

New Zealand

April 1-3: Depart western North Carolina for your flight to Hawaii. Overnight Honolulu, then a nonstop 10-hour flight to Auckland, NZ. After crossing the international date line, late afternoon arrival in Auckland. “City of Sails” set on the shores of Waitemata Harbour (meaning “sparkling waters” in the Maori language).

April 4: Quick Cat ferry to Waiheke Island for a deluxe vineyard tour with premium tastings at 3 of Waiheke’s finest vineyards: Mudbrick, The Goldie Room and Te Whau Vineyard.

April 5: Rotorua is surrounded by steaming lakes, bubbling hot pools and bursting geysers, host to some of the world’s most incredible natural forces. We will also visit the original Hobbiton village from the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy.

April 6: First a visit to the Agrodome, located in the heart of a real 350-acre working farm. Then on to Te Wairoa buried village, overcome by a volcanic eruption just 120 years ago. We shall end our day with the Te Puia Experience - a feast of storytelling, entertainment and Maori Cuisine.

April 7: Flight to Christchurch on the south island - “A City Rebuilding” as we glimpse this jewel as they recover from recent seismic disaster.

April 8: Rated one of the top six scenic train journeys in the world, the famous Tranz Alpine train takes you deep into the heartland of the South Island - a coast to coast journey through some of the world’s most extreme, beautiful scenery and Franz Josef glacier.

April 9: Lake Matheson - a reflection of perfection. One of New Zealand’s great scenic icons lies just 6km from Fox Glacier. On a still, clear day it reflects the unforgettable image of New Zealand’s highest peaks, Aoraki (Mount Cook) and Mount Tasman. We will also have a chance to soak in the famous hot pools!

April 10: Enjoy the stunning drive from Franz Josef to Wanaka, a wonderful travel experience in itself (approximately 4 hours 30 minutes drive). This beautiful drive takes us through the Southern Alps’ Haast Pass with forest and mountain views.

April 11: Another stunning drive to our private boat cruise in Milford Sound - the most northerly fiord indenting the southwest coastline, it occupies the trunk portion of a former glaciated valley system cut deeply below the surrounding mountains. Moody, dramatic and stunning - it offers what is probably the most spectacular fiord scenery in the southern hemisphere.

April 12: Historic Glenorchy, gateway to Paradise! For over a century musters, miners and hunters have ought to create an endearing little settlement in the wilderness, tracks meander through the bush and over the alpine passes. We end the day with the Queenstown gondola for amazing views of The Remarkables mountain range and Lake Wakatipu.

April 13: We make a 4-hour drive to Dunedin Edinburgh of the South,” gateway to the Otago Peninsula with its marine life of penguins, seals, albatross and historic Lanarch Castle & Gardens.

April 14: Today we enjoy a Monarch Wildlife Cruise to see the famous Otago Penguins, mighty Northern Royal Albatross and the inaccessible cliffs of Taiaroa. These escarpments are alive with eight other species of birds nesting above families of Fur Seals. Close offshore, huge flocks of Sooty Shearwaters feed among other Shearwaters, Petrels and species of Albatross.

April 15: Nestled on the South Island’s east coast, Oamaru is the ideal destination for anyone keen to experience the real New Zealand. With friendly locals, a compact town center and a variety of attractions such as the Blue Penguin Colony and bizarre Moeraki Boulders.

April 16: Flights to Hawaii and home by the 18th or continue on to Australia. If you choose down under, we will have time to visit and hold the koalas at the Lone Pine Koala sanctuary in Brisbane after flight arrival.

April 17: The “Crocodile Hunter” zoo and flight to Cairnes, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

April 18: Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef.

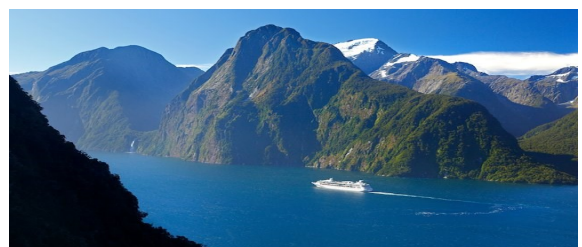
April 19: Kuranda Scenic Rail and Rainforest.

April 20: Flight to Sydney followed by city tour, opera house and harbor cruise.

April 21: Full day excursion to the Blue Mountains, Katoomba Scenic Railway and Jenolan Caves.

April 22: Sydney leisure time then flights to Hawaii or home.

April 23-24: Flights home and return to your door.



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