

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA



NEW ZEALAND: KIWI WONDERLAND

March 12 – 23, 2019 * 12 Days * \$4990

Optional Auckland Pre-tour

March 10-11, 2019 * 2 Days * \$265

PRE-TOUR: Day 1 ~ March 10: Arrive Auckland, New Zealand (B)

After arrival at our centrally located hotel early in the day, the balance of the day is free to rest and explore. Suggested activities will be provided.

PRE-TOUR: Day 2 ~ March 11: Activities from the Auckland Area (B)

Travelers are free to enjoy more time in the Auckland area today, or consider joining us for the optional Waiheke Island Adventure.

OPTIONAL WAIHEKE ISLAND ADVENTURE: Starting with a ferry ride across Hauraki Gulf to Waiheke Island, a delightful duet of trails await offering 6 kilometers of walking to introduce us to this popular island recognized on recent Top Ten lists by both Conde Nast and Lonely Planet. The Waiheke Headlands Walk takes in cliff top vistas and traverses coastal forests with stunning views into Hauraki Gulf. The Waiheke Wineries Walk follows a trail between vineyards for which Waiheke has gained renown, stopping at one of them for a mid-walk lunch. We return by ferry to Auckland where the evening is free to explore the waterfront or rest at our hotel. Includes roundtrip ferry service, WAI guide service, local transportation and guide service on Waiheke Island, walks on Waiheke Island, and lunch at a local winery. ~Estimated price: \$195





NEW ZEALAND: KIWI WONDERLAND

Day 1 ~ March 12: Arrive Auckland, New Zealand (D)

Auckland City of Sails Walk ~ 12 km, rated 3B

Travelers arrive in New Zealand early this morning. After freshening up at the hotel, we take in our first walk of the Adventure, a delightful city route on Auckland's Coast-to-Coast trail. We begin at One Tree Hill, one of several volcanic cones in Auckland, and wind through city parks and neighborhoods, hike up Mount Eden, another volcanic cone, and finish at the Auckland Domain. The Domain is the city's oldest park, set in yet another volcanic crater, and home to the lovely Wintergardens greenhouses and the Auckland War Memorial Museum, where walkers can opt for a fascinating introduction to New Zealand's natural and human history (not included). The afternoon is free to rest and enjoy the downtown area near our hotel before rendezvousing for our Welcome Orientation and dinner.

Day 2 ~ March 13: Auckland - Rotorua, NZ (BD)

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari ~ 3 km, rating unknown

Te Waihou Walkway ~ 5 km, rated 2B

We drive south this morning into the heart of New Zealand's North Island. First stop is Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari. A reserve was established here in 1912, and more recent protections have developed the Sanctuary into an area free from introduced species, a major challenge to New Zealand's isolated ecosystem. A self-guided walk here takes us through the New Zealand bush as it was before the arrival of the Maori and mammals. This afternoon's trail parallels a lovely trout stream flowing with crystal-clear waters and bordered by the ever-present tree ferns (New Zealand has about 200 species of ferns!). After checking into our hotel in Rotorua for a two-night stay, we experience a slice of Polynesian Maori culture this evening at a Tumunui Marae (meeting place): take part in the fearsome Maori powhiri (welcome ceremony), enjoy fast paced Maori song and dance, and indulge in the bountiful Maori hangi (feast).

Day 3 ~ March 14: Activities from Rotorua (B)

Waimangu Volcanic Valley Walk ~ 4 km, rated 2B (Not IVV sanctioned)

On June 10, 1886, New Zealand's largest volcanic eruption in the past 700 years created the Waimangu Volcanic Rift Valley. This morning's walk explores the world's youngest hydrothermal system including Frying Pan Lake (121°F), Iodine Pool (208°F), Inferno Crater (176°F) and a rare eco-system reestablished naturally since the 1886 eruption. After free time for lunch, we visit the entertaining Agrodome Sheep Show back in Rotorua to learn about sheep, the traditional mainstay of the New Zealand economy that still outnumbers New Zealand's human inhabitants by a large margin. The evening is free to explore Rotorua and its lovely lakefront, and rest before tomorrow's early wakeup call.

Day 4 ~ March 15: Rotorua - Rangiora home stay, NZ (BD)

Christchurch Garden City Walk ~ 6 km, rated 1A

An early morning flight transports us to the South Island for the remainder of our New Zealand Adventure. We arrive in lovely Christchurch, considered by some "the most English city outside England." The February 2011 earthquake left an indelible impression on the city and surrounding area and has affected the route of our walk in Christchurch. We plan to feature the lovely Botanic Gardens, a slice of Hagley Park, a section along the meandering, willow-lined Avon River, and symbols of the city's recent earthquake struggles, including the remains of ChristChurch Cathedral. Early this afternoon, we divide into smaller groups to visit individual host families for dinner and an overnight visit filled with home cookin,' fun conversation, and whatever our Kiwi hosts have in store! This memorable taste of Kiwi culture is always a favorite!



Your WAI Guides 🐙

Scott Isom & Russ Isom are a father-son team and will be accompanied by national and local guides on the *New Zealand & Australia* tour. Scott & Russ have a passion for exploring the outdoors and have enjoyed hiking the natural wonders of the Pacific Northwest area for years. Scott has led tours on all 7 continents and is one of WAI's busiest guides and on-site Adventure planners. Russ will be assisting Scott on this tour, and has been both guiding and assisting on Walking Adventures for over 10 years. They look forward to sharing the sights of *New Zealand & Australia* with you in 2019!



Day 5 ~ March 16: Rangiora home stay – Greymouth, NZ (B)

Kura Tawhiti Castle Hill Walk ~ 3 km, rated 2B (Not IVV sanctioned)

Today is primarily a day of travel through strikingly dissimilar landscapes of the South Island. After a drive across the picturesque patchwork of the Canterbury Plains, we stop at Kura Tawhiti Conservation Area to stretch our legs on a stroll through grand limestone rock battlements that led early European travelers to name the area Castle Hill. Next we cross the pristine Southern Alps and continue down their lush western slopes to our home for the next two nights in Greymouth. The West Coast region of New Zealand's South Island is isolated and sparsely populated, and further south, rainfall is measured in meters! With a population of about 14,000 souls, Greymouth is the largest city on the West Coast, and accounts for about 40% of its inhabitants!

Day 6 ~ March 17: Activities from Greymouth (B)

Pororari River Track ~ 7 km, rating unknown

We're excited to share a day of new activities today north of Greymouth. The Pororari River Track is a stellar nature walk that takes us through lush forests of Paparoa National Park. The trail features pristine Pororari River coursing through a picturesque limestone gorge leaving deep pools as it winds around massive boulders. Part two of the day introduces us to another New Zealand icon—the glowworm! A bus ride takes us to the Nile River Canyon to board the Nile River Rainforest Train. Our destination is the Nile River Cave System, an ancient wonderland of fragile calcite formations which we explore on foot, and a favorite home of the glowworm. Stalactites, stalagmites, and galaxies of glowworms make this one of the more memorable afternoons of the adventure!

OPTIONAL GLOWWORM UNDERWORLD RAFTING: This is the Adventure option to experience the Nile River Cave System! It takes place in the same cave system, but involves donning wetsuits, gloves, and helmets and floating on inner tubes on a slow-moving underground river through even more astonishing galaxies of glowworm caverns. You emerge back into daylight to float a series of gentle rapids before returning by train. This glowworm experience is considered even more "brilliant" than the standard "on-foot" experience. ~Estimated price: \$40





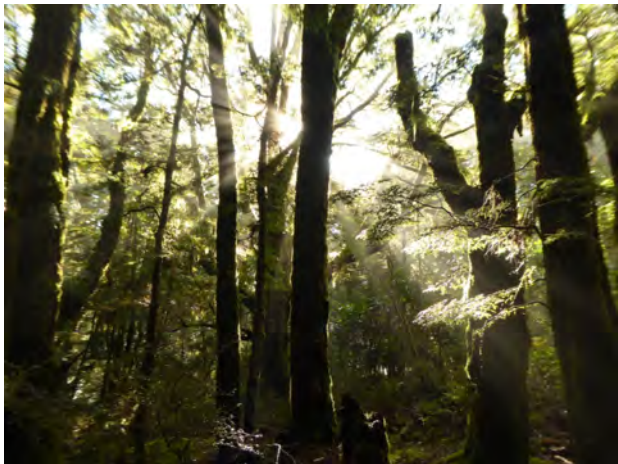
Day 7 ~ March 18: Greymouth – Haast, NZ (B)

Lake Matheson Walk ~ 5 km, rated 2B

Fox Glacier Walk ~ 3 km, rated 3C

First stop today is the tiny coastal hamlet of Hokitika to watch jade craftsmen work their wonders. Further south, two walks in the Fox Glacier area provide contrasting glimpses into the natural wonders of the West Coast. Fox Glacier itself is a river of ice that finishes its journey in a surprising setting, a subtropical forest. Our route changes according to the flow of the glacier, but we expect to walk the valley floor through glacial moraine to get as close as possible to the terminal face of Fox Glacier. Our second trail is a lovely nature walk encircling the placid, tea-colored waters of Lake Matheson, a dramatically effective mirror for the profiles of Mounts Tasman and Cook. In good weather, you'll recognize these images from postcards and New Zealand travel promos—it's truly spectacular!

*"We were impressed with the travel philosophy of Walking Adventures and thought this trip offered a unique way to see New Zealand... We would love to do another trip."
Jan ~ Tacoma, WA*



Day 8 ~ March 19: Haast – Wanaka, NZ (B)

Monro Beach Walk ~ 5 km, rated 1A

Diamond Lake Walk ~ 5 km, rating 2B

Just north of Haast, we find a trail winding through the otherworldly solitude of luxuriant temperate rainforest to Monro Beach on the Tasman Sea. This is a walk to do quietly, listening for birdcalls, especially clear, melodic tones of the bell bird. Next, we re-cross the continental divide into a different kind of climate and natural beauty—semi-arid landscapes punctuated by a seemingly endless chain of lakes. The afternoon walk offers some of the Adventure's best panoramas—over Lake Wanaka and the Southern Alps. We overnight in the small town of Wanaka, on the shores of its lovely namesake lake.



Day 9 ~ March 20: Wanaka – Doubtful Sound, NZ (BD)

From Wanaka, we drive through sheep-dotted pastures en route to Manapouri. The likely highlight of our New Zealand odyssey begins with a short cruise across Lake Manapouri, followed by a coach ride over Wilmot Pass through dense rainforest, arriving at Deep Cove on Doubtful Sound. Here, we board the *Fiordland Navigator* to cruise untouched, unrivaled, and unforgettable Doubtful Sound. Three times longer and with a surface area ten times greater than its more famous cousin to the north, Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound promises even more of the only-in-New Zealand scenic sensory overload we've enjoyed during many visits to Milford Sound. The schedule is flexible, but the plan is to cruise the length of the Sound to the Tasman Sea with opportunities for wildlife viewing, waterfall watching, kayaking or small boat excursions, preludes to a delicious dinner and a peaceful evening bobbing placidly beneath the southern stars.

Day 10 ~ March 21: Doubtful Sound – Queenstown area, NZ (B)

Following a relaxing mariner's breakfast, we explore other parts of the fiord, returning finally to Deep Cove for the reverse journey over the pass to Manapouri. Our journey then takes us through more pleasing pastoral scenes en route to our destination in the Queenstown area for a two-night stay.

OPTIONAL GONDOLA & SKYLINE RESTAURANT: You're invited to join us this evening for a gondola ride to the Skyline Restaurant, offering panoramic views over Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables mountain range with a dinner buffet that's nearly expansive as the view. ~Estimated price: \$80





Day 11 ~ March 22: Activities from the Queenstown area, NZ (BD)

Lake Wakatipu Walk ~ 6 km, rated 1A

Our final day in New Zealand starts with an easy, colorful lakeside stroll through autumn foliage along the Frankton Arm of beautiful Lake Wakatipu.

*"After watching
Lord of the Rings,
New Zealand was #1
on my Bucket List.
Everyone I talked to said
your trips were great."
Susan - San Antonio, TX*

The afternoon is free to explore this fun lakeside resort, considered the "adventure capital" of New Zealand. Multiple jetboat thrill rides, for example, are available to view the region's spectacular scenery through adrenaline-flooded eyes. Or consider joining us for a nostalgic trip to 19th century Arrowtown, a charming, gold rush village nestled along the Arrow River. We

rendezvous this evening for a Farewell Dinner to reminisce about our adventure in remarkable New Zealand!

Day 12 ~ March 23: Depart Queenstown for Melbourne, Australia

-OR- Home (B)

We say farewell to New Zealand Only travelers today as they make the return flight back across the Pacific. After some down time this morning, travelers continuing on to Australia depart mid-afternoon for a flight directly to "marvelous Melbourne". Upon arrival, we rendezvous with Australia Only travelers "fresh" from North America at our strategically situated hotel in the vibrant city of Melbourne. 🇺🇸



NEW ZEALAND Kiwi Wonderland

March 12 – 23, 2019 * 12 Days * \$4990

What's Included:

- ➔ Airport to hotel group transfers on first and last day
- ➔ All land travel by motorcoach as outlined
- ➔ Tourist-class or better hotel accommodations (2-4 star)
- ➔ 16 meals: 11 breakfasts and 5 dinners as listed (BD)
- ➔ All listed walks
- ➔ Fees for walking credit (if IVV approved)
- ➔ WAI guide service throughout (2 guides)
- ➔ Cultural and historical expertise of a driver/guide or national guide throughout
- ➔ All tipping for local guides and coach drivers
- ➔ Pricing is based on double occupancy; single rooms are available for an additional supplement of \$890.**

Activities/Visits to:

- ➔ Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari – North Island
- ➔ Tumunui Marae Maori Hangi Feast – North Island
- ➔ Agrodome Sheep Show – North Island
- ➔ Waimangu Volcanic Valley – North Island
- ➔ 1-night home stay with hosts in Rangiora area – South Island
- ➔ Nile River Glowworm experience – South Island
- ➔ Overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound aboard the *Fiordland Navigator* – South Island
- ➔ ... plus more fun stops than we can list!

Optional Excursions:

- ➔ Glowworm Underworld Rafting – South Island (Day 6)
- ➔ Gondola Ride and Dinner at Skyline Restaurant – South Island (Day 10)

** NOTE: We spend one night aboard ship on the *Doubtful Sound*. Single cabins are not available.

Optional Auckland Pre-tour

March 10-11, 2019 * 2 Days * \$265

This package offers travelers a chance to arrive early and explore the Auckland area before setting off on our New Zealand Adventure!

What's Included:

- ➔ Auckland hotel for 2 nights with breakfast (Single Supplement: \$130)
- ➔ Airport group transfer

Optional Excursion:

- ➔ Waiheke Island Adventure (Day 2, March 11)

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