

## DAY 1

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### Auckland Airport to Auckland City Hotel

Duration 30 Minutes

### Heritage Auckland Hotel

The Heritage Auckland is an ideal place to stay for both leisure and business travelers. The hotel is positioned overlooking Waitemata Harbour in the heart of Auckland's business district. The hotel is within walking distance of the city's many attractions, including the Sky Tower Casino, the shops of Queen Street and Auckland city's finest cafes and restaurants. It includes two distinctive accommodation wings, The Hotel (reflects delightful ornate touches carefully preserved from the building's past) and The Tower (offers a more contemporary design). They are connected by a walkway enabling guests to access the range of facilities available. Both have their own entrance and reception areas.

Meal Plan Room Only - Best Available Room only Rate

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation Heritage Auckland Hotel

## DAY 2

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### Best of Both Worlds

Experience the best sights of Auckland City in the morning combined with an afternoon Wilderness Experience - a day of contrasts. Auckland is set on 52 dormant volcanic cones and between two harbours, the sparkling Waitemata and the brooding Manukau. Known as the City of Sails, it's New Zealand's largest and busiest city. The morning tour is a journey of discovery designed to explore the history and sights as well as see how Aucklanders live and play.

A 30 minute drive from downtown Auckland brings you to the Arataki Centre, the gateway to the rain forest, where the sweeping decks give breathtaking panoramic views from the Tasman Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Absorb the local history and admire the traditional Maori carvings that stand guard there. Head further west and experience the power of the wild and rugged west coast. Feel the black sand beneath your feet as you stroll along some of the most awe-inspiring beaches the world has to offer.

With your knowledgeable and experienced guide, your eco-tour continues on to the lush rain forest where you hear native birdsong as you walk the easy bush tracks amongst New Zealand's famous kauri trees and giant tree ferns.

Duration 8 Hours

## DAY 3

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### Auckland to Rotorua via Hobbiton

Travel south from Auckland over the Bombay Hills to the rich farmland of the Waikato region. Your journey takes you through undulating green hills signaling that you are approaching The Shire. Your Bush and Beach guide will

give you commentary on the way to Hobbiton with insights into the areas you are travelling through, along with some background to the movies.

On arrival at Shire's Rest you embark on your Hobbiton Movie Set tour. This location is the largest "green set" in the world and the only part of the set remaining in New Zealand. You see 44 hobbit holes, the Mill and double arch bridge, and the party tree. At this stunning location, you can take a photo at the gate to Bilbo's house, "Bag End", looking out over the whole set to the hills in the distance.

The tour ends with a visit to the Green Dragon Inn for a drink. Enjoy time in the Hobbiton gift shop and the opportunity to spend your souvenir voucher before joining the shuttle and heading to Rotorua.

Duration 6 Hours

Regent of Rotorua

An oasis of understated hip contemporary elegance and comfort amidst the exciting attractions and experiences Rotorua has to offer. Step out of the calm of your gorgeous room or suite and stroll to the vibrant restaurant zone or lakefront area or simply stay in, relax and savor the luxury facilities.

Meal Plan Room Only - Best Available Rate Room Only

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation Regent of Rotorua

#### DAY 4

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##### Elite Rotorua Eco Thermal Full Day Tour

The morning tour departs daily between 8:00-8:30 a.m. from your accommodation and drives you through forestry and farmland to New Zealand's largest boiling mud pool. Your guide shows you a series of colourful hot springs and volcanic features at Wai-O-Tapu. Around 10.15 a.m. head over to see the Lady Knox geyser eruption.

Next, we take you on a short drive to the Waimangu Volcanic Valley where your guide explains the Mt. Tarawera eruption which blew open this spectacular, bush covered, geothermal park! Learn about Maori customs, traditions, history and protocols new and old, with a guided tour to Te Puia, Rotorua's premier cultural centre.

Spend the afternoon experiencing Rotorua's Maori culture and geothermal activity and see how they are intricately entwined. First, a guided tour through Te Puia, Rotorua's premier cultural attraction. This includes a visit to the wood carving school, art and craft gallery, Rotowhio Marae, weaving display, kiwi house and the Pohutu geyser.

Next we visit the Lakefront area to see the Maori War Canoe and learn more about Maori history and customs. We briefly visit Kuirau Park to view a recent geothermal eruption site. Finish your day visiting the pristine and tranquil lakes of our amazing volcanic region, including views of Mount Tarawera with explanation of volcanic and Maori history

Duration 8 Hours

##### Evening Experience - Winter Matakiri at Tamaki Maori Village

This evening, you will engage in an immersive experience blending the best in Maori culture and cuisine. Tonight, participate in a heart-warming ritual and the mystical ceremony of the umu kohukohu while feasting on delicious

and nourishing seasonal kai (cuisine). Crackling bonfires in the native tawa forest and cozy whare (houses) are the intimate backdrop to Tu Te Ihi.

Upon arrival at the village, a torch-lined path leads you to a candle-lit wharekai for a sumptuous four-course hakari (feast). Feel amazed as the mementos of Aotearoa history and eras, as well as the warm whanau (family) vibe intensify the spirit of hakari. Your winter forest kai morsels have been designed by award-winning Maori chefs, and they may include local delicacies like spit-roasted tuna (native eel), mugs of steaming hot pork and watercress boil up, creamed paua on rewena crostini, foraged greens, chunks of smoked kahawai with lashings of basil sauce and corn husk wrapped kumara kept warm in ashes.

Duration 4 Hours

## DAY 5

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Rotorua Hotel to Airport

Duration 30 Minutes

Queenstown Domestic Airport to Queenstown Hotels - Private

Duration 30 Minutes

Heritage Queenstown

The Heritage Queenstown offers enchanting views of Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkable Mountain Range. A short distance from the town centre, this unique European style lodge is surrounded by native forest in the heart of New Zealand's alpine wonderland. Crafted from centuries old schist and cedar, The Heritage Queenstown is the perfect place to relax in comfortable yet sophisticated surroundings. The Heritage offers a choice of 178 luxury rooms, including traditional deluxe hotel accommodation and spacious 1 or 2 bedroom Suites. Each room is thoughtfully decorated, featuring individual touches which reflect unique high country origins.

Meal Plan Room Only - Best available room only rate

Duration 3 Nights

Accommodation Heritage Queenstown

## DAY 6

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Discover Milford Sound Coach Cruise Coach incl Lunch

Depart Queenstown and take a luxurious coach ride along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and Lake Te Anau. These tranquil lakes are crystal clear and reflect the surrounding mountains. The driver's compelling commentary will keep you informed and entertained throughout.

Enter Fiordland National Park and pass through Eglington Valley, one of the only road-accessible glacier valleys in New Zealand. Take the opportunity to capture some memorable shots of the Mirror Lakes or the ancient alpine forests as you get closer to Milford Sound. The glass-roof coach will give you sensational views of the peaks soaring above you while you cross the Main Divide of the Southern Alps. Make a stop at Monkey Creek and drink some of the freshest water in the world before venturing through the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km tunnel drilled into

solid rock. After the Homer Tunnel, then experience The Chasm, a short but impressive walk over footbridges spanning a series of powerful, swirling waterfalls and rapids, before arriving at the fiord.

Next, board the most luxurious catamaran in Milford Sound to explore the spectacular fiord. Venture out to the Tasman Sea while cruising past tumbling waterfalls, glacier-scarred rock walls and lush rainforests. Keep an eye out for wildlife species such as seals, penguins and dolphins and get a glimpse of Mitre Peak. A tasty picnic lunch will keep you filled on board.

Duration        12 Hours

#### DAY 7

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##### Day at Leisure

Today is totally free and at leisure. You can take advantage of any optional activities available or simply relax.

#### DAY 8

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##### Queenstown City Hotel to Queenstown Airport

Duration        30 Minutes