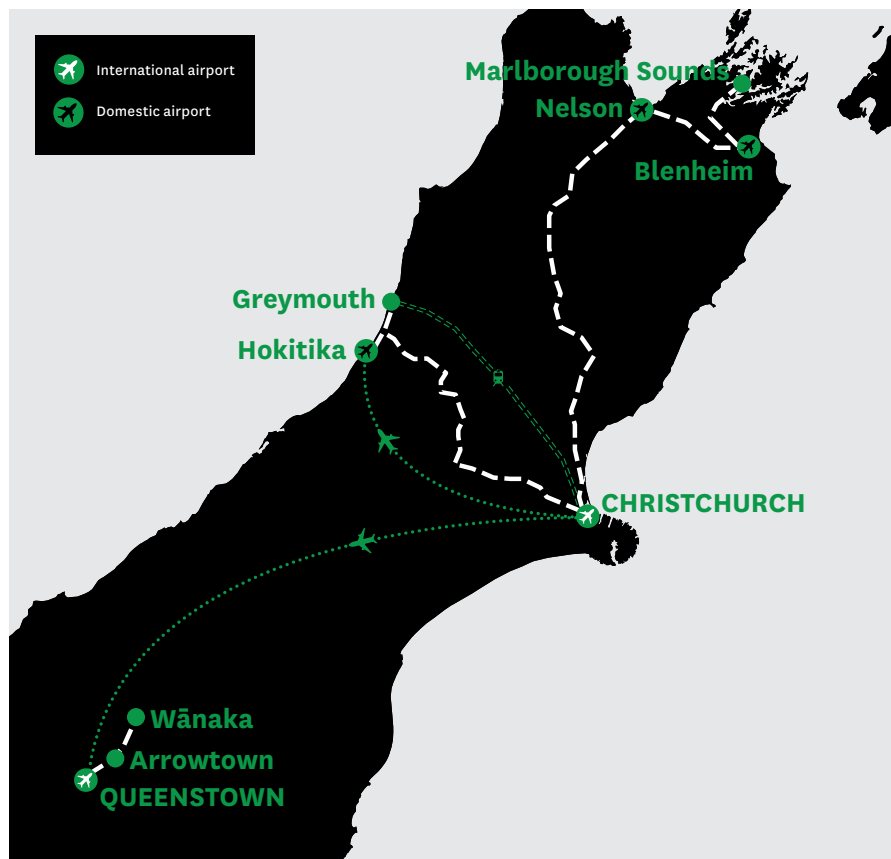


VIBRANT ADVENTURES AND UNEXPECTED THRILLS

Marlborough to Wānaka
8 days self-drive



For thrills, chills and experiences like no other, follow our guide from the top of Te Waipounamu (the South Island), to the bustling Wānaka and Tāhuna Queenstown regions. Your clients will be overwhelmed by vast landscapes which hold endless opportunities for adventure and discovery. With eight days, your clients will only be scratching the surface and will be planning their return visit in no time.



Walking



Active



Adrenaline



Food and Wine

HIGHLIGHTS

- Paddle to a blockbuster film location
- Discover some of New Zealand's top wine regions
- Feel tiny among giant glaciers
- Jetboat to a UNESCO World Heritage site

DAY 1:

Marlborough

From alpine peaks to the Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough is the perfect place for wining and dining, romance, relaxation or adventure no matter the season. Marlborough Sounds is made up of around 1500km of coastline, and is a must-visit while in the region. Explore by boat, bike, car, helicopter or plane to discover intricate waterways, **island bird sanctuaries**, secluded bays, protected wildlife, luxurious resorts and the revered **Queen Charlotte Track**.

Outside The Sounds lies some of Aotearoa New Zealand's best wine country. Stop off at one of the many vineyards and cellar doors. Arrange a tour so as not to miss any key spots (or drops!), Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is world-famous. Further afield, Te Hoiere or Pelorus River is between Blenheim and Nelson and booking with **Pelorus Eco Adventures** is a great way to see it. Paddle down the river on the Hobbitt Kayak Tour and explore filming locations whilst also learning about the Māori history in the area.



DAYS 2 & 3:

Nelson Tasman

Blenheim to Nelson 🚗 123km / 76mi | 1 hour 50 min

Nelson Tasman is renowned for its stunning natural landscapes, from long golden beaches to untouched forests and rugged mountains. Walk the sun-drenched sands of Golden Bay or head inland to Tākaka and see the amazingly clear waters of **Te Waikoropupū Springs**, the largest freshwater springs in New Zealand. Walk the **Abel Tasman track** or take a sea kayaking tour around the coast and spy a seal colony. There are many Abel Tasman tour options available, from budget to luxe.

Taste your way around the region by bike on **Tasman's Great Taste Trail** or get a dose of adrenaline with a visit to one of the region's world-class mountain bike parks. Once out of the saddle, sit in the sun, sip a wine from one of the local vineyards, and dine on famous Nelson Bay scallops.

Expert tip: Looking for more adrenaline? **Cable Bay Adventure Park** offers a range of exhilarating activities, from The Skywire zipline to paintball, archery and mountain biking.

DAY 4

Ōtautahi Christchurch

Nelson to Christchurch ✈️ 55 min

It's time for a connecting pitstop in Ōtautahi Christchurch where there are a number of active adventures guaranteed to excite. Ōtautahi is a revitalised city, home to a diverse natural playground, wide open spaces, modern architecture and heritage buildings.

Glide above the city on a must-do **Christchurch Gondola** trip up the Port Hills. If your clients want to head out of town, we recommend grabbing a paddle and taking to the river with **Hanmer Springs Rafting**. A two hour rafting and jetboat trip is sure to get the heart racing. If staying the night, there are a number of alluring accommodation options in the region such as the quirky **Eliza's Manor**, and the luxurious yet sustainable **Pōhue PurePod** which boasts beautiful views of historic Port Levy Bay.



DAYS 5 & 6:

West Coast

Christchurch to Hokitika

✈ 45 min or 🚗 246km / 153mi | 3 hour 20 min

Christchurch to Greymouth

🚆 4 hour 45 min or 🚗 241km / 150mi | 3 hour 20 min

Getting to the West Coast from Christchurch can be an adventure in itself. The journey to the West Coast crosses the magnificent Arthur's Pass and the Southern Alps. A scenic train ride with **TranzAlpine** is a great option for those who want to relax, take in the scenery and meet fellow travellers.

For those who can tell their pale ales from their pilsners (or even for those who can't!) check out **Monteith's Brewery** in Greymouth and partake in one of their brewery tours. If blackwater rafting and glow-worms appeal, then **Underworld Adventures** just south of Westport will hit the spot.

Of course a trip to the West Coast wouldn't be complete without a visit to the magnificent glaciers. There are a range of tour operators to choose from who offer hosted trips of Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. Be sure to check your clients' levels of physical ability, as many operators will tailor trips based on this. Post glacier experience, recharge the body and mind with a soak in a **woodfired hot tub** at Franz Josef Glacier.

Expert tip: 85% of the region is conservation land, so it's fitting that your clients experience the near-untouched beauty. **Waiatoto River Safari** will take you on an incredible eco jetboat adventure through the Haast UNESCO World Heritage Area that would otherwise take days on foot.



Monteith's Brewery, West Coast



Waiatoto River Safari, West Coast



Ziptrek Ecotours, Queenstown



KJet, Queenstown

DAYS 7 & 8:

Tāhuna Queenstown & Wānaka

Hokitika to Queenstown ✈ 2 hour 30 min (incl. stopover in Christchurch)

Tāhuna Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of New Zealand. As a hub for active indulgence, Queenstown has numerous options for thrill-seekers and adventurers alike. Race down the world's steepest tree-to-tree zipline with Queenstown's first carbon-neutral tourism business, **Ziptrek Ecotours**. Catapult through the air with the **Nevis Swing**, or raft New Zealand's longest commercially rafted rapid on the Kawarau River. However the adventure doesn't have to stop in Queenstown. Cycle one of the many trails such as Arrow River just 20 minutes away in Arrowtown, or an hour's drive away lies the bustling town of Wānaka.

For an authentic and educational off-road adventure through a 30,000 acre private farm on the edge of Mt Aspiring National Park in Wānaka, look no further than **Ridgeline Wānaka**. Relax at their exclusive mountain-top "alpine cafe" with freshly brewed coffee and baked treats, then lend a hand with their predator control conservation project. Scale a waterfall by via ferrata with **Wildwire Wānaka** or view the lake and surrounds from the air with one of the many helicopter companies in the area. To feel the passion of Māori culture and drink top notch local wines, book a tour with **WanaHaka**. This operator provides a unique opportunity to see and feel the warmth of the tangata whenua (people of the land).

Expert tip: To wow your clients with a unique airport transfer, talk to **KJet** in Queenstown. A company who will take clients on a wild ride, delivering them to their hotel's private jetty or Queenstown's main pier and then escort guests to their accommodation.

Can't get enough of New Zealand? Visit the **Travel Trade website** for more inspiration, tips and important trade information.