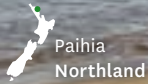
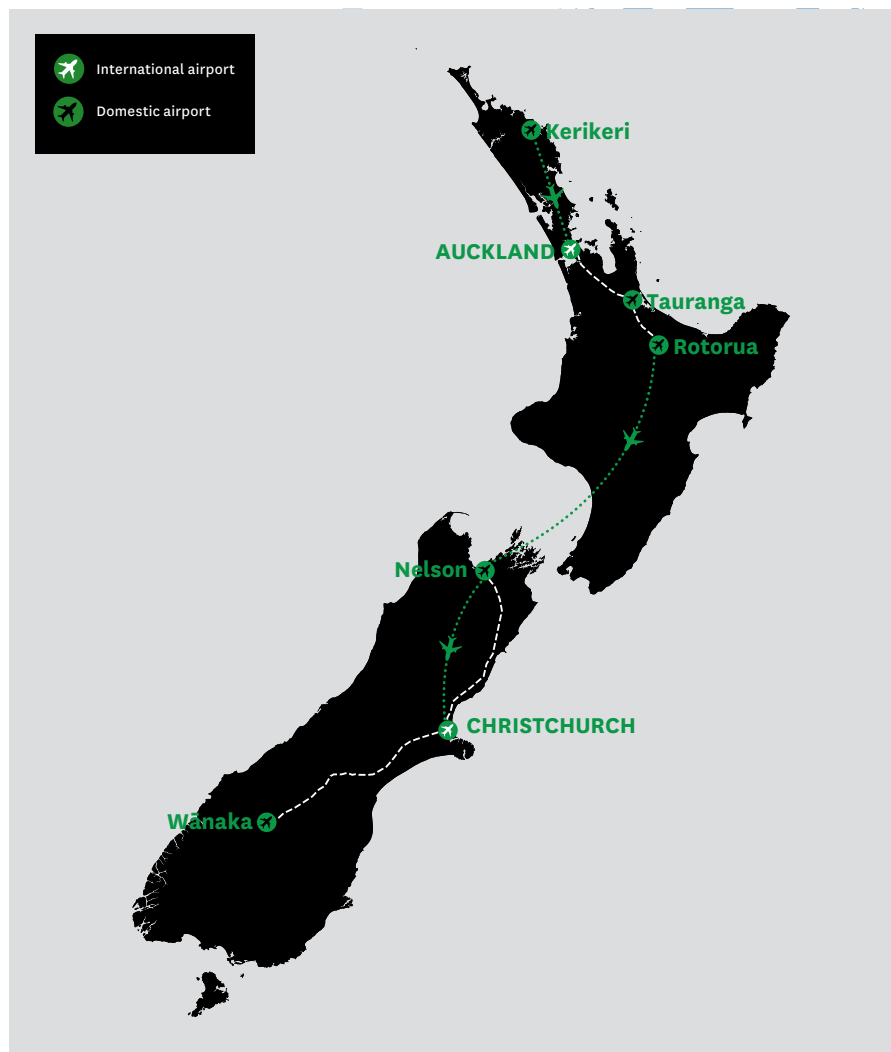


# IF YOU SEEK A SUMMER ESCAPE

Auckland to Christchurch  
12 day fly/self-drive itinerary



Escape the plummeting mercury at home and discover why Aotearoa New Zealand is the perfect destination for travelers who seek the sun & and then some. During New Zealand's summer expect sunny days with long daylight hours, so you can tick off your bucket list adventures and uncover hidden gems, then grab a glass of award-winning wine and indulge in delicious local cuisine as the sun sets on another perfect day.



## EXPERIENCES

Walking



Food & Wine



Adventure



Geothermal



Culture



Beaches



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Connect with Māori culture in Rotorua, Nelson/Tasman and Northland (optional)
- Stay at luxurious lodgings
- Discover golden sand beaches
- Sample fresh seasonal produce at source
- Experience the world's highest waterfall cable climb

## DAYS 1, 2 & 3:

### Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Get your bearings downtown with a visit to the **Sky Tower**. Wander the many laneways and precincts to discover wares from both internationally recognized brands, as well as local fashion designers and artists. Savor unique Pacific Rim flavors crafted by top chefs or enjoy casual dining al fresco – it’s all here. If nightlife excites you, Auckland will not disappoint from casual bars and speak-easys to trendy clubs – you’ll find a spot to suit your vibe.

Take a 40-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland to Waiheke Island. Soar over vines with spectacular harbor and city views on a **zipline tour**. Recharge, reconnect and reinvigorate with a **forest bathing experience**. Indulge in cellar door wine tasting and dining experiences and make the most of your visit to the island with a guided tour to transport you between wineries.

**Expert tip:** Stay downtown at the chic **Hotel Britomart**, New Zealand’s only 5 green star hotel. Or embrace island life at **The Boatshed**, a luxurious boutique hotel on Waiheke.

Accommodation options in Auckland and surrounds are plentiful.



Te Arāi, Auckland



Matakana, Auckland



Waitangi, Northland



Hundertwasser Art Centre, Northland

## 3 DAY OPTIONAL ADD-ON: Te Tai Tokerau Northland

Auckland to Kerikeri ✈️ 151 mi | 50 min

Just a short domestic flight or heli-transfer from Auckland is the Kiwi summer hotspot of Northland. Once here you’ll discover epic coastlines and plenty of golden sand beaches so dive straight into your first dip of the Pacific Ocean from this side of the globe.

Get on the water to view playful dolphins and other curious marine creatures with **Barefoot Sailing Paihia** or **Carino Wildlife Adventures**. Get under the water for spectacular diving in the crystal-clear waters surrounding **Poor Knights Islands**.

Learn about Aotearoa New Zealand’s past at the **Waitangi Treaty Grounds**, and seek cultural connection in front of Tāne Māhuta, the ‘Lord of the Forest’ - enhance your experience with **Footprints Waipoua’s** guided twilight forest tour. Dine on fresh seafood at the historic Duke of Marlborough in Russell. Head to Whangarei’s **Hundertwasser Art Centre** for a different kind of cultural connection.

Luxurious accommodation and surroundings exude at **Eagles Nest** or **The Landing**.

## DAYS 4 & 5:

### Bay of Plenty

Auckland to Tauranga ✈️ 140 mi | 40 min 🚗 2 hour 45 min

From Auckland, take a short domestic flight, heli transfer, or collect a rental vehicle and self-drive to the stunning Bay of Plenty. As the region’s name suggests, produce such as kiwifruit, citrus and avocados are plentiful. **Mauao Mount Maunganui’s** beachfront streets are lined with trendy cafes and restaurants ready to serve fresh flavor combinations, these are paired well with a glass of local wine or craft beer. Stretch the legs with a hike up ‘The Mount’ as it’s affectionately known by locals, then cool off with a swim at one of the many surf beaches along the coast.

Take a boat cruise to **Moutohorā Island**, an island sanctuary for rare and native bird species. Swim at secluded Onepū Sulphur Bay or dig your own hot water pool, naturally fed from the hot water spring beneath the golden sand beach. Paddleboard or kayak to breathtaking **Whenuakura Island** and marvel at the impossibly clear azure waters of this hidden local gem.



Mauao Mount Maunganui, Tauranga



Moutohorā Island, Bay of Plenty





Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa, Rotorua

## DAYS 5, 6 & 7:

### Rotorua

Tauranga to Rotorua 🚗 39 mi | 1 hour

Just a short drive from Bay of Plenty is the cultural and geothermal mecca of Rotorua. View the Southern Hemisphere's largest geyser and learn about Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view) on a guided tour at **Te Puia**. Experience manaakitanga (a deep expression of hospitality) in its purest form with an unforgettable cultural and dining experience at **Te Pā Tū**.

Culture, luxury and relaxation converge at the **Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa**. Charter a heli flight to **Mount Tarawera** for breathtaking views over the Rotorua region, while learning about the area's history sacred to the Ngāti Rangitihi iwi (tribe).

Enjoy a soak in a **private hot tub** nestled among a tranquil forest. Tempt your tastebuds at Eat Street, Rotorua's buzzing restaurant and bar precinct.

**Expert tip:** After dark, take a magical stroll high above the canopy of giant **redwoods**. The dazzling colors and lifesize lanterns will have you mesmerized.

Stay at **Treetops Lodge and Estate** just a short drive from the city or enjoy expansive water views at **On the Point Lake Rotorua**.



Te Puia, Rotorua



The Redwoods, Rotorua



Abel Tasman National Park, Nelson Tasman



Wilson's Walk, Abel Tasman National Park

## DAYS 7, 8 & 9:

### Whakatū Nelson/Abel Tasman

Rotorua to Nelson ✈️🚗 424 mi | 2 hr 20 min

Board a domestic flight (via Wellington) to Whakatū Nelson, then collect a rental vehicle and head towards **Abel Tasman National Park**. Along the way you'll pass local artisan producers, fruit orchards, and hip craft breweries, so take your time and indulge in the region's delights.

Outdoor pursuits come in many different forms in the Tasman region. Take a **guided kayak trip** to discover secluded coves and remote golden sand beaches. Experience camaraderie onboard a **waka** (Māori canoe) while taking in the stunning coastal panoramas. Hike part of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track either independently or with a **local guide**.

Discerning travelers will delight in the region's luxurious lodgings. Inland, exquisite **Stonefly Lodge** is nestled amongst private forest.

**Expert tip:** For groups of up to 10 guests or inter-generational families, book exclusive Falcon Brae Villa at Stonefly Lodge. If you prefer city surroundings, **Pihopa Retreat** is one of Nelson's premium boutique hotels.





Lake Wānaka, Central Otago

## DAYS 10, 11 & 12: Ōtautahi Christchurch and Canterbury

Nelson to Christchurch ✈️ 255 mi | 55 min

🚗 5 hr 20 min

Ōtautahi Christchurch is the South Island's major international gateway, easily accessible with direct flights to/from San Francisco, California.

More than a decade after two earthquakes devastated the city, Ōtautahi Christchurch is being rebuilt and reimagined, with new spaces designed for modern living. Ride the **historic tram** and hop off (and on) at one of the many designated stops to discover the downtown area. Stroll through the picturesque **botanic gardens** and see the myriad of colorful blooms celebrating the summer warmth. Uncover elegant boutique shopping at **The Tannery** and indulge in dining experiences at one of the popular **establishments** dotted along the meandering Ōtakaro Avon River.

Adventure seekers can experience full-scale thrills on one of **Christchurch Adventure Park's** exhilarating downhill mountain bike tracks. Take a scenic trip to the charming French settlement of Akaroa and go **swimming with the world's rarest dolphins**.

**Expert tip:** Extend your time in the Banks Peninsula with a luxurious villa stay at **Annandale**.

Choose to stay city-side at upscale hotels such as **The George** or **Hotel Montreal**. Or venture inland to opulent **Flockhill Alpine Lodge**, in the Canterbury high country.



Christchurch Adventure Park



Christchurch City Tram



Cardrona Distillery, Wānaka



Waterfall Cable Climb, Wānaka

## 2 DAY OPTIONAL ADD-ON: Wānaka

Christchurch to Wānaka 🚗 264 mi | 5 hr 20 min

For those with extra vacation time, head south to the stylish lake resort of Wānaka. Spend ample time in or around the lake with swimming, boat cruises, and lake-side walking trails a must-do.

Experience the world's highest **waterfall cable climb** on a guided tour, then swap stories about your via ferrata adventure over a casual meal at **Cardrona Hotel**.

**Expert tip:** While in the Cardrona region, visit the **Cardrona Distillery** for gin and whisky tastings and a guided tour of the distilling process.

Enjoy a guided off-road adventure on a high-country working station (ranch) with unforgettable lake views. For a touch of lakeside luxury, stay at **Edgewater** or unwind in the high country at **Mahu Whenua**.

With opposite seasons to North America and regular direct flights to New Zealand, a mid-winter vacay has never sounded more appealing. So, if you seek sun & then some, book your vacation today.