

IF YOU SEEK AN IMMERSIVE HOLIDAY



Hooker Valley Track
Aoraki Mt Cook National Park

Culture, scenery and food

Experience unforgettable natural wonders, vibrant culture and the world-class food and wine of Aotearoa New Zealand as you travel the country from north to south on this 12-day itinerary.

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Days 1-2: Auckland

New Zealand's biggest city offers a buzzing multi-cultural vibe. Dine on unique local cuisine overlooking the sparkling Waitematā Harbour and take in a show. Taste your way around wineries, craft breweries and distilleries on Waiheke Island, and explore the imposing volcanic peak of Rangitoto. Breathe in the salty air of the west coast's rugged black sand beaches, where native birdsong fills the surrounding forest.

Days 3-4: Rotorua

Step into a world of geothermal wonders and surround yourself with the manaakitanga (hospitality) of the Māori people who have lived here for generations. Spend time on a marae (meeting grounds) to hear their stories and watch as local carvers transform wood, stone and bone into taonga (treasures).

Marvel at the other-worldly landscape of bubbling mud, steaming pools and gushing geysers from above, then sink into the rejuvenating mineral waters of a lakeside pool and experience the ancient healing properties of the geothermal mud.

Days 5-6: Hawke's Bay

Discover one of New Zealand's most famous wine and food regions. Sample world-renowned wines on a tour by bike or luxury coach. Step back in time and learn about the Art Deco origins of Napier's streets and chat to locals over coffee and freshly baked treats at one of the country's oldest and largest farmers' markets. Head for the hills and book a tour to see the gannets on the spectacular cliffs of Cape Kidnappers (between September and May).

Day 7: Wellington

Fly into the capital city where you'll find laneways full of coffee, craft beer and local art waiting to be explored. Immerse yourself in all things New Zealand with a tour of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and see the original Treaty of Waitangi on display at the National Library. Spend the night on Kāpiti Island listening to the calls of kiwi and other native wildlife. Take the Interislander ferry for a spectacular trip across Cook Strait to the tip of Te Waipounamu (the South Island).

Day 8: Picton to Christchurch

Board the Coastal Pacific, one of the Great Journeys of New Zealand, for a scenic coastal rail trip to Christchurch. Take time to explore the vineyards of Marlborough, home to New Zealand's famed sauvignon blanc, and stop for incredible marine encounters in Kaikōura where whales, dolphins, seals and albatross are regular visitors.

Days 9-10: Christchurch/Akaroa

Lose yourself in the revitalised centre of Christchurch with its boutiques, eateries and unexpected delights of street art round every corner. Admire the views of the Canterbury Plains from the Christchurch Gondola and soak up the artistic vibes in the French-style settlement of Akaroa, where you can cruise or kayak to see penguins, fur seals and the endangered Hector's dolphin.

Day 11: Aoraki Mt Cook

New Zealand's highest maunga (mountain) is an awe-inspiring sight – experience it from the air on a scenic flight, or walk in its majestic shadow on an easy alpine track complete with swing bridge crossings and glacier views. For a unique perspective, the Glacier Explorer will take you out on the water to touch icebergs that have carved off New Zealand's largest glacier.

Day 12: Queenstown/Arrowtown

Spend your final day in the stunning resort town of Queenstown. Sample the best of Central Otago on a progressive lunch or wine tour and explore the boutiques and galleries of the nearby historic goldmining settlement of Arrowtown.

