

***NEW ZEALAND
SMALL GROUP
ESCORTED TOUR***



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

www.mytravelxp.com

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New Zealand North & South Small Group Tour

Duration: 13 days

Departs: select dates in 2021, 2022 & 2023

Stay: 12 nights first class hotels

Travel style: Escorted small group tour

Booking code: NZGSG13M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

13 Days New Zealand North & South Small Group Tour

About the holiday

On this escorted small group tour, you will get to the heart of New Zealand, visit places that other coach tours often miss and get to know the locals.

Travelling from Auckland on the North Island, and enjoying your final night at picturesque Te Anau on the South Island, so many unmissable highlights will be included in just under two weeks: glow worms in spectacular caves, geothermal wonders, a scenic TranzAlpine train ride, breathtaking glaciers, lush forests, UNESCO World Heritage Areas and pristine lakes.

This 13-day New Zealand small group tour includes special activities, such as sharing in a traditional Māori meal, wine tasting at world-class vineyards, visiting nature reserves that are working to protect native wildlife, take a culinary walking tour, experience life on a sheep farm, enjoy a fond farewell dinner with newfound friends and much more!

You'll be looked after all the way by your expert tour manager and experienced local guides. First class hotels have been carefully chosen for their location and high levels of comfort. There are also many meals included, as well as that nice touch of having beer or wine with all dinners. If you're getting the idea that this is a special, immersive small group tour that doesn't scrimp on great experiences, then you've got it right!

Why you'll love this trip...

- Descend into the astonishing Waitomo Caves with its swirling rivers and glow worms
- Visit Wai-o-Tapu Thermal Park and admire its steaming geysers
- Home hosted dinner in a traditional New Zealand home
- Enjoy a traditionally prepared "Hangi" dinner, cooked in the steaming ground
- Discover delightful Christchurch, the "most-English" city in the country
- Take in the stunning landscape of the South Island aboard the TranzAlpine train
- Experience the dynamic environment at the Franz Josef Glacier
- Explore the dazzling city of Queenstown, the country's adventure capital
- Tour a family-run working merino sheep farm
- Cruise on spectacular Milford Sound, surrounded by breathtaking scenery

Travel dates

Departs Thursdays*

2021 - 01 September to 30 November

2022 - 01 February to 12 May and 01 September to 20 November

2023 - 01 February to 11 May

*Departure is subject to confirmation at time of booking & price may vary depending travel dates.

Small Group Inclusions

Flights – Return economy airfare to Auckland & Queenstown

Fly from Melbourne, Brisbane or Sydney (ask us for other cities)

Prepayable airline taxes & fuel surcharges

One-way flight Wellington to Christchurch

Small Group Tour – Maximum of 22 people on each departure

Accommodation – 12 nights in first class accommodations based on twin share

2 nights Auckland

2 nights Rotorua

1 night Napier

2 nights Wellington

1 night Christchurch

1 night Franz Josef

2 nights Queenstown

1 night Te Anau

Meals – 12 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 8 dinners

(including welcome, home-hosted & farewell dinners)

Beer & wine included with all dinners

Transport – sightseeing as per itinerary in modern air-conditioned coach

All transfers included with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates

Expert Guides – Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout

Comprehensive guided sightseeing with entrance fees as per itinerary

Active itinerary with unique cultural features

This package is subject to confirmation by the airlines, hotels, tour company and local operators.

Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.

Would you like to upgrade the flights or extend your trip?

Call our office on 1300 168 910 for more info – we're here to help!



Package excludes:

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Gratuities for tour managers, guides & drivers

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

*This package is subject to confirmation by the hotels, tour company and local operators.
Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.*

See www.mytravelxp.com for current prices.

For more information call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

Itinerary

DAY 1, Fly to Auckland

Welcome to New Zealand! Arrive in Auckland, the country's largest city, often called the "City of Sails" because of its lovely harborside location, and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2, Free Day in Auckland

Enjoy a free day to explore Auckland at leisure. This evening, attend an orientation meeting at approximately 6 PM with your Tour Manager on the exciting adventure that awaits you in New Zealand, followed by a Welcome Dinner and drinks with your fellow travellers.

Overnight: Auckland

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3, Waitomo Caves, Rotorua

From Auckland, travel south through the fertile Waikato Plains to Waitomo. A unique experience is in store for you at the astonishing Waitomo Caves, home to swirling rivers, glow worms and rocks that flow into delicate shawl-like formations. After lunch, drive to Rotorua and check in to your hotel. Tonight, savor a home-hosted dinner with a local family and experience a unique opportunity to learn about their values and traditions

Overnight: Rotorua

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4, Te Puia Thermal Reserve, "Hangi" Feast Dinner

Morning is at leisure for independent explorations in Rotorua, or join the *optional* Hobbiton tour. Travel through the spectacular North Island scenery to Matamata, home to the Hobbiton movie set. Take a guided tour around the set and view Hobbit holes, the Party Tree, the Mill, and the Green Dragon Inn. In the afternoon, journey to Te Puia, in Whakarewarewa Geothermal Valley, set amidst a landscape of erupting geothermal activity and thermal springs. Discover the unique lifestyle and traditions of the Maori and witness the phenomena of Mother Nature and how the Maori people live in harmony within this unique landscape and environment. You'll meet with a member of the local Maori tribe who shares the many aspects of traditional wood carving and its importance within the Maori culture. In the village observe the weaving demonstrations and traditional ways of creating piupiu (grass skirts). You'll visit the kiwi house to view the nocturnal kiwi bird before continuing to the boiling mud pools and geysers. Then, attend a traditional Haka ceremony and Maori concert. Afterward, enjoy an authentically prepared Hangi dinner, cooked in the steaming ground and hot pools, ending with the most delectable steamed dessert. Tonight will indeed be a memorable and authentic Maori experience!

Optional: Hobbiton Movie Set Tour (AM) Cost \$119 per person.

Overnight: Rotorua

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5, Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Park, Napier, Wine Tasting

Visit the geothermal wonderland of the Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Park, New Zealand's most colourful geothermal attraction, with its steaming geysers and bubbling hot springs. Then, journey through breathtaking scenery to the coastal city of Napier. Begin the drive heading south through rolling sheep-dotted hills and farmland. Marvel at picture-perfect views of Lake Taupo before continuing southeast along the Thermal Explorer Highway. The road leads into dramatic tree-covered mountains, rugged hills and at times alongside rushing rivers. On the descent through farmland and orchards, get your first glimpse of beautiful Hawkes Bay before arriving at Napier. This lovely city is famous for its wines and Art Deco architecture. The area is known as the fruit bowl of New Zealand with perfect conditions for world-class wine and produce. Tonight, taste some of the finest wines of the area and savour a delectable dinner

Overnight: Napier

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Dannevirke, Pukaha Mount Bruce National Reserve, Wellington

After breakfast, depart Napier and drive through Wairarapa district to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, located at the southern end of the North Island. Stop on the way for tea at Dannevirke, a town well-known for its Scandinavian heritage. Continue to Pukaha Mount Bruce National Reserve, housing rare birds in an area of protected forest. Take a guided walk in the forest and gain knowledge about New Zealand's unique flora and fauna. Learn about the reserve's work to restore the forest and bring endangered birds back into the countryside. Continue to Wellington. Arrive and check in to your hotel. Later, share highlights of today's experiences during dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Wellington

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, Morning at Leisure, Culinary Walking Tour

Morning is at leisure for independent explorations in Wellington, including a ticket to ride on the historic Wellington cable car, providing panoramic views over the city. In the afternoon, embark on a culinary adventure around Wellington City and sample a range of delicious local food and drinks. During this walking tour, you'll gain insights into the city's history, its unique culinary scene, chat with local artisans and hear their stories. At the conclusion of the tour, return to the hotel and spend the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Wellington

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8, Flight to Christchurch and Walking Tour

Transfer to the airport this morning, for your flight to Christchurch, in the South Island. The city, is the second largest in New Zealand. Often referred to as the most English of New Zealand's cities, it is also known as the "Garden City", because of its majestic trees and extensive parks and gardens, including expansive Hagley Park in the heart of the city. Arrive in Christchurch and transfer to the hotel. Afterward, take an orientation walking tour of the city. Balance of the day is at leisure for independent explorations

Overnight: Christchurch **Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9, TranzAlpine Scenic Train to Greymouth, Kiwi Hatchery, Franz Josef

This morning, board the most scenic train ride in New Zealand, and one of the most scenic train journeys in the world. Traveling west crossing the farmland of the Canterbury Plains, ascend through spectacular gorges and river valleys towards the Southern Alps. Arrive at the village of Arthurs Pass for a short break before descending through the Otira Tunnel and lush beech rainforests to Greymouth in the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island. Drive to Franz Josef and visit a kiwi hatching facility, home to a hatching program of the world's rarest kiwi, the rowi. Learn more about this rare flightless bird from an expert ranger. Then, check in to your hotel overlooking some of New Zealand's tallest peaks. Dinner is at the hotel tonight

Overnight: Franz Josef

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10, Franz Josef Glacier Walk, Queenstown

Embark on a thrilling adventure. Your experienced and knowledgeable guide will lead you on an adventurous walk in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley. The famous glacier, discovered by Europeans in 1865, is named after the Austrian emperor. Although the glacier has retreated considerably, its frozen past is still visible in the present landscape. Learn more about the role of the glacier in shaping this remarkable landscape as you continue through the regenerating rainforest and along the glacier valley up to the receding terminal face of the glacier. Later, drive to Queenstown, named for Queen Victoria, surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu. Queenstown's stunning scenery is inspiring and revitalizing. The city is acclaimed by international travellers and "kiwis" alike as New Zealand's adventure capital. Check in to your hotel before dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Queenstown

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Mt Nicholas Farm Experience

Enjoy a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Mt Nicholas High Country Farm on board Spirit of Queenstown for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes visit to an authentic, family-run merino sheep farm. Tour the farm, that is home to 30,000 merino sheep, view the working animals and learn about raising sheep and producing merino wool. Afterward, savour a freshly prepared farmers platter for lunch. Soak in the surrounding panoramic views in one of New Zealand's most rugged and remote high country farms before returning on a catamaran cruise to Queenstown. The balance of the day is at leisure to discover picturesque Queenstown on your own.

Overnight: Queenstown

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12, Milford Sound, Te Anau

Depart Queenstown for picturesque Te Anau, gateway to Milford Sound. Nestled on the lake's edge, it's the perfect base from which to discover the spectacular glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park. Follow the glacier-hewn Eglinton River Valley into a magnificent beech forest before descending into the precipitous Hollyford Valley. Tussock and scrub replace the bush as the road climbs steadily up the Hollyford to the gigantic cirque where sheer rock faces dwarf the Homer Tunnel portal beneath. Beyond the tunnel, you descend into the Cleddau Canyon, between towering, rugged mountains and forests, until the road comes out into the open at spectacular Milford Sound. After lunch, board your cruise on Milford Sound and be surrounded by astonishing scenery from atop the viewing decks. An informative commentary on the natural history and wildlife follows you as you stop at waterfalls and points of interest along the way. Afterward, check in to your hotel in Te Anau. Tonight, share wonderful memories together on your last night in New Zealand. Bid goodbye to your Tour Manager and newfound friends at a Farewell Dinner in the hotel

Overnight: Te Anau

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13, Depart New Zealand

After breakfast, drive to the airport in Queenstown for your departure flight. Please select flights that depart no earlier than 1 PM.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions in the itinerary are intended as an indicative guide only.

Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

Accommodation

Here is the list of hotels that you can expect to stay in on tour, but this is only a guide. Please note that the tour operator may substitute similar properties at their discretion.

Rydges Auckland, Auckland



This first class hotel is centrally located in Auckland.

Millennium Hotel Rotorua, Rotorua



This superior first class hotel is located in the city of Rotorua, nearby the Polynesian Spa.

Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier



This first class hotel overlooks Hawke's Bay.

Rydges Wellington, Wellington



This first class hotel is located in downtown Wellington.

Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square, Christchurch



This superior first class hotel is situated in the city centre of Christchurch nearby Cathedral Square.

Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier, Franz Josef Glacier



This first class hotel is situated in Franz Josef Village.

Scenic Suites Queenstown Hotel, Queenstown



This superior first class hotel offers spectacular views of Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps.

Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas, Te Anau



This first class hotel overlooks Lake Te Anau and the Fiordland ranges.

For more information call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

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My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike other online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include whatever travel services that you want to pre-book.

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Affordable Holidays – How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you – that's My Travel Experience!

Book with Confidence!

New safety measures, more flexibility and greater peace of mind.

The wellbeing and safety of our passengers and staff is always a priority, especially as we adjust to a new world for travellers. My Travel Experience is committed to ensuring your peace of mind with customer-friendly booking practices and enhanced health & safety standards on our trips. We work closely with tour operators that have received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which enables travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols. We are also able to offer our clients as much flexibility as possible when making bookings, will let you know of all travel operator conditions and will help you if any unexpected situations arise.

See www.mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



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MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. Between 21-90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

RESERVATION CHANGES – APPLIES TO BOOKINGS UNTIL 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

We are looking forward to assisting with your travel arrangements in 2021.

As you may be aware, from time to time international borders and Australian regions do open and close on the advice of health departments due to COVID-19 virus outbreaks.

We understand it can be very distressing having holiday plans change at short notice. In these cases, we will do everything possible to alter your travel arrangements at the very least expense to you. In keeping with this, our office will lower our usual \$150 per person change fee and for a service fee of only \$50 per person will rebook and change any reservations to future dates.

This reduced fee, up to a maximum of \$150 per booking, goes towards the staff time and office expenses to rebook your holiday. It also guarantees that you will be looked after with care and attention, so that when it's safe to do so, you will be able to travel with confidence.

We appreciate that the change of date is through no fault of your own and that's why we have reduced our service fee. We thank you for your understanding regarding this matter.

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