layers formed 30 million years ago beneath the Tasman Sea. Seismic activity gradually lifted the limestone above sea level, where mildly acidic rain, wind, and seawater sculpted the stone into amazing shapes and created blowholes for sea spray. Turning east, you'll find beautiful mountain views.

Your next walk is on the Inland Pack Track along the Pororari River, a route developed during the 1867 gold rush as a safer alternative to coastal travel. On this 2-mile trail section, you'll see huge boulders and deep pools in the river itself amid a forest that varies from subtropical to temperate flora.

More adventure awaits after lunch, as you continue north along the coast. Abel Tasman was the first European to see and name Rocky Cape overlooking Tauranga bay in 1642, but Captain Cook renamed it Cape Foulwind, after being blown far out to sea in his ship Endeavor. On this 2-mile coastal walk, you'll see the Cape Foulwind Lighthouse and beautiful beaches. The "main event," however, is an active breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals ("kekeno" in Maori) which you'll see from viewing platforms on the bluffs above the seals' domain.

Tonight's group dinner will be at a local restaurant, perhaps enhanced by another spectacular sunset on the Tasman Sea.

### **Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki**

## DAY 7

Abel Tasman National Park: Abel Tasman Track; 6 miles, moderate

Today's scenic drive follows the mighty Buller River and passes through Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks before arriving at Abel Tasman National Park. Here, you board a water taxi taking you deep into the park, to Totoronui



Bay. The trail heads south through coastal forest lush with towering tree ferns and *manuka* (tea tree). The headlands provide stunning vistas of the turquoise waters of the Abel Tasman while the golden beaches make an ideal picnic spot, tempting you to swim and relax at the water's edge. The route crosses the Awaroa Inlet and you arrive at a beautiful and remote wilderness lodge—your home for the next two nights. Before dinner in the comfortable dining room, you may choose to take a short stroll through the native *manuka* forest to the beach.



Please note that the actual walks on this day are dictated by the tides. Awaroa Inlet is tide dependent so this particular walk may be substituted for an alternate, but no less stunning, walk.

This evening you have time to enjoy the tranquility of the lodge before indulging in its fine New Zealand cuisine. Before retiring, you may choose to venture out with a flashlight to discover the mysterious sights, sounds, and smells of the rainforest under the Southern Cross in the night sky. Listen for the call of the morepork, a small spotted owl, and find the shimmering strands of dangling glowworms.

### **Awaroa Lodge, Abel Tasman National Park**

This four-star wilderness lodge offers comfortable accommodation in a pristine setting within the national park. Contemporary design and comfort are combined with sustainable practices and local building products in guest rooms and throughout the grounds. The restaurant and café offer organic fare, much of it from the lodge's garden, or sourced from nearby providers.

### **DAY 8**

Abel Tasman National Park: Abel Tasman Track; Bark Bay; 7 miles, moderate. Optional Sea Kayaking (not included in the tour price)

After a relaxed morning to enjoy your lodge's remote location within the heart of Abel Tasman National Park, today's itinerary is limited only by your imagination. Options include walks of various distances and an optional (at your own cost) sea kayaking excursion. Water taxis are readily available to customize walks

depending on the groups' interests; a hiking option can also be combined with sea kayaking. The Bark Bay walking option heads south delving into lush coastal forest, gently ascending open headlands before crossing golden sand beaches with crystal clear aquamarine waters.

You return to the lodge late afternoon with time for a swim or glass of wine before a final dinner in the lodge's restaurant.

### **Awaroa Lodge, Abel Tasman National Park**

#### **DAY 9**

Abel Tasman National Park: Optional beach stroll. Water taxi and transfer to Nelson. Departure from Nelson

You may enjoy a last walk along the beach before a leisurely breakfast, then return to the beach to catch a water taxi for the scenic trip southeast along the Tasman Bay coast. This region was initially settled by Maori people some 700 years ago. A short drive brings you to a truly unique Kiwi café for a final group lunch. Continue on to the city of Nelson, established by English settlers in 1841 and named for the British hero of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Your New Zealand adventure with Country Walkers ends here. Whether you opt to spend an extra day or two exploring Nelson's many galleries and or head directly to the Nelson Airport to begin your journey onward, you will undoubtedly carry vivid memories of this unique country and its gracious people. Kia ora!

## ITINERARY CHANGES

Please bear in mind that this is a typical itinerary, and the actual activities, sites, and accommodations may vary due to season, special events, weather, or transportation schedules. We reserve the right to alter the itinerary, since tour arrangements are made up to a year in advance and unforeseen circumstances may arise that mandate change. Itinerary changes are made to improve the tour and your experience.

## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Country Walkers is a leader in active travel with responsible tourism an integral part of our core values. Our tours reflect our dedication to best travel practices—and to the preservation of indigenous cultures and the environment. Country Walkers has made a donation on behalf of every traveler to the CW Travelers Fund, which supports designated projects in the communities and habitats in which we travel. We invite you to learn more about our efforts and initiatives for giving back.

Here's just one example that highlights our sustainable practices:

**The Awaroa Lodge** is a fully committed eco-lodge that is a contributing member of the Nelson-Tasman Sustainable Tourism Charter, defined by the interrelated factors of environmental, social, cultural, and economic sustainability. The lodge's remote wilderness location ensures its demand from visitors, and its financial viability is in turn maintained by adhering to actions such as recycling all waste material and growing much of its own food. Adhering to the carry-in/carry-out policy of the Abel Tasman National Park in which it is located, materials that cannot be handled at the lodge are shipped to the nearest recycling facility (tin, paper, plastic). Glass is crushed on site and used in concrete projects. All food and kitchen waste is composted and used as fertilizer in the lodge's large organic garden. In a virtuous cycle, the lodge restaurant depends on its organic garden, which is in turn dependent on the generated compost. For the produce not grown on site, local organic providers are chosen.

# Tour Itinerary Overview

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## TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

### Hotel St Moritz (reception), Queenstown, 9:00 a.m.

Queenstown, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 442 4990

Email [reservations@stmoritzmg.co.nz](mailto:reservations@stmoritzmg.co.nz)

[stmoritz.co.nz/](http://stmoritz.co.nz/)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, dry cleaning service available

## NIGHTS 1 & 2

### Edgewater Resort

Wanaka, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 443 0011

Email [reservations@edgewater.co.nz](mailto:reservations@edgewater.co.nz)

[edgewater.co.nz](http://edgewater.co.nz)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available

## NIGHTS 3 & 4

### Te Weheka Inn

Fox Glacier, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 751 0730

Email [stay@teweheka.co.nz](mailto:stay@teweheka.co.nz)

[teweheka.co.nz](http://teweheka.co.nz)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

## NIGHTS 5 & 6

### Punakaiki Resort

Punakaiki, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 731 1168

Email [info@punakaiki-resort.co.nz](mailto:info@punakaiki-resort.co.nz)

[punakaiki-resort.co.nz](http://punakaiki-resort.co.nz)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available

## NIGHTS 7 & 8

### Awaroa Lodge

Abel Tasman National Park, Tasman, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 528 8758

Email [awaroa.res@peppers.co.nz](mailto:awaroa.res@peppers.co.nz)

[peppers.co.nz/awaroa](http://peppers.co.nz/awaroa)

Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

## **TOUR DEPARTURE POINTS AND TIMES**

- Nelson Airport, Nelson, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.
- The Rutherford Hotel Nelson, Nelson, New Zealand, 3:15 p.m.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

### **One Call International**

Email [mail@oncallinternational.com](mailto:mail@oncallinternational.com)

### **If communicating from within the US**

Text 603.945.0103

Tel 800.555.9095

### **If calling from outside the US**

Tel 603.894.4710

When calling from outside the USA, you will need to dial the access code for the country you are calling from (a complete list of access codes, provided by AT&T, can be found on the Country Walkers website under Travel Tips and Travel Resources: International Access Codes).

In the unlikely event you are unable to connect by phone with One Call, or the region you are calling from does not have an access code, you should speak with a live international operator and ask them to place a collect call to 800.555.9095 or 603.894.4710.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

We offer guests the opportunity to purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please contact us for details.

# Tour Facts at a Glance

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## **TOUR LENGTH (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)**

9 days, 8 nights

## **DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICE**

Please refer to our website for the most current list of departure dates, scheduled group tour and private group tour prices.

## **TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME**

Hotel St Moritz (reception), Queenstown, New Zealand, 9:00 a.m.

## **TOUR DEPARTURE POINTS AND TIMES**

- Nelson Airport, Nelson, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.
- The Rutherford Hotel Nelson, Nelson, New Zealand, 3:15 p.m.

## **ACTIVITY LEVEL**

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated moderate with occasional easy options, averaging 4-7 miles of walking per day. The walking terrain is varied, including well-worn forest paths, exposed trails with rocks and roots, and stretches of sandy beach in Abel Tasman National Park. You will cross many suspension bridges, which are well built and not very high. While this is not a mountain-climbing tour, there are daily ascents and descents. You travel through extremely diverse climate zones and correspondingly varied walking terrain including high alpine, temperate rainforest, and coastal paths. Two days may prove challenging for those who suffer from severe vertigo.

## **INCLUSIONS**

- » Two expert, local guides (for groups of 8 or more), with you 24/7
- » All meals except for one dinner; local beer and wine included with dinners
- » All accommodations while on tour
- » Transportation from the meeting point to the departure point
- » Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary
- » Destination information (weather, visa requirements, etc.) and other travel assistance available 24/7 provided by One Call International

» The unbeatable and cumulative experience of the Country Walkers staff

### **LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN**

Prior to your adventure you will be asked to sign a Passenger Participation Agreement and you will receive:

- » Luggage tags
- » List of travel companions and guide biographies

### **GRATUITIES**

Gratuities for all hotels, meals, and services that are included in your tour price will be paid by Country Walkers. Should you wish to tip your Country Walkers guide(s), the standard in the industry ranges from \$10 to \$15 per person, per guide, per day (or \$20 to \$30 per couple, per guide, per day), and can be paid in USD or local currency.

# Traveling To and From Your Tour

If you are interested in reserving the **optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **pre-tour extension**, please refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

## TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

**Hotel St Moritz (reception), Queenstown, New Zealand, 9:00 a.m.**

Your guide(s) will meet you in the hotel reception area and will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

## MOST CONVENIENT AIRPORT

Queenstown Airport (ZQN), Queenstown, New Zealand

**[Queenstownairport.co.nz](http://Queenstownairport.co.nz)**

The international gateway airport is Auckland International Airport (AKL), Auckland, New Zealand. Air New Zealand ([airnewzealand.co.nz](http://airnewzealand.co.nz)) operates daily flights between Queenstown, Christchurch, Auckland, Rotorua, and Wellington. Qantas Air operates daily flights between Queenstown and Christchurch as well as Auckland. The Queenstown Airport is located 5 miles outside the city.

## GETTING TO THE MEETING POINT

The Hotel St Moritz is easily accessed either by airport shuttle bus or taxi directly from the airport. The Super Shuttle services every incoming flight and brings you direct to the Hotel St Moritz. The rate is approximately \$25 NZD per person and can be reserved in advance on their website ([www.supershuttle.co.nz](http://www.supershuttle.co.nz)).

## PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the Hotel St Moritz, the meeting point. To reserve a room, please contact the hotel directly for reservations and the most up to date room rates. Offer your credit-card number as a guarantee when making the reservation, and request a written confirmation. **This hotel is extremely popular so we suggest making a hotel reservation as soon as possible.**



## Hotel St Moritz

10-18 Brunswick Street  
Queenstown, New Zealand  
Tel 011 64 3 442 4990  
Email [reservations@stmoritzmg.co.nz](mailto:reservations@stmoritzmg.co.nz)  
[stmoritz.co.nz/](http://stmoritz.co.nz/)

Renowned as one of Queenstown's finest accommodations, Hotel St Moritz enjoys an extraordinary setting, overlooking Lake Wakatipu in the heart of Queenstown. Drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape, it's a wonderful base from which to enjoy the numerous activities Queenstown has to offer. With sophisticated interiors in a contemporary mountain lodge style, this hotel features amenities like an outdoor hot tub, garden, and sauna. Lake-view rooms have been reserved. Dining at Lombardi, the on-site restaurant you'll enjoy locally sourced food and wine from the Central Otago region.

### DELAYS AND LATE ARRIVALS

If you are delayed or miss the scheduled group meeting point for any reason, we kindly request that you contact our emergency assistance provider, One Call International. This service is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to assist you with any type of travel delay. Please refer to the Emergency Contact details on your Tour Itinerary Overview page for One Call International contact details.

### TOUR DEPARTURE POINTS AND TIMES

- Nelson Airport (NSN), Nelson, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.
- The Rutherford Hotel Nelson, Nelson, New Zealand, 3:15 p.m.

If you plan to schedule your return flights immediately following the tour's conclusion, please contact your airline directly for specific check-in requirements.

### POST-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the Rutherford Hotel should you require a post-tour night in Nelson. To reserve a room, please contact the hotel directly for reservations and the most up to date room rates. Offer your credit-card number as a guarantee when making the reservation, and request a written confirmation. **This hotel is extremely popular so we suggest making a hotel reservation as soon as possible.** Please note that Nelson is quite small so we recommend extending your time in Queenstown prior to your tour versus staying for additional time in Nelson.

### **The Rutherford Hotel Nelson**

27 Nile St W

Nelson, New Zealand

Tel 011 64 3 548 2299

Fax 011 64 3 546 3003

Email [reservations@rutherfordhotel.co.nz](mailto:reservations@rutherfordhotel.co.nz)

[Heritagehotels.co.nz/Rutherford-hotel-nelson](http://Heritagehotels.co.nz/Rutherford-hotel-nelson)

The only full-service hotel in Nelson, this property offers a range of accommodations, two restaurants, and a prime location only minutes from the cathedral and main shopping district.

# Information & Policies

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## **GUARANTEED DEPARTURES**

Country Walkers guarantees the departure of every tour\*—no exceptions and no disappointments! From the moment you make your deposit, you can start preparing for your adventure. We take care of all the details to ensure a seamless, small-group experience (with an average of 6 or 7 guests per guide). For best availability, reserve your trip today! *\*except in cases of force majeure*

## **RESERVATIONS**

Reservations for this tour may be made by calling Country Walkers at 800.464.9255. We can confirm your reservation with a deposit of \$350 per person. Final tour cost is due 90 days prior to tour departure date. As arrangements are confirmed at least a year in advance, the tour price is subject to change.

## **GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each guest has the responsibility to select a trip appropriate to his/her abilities and interests and to prepare for the trip by carefully reading the confirmation materials. To join this trip, you must be in good health and capable of completing activities as described in the day-to-day itinerary. Our in-house experts welcome the opportunity to discuss the tour in more detail. In order to meet your needs, we ask that you please share any relevant physical limitations or health conditions when you make your reservation.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations received 91 days or more prior to the tour start date will incur a loss of \$150; cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to the tour start date incur a loss of 25 percent of the tour price; there are no refunds within 60 days of the tour start date. Up to 91 days prior to departure, you may transfer your reservation, depending on availability, from one departure to another in the same calendar year at no cost\*. Please notify us in writing. *\*One transfer per year; afterwards a modest per person transfer fee will apply. Please note that tours with seasonal prices may involve a higher price.*

# New Zealand at a Glance

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**U.S. citizens:** Passports are required. Visas are not required for stays of 90 days or less; however, you must show proof of onward travel (your return airline ticket).



For more information, see [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

### Travel Tip

- Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), and some dollars to exchange.
- Contact your credit-card company for details on fees and card use when traveling.

## CURRENCY

New Zealand uses the New Zealand dollar (NZD). For up-to-date exchange rates, see [oanda.com](http://oanda.com).

### Important

Since you will likely need NZDs to pay for your taxi to the hotel or any unforeseen situations, it is a good idea to change some money or withdraw some local currency immediately upon your arrival at the airport.

## TIME ZONE

New Zealand is 17 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. For more information on worldwide time zones, see [worldtimezone.com](http://worldtimezone.com).



## PHONE & INTERNET

New Zealand country code: +64

Cell phone coverage throughout New Zealand is extensive, but cannot be guaranteed to be accessible on all American mobile carriers or to function at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to [countrywalkers.com/phones](http://countrywalkers.com/phones).

Internet access is generally very good in towns and villages; however, it is not guaranteed at all of the hotels used on the tour. For more details regarding Wi-Fi availability, please refer to the Tour Itinerary Overview.

## LANGUAGE

The official language of New Zealand is English. Maori is the language of its indigenous people.

While knowledge of the Maori language is not necessary, you may want to learn some fun and useful phrases; see the enclosed Reading Guide for a suggested phrase book or New Zealand Tourism's website for a short tutorial:

[newzealand.com/us/feature/new-zealand-culture-maori/](http://newzealand.com/us/feature/new-zealand-culture-maori/).

## ELECTRICITY

Alternating current of 230V and 50Hz is used in New Zealand. Outlets accept a flat three-pin plug. For a full listing of electrical outlets worldwide, see

[electricaloutlet.org](http://electricaloutlet.org).

## WEATHER

The seasons in New Zealand are opposite those in North America: spring is September through November, summer is December through February, and autumn is March through May. With a temperate climate, seasonal variations are noticeable, but are only extreme in the mountains, where the peaks remain snowcapped year-round. November is a late spring month, with gardens and wildflowers in bloom and bright clear days: daytime temperatures are in the mid-60s (F), and nights are cool (lows around mid-40s). December through February is high summer, with average daytime temperatures in the 70s during the day and the 50s at night. The weather is warm and dry with very low humidity. In March, it begins to cool down, but remains sunny, with daytime temperatures in the 60s, and nights in the high 40s to low 50s. Due to the rainforest climate of the West Coast, wet weather in this area is definitely a possibility during all seasons.

For up-to-date forecasts, see [qwikcast.com](http://qwikcast.com). For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see [weatherbase.com](http://weatherbase.com).

### Travel Tip

- Bringing your own hair dryer or other electrical device? You'll need a converter set, available at most hardware, travel or consumer electronic stores.
- For laptops or an electronic device with a dual voltage switch, you need the adapter plug but not a converter.

## FOOD & DRINK

New Zealand's British ancestry has clearly influenced its cuisine. Food tends to be simple and hearty, with an emphasis on local meats, seafood, and vegetables. Lamb, venison, and beef are farmed throughout New Zealand and are common entrees. Fresh



vegetables and fruits are abundant. New Zealand is also renowned for its dairy products—its milk, cheese, yogurt, and ice cream are excellent. With its generous Pacific Rim coastline, fresh seafood includes mussels, oysters, crayfish (lobsters), tuna, hake, and squid.

New Zealand has a thriving wine-producing industry, and many wineries have established international reputations, particularly for pinot noir and sauvignon blanc wines. Beer is also part of the country's heritage, and local craft breweries (as well as larger breweries) produce many varieties of lager and amber beers.

### Travel Tip

New Zealand's wine industry has its origins among Croatian immigrants in the outskirts of Auckland and has grown since the 1970s into a major export for the country. Wine is produced on both the North and South islands in 10 major areas. With its unique combination of soil, climate, and water, main varieties from more than 500 winemakers include: sauvignon blanc, pinot noir, cabernet, chardonnay, and pinot gris. Information about wine styles and individual wineries is available at the official New Zealand wine website: [nzwine.com/](http://nzwine.com/).

## LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

### Shopping and banking hours

Shops and stores are generally open 6 or 7 days a week between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Smaller shops are closed on Sunday, although shopping malls are open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday and also remain open till 9:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.



Banks are open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

### Mealtimes

Breakfast is served at hotels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. In restaurants, lunch is served from noon to 2:00 p.m. and dinner is usually served from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## Tipping

Tipping in New Zealand is not obligatory, even in restaurants and bars. However, tipping for exceptional service or kindness is at the discretion of the visitor.

## TRAVEL RESOURCES

**National New Zealand tourist board official site**

[newzealand.com](http://newzealand.com)

### Public holidays

To assist in travel planning, it may be helpful to be aware of New Zealand public holidays, festivals, or other cultural events. Please see [publicholiday.co.nz/nz-public-holidays-2017.html](http://publicholiday.co.nz/nz-public-holidays-2017.html)

## TRAVEL IN NEW ZEALAND

A wealth of travel information is available at [newzealand.com/](http://newzealand.com/).

### Airports

Most international flights arrive at Auckland Airport (AKL) on the North Island of New Zealand: [aucklandairport.co.nz/](http://aucklandairport.co.nz/). An extensive domestic flight network connects Auckland with all New Zealand cities and major towns.



### Trains

Because of New Zealand's geography and landscapes, its rail network is not extensive, but it is incredibly scenic. More information about routes and passes is available at [kiwirailscenic.co.nz/](http://kiwirailscenic.co.nz/).

### Other local transportation

In addition to rail and airlines, New Zealand has many long-distance bus companies that may provide more economical travel than air or rail; information about companies and routes is available at [newzealand.com/us/buscoach-transport/](http://newzealand.com/us/buscoach-transport/). Renting a car is also a popular way to travel here, but bear in mind that driving is on the left-hand side of the road.

## Queenstown Activities

If you are joining our optional pre-tour extension in Queenstown or extending your time on your own, you may find the following websites helpful in planning your activities:

I Tag New Zealand Local Information Network:

[www.itag.co.nz/](http://www.itag.co.nz/)

Last minute deals on Queenstown activities:

[www.bookme.co.nz/bookings/queenstown/home](http://www.bookme.co.nz/bookings/queenstown/home)

### Travel Tip

The Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand, who arrived on the islands from eastern Polynesia around the year 1300. Their unique language and culture developed from living for several centuries in isolation from other Polynesian groups. The arrival of Europeans as early as the 17th century brought great change to the Maori. Now, approximately 600,000 people identify themselves as Maori. A good overview of Maori culture is available here: [newzealand.com/us/maori-culture/](http://newzealand.com/us/maori-culture/).



# Packing List

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## PACKING TIPS

Pack light! Keep in mind there will be times you may have to carry your own luggage short distances, especially before and after your Country Walkers tour. Due to space constraints, we require you to limit your luggage to one medium piece (approximately 18x15x29 inches or 8,000 cu. in.) and one small carry-on, per person. We recommend packing any personal necessities, medications, your hotel itinerary/emergency contact information, your hiking boots (or shoes), and extra clothes in your carry-on luggage in the event that your baggage is delayed. We suggest leaving valuable jewelry at home. A copy of your passport and other important documents should be kept in a separate area of your luggage. Always be alert when carrying a purse, camera, money belt, or backpack in busy cities, airports, and train stations.

## FOOTWEAR

- » Hiking boots. There are many brands to choose from. Proper fit is crucial, so try on new boots while wearing socks you plan to use on tour. Be sure to break in new footwear well before your tour begins. By the time you're ready to join your walking tour, you should be able to complete 4 to 6 miles of walking without discomfort. We require lightweight boots or walking shoes with good tread to ensure stability on all types of terrain. Waterproof footwear keeps feet dry in heavy rain and water-resistant footwear keeps feet dry in heavy dew. Country Walkers reserves the right to deny participation to any guest not wearing appropriate footwear.
- » Teva type water sandals (with a heel strap) for walking through rivers and across inlets to protect your feet from sharp stones and clam shells.
- » Wool or synthetic, moisture-wicking socks (cotton socks are not recommended for walking as they will quickly cause blisters)
- » Blister remedy

## CLOTHING

- » Lightweight, wash-and-wear long pants
- » Long-sleeved, wash-and-wear shirt
- » T-shirts and shorts

- » Polar fleece or light wool pullover (it will keep you warm even when wet)
- » Dinner attire: casual

## OUTERWEAR

- » Waterproof rain gear: jacket, pants, and hat or hood
- » Windbreaker with hood (your rain gear may be suitable)
- » Hat with a broad brim or visor for sun protection
- » Gloves and warm hat (for glacier walks)

## EQUIPMENT

- » Pack: large enough to carry water, extra clothing, and personal items (camera, etc.)
- » Waterproof cover for pack
- » Water bottle, canteen, or CamelBak-type water reservoir or hydration pack to carry your own water while walking (equivalent of 1-2 liters)
- » Sunblock and lip balm
- » Insect repellent
- » Sunglasses
- » Toilet kit for when facilities are not available on the walks. Include zip-lock baggies, tissues, and moist towelettes, which can be disposed of upon return to the hotel.
- » Personal first-aid kit, including any medications you ordinarily take (in their original containers)

## SPECIAL PACKING REQUIREMENTS FOR ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK (LAST 3 DAYS OF YOUR TOUR):

As Abel Tasman National Park is accessed by water taxi, we ask that you bring a small duffle bag for this portion of your tour. (The rest of your luggage will remain locked in a secure location until you leave the park on the final day of the tour.)

For this portion of the tour you will need to have **three separate pieces of luggage** as outlined below for the last three days of your tour. The reason being is that you will be dropped off by water taxi at a trailhead in the National Park for your first walk and your overnight duffle bag will go directly to the lodge. As

there is limited space on the boat, your bags must be carried to shore by lodge staff (thus the request for a small duffle bag for these two nights).

**1. Day pack with the following items:**

- Water bottle (at least 1 liter)
- Rain jacket
- Rain pants
- Sun hat
- Teva type water sandals
- Cold weather beanie/hat
- Fleece or other warm top
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent
- Bandana (also good for drying your feet after water crossings)
- Camera
- Space for a packed lunch

**2. Small duffle bag( or lightweight portable bag) with a name tag and items for your three days within Abel Tasman National Park with the following items:**

- Shoes
- 3 pairs of socks
- Evening wear for 2 nights
- T-shirts for 3 days
- Pants for 3 days
- Toiletries
- Flashlight or headlamp

**3. The rest of your luggage will remain locked in a secure location until you leave the park on the final day of the tour.**

Within Able Tasman National Park you will be stepping into the water from the boats (there are no docks) which means getting wet up to your knees. The bottom is soft sand so this is simply involves removing your hiking boots to exit the water taxi and then putting them back on when you return to the beach.

## **OPTIONAL**

- » Telescopic walking sticks (Please note that while telescopic walking sticks are recommended for this tour, they are not provided by Country Walkers. Therefore, please plan on bringing your own should you wish to use them.)
- » Binoculars
- » Camera and charger and/or extra batteries
- » Zip-lock bags (to keep camera and valuables dry)
- » Field guides (see enclosed reading list)
- » Bandana