

Discover Downunder®



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— Don't just DREAM it...SEE it!®

Wild New Zealand

13 Day Self Drive

2010-11

Day 1

Arrive Auckland

(OA)



Auckland

The main gateway city to New Zealand, Auckland is home to over one million people, more than one third of the country's population. Auckland sprawls for 30 miles over the narrow isthmus that separates its two harbors - Waitemata and Manukau. Auckland offers both sheltered and rugged surf beaches, a harbor dotted with islands, large farm-like parks, reserves, bush-clad ranges and a skyline clearly showing the remains of many of the 48 extinct volcanoes on which the city is built. Highlights include sailing, hiking, Sky Tower, western beaches and vineyards.

On arrival private transfer to accommodation.

Accom: First Class, **Auckland**

2 nts

Wilderness Experience

Only 30 kilometers from downtown Auckland are the Waitakere Ranges. Visit the Arataki Centre perched high on the ridge of the Ranges with views of both coasts and magnificent Maori carvings. We continue to KareKare beach, the location for the award winning movie "the Piano". where our guide will explain all about the fascinating local history, flora and fauna of the region and you get the opportunity to stroll on an unspoiled black sand beach. Our journey then takes us into dense rainforest, giant Tree Ferns and New Zealand's famous Kauri trees. Along the walk native birds and magnificent Waterfalls give our visitors a true insight and feel for our unspoiled native bush - a classic kiwi experience.

Included: inner city pickup and refreshments



Day 2

Tiritiri Matangi Day Tour



Get up close and personal with one of the world's most successful conservation projects - Tiritiri Matangi Island. See some of New Zealand's most endangered birds and rare wildlife in this open sanctuary. During the last 21 years almost half a million native trees have been planted allowing the re-introduction of 11 threatened native bird species. Guided walks provide expert commentary and lend context to both animal life and the historical and archaeological features of the island. Those with an interest in eco-tourism, indigenous history and early New Zealand will find this discovery of particular interest. Walking tracks and look-out points offer spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf.

Included: Cruise to/from the island, expert guided walk

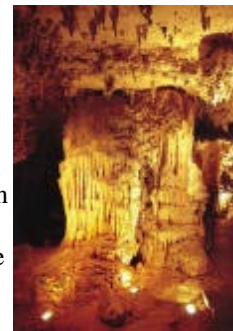
Day 3

Drive to **Waitomo**

The Waitomo glowworm, *Arachnocampa luminosa*, is unique to New Zealand. Thousands of these tiny creatures radiate their unmistakable luminescent light as our expert guides provide informative commentary on the Caves' historical and geological significance.

Over your 45 minute guided tour, you'll take in the spectacular Glowworm Cave with its majestic and ornate cave decorations, the deep limestone shaft known as the Tomo and the equally magnificent Cathedral cavern where New Zealand's own opera diva Kiri Te Kanawa once performed. Your tour guide will deliver an informative and entertaining commentary, sharing stories, cultural legends and the natural wonders of this living masterpiece.

Your visit concludes with a brief, yet remarkably moving, boat trip through the Glowworm Grotto.



Drive to **Rotorua**



Rotorua is the cultural center for the native Maori population and offers a chance to visit with and experience some of this culture first hand. It is also the in the heart of a geothermal region, site of several thermal reserves allowing for close up viewing of geysers, boiling water and mud pools. Rotorua is also home to many activities such as grade 5 white water rafting, zorbing, lugging mountain biking, hiking and fishing.

Located in a rich volcanic soil region, Rotorua provides opportunities to see a number of farming activities – The Agrodome - an entertaining show learning about sheep (you will see a few as

your travel throughout the country), watch sheep dogs demonstrate their skills and view the many unique native species of birds and animals for which New Zealand is so well known. This region is dotted with beautiful lakes, rugged volcanoes and lush rainforest.

Accom: First Class, Rotorua

2 nts

Day 4

Geothermal Wonderland Tour

Experience the amazing geothermal activity, gushing geysers, boiling mud pools and the many colors of every tint and hue displayed in pools, lakes, craters, steaming vents and mineral terraces of Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland.

Then enjoy the Waimangu Volcanic Valley nature walk amidst a stunning volcanic landscape with spectacular views of hot crater lakes,



steaming cliffs, hissing fumaroles, colorful silica terraces, rare thermally adapted plants and the opportunity to see some of NZ's native birdlife.

Duration ~ 4.5 hours walking time ~2 hours - distance 3kms

Suitable for most levels of fitness

Min 2 – max 10

Evening: **Maori Culture Performance**



Our cultural performance is real, raw and earthy. It is a fascinating performance full of emotion and power. In the tranquil natural bush setting, our performers take you back in time when the ancient Maori customs and traditions were part of everyday life. Through songs and dances plus tales and legends told, you will learn a great deal about our fascinating past.

You will hear tales about the way we interacted with the European settlers many generations ago, our music, carving, the usefulness of plants and ta moko (tattooing). Tattoos are just one of the ways that demonstrate the strong ties that Maori people have with their cultural heritage and we will explain why.

The displays of weaponry and combat that are shown during the performance will fascinate you. Coupled with the grace and beauty of the poi dance and the spine tingling haka finale, this is an interactive, and unforgettable experience for absolutely everyone

to enjoy.

Day 5 *Drive into Wellington*

Accom: First Class, Wellington

1 nt

Day 6 **Inter-Island Ferry**

The ~ three hour journey across Cook Strait, connects the North Island with the South Island, and is a true New Zealand experience. Depending on weather conditions this can be one of the more scenic crossings in the world. The Inter-islander is a year round passenger and car ferry service across Cook Strait.

Ships provide a wide range of onboard facilities and entertainment – including comfortable lounges and decks to enjoy the views.



Drive to Kaikoura

Kaikoura



A breathtakingly beautiful town, where towering snow-capped mountains touch the bluest of waters. It is here that you can see sperm whales and dolphin at such close range that you feel you could reach out and touch them.

Named for koura (crayfish), Kaikoura is definitely the place to sample the seafood. Locals eat the crayfish cold and it is absolutely delicious. Trekking, walking on black sand beaches, biking, seeing whales and dolphins are just a few of the highlights.

Accom: Kaikoura

2 nts

Day 7

Whale Watch Cruise

Every Whale Watch tour is a unique experience and the sightings vary. Giant Sperm Whales are the stars of the show and year-round residents. A typical Whale Watch tour may encounter New Zealand Fur Seals, pods of Dusky dolphins and the endangered Wandering Albatross. Depending on the season you may also see migrating Humpback Whales, Pilot Whales, Blue Whales and Southern Right Whales. Kaikoura often hosts the world's largest dolphin - the Orca - and is home to the world's smallest and rarest - the Hector's. Kaikoura also attracts the largest concentration and variety of seabirds on mainland New Zealand including 13 species of Albatross, 14 varieties of Petrels and 7 types of Shearwater.



Day 8

Drive to the West Coast



Between the Southern Alps and the Tasman Sea lies a narrow coastal strip, 600 kilometers long and only 50 kilometers wide. This area, known as the West Coast was originally settled by miners digging for rich mineral deposits. Greenstone (nephrite jade) is still worked by local craftsmen. Gillespie's Beach is home to a seal colony. Haast Pass is the lowest of the passes crossing the Southern Alps. The route is beautiful as the scenery changes from the rainforest of the coast to the grasslands of the east.

The Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers are located on the West Coast and are about 22 km apart. Both are great rivers of ice although the Franz Josef is much steeper than the Fox Glacier. Fox Glacier is the lowest glacier in the temperate regions. Excellent walking tracks provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the glaciers. Much of the southern region of the West Coast has been granted World Heritage status and this includes national parks, scenic reserves and the breeding grounds of the rare white heron.

Accom: West Coast

2 nts

Day 9

Guided Glacier Hike

Don't just DREAM it...SEE!!!

Walkers are kitted out with sturdy leather boots before boarding one of the historic buses for the short drive through the rainforest and into the glacial valley. Your guide will lead you on a walk beside the river bed to our secret track which zig-zags slowly uphill for thirty minutes through ferns and regenerating temperate rainforest. The route takes you onto the ice amongst crevasses and ice ridges and leads you onto the middle of the glacier for spectacular views of the icefall and lower glacier. At least one hour is spent on the ice and, depending on glacial conditions, you will return to the bus using either the same secret track or a different track that follows the edge of the ice.



Included: Guide, ground transport, boots and socks, crampons, raincoat, waterproof over trousers and alpenstock.

Day 10

Drive to Queenstown



Situated beside Lake Wakatipu at the foot of the Remarkables mountain range, Queenstown is the South Island's most popular resort and the base for excursions into the surrounding mountains and nearby fiords, including Milford sound. It is a place with great natural beauty that changes with the seasons. Whether the attraction

is the lake and sunshine in summer or snow clad mountains in winter. You'll quickly see why Queenstown is the place to visit!

Queenstown is also the adventure capital of New Zealand. It offers everything from skiing, jet boating, white water rafting, bungee jumping to scenic walks, wine tasting tours, golf courses, a scenic lake cruise to a farm, and a Gondola to ride to the top of Queenstown Hill.

Accom: First Class, Queenstown

3 nts

Day 11 **Milford Sound** **Fly/Cruise/Fly**

Fly from Queenstown Airport to Milford Sound. During the flight, passengers have panoramic views of spectacular alpine scenery, lush rainforest and finally, Milford Sound. Once on the ground at Milford Airport, visitors are transferred by coach to the luxury vessel for a cruise of the full length of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea. The vessel provides excellent viewing and there is plenty of time available to enjoy waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. A comprehensive commentary is provided throughout the cruise. Complimentary tea and coffee are available on board.



On returning to the Milford Wharf, visitors are taken by coach transfer to Milford Airport for the return sightseeing flight to Queenstown. On arrival at Queenstown Airport, you will be transferred back to your accommodation.

Note: All flights operate subject to weather.

Included: hotel transfers, flights to /from Milford and Queenstown, Cruise on Milford Sound, Lunch or Breakfast

Shotover Jet



Nothing you have experienced will have prepared you for "The World's most exciting Jet Boat ride!"

Hold on when your highly experienced professional driver puts your *Shotover Jet* through its paces... especially when the boat spins through a full 360 degrees at speed in its own length... or as it careers around the jagged rocky outcrops, missing them only by a hair's breadth!

It is all part of the exciting, yet safe 'Shotover Jet drive style' that's guaranteed to thrill!

Life jackets are mandatory and optional splash coats are provided by Shotover Jet. We recommend you wear gloves, hats and other warm apparel during winter.

Day 12 Free Day

Day 13 *Tour ends this morning*

Price includes cash/cheque discount. Please add back in 3% if paying by credit card.
Please ensure payment is made by due date to avoid cancellation and additional fees
Price subject to change until paid in full

Included:

Air: Additional

New Zealand: Auckland airport meet and transfer on arrival, Wilderness Experience, Auckland 2nts, Guided Island Bird Sanctuary visit, Car Rental Auckland to Queenstown, Waitomo Caves entry, Rotorua 2 nts, Geothermal wonderland, Maori Culture evening, Wellington 1 nt, Inter-Island Ferry, Kaikoura 2nts, Whale watch, West Coast 2 nts, Guided Glacier Hike, Queenstown 3 nts, Milford Sound Day Tour, Shotover Jetboat.

Additional:

Any items not specifically mentioned in “Included”.

Notes:

(OA) = own arrangements

Price is subject to change including fluctuations in the US\$ until paid in full

We strongly advise Travel Insurance

Note: Most travel insurance options include additional benefits when purchasing within 7days of deposit.

Please note: Reservations are on a reconfirmation basis and have NOT been requested. Good faith price quote is subject to change pending confirmation of reservations and until full payment is received in this office. Requests can begin once the deposit has been received.

Valid passport required for International Travel.
New Zealand departure tax nz\$25 required when leaving.

Don't just DREAM it...SEE !!!

Significant penalties will be incurred for changes made once ticketed.

Thank you for traveling with

Discover Downunder®

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Tahi Inc. acts as an agent in securing air and land arrangements and their liability is limited to the terms of the tickets. Tahi Inc. is not liable for expenses incurred due to delays or changes caused by weather or other acts of God, or in the event of strikes, quarantine, war, aircraft delays or mechanical failure. Tahi Inc. cannot assume any responsibility for flight, tour or activity delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom; such expenses shall be born by the passenger. The passage contract in use by the airlines or local operator concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline or local operator and passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which these services are rendered.

RESERVATIONS AGREEMENT

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY - WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND TRAVEL INSURANCE

Deposit/Acceptance

A **non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person** is required within 7 days of reservation to begin requesting and holding bookings. Payment of the deposit constitutes acceptance of all terms listed in this agreement.

Please read carefully.

Final Payment

Full payment is due *no later than 45* days prior to departure. Some products may require earlier payment; you will be advised of this. **Prices are subject to change until full payment has been received by this office.** If payment has not been received 45 days prior to departure, booking will auto cancel and full cancellation charges will apply. When full payment has been received prior to 45 days, documents are scheduled to be sent out or ready for collection 30 days prior to departure. Documents will be expressed to clients (an additional **\$15** fee) unless prior arrangements have been made. Personal checks will not be accepted for payment within **16** days of departure. A **\$30** fee will be charged for returned checks. In the event of a late booking and hence late payment (within 45 days) – delivery of documents will also be delayed.

Rush Bookings

We are pleased to make client bookings at any time. However, a **\$30** levy will apply to bookings received **15** days or less prior to departure, additional fees may apply. Please note however, due to time constraints, a higher level of flexibility will be required as initial choices may be unavailable.

Amendments

An amendment is any change, addition or cancellation. After confirmation has been received, a **\$15** per item amendment fee applies each time an itinerary is amended. After documents have been prepared, and for amendments made within 30 days prior to departure, a minimum \$30 per item amendment fee applies.

Insurance

All passengers are **strongly urged** to take out adequate insurance coverage to protect themselves against cancellation/changes for whatever reason prior to or during travel. Please refer to the section: Cancellation.

Cancellation

A minimum \$200 charge per person **plus** any charges levied by airlines and suppliers, will be incurred if there is a cancellation after bookings have begun. Certain airfares and properties and operators have higher cancellation penalties; these will be assessed at the time of cancellation. Cancellations within **14 days of travel** through departure will incur a 100% cancellation fee. Cancellations after departure date, will incur a 100% cancellation fee. *Please refer to the section: Insurance, to avoid further disappointment.*

Pricing

Prices are contracted for in advance and are subject to currency fluctuations, changes in local taxes and increases by suppliers. While every effort is made to keep prices highly competitive; we have no control over local specials and in-country discounts that may be available for limited periods of time. We are **unable to reimburse for any price differences as a result. Itemization of costs cannot be given.**

Refund Policy

Notification of refunds, if relevant, must be received in this office within 1 month of returning to the USA. Request for refunds received after 1 month of returning to the USA will be considered invalid. Requests must be made in writing and be submitted with unused vouchers. A **US\$30 per person** handling fee will apply **in addition** to any cancellation fees plus penalties charged by the individual operators. There are no refunds for package tours.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for refunds after **correct** documentation has been received by this office.

Please check documents carefully upon receiving them. It is much easier to make corrections, if necessary, before you have departed on your travels.