



# 9 DAY LUXURY ITINERARY

This 9 day itinerary from Auckland to Wanaka offers the ultimate New Zealand hospitality experience for those short on time but still wanting to experience the best of New Zealand.

## At a glance

- Exclusive Kiwi experience
- Geothermal helicopter highlights tour
- Wine tasting at world-famous vineyards
- Up close wildlife encounters
- Exclusive Luxury Lodges in stunning locations

## DAYS 1-2

Welcome to New Zealand. Upon arrival connect on a 1 hour 30 minute flight from Auckland to Taupō where you will be transferred to your accommodation at Huka Lodge, one of the top retreats in the world and set in a rich landscape of lakes, forests, waterfalls and mountains.

The Central Plateau region of Great Lake Taupō boasts the largest freshwater lake in the southern hemisphere and a myriad of fantastic hiking and mountain biking tracks, international quality golf courses and world-class trout fishing.

Enjoy a relaxing lake cruise to see amazing Māori rock carvings and relax in secluded hot pools. Take a helicopter flight to see some of the most spectacular Geothermal features of the region. Fly over Wai-O-Tapu, a colourful thermal wonderland, followed by a landing and tour of the steaming crater of White Island Volcano in Bay of Plenty and finishing with a landing atop the Summit of Mt Tarawera in Rotorua.

### Top tip: Fly fishing casting lessons

Huka Lodge have an experienced fly fishing instructor and you can fish right from the lawn whenever you feel like it, just like the Queen.

### Alternative Lodges nearby:

Solitaire Lodge, Treetops, Lake Taupō Lodge, Poronui, River Birches & Kinloch Club



Huka Lodge, Lake Taupō



Fly fishing, Huka Lodge



White Island

## DAY 3

Leaving Taupō, a private vehicle will whisk you away to The Farm at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay, a spectacular lodge with 180 degree views of the Pacific Ocean. Hawke's Bay is one of New Zealand's leading food and wine destinations, renowned for its award-winning red wines, and home to world-class Art Deco architecture, a vibrant arts scene, rich Māori culture, and fresh local produce and artisan food.

Spend a leisurely afternoon with your own Vintage vehicle and driver to get off the beaten track and sample some of the regions food and wine delights. Start the next day on a walking tour with the farm's experienced guides through the Cape Kidnappers sanctuary as they weigh and measure New Zealand's treasured native bird – the kiwi – in its natural habitat.

### Top tip: Shepherding

The Shepherding Experience is a great option for younger guests. Watch how the highly-trained farm dogs muster the sheep and enjoy the shearing display.



Sheep shearing



The Farm at Cape Kidnappers



Cape Kidnappers

## DAYS 4-7

Fly from Napier to Blenheim with a quick transit through Wellington. Hawke's Bay is famous for its Red wines but the Marlborough region is famous for its Sauvignon Blanc. Experience the whole of Marlborough in one day with a half-day wine tour, waterfront lunch and half-day Marlborough Sounds seafood cruise or for a more active day head into Abel Tasman National Park in the neighbouring Nelson region where you can enjoy scenic cruises, hiking and kayaking.

Relax in the evening at Marlborough Lodge, a former Victorian convent, which combines the historic character of the original building with a warm and inviting modern twist. The lodge is perfectly located to make the most of the regions food & wine offerings with a fantastic scenic backdrop.

A scenic helicopter flight with Wings over Whales from Blenheim to Kaikoura will transfer you between accommodations. Along the way, land near stunning alpine lakes and fly directly overhead the majestic whales that Kaikoura is famous for. For a more up-close encounter you can swim with the Dolphins or Fur Seals.

Hapuku Lodge and Treehouses is a 5 star Eco-Retreat amongst a native Kanuka Grove. Nestled in the treetops, the rooms resemble a luxurious version of a child's tree house. The surrounding wild deer, olive groves and vineyard set against the picturesque backdrop of the Kaikoura ranges make for a truly idyllic setting.

### Top tip: Chef garden tour and cooking demonstration

The chef at Marlborough Lodge takes pride in using local fresh New Zealand ingredients as much as possible. Discover the produce grown onsite and enjoy an interactive cooking demonstration. You'll be tasting as he works his way through the dish and then walk away with a unique New Zealand recipe to replicate at home.

### Alternative Lodges nearby:

Bay of Many Coves, Stonefly & Edenhouse

### Top tip: Māori Cultural excursion

Immerse yourself in Māori cultural experiences giving insight to the local Māori history and connection to the land and sea. Through 800-year-old links to this region, share in the oral tradition of storytelling to understand the history of the area.



Hapuku Lodge



Treetops at Hapuku Lodge





Miranet Station

## DAYS 8-9

Departing Kaikoura, head through the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch and take a one-hour domestic flight to Queenstown. Either spend a couple of nights in the captivating city of Queenstown at Matakauri Lodge on the shores of Lake Wakatipu or, for a more remote experience, travel to Miranet Station on the edge of UNESCO World Heritage listed Mt Aspiring National Park at the head of a stunning glacial valley.

Miranet Station is only accessible by helicopter, combine the transfer with a scenic flight to the famous Milford Sound in Fiordland. The lodge offers hiking, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, skiing and more relaxing picnics or the classic jet boating experiences. The Southern Lakes region really is an adventurer's playground.

A short 10 minute flight back to Queenstown will connect you to your return flights, if flying domestically first your bags can be through checked with Air New Zealand and Star Alliance carriers.

### Top tip: Heli Hiking

Helicopter transport ensures exclusive access to otherwise inaccessible locations with each trip being tailored to suit the individual or group. Get up close to rushing waterfalls and craggy mountain ridges or simply meander through gently undulating valley floors, soaking up the natural wildlife.

### Alternative Lodges nearby:

Mahu Whenua, Matakauri, Blanket Bay & Fiordland Lodge



Heli-skiing



Mt Aspiring National Park



Miranet Station