

NEW ZEALAND

The South Island

A Guided Walking Adventure: November 21-29, 2016





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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 **new optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **Queensland Post-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 onto 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 Pacific sunsets.





Daily Itinerary

DAY 1

Meet in Nelson. Abel Tasman National Park: Bark Bay; 7 miles, moderate

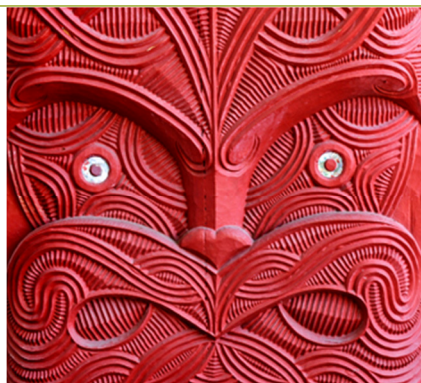
The tour's starting point is Nelson, established in 1841 and designated a city by royal charter in 1858. The second-oldest settled city in New Zealand and the oldest in the South Island, Nelson was named in honor of the British hero of the Battle of Trafalgar, Admiral Nelson. Maori settlement of the region dates to about 700 years ago. Raids from aggressive northern tribes in the 1820s, led by Te Rauparaha and his Ngāti Toa, decimated the local population and quickly displaced them. Nelson has retained the Victorian character of its historical center, notably the Christ Church Cathedral towering above Trafalgar Street.

If you arrive a day early, you may get to know the city by exploring its charming streets and manicured parks. A stroll through the Botanical Gardens introduces you to some of the native flora, much of it unique to the island. A 20-minute walk takes you to the “center of New Zealand” at the top of the hill for panoramic views of the city and across Tasman Bay.

Soon after meeting your guides and group in Nelson, an approximately one-hour drive takes you across Tasman Bay to the spectacular Abel Tasman National Park. Here, you board a water taxi taking you deep into the park, to Bark Bay. A walk skirts north through lush coastal forest, over headlands, and across golden

sand beaches. A beautiful and remote wilderness lodge is your home for the next two nights. Before a welcome dinner in the comfortable dining room, you can take a short stroll through the native *manuka* (tea tree) forest to the beach.

Awaroa Lodge, Abel Tasman National Park



This four-star wilderness lodge offers luxurious 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 organic garden, or sourced from nearby providers.

DAY 2

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

After a relaxed morning to enjoy this remote location within the heart of the National Park, today's route crosses the Awaroa Inlet and heads north through coastal forest lush with towering tree ferns and *manuka*. 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. In the afternoon, you meet a water taxi that whisks you back to the comforts of Awaroa Lodge. 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



DAY 3

West Coast: Paparoa National Park:
Truman Track; 2 miles, easy

This morning, you depart Awaroa Lodge by boat, stopping to see the New Zealand fur seals at the Tonga Island sanctuary. Little blue penguins are also frequently spotted here in the glassy morning waters as they begin their day's

fishing. Transitioning to land, a scenic drive passes through Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks and follows the mighty Buller River, before arriving on the wild West Coast. After entering Paparoa National Park, you enter the coastal rainforest on a short walk to a gemstone beach. Podocarp and rata trees tower above thickets of vines and nikau palms. The track emerges on a spectacular coastline with cliffs, caverns, a blowhole, and a waterfall plummeting straight onto a rock-strewn beach.

Late afternoon you arrive in Punakaiki and may wish to stretch your legs with a stroll along the beach in front of the resort. Dinner this evening is in the dining room where you couldn't have a better view as the sun sets into the ocean.

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

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

DAY 4

Pancake Rocks and Pororari River Walk; 2 miles, easy. Inland Pack Track; 2 miles, easy. Cape Foulwind and Tauranga Bay Seal Colony; 2 miles, easy

This morning's walk features an 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.

Next you follow 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.



After lunch we head north where a spectacular trail skirts coastal cliffs to a nursing colony of New Zealand fur seals and leads across one of the coast's most beautiful beaches. 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, however the "main event" 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 5

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

This morning, you travel south 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. 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. Lunch is on your own today in Hokitika, where you also 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.

In the afternoon, you enjoy one of the most scenic walkways on the West Coast—soaking 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. Later, you drive approximately 1½ hours 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 6

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 7

Te Wahipounamu: Monro Beach Walk; 3 miles, easy. Haast Pass Walk; 3 miles, easy to moderate

Today involves a combination of driving and walking in a beautiful area of striking contrasts. First you arrive at 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.

After lunch, you drive (approximately one hour) to reach the Haast Pass, the lowest road pass in the Southern Alps. Here, the route follows sections of an old bridle path that once linked Otago and Westland. Along the way, you enter a shimmering forest composed almost exclusively of silver beech. You also walk through a thick carpet of ferns and mosses, with peppertrees, lancewoods, and coprosmas overhead. The track crosses a suspension bridge over Fish River, taking you over the thrilling plunge of the Makarora River Gorge.

Late in the afternoon, the drive continues on to Wanaka (approximately 1½ hours) and the day's final destination, a lakeside hotel. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wanaka, your spacious rooms offer views of the lake or Alps; each offering a private balcony or patio. During free time throughout your stay, enjoy the tennis courts, rent a kayak, take a dip, or wander the lakeside trail.

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 8

Wanaka and Mount Aspiring National Park: Rob Roy Glacier; 7 miles, moderate to challenging with an elevation gain of 1,200 ft., or Matukituki Valley; 4-6 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 walking option takes a route through the Matukituki Valley, also offering stunning views of the valleys and mountains.

Edgewater Resort, Wanaka

DAY 9

The Southern Lakes District; Fisherman's Track; 2 miles, easy to moderate. Queenstown departure

Your final walk is along the Fisherman's Track, a rolling, well-maintained trail that follows the Clutha River from the outlet at Lake Wanaka to the small village of Albertown. Along the way, you spot trout in the river pools and enjoy views of the lovely Clutha Valley. Enjoy a picnic lunch sitting on the banks of this clear blue river.

Afterwards, you depart for the resort town of Queenstown with several stops en route to appreciate this remarkable region of mountains and wide valleys dotted with lakes. Our mid-afternoon arrival enables you to take late flights homeward, or you may prefer to spend a day or two in Queenstown, where there is always a festival going on (“Pure Inspiration” is the town's official slogan).

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, the tour's first two nights' accommodation, 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

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

The Rutherford Hotel Nelson (reception area), Nelson, New Zealand, 10:00 a.m.

27 Nile St W
Nelson, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 548 2299

NIGHTS 1 & 2

Awaroa Lodge, Abel Tasman National Park

Tasman, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 528 8758
Email awaroa.res@peppers.co.nz
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 3 & 4

Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki

Punakaiki, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 731 1168
Email info@punakaiki-resort.co.nz
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 5 & 6

Te Weheka Inn, Fox Glacier

Fox Glacier, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 751 0730
Email stay@teweheka.co.nz
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

NIGHTS 7 & 8

Edgewater Resort, Wanaka

Wanaka, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 443 0011
Email reservations@edgewater.co.nz
Wireless Internet, hair dryers, and laundry service available.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINTS AND TIMES

- **Queenstown Airport (ZQN), Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.**
- **Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:30 p.m.**

EMERGENCY CONTACT

One Call International

Email 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.

Tour Facts at a Glance

TOUR LENGTH (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)

9 days, 8 nights

DEPARTURE DATE (WITHOUT FLIGHT PACKAGE)

November 21-29, 2016

SCHEDULED GROUP PRICE, TOUR ONLY

\$6,148 (Single+\$1,148)

PRIVATE TOUR ONLY PRICE FROM

4–5 guests: \$6,348 (Single +\$1,148)

6+ guests: \$6,148 (Single +\$1,148)

This private tour is available daily, on request, from January 1 through March 31 and November 1 through December 31.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

The Rutherford Hotel Nelson (reception area), Nelson, New Zealand, 10:00 a.m.

TOUR DEPARTURE POINTS AND TIMES

- Queenstown Airport (ZQN), Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.
- Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:30 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.

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 Guest Acknowledgment of Risk 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 **new optional Flight + Tour Combo** and **post-tour extension**, please refer to the attached itinerary for more details.

TOUR MEETING POINT AND TIME

The Rutherford Hotel Nelson (reception area), Nelson, New Zealand, 9:00 a.m.

Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

MOST CONVENIENT AIRPORT

Nelson Airport (NSN), Nelson, New Zealand

nelsonairport.co.nz

The international gateway airport is Auckland International Airport (AKL), Auckland, New Zealand.

GETTING TO THE MEETING POINT

The Rutherford Hotel Nelson is located next to the Nelson Cathedral and Botanical Gardens, just minutes from Nelson Airport. The Airport Supershuttle services every incoming flight and brings you direct to the hotel. The rate is approximately \$25 NZD per person and can be reserved in advance on their website (www.supershuttle.co.nz).

PRE-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the Rutherford Hotel, our meeting-point hotel, for the night prior to your tour.

To reserve a room, please contact the hotel directly, indicating that you are with the Country Walkers group so that you can benefit from the special Country Walkers rate of \$225 NZD (double or single; inclusive of tax but not breakfast). 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 after your tour versus 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

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.

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

- **Queenstown Airport (ZQN), Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:00 p.m.**
- **Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, 3:30 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.

LEAVING QUEENSTOWN

Air New Zealand (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.

POST-TOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

We recommend staying in Queenstown at least one or two days after the tour ends to enjoy this fascinating city. If you are not reserving our optional Flight + Tour Combo, you may wish to stay at the Novotel Lakeside Hotel. To reserve a room, please contact the hotel directly, indicating that you are with the Country Walkers group so that you can benefit from the special Country Walkers rate of \$232 NZD (double or single; inclusive of tax but not breakfast). 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.

Novotel Lakeside Hotel

10-18 Brunswick Street
Queenstown, New Zealand
Tel 011 64 3 442 4990
Email reservations@stmoritzmg.co.nz
stmoritz.co.nz/

With a central location along the shores of Lake Wakatipu, the 4-star Novotel Queenstown Lakeside is the perfect spot to launch your exploration of Queenstown. Just steps away from an array of shops and restaurants, the hotel offers a full fitness center with Jacuzzi and a lovely restaurant offering fresh, seasonal cuisine served al fresco in their rose garden.

Information & Policies

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.*

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Air or other travel arrangements to and from your tour are not included in the price of your trip. We encourage you to contact your local travel agent, or Better Travel, a Vermont-based agency (800.331.6996 or bettertravel@madriver.com), for any additional air, hotel, rail, or transfer arrangements you may need.

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.

CURRENCY

New Zealand uses the New Zealand dollar (NZD). For up-to-date exchange rates, see 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.

Travel Tip

Have a variety of options to start your trip: ATM card(s), credit card(s), and some dollars to exchange.

TIME ZONE

New Zealand is 17 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. For more information on worldwide time zones, see 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 phone models or to work at all times while on the trail or in remote areas. For more information regarding international phone use, please refer to 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 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/.

Travel Tip

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

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.

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. For historical average temperatures and rainfall, see weatherbase.com.

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.

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 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.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

National New Zealand tourist board official site
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-2016.html

TRAVEL IN NEW ZEALAND

A wealth of travel information is available at
newzealand.com.



Airports

Most international flights arrive at Auckland Airport (AKL) on the North Island of New Zealand: 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.

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/. 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.

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/.

Packing List

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.
- » Wool or synthetic, moisture-wicking socks (cotton socks are not recommended for walking as they will quickly cause blisters)
- » Tevas or similar "water shoes" for water taxi in Abel Tasman National Park
- » 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.)
- » Lightweight duffle bag (big enough to carry 3 days' worth of clothing/toiletries)
- » 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)
- » Motion sickness bracelets or other non-sleep-inducing remedy if prone to motion sickness (for water taxi transfers)

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)
- » Small notebook and pen
- » Field guides (see enclosed reading list)
- » Bandana