

CLASSIC NEW ZEALAND

HIGHLIGHTS

- BEAUTIFUL AUCKLAND HARBOUR
- GEYSERS AND THERMAL MUD POOLS OF ROTORUA
- MAORI CULTURE ON MOKOIA ISLAND

According to Maori mythology, the North and South Islands of New Zealand arose through the actions of the demi-God, Maui. Maui and his brothers were fishing from their canoe when he caught a great fish and pulled it from the sea. While he was not looking his brothers fought over the fish and chopped it up. This great fish became the North Island and thus the Maori name for the North Island is Te Ika-a-Maui or 'Fish of Maui'. The South Island is known as Te Waka-a-Maui, which means 'Maui's Canoe'. Experience the varied scenery of these extraordinarily beautiful islands on this 11 day journey,

ranging from sandy beaches to rolling farmland to active volcanic peaks.

DAYS 1 AND 2

London/New Zealand

Depart London today with an overnight Air New Zealand flight to Auckland, 'the City of Sails' on North Island, one of the two main islands of New Zealand covering an area of 113,729 square kilometres and the world's 14th largest island.

DAY 3

Auckland

On arrival this morning, collect your rental car and check in to the classical and elegant Langham Hotel, where the morning is free to relax. Treat yourself to a few hours in the new Chuan Spa or take advantage of the excellent location of the hotel, only a short walking distance to Auckland's vibrant waterfront and shopping areas. This



afternoon you will be introduced to the highlights of the city: see the Harbour Bridge connecting Auckland and the North Shore, enjoy panoramic views from Sky Tower, the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere at over 320 metres tall, and visit the volcanic summit known as One Tree Hill, from where you can see Auckland's two harbours and Rangitoto Island on the eastern horizon. You may like to enjoy a meal this evening at Partingtons, the hotel's award-winning restaurant serving contemporary New

Zealand cuisine complemented by one of the 400 wines available, or if you are staying at the weekend, try their famous Friday-night seafood buffet.

DAY 4

Auckland/Rotorua

This morning sail across Auckland Harbour on an America's Cup winning yacht, swim with dolphins or take to the skies in a hot air balloon, helicopter or private plane, before departing this afternoon on a scenic drive (a journey

of 230 kilometres and around 3½ hours) to the Treetops Lodge & Estate located within the thermal region of Rotorua. This secluded retreat offers the ultimate in luxury accommodation, with suites and secluded villas nestled amidst 2,500 acres of native forest.

DAY 5

Rotorua

Today choose your activities: with seven trout streams in the area, fly fishing lessons are available, as is canoeing, >



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cruising the waters of Lake Tarawera, helicopter flights, golf and over 70 kilometres of trails suitable for hiking, horse riding or mountain biking. Explore the town of Rotorua located close to the lodge and its surrounding area where you will be constantly reminded of the forces of nature with steam rising from pathways and pools of bubbling mud. Other sights include the 'Buried Village' of Te Wairoa, or even sheep shearing demonstrations at the Agrodome.

DAY 6
Rotorua/Queenstown

The morning is free to continue exploring the area. Experience Maori culture on Mokoia Island, New Zealand's largest inland island wildlife sanctuary located in the centre of Lake Rotorua, with

geothermal springs and home to the rare species of the kiwi, saddleback and weka. This afternoon drive to Rotorua airport for a flight to Queenstown on the South Island, where you will stay for three nights at the Azur Resort. This nine villa luxury lodge is situated in the Sunshine Bay area offering sensational views of Lake Wakatipu, The Remarkables and Queenstown. Awaken each morning to the unique experience of a mountain sunrise.

DAY 7
Queenstown

After breakfast, set off to the airstrip for a spectacular flight to Fiordland National Park, located on the southwest corner of the South Island and the largest park in New Zealand. Take a cruise of Milford Sound, one of the Southern

Hemisphere's greatest highlights surrounded by towering peaks, lush vegetation and dramatic waterfalls. At the end of the day, return to the Azur Lodge by scenic flight over the crystal clear lakes Te Anau and Manapouri, abundant green valleys and the Sutherland Falls.

DAY 8
Queenstown

The alternatives for today are almost unlimited: drive to Skipper's Canyon by four-wheel drive, try white-water rafting on the Kawarau River, a relaxing game of golf or fly fishing. The most popular activity is a jetboat safari of the Dart River, the surrounding scenery of rugged forests and hill country was famously used as the location for many

scenes of the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

DAY 9
Queenstown/Christchurch

This morning drive from Azur Lodge to Queenstown airport for a flight to Christchurch, where you will stay for two nights at The George, a boutique hotel with luxuriously appointed furnishings and a member of 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World'. Located in the heart of the city, The George is the perfect base to explore this wonderful city, starting this afternoon with a guided city tour to see the Canterbury Museum and Christchurch Cathedral, built in the late 1800s as the centre of the Church of England and the renaissance-style building of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Enjoy a punt on the River Avon before returning to your hotel.

DAY 10
Christchurch

A full day to explore the many parks and gardens of Christchurch, including the beautiful Botanical Gardens, or perhaps go whale watching in Kaikoura, a spectacularly picturesque town on the northeast coast of the island, with the backdrop of the seaward Kaikoura Mountain Range and an abundance of marine life: seal, albatross and sperm whale, among many others. This evening you may like to enjoy the cuisine of The George Hotel's two chic and sophisticated award winning

restaurants; Pescatore and 50 On Park.

DAY 11
Christchurch/London

This morning is free to enjoy your final few hours in New Zealand, before a drive to the airport after lunch for an overnight flight back to the UK, arriving in London Heathrow the following day.



All A&K journeys are individually tailored to suit your interests and timescale, and you may like to remove or add a few extra days to continue exploring these beautiful islands. As a guide, this 11 day journey in New Zealand will cost from £4,295 per person based on two adults sharing with flights from the UK, subject to availability. *Please bear in mind this is not a prescriptive itinerary but a suggestion to give you a taste of what is possible with the very highest level of comfort, service and convenience. Accordingly, we aim to quote to a standard as opposed to a price*

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