

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND IN AUTUMN



Craggy Range
Hawke's Bay

Autumn in Aotearoa New Zealand takes place in March to May and is a great time to travel. Manuhiri (visitors) can avoid the crowds, enjoy temperate weather and bask in landscapes awash with spectacular colours. Long, sunny days tend to linger into New Zealand's autumn, and with average high temperatures of between 18°C and 25°C, you'll hardly notice summer has officially ended. We've rounded up some exciting experiences in the North and South Islands which are particularly great in autumn.

Te Ika a Maui The North Island in Autumn

COZY CELLAR DOORS FOR A WINERY TRIP

Autumn is the perfect time to visit a vineyard - spot the vines full of fruit ready to be harvested, and the leaves turning beautiful shades of gold. Cozy up at one of Aotearoa New Zealand's many cellar doors and sample some top quality wine. Drink driving limits are strict in New Zealand, so booking tours through companies such as **Capital Personalised Tours** in the Wairarapa, **Prinsy's Tours** in the Hawke's Bay and **Matakana Tours** just north of Auckland make for a stress-free experience.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AUTUMN FOODIE EXPERIENCES

Leafy greens, citrus fruit, and shellfish are ripe for the picking in autumn, so why not delight your tastebuds with a foodie experience! Sample contemporary and traditional Māori cuisine at **Te Pā Tū** in Rotorua - this superb experience also includes a cultural show. Partake in an Auckland food tour with **The Big Foody**, or traverse the Hauraki Gulf and try oysters, visit micro breweries and drink wine on Waiheke Island with **Ananda Tours**.

RELAX IN COMFORT AT A LUXURY LODGE

Experience Aotearoa New Zealand's stunning natural beauty from the comfort of a unique luxury lodge. These properties are often set among beautiful landscapes which are even more spectacular in autumn. Booking accommodation in the shoulder season often means better availability and off-peak rates. Some of the top picks in the North Island are; **Eagles Nest** or **The Landing** in Northland, **Rosewood Cape Kidnappers** in the Hawke's Bay, and **Wharekauhau Estate** in the Wairarapa.

SPOT ANIMALS IN THE WILD

Autumn is migration period for many species of birds, they can be seen flocking to the eastern coasts of New Zealand. Inland, teams of musterers take to the farms to corral flocks of sheep for winter. You can get up close and personal to farm animals at **Agrodome** or spot kiwi in their natural habitats at **The National Kiwi Hatchery**, both in Rotorua. For predator-free conservation experiences head to **Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari** in the Waikato, or **Zealandia** in the capital city Wellington.



Te Pā Tū, Rotorua



Eagles Nest, Bay of Islands



Zealandia, Wellington

100% PURE



Hooker Valley
Aoraki Mount Cook National Park

PARTAKE IN AN AUTUMN EVENT

Taking full advantage of the lingering summer days and the settled weather, there are many events up and down the country during this time of the year. **Flavours of Plenty** is an extravaganza of street food, mixology classes, artful dining, long lunches, and chef collaborations. **Wellington Fringe festival** And for a running event like no other, join the **Hawke's Bay Marathon** and take in the highlights of the region, passing vineyards and orchards and finishing at the impressive **Elephant Hill Estate & Winery**.

HONE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS

Capture golden hour and golden leaves against some stunning autumn backdrops. **Sculptureum**, an art, garden, food and wine haven in Matakana north of Auckland sets the scene for some weird and wonderful photo opportunities. **Hamilton Gardens** in the Waikato tells the story of gardens through different civilisations, in five themed collections, spread over 58 hectares. Visit **Pukekura Park** in New Plymouth, a Garden of National Significance and take a leisurely row across the lake, capturing glimpses of the snow-capped mountain through the trees. And in the capital, just minutes away from the central city, **Wellington Botanic Garden** offers beauty and intrigue all year round, but is particularly beautiful in autumn.

Te Waipounamu The South Island in Autumn

GET OUT IN NATURE WITH OUR NATIONAL PARKS

With no crowds and a temperate climate, autumn is the perfect time to visit some of New Zealand's prized National Parks. There is something for everyone to enjoy, with a range of family-friendly short walks on easy tracks, boat trips, and multi-day adventures with overnight stays. Nine of New Zealand's **10 Great Walks** lie within the National Parks.

Nelson Lakes National Park is home to the beginning of the awe-inspiring Southern Alps and offers easy lakeside walking tracks and more challenging alpine hikes. **Abel Tasman**, also in the Nelson Tasman region, is New Zealand's smallest national park - but perfect for relaxation and adventure alike. **Aoraki Mount Cook** is home to the highest mountains and the longest glaciers in New Zealand. It is alpine in the purest sense - with towering peaks, glaciers and permanent snow fields, all set under a star-studded night sky.

CATCH FRESH KAIMOANA (SEAFOOD) ON A FISHING CHARTER

Autumn is the season for Bluff oysters, snapper and tuna. So what better time to delight your tastebuds with some fresh seafood - it tastes even better when you've caught it yourself! Book the **Greenshell Mussel Cruise** in Marlborough to sample freshly harvested Greenshell mussels right from the source. In Kaikōura, there are number of small group and private fishing charters, set amongst the region's unique marine environment and stunning scenery. **Mana Charters** in Southland connect visitors to the ancestral stories of the southern seas on a unique fishing voyage across some of New Zealand's most legendary waters.



Hamilton Gardens, Waikato



Nelson Tasman National Park, Abel Tasman



Kaikōura, Canterbury

100% PURE



Lake Tekapo/Takapō
Canterbury

HIT THE ROAD WITH A SCENIC ROAD TRIP

Travel in autumn while the roads are quiet and the driving conditions are likely to be agreeable. Lake Pukaki is positioned at the base of the Southern Alps in Mackenzie region. Its vibrant blue hues make for a beautiful backdrop to your road trip. Head to Queenstown from Wānaka over the Crown Range. This mountainous drive is nothing short of awe-inspiring and if timed right, visitors will be able to watch the planes soaring in to touchdown in Queenstown. To the west, the road to Milford Sound is almost as majestic as the Milford Sound itself. Look out for the Avenue of the Disappearing Mountain, the Mirror Lakes, and the roughhewn Homer Tunnel.

Plus, be sure to make room for Christchurch and the West Coast in your itinerary. Link these two with a leisurely ride aboard the TranzAlpine train. Travel in their new Scenic Plus class to enjoy local cuisine and extra-comfortable carriages.

CAPTURE MAGNIFICENT PHOTOS WITH THE AUTUMN LEAVES

Experience the magic of autumn in New Zealand as landscapes transform into a vibrant canvas of rich colours. Changing leaves paint picturesque scenes with trees in stunning hues of oranges, reds, and yellows that will take your breath away. One of the most impressive regions to see the unique autumn colours is Central Otago (in particular Lake Wānaka, Arrowtown, Cromwell). With crisp clear days throughout April and May, and plenty of autumn colours to feast your eyes on as you cycle or walk in the region.

STARGAZE IN CLEAR AUTUMN SKIES

For the ultimate in night sky experiences, a visit to **Dark Sky Project** at Mt John Observatory in Mackenzie region (an International Dark Sky Reserve) is a must. Enjoy a world-class stargazing and astronomy experience, discovering the night skies from a unique cultural and scientific perspective in all-weather conditions. A short drive from here, around Lake Tekapo brings you to **Tekapo Springs**. Relax in their open-air hot pools while enjoying a guided star gazing experience.

To star gaze in luxury, pay a visit to the **Pukaki Wine Cellar Observatory** at Mount Cook Retreat. The observatory is adjacent to an underground wine cellar, and your experience includes refreshments and nibbles. Finish the evening by sleeping beneath five billion stars in Twizel's **SkyScape**, a high-end secluded glasshouse in the middle of Mackenzie countryside.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A WINE REGION

Take wine tasting to the next level with some wine and food experiences in Central Otago. **Kinross's** 'Winemaker for the Day' experience is a must do. Held at their cellar door in Gibbston Valley, your clients have the chance to create their very own unique pinot noir blend. Join a winery tour by bike or e-bike through Glenorchy or visit **Cloudy Bay's The Shed** for an epicurean experience, with locally sourced produce. For a light footprint activity, visit wineries which use sustainable practices, and choose a late model Tesla to travel in comfort with **Appellation Wine Tours**.



Arrowtown



Chard Farm, Gibbston Valley



Skyscape, Twizel

100% PURE