

New Zealand

October 25-27: Depart western North Carolina for your flight to Hawaii. A stop in Oahu, 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).

October 28: 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.

October 29: 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.

October 30: 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.

October 31: Flight to Christchurch on the south island - "A City Rebuilding" as we glimpse this jewel as they recover from recent seismic disaster.

November 1: 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.

November 2: 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!

November 3: 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.

November 4: 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.

November 5: 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.

November 6: 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.

November 7: 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.

November 8: 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.

November 9: Flights to Hawaii and home or continue on to Australia. If you choose down under, we will have time to visit the National Zoo, made famous by the "Crocodile Hunter", the late Steve Irwin, and hold the koalas at the Lone Pine Koala sanctuary in Brisbane after flight arrival.

November 10: We will get to cuddle some Koalas at the Lone Pine Koala sanctuary before we catch our flight to Cairnes, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

November 11: Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef.

November 12: Kuranda Scenic Rail and Rainforest.

November 13: Flight to Sydney followed by city tour and the Sydney Opera House.

November 14: Sydney harbor cruise, "indigenous tour" at the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

November 15: Sydney leisure time then flights to Hawaii or a full day of leisure before heading directly home the next day.

November 16: Return by our comfortable car service to your home's door.

