



**NEW ZEALAND
ROAD TRIP**

14-Day Best of NZ



14-DAY BEST OF NEW ZEALAND SELF DRIVE TOUR

This itinerary is packed with geothermal hotspots, cultural immersion, outdoor adventures, native wildlife, and scenic wonderment.

LOCATIONS VISITED – NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND

In just two weeks, the tour takes you through Auckland, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Blenheim, Greymouth, the Glacier region, Queenstown, Mount Cook, Tekapo, and Christchurch, providing a world of different experiences in one trip.



DAY 1

Arrive Auckland

Upon arrival, collect your rental vehicle and self drive to your accommodation. Auckland is New Zealand's largest city, set between two harbours with gentle sandy shores on the east coast and black sand, wild surf beaches on the west coast. Home to sheltered, sparkling blue waters dotted with beautiful emerald islands, we recommend getting out on the water when you are here. Overnight:
Auckland

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

~~Auckland Sky Tower~~
~~Orbit Restaurant Sky Tower~~
Auckland Harbour Dinner Cruise
Weta Workshop Unleashed Tour



DAY 2

Auckland - Waitomo - Hobbiton - Rotorua

Journey through the rolling green hills of Waitomo and enjoy a tour through an underground wonderland of caves decorated with galaxies of glowworms. Continue to Matamata for a charming tour of unique, character Hobbit homes, gardens and the watering hole just as you see in the movies. Finishing off a visually fulfilling day, continue on to Rotorua, a bubbling and steaming destination like nowhere else.

Overnight: Rotorua

Auckland-Waitomo: 195km (approx 2hrs, 30mins)

Waitomo-Matamata: 102km (approx 1hr, 20mins)

Matamata-Rotorua: 67km (approx 55mins)

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Waitomo Glowworm Caves Guided Tour
Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

DAY 3

Rotorua

Rotorua is surrounded by a fascinating geothermal landscape with its unique steam vents, spouting geysers and bubbling mud pool set alongside freshwater lakes and majestic native forests. It is also a region immersed in fascinating Maori myths and legends. Late afternoon you'll visit one of the local geothermal attractions for a guided tour through the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute, the Kiwi Conservation Centre and the geothermal valley. Then enjoy a Hangi Dinner overlooking the valley and geyser, followed by a 40 minute cultural performance. The evening culminates with hot chocolate and pudding on the geyser terrace. Overnight: Rotorua

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Te Ra/Te Po Combo (Guided + Evening Experience)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Hell's Gate Experience - Walk + Mud Bath and Spas
Secret Spot Hot Tubs



DAY 4

Rotorua - Napier

There's a bit of everything on today's drive past Great Lake Taupo to Napier. Your scenic journey includes volcanic geography, fresh forest plantations, rugged hills, beautiful valleys, gentle plains and huge vistas.

Following an earthquake in 1931, a rebuild saw Napier completely redesigned in the style of the times. Buildings were constructed in the Art Deco style with Maori motifs to give the city a unique New Zealand character. Today, the delightful seaside city of Napier has the extraordinary feeling of a time capsule with its seamless line of some of the world's finest 1930's architecture. Enjoy a guided tour of Napier's unique history and architecture. Overnight: Napier

Rotorua - Napier: 220km (approx 3hrs)

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Art Deco Afternoon Walk





DAY 5

Napier - Wellington

Today's travel south may be via the spectacular Manawatu Gorge or through the beautiful Tuki Tuki Valley and Wairarapa Wine region to reach Wellington. Set between a sparkling harbour and rolling green hills the compact city of Wellington is best explored on foot. Great shopping, arts culture, cafes and restaurants are all within minutes of the city's untouched nature spots. Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum offers FREE admission but you might like to include a guided tour for a greater insight into New Zealand's rich history and culture.

Overnight: Wellington

Napier - Wellington: 320km (approx 4hrs,30mins)

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Te Papa Museum of New Zealand

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Zealandia by Night Tour



DAY 6

Wellington - Picton - Blenheim

New Zealand's North and South Islands are separated by three hours of sensational scenery and ocean fresh air. Departing Wellington, your ship will ferry you across the Cook Strait, past the beautiful beaches, bays and coves of the Marlborough Sounds to the historic port town of Picton. With its rugged mountain ranges and fertile plains, Marlborough has a lot to offer with its water, wilderness and wine. A short drive takes you to the compact town centre of Blenheim. Overnight:

Blenheim



Picton - Blenheim: 30km (approx 30mins)

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

North to South Island Ferry Crossing



DAY 7

Blenheim - Kaikoura - Christchurch

The Pacific Coast Road to Christchurch presents one of New Zealand's most dramatic drives with breath-taking mountains on one side and wild pounding ocean on the other. The seaside settlement of Kaikoura is set midway and overlooked by majestic mountains. The unique marine geography at this location provides the perfect environment for Sperm Whales and other marine life. On to Christchurch, a vibrant, ever-changing city with inner city parks and gardens delightfully interwoven by the meandering Avon River. Overnight: Christchurch



Blenheim - Christchurch: 309km (approx 4hrs)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Whale Watch Tour - Ocean Cabin
Dolphin Encounter Swim



DAY 8

Christchurch - Greymouth

Depart across the Canterbury Plains, a fertile patchwork made with every shade of green, through the spectacular scenery of Arthurs Pass National Park and on to the West Coast. New Zealand's rugged West Coast is a wild and untamed place known for its rivers, rainforests, glaciers and geological treasures. Here, mighty rivers of solid white ice, relics of the world's last ice-age, tumble down the rocky valleys.

Overnight: Greymouth



Christchurch - Greymouth: 240km (approx 3.5 hrs)



DAY 9

Greymouth - Glacier Region

A temperate climate at a low altitude makes Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers among the most convenient to visit in the world. Steep valleys bear scars from where glaciers have retreated and advanced over millennia and here, the ice age is still underway. For an absolute bucket list experience, add a scenic flight with a glacier landing and a thrilling hike to your itinerary. Overnight: Glacier Region

Greymouth – Glacier Region: 175-195km (approx 2.5-3hrs)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Punakaiki Rocks and Blowholes



DAY 10

Glacier Region - Queenstown

Travel through wilderness towns, waterfalls and river scenery on today's scenic journey to Queenstown. We recommend stopping for a break, and to stretch the legs, at Makarora's Blue Pools. After settling in at your Queenstown accommodation, make your way to the Skyline Base for a Gondola Ride to the top of Bob's Peak and enjoy some spectacular panoramic views high above Queenstown. You might also like to add some Luge rides to your bucket list for some extra fun.

Overnight: Queenstown



Queenstown - Glacier Region: 330-350km (approx 4.5-5hrs)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Franz Josef Glacier Heli-Hike
Original Onsen Exclusive Indoor Pool



DAY 11

Queenstown

Magnificent vistas and majestic mountains dominate this compact alpine resort town and with such an expansive natural physical environment it is not surprising that Queenstown has been described as the Adventure Capital of the World. Overnight: Queenstown

We recommend you let someone else do the driving so you can enjoy the scenery on an optional day tour to Milford Sound (not included in tour cost).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES



Shotover Jetboat Ride
Glacier Express Heli Flight 50mins



DAY 12

Queenstown - Mt Cook/Tekapo Region

Today's journey takes you to a scenic wonderland with golden tussocks, snow-capped mountains and turquoise lakes. Hug the shores of beautiful Lake Pukaki to a rugged land of ice and rock, home to Aoraki Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. Overnight: Tekapo or Mt Cook

Queenstown - Tekapo/Mt Cook: 256-266km (approx 3hrs,15mins)





DAY 13

Mt Cook/Tekapo Region - Christchurch

Today you'll enjoy admission to the Darky Sky Project for a greater understanding of the night sky. Be sure to stop for a while at Lake Tekapo where the 'Church of the Good Shepherd' takes pride of place against the backdrop of a vivid blue glacier-fed lake. Then continue north east where braided rivers and familiar plains will signal your arrival back into Christchurch. Make a visit to the International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch either today or tomorrow for an icy insight into this astounding continent. Overnight: Christchurch

Tekapo/Mt Cook - Christchurch :220-330km (approx 3-4hrs)
INCLUDED ACTIVITES

Dark Sky Experience
Antarctic Centre



DAY 14

Christchurch

Arrangements conclude today with the return of your rental car to Christchurch Airport.

Please Note

- (i) Rental Car "Days" are based on a 24 hour hire. Early arrivals into and/or late departures out of New Zealand may necessitate a longer hire period.
- (ii) Adding Optional Tours may necessitate an additional nights' stay in that location.





If you want to spend additional time exploring New Zealand, we recommend checking out our extensive selection of [day tours](#) or all of our [New Zealand self drive tours](#).





INCLUDED IN THIS ROAD TRIP

13 Day Rental Car Hire with zero or reduced excess liability

13 Nights Accommodation - First Class Hotels, Superior Hotels, Standard Hotels

Waitomo Glowworm Caves

Hobbiton Movie Set Tour

Te Ra Guided Day Tour

Te Po Evening Cultural Experience

Art Deco ~~Afternoon~~ Walk

Te Papa Museum of New Zealand

North to South Island ferry crossing

Skyline Gondola Queenstown

Dark Sky Experience

International Antarctic Centre

NEW ZEALAND TOUR PACKAGES

- **NEW ZEALAND GUIDED TOURS**
- **NEW ZEALAND COACH TOURS**
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