PERFECTION FROM EVERY PERSPECTIVE

Your guide to luxury in New Zealand
CONTENTS

A luxury New Zealand experience ....................................... 2
Getting to New Zealand ........................................................... 4
Getting around New Zealand ................................................. 6
Luxury Accommodation .......................................................... 8
Experiences
- Sailing and Cruising .......................................................... 11
- Food and Wine ........................................................................ 12
- Māori Culture ........................................................................... 15
- Helicopter Tours and Scenic Flights ..................................... 16
- Golf ............................................................................................... 19
- Urban ......................................................................................... 20
- Walking and Hiking ............................................................... 23
- Wildlife ........................................................................................ 24
- Fly Fishing ................................................................................. 27
- Adventure ................................................................................. 28
- Relaxation and Wellness .................................................... 31
Useful information..................................................................... 32

Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough
A LUXURY NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE

A premium New Zealand experience delivers perfection from every perspective.

New Zealand’s growing portfolio of exclusive luxury accommodation, in particular the world class luxury lodges, weaves the finest details of style and comfort with the precious natural environment to create a unique holiday experience.

Relax, cruise the waters or take in the breath-taking scenery from above, encounter Māori culture, play golf, fish, hike and discover hidden gems with local guides who know their place and story better than anyone else. Idyllic semi-tropical waters, majestic mountains, secluded beaches and ancient rainforests inhabited by unique wildlife nourish the soul while fine local cuisine fuels adventures with fresh, clean bounty from fertile lands and sea.
GETTING TO NEW ZEALAND

Getting to New Zealand is the first step to an amazing adventure in one of the world’s most diverse and safest destinations.

New Zealand is a three-hour direct flight from the eastern seaboard of Australia, and a 10 to 12 hour direct flight from most places in the Pacific Rim, including Singapore, Hong Kong and the West Coast of the USA. Flights from the UK and Europe to New Zealand will have one stopover with the total flight time approximately 25 hours.
GETTING AROUND
NEW ZEALAND

One of New Zealand’s greatest assets is the sheer variety of landscapes to be found within a relatively compact and accessible land where city limits meet wilderness. It’s not unusual to jet boat through a sweeping river valley, or play golf on one of the best courses in the world before enjoying world-class food and wine in a vineyard for lunch.

New Zealand comprises two main islands (North and South) and many small islands. The country is 1,600 kilometres long (990 miles) and 450 kilometres wide (280 miles) at its widest point, covering a land area of approximately 270,000 square kilometres (104,000 square miles) which equals roughly the size of California or the British Isles.

Good infrastructure makes travel easy, fast and safe by air, road and sea. Seeing New Zealand’s epic landscapes from above is a must-do. Main airports have private jet terminals and helicopter services criss-cross the country. Domestic flights operate between a network of regional airports with many destinations less than an hour’s flying time.

Ground travel includes a wide choice of rental cars for self-drive clients and chauffeur driven luxury transport. On the coast, private yachts and luxury cruise vessels are readily available for hire; some places even offer a thrilling transfer by jet boat!
New Zealand has a wide range of luxury accommodation from award-winning luxury lodges, bespoke city hotels and fine boutique B&B’s to stunning private homes. Warm hospitable hosts will ensure outstanding experiences, delivered with the relaxed, genuine approach that New Zealand excels at.

LODGES
Discover luxury lodges in spectacular landscapes on vast domains, preserved by owners keen to share their personal paradise.
- Enjoy fresh flavours from the garden and farm.
- Relax in expansive suites and villas.
- Experience exceptional recreational facilities and services.
- Tee-off on a magnificent golf course.
- Easy access to amazing adventures.

HOLIDAY HOMES
Luxury holiday homes – private retreats, expansive country estates and exclusive inner-city apartments – reveal outstanding contemporary architecture, superb attention to detail and impeccable décor.
- Private home-away-from-home.
- Live like a local.
- Play it your way or enjoy full concierge services.

RETREATS
Luxurious boutique accommodations and retreats offer fine Kiwi hospitality with the personal touch.
- Choose a vineyard villa, a farm cottage or a wellness retreat.
- Meet genuine hosts who share local gems.
- Experience hosts passion for outstanding food and wine.
Aotearoa New Zealand – ‘The Land of the Long White Cloud’ – has 15,000kms of stunning coastline, sheltered sounds and island dotted harbours. In pristine waters, the fishing and diving are incredible while onshore there are diverse landscapes from golden sand beaches to magnificent fiords and sunken river valleys.

In the northern North Island, the sheltered waters of the Bay of Islands are a haven for wildlife while the crystal clear waters of the Poor Knights Islands are just one of 44 coastal marine reserves. In the South, Abel Tasman National Park is a coastal paradise of long golden-sand beaches and forest walks.

Luxury charter and fishing vessels are available from many of the ports along the coastline.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore the Bay of Islands sheltered waters or go ashore to picnic on any one of the 144 secret islands alive with forests and birdsong.
- Slow down, relax and unwind on the Coromandel Peninsula as you cruise to secret hideaways in a place of pure natural beauty.
- Lay anchor in the Marlborough Sounds picturesque inlets inhabited by curious local marine life, or head ashore to sample delicious sauvignon blanc.
- Board a sport fishing charter and cruise out to the Three Kings Islands chasing large Swordfish and Striped Marlin for the ultimate adrenaline-fueled experience.
**FOOD AND WINE**

New Zealand’s mild climate, fertile clean land and bountiful oceans are the source of world-class produce. It’s never far from the farm, garden or sea to the table and New Zealand’s talented and innovative chefs know how to inspire fine food memories with the freshest and best ingredients, infused with Pacific flavours and indigenous foods, and served with award-winning wines.

Away from the dining table, there are many opportunities to experience New Zealand’s best wine and food. Follow wine trails to vineyards and cellar doors, and meet the winemaker for an exclusive tasting; dine on oysters and mussels at the source; help a Māori chef forage for native herbs in the forest, catch a trout or salmon in the river, and take it home for dinner.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Take a float plane from Auckland to Waiheke Island for a private vineyard tasting.
- Cycle Hawke’s Bay wineries ride through stunning orchard and farmland, enjoy the ambience of many cellar doors offering tastings, finishing with a degustation dinner.
- Cruise through the idyllic Marlborough Sounds to a salmon farm or a green lip mussel farm, learning about aquaculture and local history.
- Immerse yourself in the beautiful Nelson region on a heli flight with your personal chef sourcing wine from a vineyard, catching your lunch and dining on a secluded beach.
- Fly from Wanaka high into a hidden alpine valley for a three-course lunch among the mountain tussocks.
MĀORI CULTURE

Māori are the indigenous people of the land of Aotearoa New Zealand and their ancient culture continues to influence contemporary life. The All Blacks – New Zealand’s celebrated rugby team – perform their fierce haka challenge around the world while, at home, genuine Kiwi hospitality and respect for the environment owe much to traditional Māori values.

Māori were skilled artisans, known for their intricate weaving and carving as well as accomplished hunters, fishers, gardeners and warriors. Today visitors have many opportunities to meet contemporary Māori and encounter their arts and culture through authentic cultural experiences.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Meet Māori artists and experience their traditional home in Rotorua’s geothermal wonderland with a personal guide.
- Learn to paddle a waka (warrior canoe) in the Bay of Islands and visit an authentic Māori village.
- Go into the native bush near Rotorua to forage for wild foods with a Māori chef who will prepare a meal for you.
- Experience a powhiri (Māori welcome), enjoy a hāngi (feast cooked in the earth) whilst listening to ancient legends.
- Take a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds – rich in history and stories of the significant events that shaped the New Zealand nation.
HELICOPTER TOURS AND SCENIC FLIGHTS

Seeing New Zealand from above is an essential experience. New Zealand’s diverse landscapes offer an ever-unfolding natural backdrop for flight-seeing and aerial adventures so it’s no wonder that aviation tourism is a popular activity all over the country.

Whether it’s just a short hop from one lodge to another or a sightseeing experience, New Zealand by air makes for spectacular viewing. Vast coastal expanses, high mountain peaks, deep fresh-water lakes, braided rivers, dramatic fiords and colourful volcanic landforms are some of the scenic highlights of the land - celebrated as the home of Middle-earth - that are best revealed from above.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Experience the rumble of an active marine volcano on White Island - a short helicopter flight from the Central North Island geothermal regions.
- Take a scenic helicopter flight with a Marlborough viticulturist for a spectacular introduction to his terroir and how it influences his wines.
- Fly across the Southern Alps to majestic Milford Sound and picnic in the mountains.
- Soar over 90-mile Beach, witness the meeting of two mighty oceans on the northern tip of New Zealand, landing on the impressive Hole in the Rock.
New Zealand— with the second highest ratio of golf courses per capita— sets a lofty golfing standard on some of the world’s most visually stunning golf courses. The 400-plus courses dispersed across the country range from classical coastal links and traditional parkland courses, to spectacular alpine settings.

Over the past 20 years, New Zealand’s natural golfing landscape has been enhanced by the work of world-renowned architects such as Tom Doak, Robert Trent Jones Jr., Jack Nicklaus and David Harman who have designed at least 12 world-class courses (complete with five-star accommodation and cuisine).

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Stay and play: Kauri Cliffs, in the Bay of Islands region, and Cape Kidnappers in the Hawke’s Bay, located on a spectacular promontory jutting out into the Pacific Ocean, both feature in the Top 50 World’s Best Golf Courses.
- The Kinloch Club, on the shores of Lake Taupō, is New Zealand’s newest luxury golf resort which comes with a Jack Nicklaus signature course.
- Queenstown has a series of excellent golf courses—from the exclusive The Hills with its sumptuous private villa and outdoor sculpture park to exhilarating Jack’s Point on the edge of Lake Wakatipu.
- For something unique, experience an extreme golfing thrill with a helicopter ride onto Cecil Peak to tee off at a par-3 hole sitting at 1370m (4500 ft) altitude above Queenstown.
New Zealand’s urban areas range from Auckland – a vibrant multi-cultural metropolis to the bijou capital of Wellington, and smaller laid-back regional centres.

Visit museums and art galleries filled with the treasures of this bi-cultural nation, eclectic private collections and artists at work in their studios, and purchase an artwork for home.

Auckland and Wellington are home to stylish bars with a kiwi twist. In smaller cities and towns visitors are guaranteed a great night out in a more relaxed setting. New Zealand’s mix of vibrant restaurants is fuelled by passionate chefs who’ve earned local and international recognition for their free-spirited Pacific cuisine.

In the major cities, shoppers will find all the international fashion houses, alongside celebrated local fashion designers.

New Zealand offers a distinctive juxtaposition of city experiences fringed by coastal experiences, scenic walks and outdoor wonders – all within minutes of each other.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Learn cinematic secrets and meet the artists responsible for movie special effects on a VIP tour of Weta Workshop in Wellington.
- Tour the streets of Napier by vintage car marvelling at the celebrated Art Deco architecture.
- Take a private tour of the national treasures housed in the storerooms beneath the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington.
- Dine on the 53rd floor of Auckland’s Sky Tower, whilst taking in 360 degree views of the city.
- Walk city streets guided by a passionate foodie sampling local flavours, learning the craft of brewing or coffee making.
New Zealand is a premium walking and hiking destination with a vast network of trails offering everything from short day walks to fully-catered and lodged multi-day experiences on well-formed tracks. The nine ‘Great Walks’ are internationally acclaimed multi-day trails through some of the country’s more remote regions. These diverse trails traverse untouched wilderness rainforests, alpine lakes, spectacular rushing waterfalls, high alpine pastures and stunning sandy beaches. Many pathways follow historic byways and pass iconic natural wonders or offer encounters with unique wildlife. Track conditions are most favourable from late October to the end of April. Most tracks offer guided experiences with comfortable accommodation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Milford Track**. New Zealand’s most famous walking trail, is a 4 day excursion.
- **The Abel Tasman Coastal Track** explores 60km of golden sand beaches and sheltered waters, granite cliffs and lush coastal forest.
- **The Heaphy Track** is a 4-6 day walk boasting the widest range of scenery from rugged mountains and red tussock downs to lush beech forests and fields of alpine herbs.
- **Queen Charlotte Track** traverses 70km of dramatic scenery with magnificent viewpoints. Along the way are tranquil beaches, historic sites and Marlborough wines.
- **Hollyford Track** follows a 56km one-way trail down a remarkable, glacier-carved valley reaching its dramatic finale at the wild West Coast.
New Zealanders are fortunate to share their home with fascinating creatures. There are plenty of opportunities to see them all year round – you might spot a family of dolphins following your boat, and it’s not unusual to see whales and orca within sight of Auckland or little blue penguins on Wellington’s city fringe – but there are some special places where you can observe them at close quarters.

In New Zealand, you’ll never be far from an outstanding wildlife experience. One of the best times to observe any wildlife is during the breeding cycles from spring through to early summer. If you go with a guide, you’ll have the best opportunity to find them because they know when and where to spot the locals at home.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Whale watching – by air or by sea – just off Kaikoura is an iconic New Zealand wildlife experience.
- Spot an elusive kiwi bird in the wild on a Stewart Island night walk with a local guide.
- Swim with tiny Hector’s dolphins on the edge of Akaroa Harbour.
- Watch the little blue penguins come home each night at Oamaru or on the Otago Peninsula.
FLY FISHING

New Zealand is a land of lakes, rivers, streams and waterfalls - pure waters that are home to some of the best fly fishing in the world. Jump in a 4WD vehicle or charter a helicopter to quickly access glorious waterways amid ancient forests and snow-capped mountains. Expert guides will share their knowledge and the secret places to catch trophy-sized rainbow and brown trout. Return to a well-appointed lodge at day’s end where a top chef will cook your prized catch.

Note: New Zealand fly fishing is available year round. However, October to April is the main season. It’s easy to get a fishing licence – buy online, over phone, or through your fishing guide. Anglers can bring their own equipment to New Zealand but must make a declaration to biosecurity staff at border control. Most lodges provide fishing equipment.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Learn to fly fish with an expert guide on the front lawn of your lodge and then take a guided helicopter tour to a secret fishing spot.
• New Zealand’s pristine rivers offer some of the best and most accessible places in the world to ‘sight fish’ for large trout in small streams.
• By 4WD or helicopter, the Great Lake Taupō region offers superb fishing for brown or rainbow trout in Lake Taupō and surrounding rivers.
• On the upper Tongariro River, your white water rafting guide navigates the rapids to a trout heaven of crystal clear pools and unspoiled runs.
ADVENTURE

Adventures can be found anywhere in New Zealand and at practically any thrill-seeking level. If appetite demands, it’s possible to combo several different experiences into just one day. Fly through the canopy on a zipline, abseil up a limestone cliff or descend into a roaring canyon, raft on the world’s highest commercially rafted waterfall, climb Aoraki Mount Cook (the country’s highest mountain), hike on a glacier or across an active marine volcano.

For high adrenalin thrills – which New Zealand has been doing for longer than anywhere else in the world – experience some of the most exhilarating caving, extreme skiing, surfing and skydiving in the world. The leap of faith on a bungy cord belongs to New Zealand, so does zorbing – a surreal ride from hilltop to valley bottom inside a giant plastic ball.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Heli skiing is the easiest way to access vast untouched Southern Alps powder slopes.
• Journey up the braided Dart River on a private jet boat tour into Paradise.
• Leap into a terrifyingly beautiful void on a bungy cord in Queenstown.
• Tame the white waters of Rotorua as you raft downstream.
• Cycle one of New Zealand’s incredible Great Rides network. Hire your bike or borrow from your accommodation.
RELAXATION AND WELLNESS

It’s never hard to relax in New Zealand. Take time out for that burst of fresh air on a black sand beach, in an ancient forest and or on top of a mountain. Inhale the pure inspiration that comes from physical beauty, wholesome lifestyle and welcoming culture - it will energise and refresh.

From classic health and beauty spa treatments to the soothing waters of thermal mineral springs and therapeutic mud baths, and fresh organic fare and remedies, New Zealand has all that it takes to deliver wellbeing and relaxation.

New Zealand’s wellness retreats are a good place to jump-start health and fitness. Several new high-end retreats have become primary destinations rather than just stop-offs. They’re not all about spas and massages, also encompassing bodywork like yoga and pilates, healthy eating and mindfulness meditation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unwind on Waiheke Island as you explore artist galleries, vineyards and olive groves, and warm your soul on pristine beaches.
- Take a cure under the forest canopy of a wilderness spa based on traditional Māori healing.
- Rejuvenate in an amazing alpine retreat with a bespoke wellness programme of hiking, vinyasa yoga and mindfulness.
- Retreat to a private Abel Tasman beach to relax and refresh with deep meditation and a gourmet diet based on pure goodness.
USEFUL INFORMATION

**BIOSECURITY:** New Zealand has strict biosecurity procedures at airports to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases from animals and plants.
- All food items brought into New Zealand must be declared.
- Any hiking or golf shoes, sporting or camping equipment must be declared at the border for checking.
For duty free allowances, customs duty and import procedures visit customs.govt.nz

**CLIMATE:** New Zealand’s mild temperatures and varied geography makes it a year-round destination. Spring and autumn are the recommended seasons for many outdoor activities. Visit metservice.com for New Zealand weather updates.

**DRESS:** Prepare for New Zealand’s four-seasons-in-a day, so pack layers and a waterproof jacket. Some luxury lodges require formal dress in the evening.

**ELECTRICITY:** 2 and 3-pin angled plugs; 230/240 volts.

**HEALTHCARE:** New Zealand’s medical and hospital facilities provide a high standard of care. Visitors should purchase travel and health insurance. No vaccination certificates are required. There are no snakes or dangerous wild animals in New Zealand.

**MOBILE PHONES:** Check with your phone company for roaming charges. Signal may not be available in remote areas.

**MONEY:** NZD. Most major credit cards accepted.

**TIPPING:** Tipping in New Zealand is not obligatory - even in restaurants and bars. However, tipping for good service or kindness is at the discretion of the visitor.

**WIFI:** Available in all luxury accommodations and free. Hotspots can be found in main city centres.

**VISAS:** Visitor visas are not required from many countries. Visit immigration.govt.nz for more information.