

Full Itinerary

KIWI WONDERS EXTENSION TO AUSTRALIA UNCOVERED



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

Toll Free US and
Canada: 1 (855)
342-4127

Office open: Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday 9:00am -
5:30pm (London time). Call
answered 24/7



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Kiwi Wonders

Extension to Australia Uncovered

DURATION:

9 days / 8 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to depart from
Auckland International Airport [AKL] on Day 9
of the extension

PICKUP LOCATION:

Pan Pacific Hotel, Melbourne

OVERVIEW

Apr 20 - 28, 2027

Stay longer and experience New Zealand's beauty – from towering mountains to the magic of Hobbiton!

Prepare to be swept away by the breathtaking landscapes, rich culture, and unforgettable adventures of Aotearoa, the Land of the Long White Cloud. From the glacial lakes and rugged mountains of Queenstown to the mystical fiords of Doubtful Sound, and from the geothermal wonders of Rotorua to the charming Hobbiton Movie Set, this journey showcases the very best of New Zealand.

Along the way, we'll explore vibrant cities, immerse ourselves in Maori culture, meet native wildlife, and experience awe-inspiring scenery at every turn. With luxury accommodations, guided tours, and plenty of free time to soak it all in, this 9-day adventure is designed to delight, inspire, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Welcome to New Zealand – your next great adventure begins here!

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Hello New Zealand!

DAY 2 - Queenstown at Leisure

DAY 3 - Queenstown to Doubtful Sound & Return

DAY 4 - From Queenstown to the Mighty Mt Cook & Twizel

DAY 5 - Twizel to Christchurch via Lake Tekapo

DAY 6 - Christchurch to Rotorua

DAY 7 - Middle-earth Magic: Rotorua to Hobbiton & Auckland

DAY 8 - Auckland Sights

DAY 9 - So Long, New Zealand!

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - HELLO NEW ZEALAND!

For those of you who have decided to stay on for this extension, get ready for an unforgettable New Zealand adventure!

This morning we fly from Melbourne to Queenstown. On arrival at Queenstown Airport, we'll be met by our friendly coach driver and transferred to our hotel. En route, enjoy a short sightseeing tour, soaking in the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and the sparkling waters of Lake Wakatipu.

This evening, we dive into the heart of rural New Zealand life. Board the 1912 vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw for a scenic cruise across the lake. Disembark at Walter Peak High Country Farm, one of the region's first farms and still a working farm today. In the charming Colonel's Homestead, we'll savor a gourmet BBQ dinner prepared fresh by the chef before our eyes.

After dinner, enjoy a lively farm demonstration, including sheep shearing, before returning to Queenstown under a starlit sky. Sing along with the ship's pianist or simply breathe in the crisp night air as Queenstown's lights shimmer across the water.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront, Queenstown

DAY 2 - QUEENSTOWN AT LEISURE

After breakfast, the day is yours to enjoy Queenstown at your own pace. Surrounded by the towering peaks of the Remarkables and set on the crystal-clear shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is a playground for both adventure and indulgence.

You may choose to embark on one of the optional sightseeing experiences:

- **Nomad Safaris:** Explore Queenstown's off-road tracks and Lord of the Rings filming locations, from The Remarkables to Kawarau Gorge and Arrowtown, with exciting stops for gold panning and breathtaking panoramic views.
- **Dart River Wilderness Jet:** Speed along the braided, glacier-fed Dart River, venturing deep into Mount Aspiring National Park, enjoying 90km of unspoilt wilderness while your guide shares Maori legends and eco-insights.
- **Boutique Wine Tour:** Discover Central Otago's world-class wines with tastings at four boutique vineyards, paired with a platter-style lunch at Carrick Winery, while learning about local wine history.

Take your time to relax and enjoy Queenstown's lakefront cafes, boutique shops, and stunning scenery.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront, Queenstown

DAY 3 - QUEENSTOWN TO DOUBTFUL SOUND & RETURN

An early start sees us journeying to Pearl Harbour at Lake Manapouri, where we board a launch for a scenic cruise across the crystal waters to West Arm. From there, we'll transfer by coach along the alpine route of Wilmot Pass, passing through lush rainforest before catching our first glimpse of Doubtful Sound.

At Deep Cove, we board our vessel for a serene cruise through this remote fiord. Marvel at cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest, and towering mountains, and keep an eye out for bottlenose dolphins, fur seals, and Fiordland crested penguins. A picnic lunch is served onboard as our knowledgeable guides share the stories of the land and wildlife.

After the cruise, we retrace our steps across Wilmot Pass and Lake Manapouri back to Queenstown. Dinner is served in our hotel restaurant, and we can reflect on the day's magical landscapes.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront, Queenstown

DAY 4 - FROM QUEENSTOWN TO THE MIGHTY MT COOK & TWIZEL

After breakfast, we travel through Central Otago, a land of fruit orchards and wide open spaces, crossing the dramatic Lindis Pass. We continue along Lake Pukaki, famed for its vivid turquoise waters fed by glacial melt.

Entering Mount Cook National Park, we are greeted by Aoraki / Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. In Mount Cook village, there is time to take an optional helicopter flight over the glaciers and peaks or visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre (pay direct). Later, we journey to Twizel for our overnight stay and dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel

Optional extras: Mountains High Helicopter Flight: Fly over braided rivers, glaciers, and New Zealand's highest peaks, with an alpine snow landing and breathtaking panoramic views.

DAY 5 - TWIZEL TO CHRISTCHURCH VIA LAKE TEKAPO

After breakfast, we travel to Lake Tekapo, stopping at the charming Church of the Good Shepherd, framed by mountains and the lake's brilliant waters.

Here, we visit the home of locals Angie and Stan Taylor for a Pavlova Experience. Learn their secrets of this iconic Kiwi dessert while enjoying morning tea and the views across the lake. Angie and Stan's stories of life on a New Zealand sheep farm add a warm, personal touch.

We continue across the Canterbury Plains, passing through Fairlie and Geraldine, before arriving in Christchurch. Here, we enjoy a city sightseeing tour, learning how the city has rebuilt and revitalized following the 2011 earthquake, with its innovative architecture, public art, and beautiful gardens.

The evening is at leisure to relax or explore the city on your own.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Distinction Hotel, Christchurch

DAY 6 - CHRISTCHURCH TO ROTORUA

After breakfast, transfer to Christchurch Airport for our flight to Rotorua

Rotorua is renowned for its geothermal wonders and rich Maori culture. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a Redwood Treewalk, meandering along 28 suspension bridges through a grove of 120-year-old redwoods, taking in views of the forest from up to 20 meters above the ground.

In the late afternoon, visit Te Puia for a guided tour, exploring steaming mud pools, silica terraces, hot springs, and the Pohutu Geyser. Then enjoy a Te Po night experience, a cultural feast with Maori storytelling, song, poi, haka performances, and a buffet dinner including hangi, served in the beautifully carved Te Aronui-a-Rua meeting house. Conclude the evening with hot chocolate in the glowing geothermal valley.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: Millennium Rotorua

DAY 7 - MIDDLE-EARTH MAGIC: ROTORUA TO HOBBITON & AUCKLAND

We begin the day at the National Kiwi Hatchery Aotearoa, where we'll discover how over 2,100 kiwi chicks have been hatched and learn about the vital conservation efforts protecting New Zealand's national icon.

From Rotorua, we travel to the Hobbiton Movie Set in Matamata. Explore the Shire with its quaint hobbit holes, rolling green hills, and the famous Party Marquee. Our guide will share fascinating behind-the-scenes stories from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films, before we enjoy a hearty buffet lunch in the festive marquee.

Later, we continue north through the scenic Bombay Hills to Auckland. The evening is free to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Sudima Auckland City

DAY 8 - AUCKLAND SIGHTS

This morning, we meet our local guide for a sightseeing tour of Auckland, including panoramic views from Bastion Point, the charming streets of Parnell Village, scenic waterfront bays, and the bustling Viaduct Harbour.

We will also visit the All Blacks Experience, an interactive journey through New Zealand rugby history, where we can test our rugby skills alongside the All Blacks and Black Ferns.

The afternoon is at leisure, allowing time for shopping or relaxing. In the evening, we'll dine at Orbit, Auckland's only rotating restaurant atop the Sky Tower, offering 360-degree views of the city, harbour, and Hauraki Gulf while enjoying a delicious Kiwi-inspired à la carte menu.

Included meals: Breakfast & Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: Sudima Auckland City

DAY 9 - SO LONG, NEW ZEALAND!

Sadly, our Antipodean adventures come to an end this morning as we say goodbye to New Zealand.

You will be transferred to Auckland Airport in time for your onward flights home.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at Queenstown Airport on arrival
- Transport as detailed in the itinerary
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Internal flights as detailed in the itinerary
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- National English speaking tour guide
- Tour Director from The Big Journey Company as well as the local tour guide (subject to minimum group size being reached.)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ATOL Protection
- Return flights to/from New Zealand - Please contact us for a flight quotation
- All entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions
- Visa entry to New Zealand
- Drinks
- Gratuities
- Visas, travel and medical insurance
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Any optional activities offered
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

BOOK NOW!

20 APR - 28 APR 2027

FROM \$5,329 PER PERSON.

Call to Book

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