

DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown, Milford Sound & more



Follow in the footsteps of Captain Cook as you voyage between the North and South islands on this spectacular, once in a life time journey. Discover the ancient Kauri tree in enchanted forests, enjoy stunning alpine vistas by rail, wonder at thermal Geysers in the Pacific Rim of Fire, and experience Maori culture and cuisine. New Zealand truly is one of the most sublimely beautiful destinations on the planet and this comprehensive escorted tour includes the very best it has to offer.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to New Zealand. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAYS 1-2: UK to Auckland

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Auckland, via Dubai.

DAY 3: Auckland

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel, which is centrally located in the beautiful harbour-side city of Auckland, "The City of Sails".

DAY 4: Auckland to Bay of Islands B/D

Following breakfast, journey north to the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve – one of New Zealand's most famous Kauri forests. Here visit Tane Mahuta or 'Lord of the Forest', the largest and most celebrated Kauri tree known to stand today. Continue to the stunning turquoise waters of the Bay of Islands where Captain Cook, the first European settler arrived back in 1769 and forged the first relationships with local Maori. This evening, enjoy a special welcome dinner.

DAY 5: Bay of Islands B

The Bay of Islands is home to 144 islands providing a stunning aquatic playground off the north coast of the North Island. Enjoy a day at leisure to explore the idyllic subtropical surrounds.

DAY 6: Bay of Islands to Auckland B/D

Today you will travel to explore New Zealand's finest maritime park on a cruise to Cape Brett around the captivating coastline which provides sheltered waters for dolphins, whales, seals penguins and other marine life. Then, continue to the Hole in the Rock, a distinctive sandstone arch formation, which defines this remarkable coast. Later, return to Auckland.

DAY 7: Auckland to Rotorua B/D

This morning, travel to Waitomo, home of the famous glowworm caves where thousands of tiny luminescent creatures radiate an unmistakable glow. Continue on to the geothermal capital of New Zealand, Rotorua to visit Te Puia – New Zealand's premiere cultural centre and enjoy a tour of the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute. Later head over to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley and witness the phenomenal natural spectacle of erupting geysers and bubbling mud pools. The day will close with a Maori Hangi Feast along with a wonderful cultural dance performance.

DAY 8: Rotorua B

After breakfast at the hotel continue your sightseeing with a visit to one of New Zealand's best-loved attractions, the agrodome, with its

entertaining sheep shearing demonstration, dog trials and animal nursery. Enjoy an optional helicopter flight for views over the active white island volcano. Alternatively experience life on the land with a special overnight Country Homestay, where you can enjoy warm hospitality, home-cooked meals and gain a real insight into rural New Zealand life (both at an additional cost).

DAY 9: Rotorua to Wellington B

Departing Rotorua after breakfast, travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway through a region abundant with geothermal activity, crystal-clear lakes, natural spas and rich Maori culture. Visit Lake Taupo – the largest freshwater lake in Australasia and thundering Huka Falls with its striking blue water. Later, travel south across the vast volcanic plateau of World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park en route to Wellington, the nation's capital, where you will spend the evening.

DAY 10: Wellington to Christchurch B/D

This morning, enjoy one of the world's most scenic voyages as the Interislander ferry traverses Cook Strait though the breath-taking Marlborough and Queen Charlotte Sounds to the seaside port of Picton. Once in Picton, enjoy a spectacular scenic drive as you continue to Kaikoura, famed for whale watching and nestled at the foot of majestic mountains. Later, arrive in Christchurch and settle in your hotel before dinner.

DAY 11: Christchurch to Fox Glacier B/D

Today you have the option to take one of the

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world's most scenic rail journeys aboard the TranzAlpine Train (pre book at a fee) – crossing the Canterbury Plains and up into the Southern Alps to Arthur's Pass. Alternatively travel by coach where you can sit back and enjoy the vistas as you journey through this captivating landscape. Continue along the coast and through rainforest to Westland National Park home to the twin glaciers of Fox and Franz Josef, whose magnificent rivers of ice can be seen cascading down through the lush rainforests.

DAY 12: Fox Glacier to Queenstown B

This morning, travel through the spectacular Haast Pass, skirting the tranquil shores of lakes Wanaka and Hawea to the alpine resort of Queenstown on Lake Wakatipu. Delicious food is always on the menu in Queenstown as it is renowned for its world-class culinary scene. This evening, during time at leisure, you may like to dine at one of the many local restaurants located within the heart of the city.

DAY 13: Queenstown B

Today you have the freedom to simply relax on one of many exciting optional activities. You may wish to board the 1912 Edwardian vintage steamer for a relaxing cruise to Walter Peak Station or perhaps take a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for spectacular panoramic views over Queenstown. Alternatively you may choose to set off in the Central Otago region independently – one of New Zealand's world renowned wine producing areas (all at own expense).

DAY 14: Queenstown to Te Anau B/D

Departing in the morning, journey past The Remarkables mountain range and Lake Wakatipu to Fiordland National Park, a vast remote wilderness and the heart of New Zealand's World Heritage Area. Next continue along the Milford Road, thought to be one of the world's best alpine

drives, to Milford Sound a magnificent fiord where you will enjoy a cruise with views of cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest and sheer cliffs.

DAY 15: Te Anau to Dunedin B/D

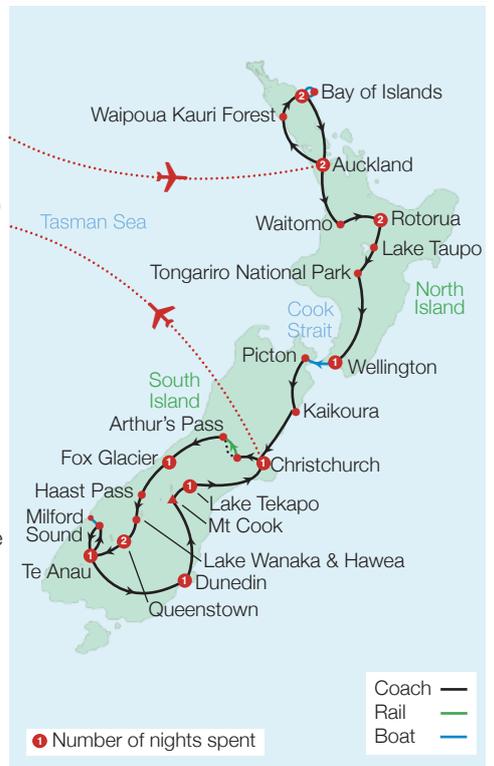
Leaving the Fiordland region, travel through rolling Southland countryside before arriving in Dunedin to enjoy a tour taking in the city's most significant landmarks. Later, head to the nearby hills to the supposedly haunted Lanarch Castle, New Zealand's only castle, filled with magnificent antiques and offering breath-taking views of the surrounding area.

DAY 16: Dunedin to Lake Tekapo B/D

Travel along the east coast to see the Moeraki Boulders - large spherical stones formed over 60 million years ago. Continue to Oamaru to see some of New Zealand's finest 19th century Victorian architecture then continue into Mt Cook National Park to view Australasia's highest mountain, Aoraki. Arrive at your hotel, situated on the shores of Lake Tekapo for a farewell dinner.

DAY 17: Lake Tekapo & Christchurch to the UK or extension B

Following breakfast your group will visit the tiny church of Good Shepherd, which was built as a tribute to the region's early pioneers and is arguably one of the most photographed in the whole of New Zealand. Your tour concludes on arrival in Christchurch airport for your return flight back to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.



Your hotels

- Auckland (2 nights):** 4★ Rydges Auckland Hotel - 59 Federal Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 9-375 5900
- Bay of Islands (2 nights):** 4★ Copthorne Hotel and Resort - Tau Henare Drive, PO Box 150, Paihia, 0200, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 9 402 7411
- Rotorua (2 nights):** 4★ Rydges Rotorua - 272 Fenton St, Glenholme, Rotorua 3010, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 7-349 0099
- Wellington (1 night):** 4★ Ibis Wellington Hotel - 153 Featherston Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 4-496 1880
- Christchurch (1 night):** 4★ Quality Elms Hotel - 456 Papanui Rd, Papanui, Christchurch 8542, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 3-355 3577
- Fox Glacier (1 night):** 4★ Heartland Hotel - 11 Cook Flat Rd, Fox Glacier 7886, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 3-751 0839
- Queenstown Lakeview (2 nights):** 4★ Copthorne Hotel & Apartments - 88 Frankton Road, Queenstown, 9300. Contact number: 0064 3 442 7950
- Te Anau (1 night):** 4★ Kingsgate Hotel - 20 Lakefront Drive, Te Anau 9600, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 3-249 7421
- Dunedin (1 night):** 4★ Scenic Hotel - 123 Princes St, Dunedin, 9016, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 3-470 1470
- Lake Tekapo (1 night):** 4★ Peppers Bluewater Resort - State Highway 8, Lake Tekapo 7945, New Zealand. Contact number: 0064 3-680 7000

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating, TV and coffee making facilities. All hotels have been visited and inspected by Travelmarvel by APT (a representative of Mercury Holidays) to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch where stated will be taken in local restaurants, with dinner where stated at your hotel or at a local restaurant.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Auckland you will be met by a representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: Travelmarvel by APT. The Travelmarvel by APT representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Travelmarvel by APT

Suite 4, Level 1
20 Augustus Terrace
Parnell
Auckland
Contact number: 0064 9302 5780
E-mail address: info@travelmarvel.co.nz

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for APT
Telephone number
0064 9302 5780

Visas

British passport holders are not required to obtain a visa in order to travel to New Zealand. Further visa advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you to check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding required passport validity.

Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 24 days cover	£48	£94	£146

Prices are for worldwide insurance, excluding the USA. For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. If you have an existing policy with another company, please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible.

Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour. A Tour Leader will be with you on your trip starting in Auckland on Day 3 ending back to Christchurch on Day 17. Transfers will be provided by a local English speaking guide. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

During your Discover New Zealand tour tipping is not included and is at your discretion.

Health and Vaccinations

It is strongly recommended that you check the latest health recommendations for travel to New Zealand with your GP at least 4-6 weeks before travel. We suggest it is worth taking a few first aid supplies such as travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic cream, aspirin etc. Because these products can be more expensive abroad and familiar brands are not always available. If your visit is between April and September, you should also take mosquito repellent.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. **This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.**

Group Size

The maximum number of travellers in your group will 48. If in the unlikely event there are less than recommended people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar. Therefore, it is very important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash

machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any lunches and dinners where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £100-£200 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour, depending on how much of a bargain-hunter you are!

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

What to Pack

- Sunscreen and hat
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the electricity in New Zealand is 230 volts and is a 3 flat pin plug
- Leave plenty of space in your case for shopping

Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Auckland with Emirates (EK), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 3.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Heathrow - Dubai	22:00	08:45	6 hours 55 minutes	EK06
Dubai - Auckland*	10:15	13:45	18 hours 5 minutes	EK406
Christchurch - Dubai*	16:55	06:05	19 hours 5 minutes	EK419
Dubai - Heathrow	07:45	11:35	8 hours	EK01

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

*Please note: the flight from Dubai to Auckland touches down in Sydney and the flight from Christchurch to Dubai touches down in both Sydney and Bangkok.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 7kg. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

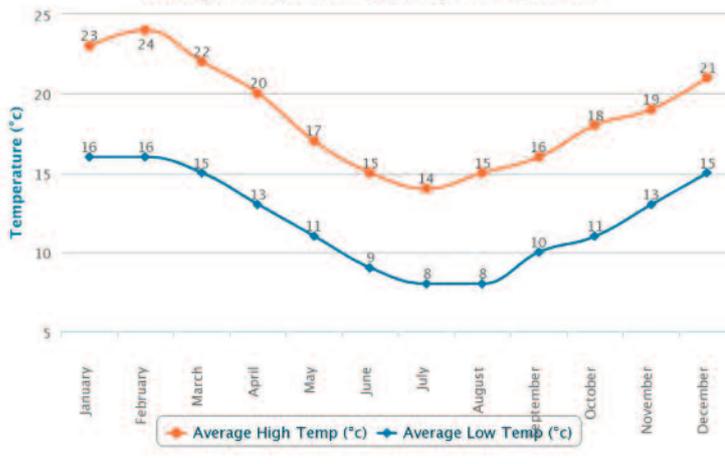
Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

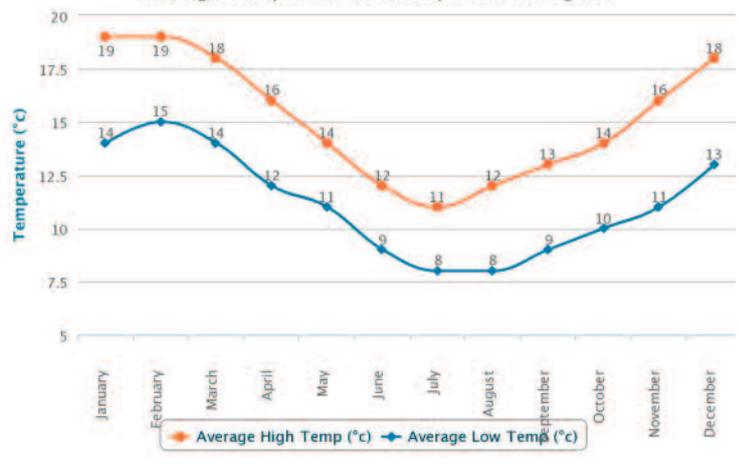
Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

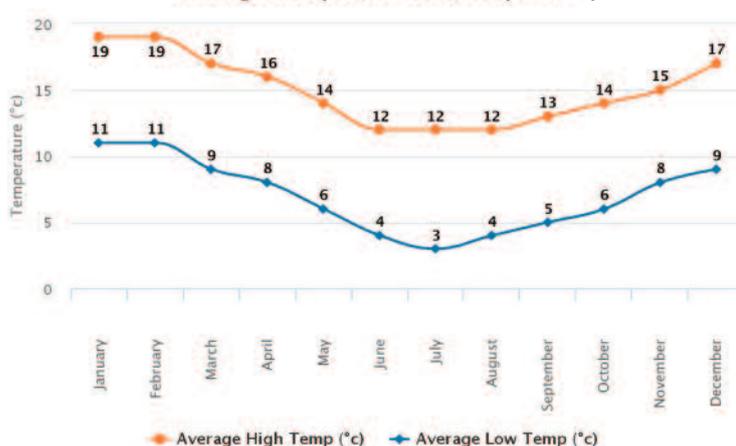
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Auckland



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Wellington



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Queenstown



DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND SYDNEY EXTENSION



Sydney is one of Australia's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Uncover Australia's fascinating pioneer history in The Rocks, marvel at the iconic harbour or explore one of its many sun-drenched beaches, perfect for a dip or a stroll. Your 3 night stay provides the opportunity to explore this city further.

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your stopover in Sydney.

Sydney

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and one of Australia's largest cities and is best known for its harbourfront Opera House, with a distinctive sail-like design.

Massive Darling Harbour and Circular Quay are hubs of waterside life, with the towering, arched Harbour Bridge and esteemed Royal Botanic Gardens nearby.

Sydney Tower's 268m glass viewing platform, the Skywalk, offers 360-degree views of the city, harbour and suburbs.

Hotel

Your stay will take place at one of the following:

3★ The Savoy Double Bay Hotel on Bed & Breakfast

4 1/2★ Oaks Goldsbrough Apartments on Bed & Breakfast

Any alternative hotels will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Hotel Information

3★ The Savoy Double Bay Hotel - 41-45 Knox Street, Double Bay NSW 2028, Australia. Tel: 0061 2 9326 1411

4 1/2★ Oaks Goldsbrough Apartments - 243 Pyrmont St, Darling Harbour NSW 2009, Australia. Tel: +61 2 9518 5166

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches, dinners and personal purchases.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Sydney is not escorted by a tour guide. However, all internal transfers are included.

Visas

Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required by all nationalities before travel. Available through our Reservations Department at a cost of £22pp

Currency

The currency in Australia is the Australian Dollar.

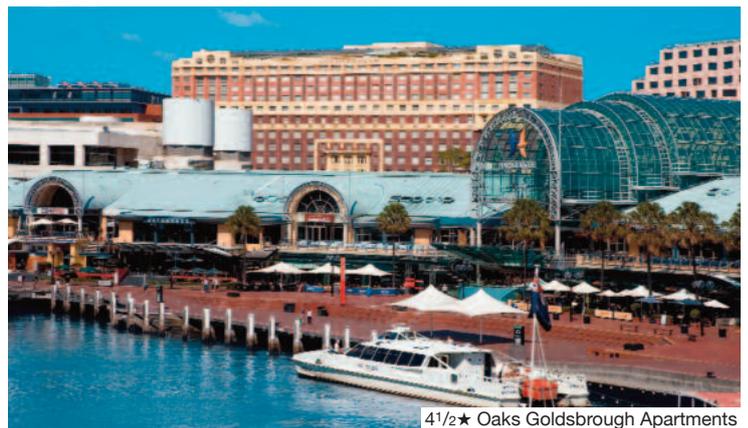
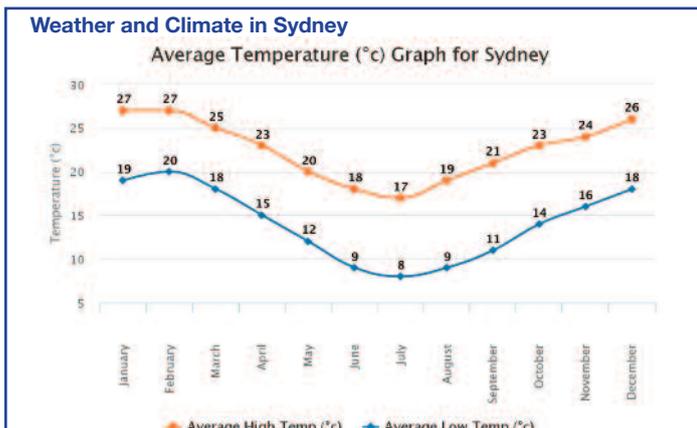
Flight Information

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Christchurch - Sydney	16:55	18:15	3 hours 30 minutes	EK419
Sydney - Dubai	21:45	05:20	4 hours 40 minutes	EK413
Dubai - Heathrow	07:45	11:35	8 hours	EK01

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 7kg. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.



4 1/2★ Oaks Goldsbrough Apartments

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723