



New Zealand Encompassed: Harbours & Houseboats

24 days, Auckland to Wellington

Trip code ONNZ

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Hands-On Moment: Surf Lesson, Raglan
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Wellington
- Your Discover Moment: Franz Josef
- Your Discover Moment: Queenstown
- Snorkelling, kayaking and hiking (Bay of Islands)
- Conservation farm visit (Raglan)
- Sea kayaking excursions (Raglan and Doubtful Sound)
- Surf lesson (Raglan)
- Maori cultural experience
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing (seasonal)
- Te Papa Museum (Wellington)
- Visit to a seal colony
- Walks in Franz Josef and Abel Tasman National Parks
- Mountain biking excursion (Central Otago)
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing October 15th, 2014 - November 15th, 2016

Itinerary



Itinerary Notes

1) If you are interested in visiting the Hobbiton Movie Set, we recommended that you book additional pre-trip accommodations and purchase a day trip from Auckland on (or prior to) Day 1 of this tour. OR, you can opt to wait until your tour begins, and book a ticket with your CEO (please note that there are limited tickets on the ground - which could result in you missing out if you wait to book with your CEO).

2) Please also note that when in Franz Josef optional activities may be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

3) COMBO TRIP

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and/or particular vehicles operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments.

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Auckland

Arrive at any time.

Arrive in Auckland at any time. There are no planned activities during the day, so check into the hotel and explore the city. Visit the Maritime Museum, walk the waterfront, or even take the ferry to Waiheke Island.

Jump right into your adventure by adding the 'Auckland Sailing: America's Cup Experience' extra to your tour. Work with a crew to sail around Auckland's Waitemata Harbour on a competitive yacht, and take in the stunning views. PLEASE NOTE: If booking this extra, a pre-night in Auckland is highly recommended as this activity may start early in the morning on Day 1.

This tour departs Auckland early on Day 2. If you are interested in exploring the city and its nearby attractions, like a local winery, it is recommended you book additional pre-trip accommodation nights.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.



Optional Activities - Day 1

Maritime Museum Visit

Auckland

24NZD

Tour the museum's seven galleries to learn more about New Zealand's relationship with the sea. Be inspired by the country's most celebrated mariner, Sir Peter Blake, and his many accomplishments, and see maritime art that speaks to the sentiment of a nautical nation.

Waiheke Island Excursion

Waiheke Island

62-369NZD

3h-8h

Take a ferry ride to Waiheke Island for a quick, fun getaway. Swim or kayak at white-sand beaches in the Hauraki Gulf. Tour the island's tracks and bush reserves, or sample your way through some of the island's 19 boutique wineries (the island produces some of New Zealand's finest reds).

Travel north via backroads, stopping to see giant kauri trees, and go for an included snorkel at Goat Island Marine Reserve (seasonal). Board a large houseboat for an overnight trip through the beautiful Bay of Islands.

Depart early and travel to a local reserve with giant kauri trees. Native to New Zealand, these trees are some of the largest in the world. Learn about their importance to European settlement in New Zealand. Head to the Goat Island Marine Reserve for an included activity of snorkelling to see abundant sea life (seasonal).

Continue on to the Bay of Islands and board a houseboat – your home for the night.

Please note: during the winter months (late April - early November) Goat Island snorkelling will be cancelled due to an earlier departure time for the houseboat. As a result, there will be more time for activities on board the houseboat.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Auckland - Paihia

4h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Goat Island Marine Reserve Snorkelling

Goat Island

30m

Grab a snorkel and mask and play Jacques Cousteau. See an array of marine life up close at this amazing snorkelling site and reserve that's been protected for more than 30 years. Keep an eye out for blue maomaos, eagle and sting rays, octopi, kahawais, dolphins, and orcas!

Bay of Islands Overnight Excursion

Bay of Islands

20h-24h

Board a houseboat for some marine fun and a memorable overnight excursion. Go kayaking, swimming, target shooting, shellfish gathering or dolphin spotting – the list is endless. Spend some quality R&R time on a nearby remote island after an active day. Leave your worries behind - all activities and meals on board are included, and the night is spent anchored at a secluded bay.

Enjoy free time in the morning on the boat. Choose to do a number of included water activities like kayaking, snorkelling, fishing or visiting nearby islands. Disembark and explore Paihia before a Kiwi barbecue.

Enjoy a morning of activities from our boat base. Then travel back to the mainland for a walk around the small town of Paihia. An optional visit to the Treaty House in the nearby town of Waitangi is highly recommended.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Paihia

Spend free time in this seaside town any way you want - swim, trek or just relax on one of the golden-sand beaches.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Ferry to Russell

Paihia

7-12NZD

1h-3h

Head over to New Zealand's first capital. Explore the town's many highlights, including the old Pompallier Mission, an early French Catholic missionary.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds Visit

Paihia

25-45NZD

Learn about the history of New Zealand on this visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. See the historic Treaty House where local Maori signed their accord with the British Crown in 1840, giving the Maori the rights of British subjects (a guided tour is highly recommended). Get a taste of Maori culture with performances of traditional songs and dances and, of course, the infamous Haka!

It's always nice when you get some time to catch your breath! Take advantage of this free morning in Paihia to stroll the waterfront, check out the historic Waitangi Treaty grounds, lounge in the town centre with an ice cold drink, or go out on a whim and book a skydiving adventure. No matter what you decide you're only real job today is to have some fun.

The group returns to Auckland in the early evening. Then everyone will head out for drinks together or to enjoy some delicious ice cream!

Take advantage of optional morning activities such as skydiving, fishing or visiting the historic town of Russell. Travel back to Auckland.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Paihia

Fill free time as you please with a range of options ranging from adrenaline-based activities to spending more time on or in the water.

Private Vehicle

Paihia - Auckland

4h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



Optional Activities - Day 4

Ferry to Russell

Paihia

7-12NZD

1h-3h

Head over to New Zealand's first capital. Explore the town's many highlights, including the old Pompallier Mission, an early French Catholic missionary.

Skydiving

Paihia

329-365NZD

Go for this once-in-a-lifetime skydiving opportunity in New Zealand – the Bay of Islands is one of the best places to try it! Skydive over the bay from a range of heights (between 2743-4877m or 9,000-16,000ft).

Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds Visit

Paihia

25-45NZD

Learn about the history of New Zealand on this visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. See the historic Treaty House where local Maori signed their accord with the British Crown in 1840, giving the Maori the rights of British subjects (a guided tour is highly recommended). Get a taste of Maori culture with performances of traditional songs and dances and, of course, the infamous Haka!

Visit an eel farm which focuses on developing sustainable aquaculture to learn about their methods before sea kayaking to a harbour for a picnic lunch.

Travel backroads to a remote conservation farm where they are using natural means to boost the stocks of traditionally farmed marine life. Farmers have created a balanced ecosystem to attract native birds and animals back to the area.

After, kayak to a remote part of the harbour for a boat cruise and lunch, before heading to our lodge a few minutes drive from the famous surf and arts town of Raglan for the night.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Auckland - Raglan

3h

160km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Sea Kayaking

Raglan

1h30m-2h

Tour Raglan's secluded bays and unique coastline by kayak. Paddle the inner harbour to get up close to wildlife, fish, and (fingers crossed) orcas. Discover the pancake rocks on the harbour's northern side.

Enjoy an included surf lesson in one of the world's most famous surf areas, then opt to go hiking or rent a stand up paddle board.

Head down to the beach for an included surf lesson. The afternoon is open for optional activities such as yoga, stand up paddle boarding or exploring the many trails in the area.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Learn how to catch a wave in this surf lesson. Start with instruction on dry land before heading into the surf. Take advantage of the large soft boards used in class (they help everyone stand up).

Free Time

Raglan

Enjoy free time any way you want in this surfing town. Head to the beach to hang ten or relax with a cold drink and plan your next activities.



Optional Activities - Day 6

Hiking

Raglan

Free

Lace up your hiking boots and head out on local tracks for scenic views. Try walks around Mt Karioi, Te Toto Gorge, or Wainui Reserve.

Stand Up Paddle Lesson

Raglan

79NZD

Enjoy fantastic scenery and a great workout while stand up paddle boarding in the Raglan harbour.

Karioi Loop Walk

Whale Bay

Free

1h30m-2h

Enjoy a pleasant forest walk on the flanks of extinct volcano Mt Karioi. Start and finish at our location in Whale Bay. Be ready to get a little muddy if it's been raining – it's all part of the adventure.

Opt to go caving in world famous Waitomo before heading to Rotorua, notable for its geothermal activity and culture. Visit a local village to gain insight into Maori culture.

Stop en route at Waitomo. Enjoy free time to visit the Waitomo Caves, famous for their glow-worms and adventure activities, or explore this scenic area by foot.

Continue to Rotorua for an engaging cultural experience on the grounds of a historic Maori village.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Raglan - Rotorua

3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Maori Cultural Experience

Rotorua

1h-1h30m

Immerse yourself in a Maori cultural experience on the grounds of a historic Maori village. Participate in a pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony), and learn about the history of the marae (village) and the Rotorua-area from a local Maori guide. Discover the abundant geothermal energy surrounding the village that's used for cooking, heating, and communal bath houses.



Optional Activities - Day 7

Waitomo Haggas Honking Holes

Waitomo

220NZD

Get your fix of adrenaline and fun on this underground action adventure. Do a series of abseils, rock climbs, crawls, and cruises as you explore the fabulous Waitomo caves in an action-packed 4 hrs. See stalactites, stalagmites, and glow-worms up close.

Waitomo TumuTumu Toobing (Black Water Rafting)

Waitomo

185NZD

3h-5h

Grab a wetsuit, helmet and gumboots, and float, scramble, swim and walk your way through a subterranean playground! A good challenge but not as difficult as Haggas Honking Holes.

Waitomo Lost World Cave Abseil

Waitomo Caves

465NZD

Feel like the hero of your own action movie on this tour that involves a 100m (328 ft) abseil (rappel) into the Lost World with a guide at your side. Be awed by the beauty of an iconic cavern that's covered in glittering glow-worms. After a 30-min descent, embark on a journey back to the surface through a spectacular dry cavern. Relish in your accomplishments (and added confidence) afterwards with some good food and drink.

Waitomo Valley Walk

Waitomo

Free

30m-1h30m

Explore Waitomo Valley's amazing rugged landscape by foot on this one-way walk - the CEO will see you off at the start. Check out a small cave on your way, and then follow the trail through the forest back to Waitomo Village. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, and take a rain jacket and water.

Waitomo Cave Excursion

Waitomo Caves

99NZD

Enjoy a peaceful boat ride through 30 million year old caverns covered with magical glowworms that are unique to New Zealand. Hundreds of thousands of these tiny creatures radiate luminescent light in underground caves carved by rivers and time. Take in more than 136 years of cultural and natural history on this unique excursion.

Rotorua/Tongariro National Park

Travel around Lake Taupo and explore the volcanic UNESCO World Heritage-listed national park in the area. Conquer the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, New Zealand's top-rated 1-day trek (seasonal).

Start early to walk the Tongariro Crossing, New Zealand's top-rated 1-day trek. Collect all your supplies before the hike – the transfer will drop the group off at the beginning of the self-guided trek and pick up everyone at the end.

After the trek, travel to a ski lodge on the side of a mountain for the night. An on-site spa and sauna is available to help ease tired muscles.

Please note that the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is self-guided and will be without a CEO. The trail is clearly marked. Please note that during winter months (June–October), this is an optional hike. There is an extra cost of approximately \$135NZD for winter equipment and guide if you opt to do this activity.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Rotorua – Tongariro National Park

3h

180km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing Trek

Tongariro Crossing

5h-6h30m

19km

Today we conquer the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, New Zealand's top-rated 1-day trek and spend time hiking an active volcano. Mt Tongariro's rocky, dramatic landscapes make this day-long trek truly one of New Zealand's "Great Walks", passing emerald lakes and beautiful alpine scenery.



Optional Activities - Day 8

Taranaki Falls

Tongariro National Park

Free

6km

Opt to do the Taranaki Falls walk if the Tongariro Crossing is cancelled, or if you are not feeling up to the challenge. Take in great views of this 20m (66ft) waterfall and surrounding water-worn gorges on this low alpine loop trail. Start and finish at our accommodation.

Scenic flight

Tongariro National Park

120-245NZD

15m-30m

Bypass the Tongariro Crossing if you're not up for it. Take to the skies and experience a scenic flight over the mountains – if it's a clear day. Magic!

Hit the nation's capital and visit the national museum, Te Papa, or stroll along Oriental Parade. Check out some of the area's great bars and cafés.

Travel to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. Arrive early enough for a visit to the National Museum, Te Papa.

Take a short walk from our accommodation to see the sights of the central business district. Finish the day off with an optional night on the town.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Tongariro National Park – Wellington

5h

400km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Te Papa Museum Visit

Wellington

1h-2h

Visit this must-see museum, home to displays of historical Maori artifacts and modern exhibits. See how the museum is constructed on shock absorbers to withstand New Zealand's many earthquakes – find the stairwell just outside the entrance and descend into the foundations of the building.

ACTIVITY

Whether it's a pub crawl, drink specials or a bonfire on the beach, celebrate late into the night with your new best friends.

Take a ferry over to the South Island and transfer to Abel Tasman National Park.

Catch a morning ferry and cross the scenic Cook Strait. Make sure to stand outside and enjoy the views of the Marlborough Sounds at the top of the South Island. Disembark and transfer to Abel Tasman National Park, well-known for its stunning white sand beaches. Board a water taxi to transfer to the middle of the National Park for the night. The night will be spent on a floating boat hostel.

During the winter season (May - Oct), and when there is inclement weather in the summer, we will stay in cabins in a true rural setting on the edge of the park instead of the floating boat hostel.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Water Taxi

Abel Tasman National Park

30m

Jump in and cross the water to the next stop.

Ferry

Wellington – Picton

3h30m

92km

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private Vehicle

Picton – Abel Tasman National Park

3h

200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 11

Abel Tasman National Park

Hike and explore Abel Tasman's golden beaches and waterways.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Abel Tasman National Park Walk

Abel Tasman National Park

4h

12km

Catch an Aqua Taxi from your accommodation in Marahau up to Anchorage. Walk back to Marahau at your own pace, and make stops along the way at some of the world's most scenic golden sand beaches to relax in the sun.



Optional Activities - Day 11

Sailing

Abel Tasman National Park

148NZD

4h-6h30m

Sail through crystal clear waters, admire spectacular scenery and investigate secluded coves, small islands, golden beaches and lush forest. Don't forget to wear a hat and sunscreen!

Abel Tasman National Park Kayaking/Hike

Abel Tasman National Park

230NZD

3h-4h

Explore the coastline and beaches in stunning Abel Tasman National Park. Kayak from Watering Cove along the coastline to Marahau.

Head south down the coast of black-sand beaches. Visit a seal colony and take in the pancake rock formations at Punakaiki.

Visit the Cape Foulwind seal colony, then follow the stunning coastal road down to a beach camp in Punakaiki for the night. Visit the famous 'Pancake Rocks' walk upon arrival into Punakaiki.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Abel Tasman National Park – Nelson

4h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Pancake Rocks Trek

Punakaiki

15m-30m

1km

Walk along a loop trail with informative signs detailing how the 'Pancake Rocks' were formed millions of years ago. When the trail reaches the coast, there are many lookouts for photo stops and beautiful views of the coast, the rocks and the blowholes found along the area.

Seal Colony Visit

Cape Foulwind

30m

1km

Stop by a viewing platform over a New Zealand fur seal colony at Cape Foulwind. Female seals will live in the same colony for the duration of their lives, whereas male seals move around more. The males visit the Cape Foulwind colony between late November and mid-January for mating season. All seasons offer plenty of activity to check out, from mating to the raising of baby pups and feeding out at sea.



Optional Activities - Day 12

Hiking

Punakaiki

Free

15m-3h

1-11km

Head out on the local trails to explore the area, or hike some of the trails in nearby Paparoa National Park.

Day 13

Punakaiki/Franz Josef

Stay in a lodge surrounded by rainforest and explore this UNESCO World Heritage Area.

Opt to kayak the river into the Paparoa National Park or stick to the local trails for some day hikes.

Continue following the coastal road towards Franz Josef arriving at a unique wilderness lodge set in the rainforest for the night.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Nelson – Punakaiki

4h

220km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



Optional Activities - Day 13

Kayaking

Paparoa National Park

40NZD

2h-3h

Take a scenic kayak trip up the river from Punakaiki into the National Park. Enjoy paddling along the Pororari River, there are some small rapids to keep the route exciting and great views in all directions.

Free day for optional activities. Options include a glacier valley walk, a helicopter hike, and kayaking.



Meals included

Breakfast



Optional Activities - Day 14

Franz Josef Quad Bike

Franz Josef

65-160NZD

Hop aboard the two-seater ATV quad and drive along ancient glacial pathways carved into the landscape by ice and water. Be amazed at what lies around every twist and turn as you are guided through rainforests, riverbeds, grasslands, sand and mud. Feel the thrill of fresh air in your face and the excitement of riding in the wild.

Horse Trek

Franz Josef

65-150NZD

1h-3h

Experience the beauty of New Zealand's Franz Josef Glacier country on horseback. This is horse riding in paradise with a stunning backdrop of mountain ranges and rainforest. Soak up the magnificent views of the Southern Alps and the spectacular glacier, as you trek over lush farmland, glacial moraine and riverbed.

Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk

Franz Josef

79NZD

Enjoy spectacular views on a guided interpretive walk that follows a riverbed along the Franz Josef Glacier's retreat. At the end, you'll be rewarded with a great view of the glacier off in the distance.

Heli Scenic Flight with Snow Landing

Franz Josef

385-655NZD

15m-30m

Take a once-in-a-lifetime helicopter ride high up on Franz Josef Glacier. Hop out on the snow to soak up the experience, before flying back to land. Cool!

Day 15

Franz Josef/Queenstown

Visit the adventure capital of the world—Queenstown.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Franz Josef - Queenstown

8h-9h

420km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free time in Queenstown. Get the heart pumping with some adrenaline-filled options, such as jet boating, bungee jumping, mountain biking or skydiving.

If you have pre-booked the Queenstown Jet Boating, your CEO will inform you when you will do the activity during your tour, as days are subject to change.

Please note - in the winter months (early/mid June to early/mid October) skiing and snowboarding in the Southern Alps is a highlight for any visitor. Most of the optional activities are also available, ask your CEO which ones are in season.



Optional Activities - Days 16–17

Vineyard Tour

Queenstown

189-265NZD

5h-7h

Visit vineyards in New Zealand's fastest growing wine region. Taste some of Queenstown's finest Pinot Noir, as well as Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc and learn more about the grape varieties that flourish here. Pick up a few bottles to savour back home.

Mountain Biking

Queenstown

31.50-140.00NZD

1h-6h

Hop on a bike and get familiar with some of the great trails in the area. There are routes for all levels of cyclist to enjoy so rent a and start exploring the hills.

Paragliding

Queenstown

210NZD

15m-30m

Hang on! Get a birds-eye view of Queenstown on an exciting ride in the sky.

Shotover Jet Boating

Queenstown

159NZD

1h30m-2h

Jet boating is a typical New Zealand activity— go as fast you can in a boat over water. Hang on tight as you fly across the surface of the water. Shoot through narrow rocky gorges and dare to watch as the driver takes hairpin turns frighteningly close to the cliffs.

Bungee Jumping

Queenstown

320-805NZD

1h30m-4h

Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site (bungy in New Zealand!). Opt to take the plunge or simply observe where it all started from the comfort of solid ground. Shoot some amazing photos of those brave enough to dive into the abyss.

Skydiving

Queenstown

449-549NZD

Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Queenstown from an eagle's perspective. Suit up, get briefed and board the prop plane to soar high about the rugged alpine landscape. Strap onto your instructor, take a breath and leap into a once-in-a-lifetime free fall. This is what a natural high truly feels like!

Gondola Ride

Queenstown

66-215NZD

1h-2h30m

Take a ride up to the top of the mountain by cable car gondola. Get a spectacular 220° view of Coronet Peak, the Remarkables mountain range, and Lake Wakatipu below.

Day 18

Queenstown/Doubtful Sound

Visit Fiordland National Park en route to Doubtful Sound.

Depending on weather the walk and kayak may be reversed to fall on different days.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Queenstown – Doubtful Sound

3h

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Fiordland National Park Visit

Fiordland National Park

2h

Enjoy a guided 2-hour interpretive bush walk in Deep Cove with a visit to Helena Falls.

Enjoy a guided kayak excursion through jaw-dropping scenery (seasonal), then travel to Central Otago.

Due to cold weather during the winter months (approx May to late September), we will be going on a three hour nature cruise in Doubtful Sound instead of kayaking in the area.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Kayaking Excursion

Fiordland National Park

3h-4h

Throw on a life jacket, pick up a paddle and prepare to be wowed during this 3-4 hour kayaking trip through New Zealand's largest national park. Paddle through icy clear waters below towering cliffs and waterfalls and marvel at the moss-covered slopes and verdant rainforest terrain. Spot dolphins, seals and penguins below while birds soar above.

Private Vehicle

Doubtful Sound - Otago Central Rail Trail

5h

350km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Bike 35 km of the Otago Rail Trail, passing through one historic town to the next. Along the way sample some local food and drink.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Biking Otago Rail Trail

Otago Central Rail Trail

5h

35km

Drive to one of the best starting points of the Historic Otago Rail Trail. Spend the better part of the day cycling along an easy gradient through stunning scenery along 35km of the old rail trail. Cycle through scenery unspoiled by traffic and not visible from any roads.



Optional Activities - Day 20

Curling

Otago

30NZD

1h-1h30m

Try your hand at throwing a curling rock and sweeping the ice at the only year-round curling facility in Australasia. The sport of curling was introduced to New Zealand in the late 19th century by Scottish settlers.

Day 21

Wedderburn/Christchurch

Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Christchurch.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Wedderburn – Christchurch

5h

400km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Christchurch

Spend the afternoon exploring Christchurch during free time.

Opt to go whale watching, swim with seals or take a walk along the coast.

Spend the afternoon swimming with dolphins, visiting a colony of southern fur seals, or taking a scenic flight over the peninsula.

Bird watchers will be pleased to know that big ocean birds such as albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters frequent the area.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Christchurch - Kaikoura

2h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Kaikoura

Head out and explore this beautiful area. View some of the wildlife in the area or hit the trails to get a workout with a view.



Optional Activities - Day 22

Hiking

Kaikoura

Free

2h-3h

3km

Set off along the hiking trail to take in the beautiful scenery along the Kaikoura Peninsula walkway.

Whale Watching

Kaikoura

175NZD

3h-3h30m

Follow in the path of Paikea, the Maori "whale rider", and set out in search of Giant Sperm Whales as they spray and dive their way through the waters off Kaikoura.

Dolphin Tour

Kaikoura

135NZD

3h-4h

Hop aboard a boat and head out to the open seas to search for wild dusky dolphins. If we come upon them, depending on conditions, most groups have 20-40 minutes of swim time with the dolphins.

Scenic Flight

Kaikoura

250NZD

Take a 30-minute flight and set off to search for whales, dolphins, and other marine life. On land, you'll see Maori sites, Kaikoura town and New Zealand's southern fur seals.

Day 23

Kaikoura/Wellington

Enjoy a morning visit to a seal colony before catching the ferry back to Wellington. Opt for a final night out with the group.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kaikoura - Picton

2h

150km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Seal Colony Visit

Kaikoura

15m-30m

1km

Stop to experience a close encounter with the many southern fur seals lying about on rocks just off the highway.

Ferry

Picton - Wellington

3h

92km

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Hands-On Moment: Surf Lesson, Raglan
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Wellington
- Your Discover Moment: Franz Josef
- Your Discover Moment: Queenstown
- Snorkelling, kayaking and hiking (Bay of Islands)
- Conservation farm visit (Raglan)
- Sea kayaking excursions (Raglan and Doubtful Sound)
- Surf lesson (Raglan)
- Maori cultural experience
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing (seasonal)
- Te Papa Museum (Wellington)
- Visit to a seal colony
- Walks in Franz Josef and Abel Tasman National Parks
- Mountain biking excursion (Central Otago)
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Learn about Maori culture, explore the Bay of Islands, trek the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, get an adrenaline rush in Queenstown, weave through the remote fjords of the Doubtful Sound by sea kayak.

Itinerary Notes

1) If you are interested in visiting the Hobbiton Movie Set, we recommended that you book additional pre-trip accommodations and purchase a day trip from Auckland on (or prior to) Day 1 of this tour. OR, you can opt to wait until your tour begins, and book a ticket with your CEO (please note that there are limited tickets on the ground - which could result in you missing out if you wait to book with your CEO).

2) Please also note that when in Franz Josef optional activities may be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

3) COMBO TRIP

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and/or particular vehicles operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments.

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Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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Are there Itinerary notes?

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What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1) Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

2) Please be aware that wifi and internet access is not as readily available in New Zealand as in other parts of the world. There are often additional charges to connect to the internet, and speeds may be slower than what you are used to.

3) Over public holidays in Australia and New Zealand (such as Christmas, New Years Day, Easter, and Anzac Day) there may be some limitations of services and disruptions to schedules. In general our tours still operate effectively over public holidays, but there may be closures of optional activities and restaurants, and slight itinerary adjustments in order to provide all tour inclusions.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 20, avg 16

What meals are included in this trip?

21 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 12 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Please note that most included breakfasts will consist of cereal, milk, bread and spreads, juice, tea and instant coffee. Having a simple breakfast together most days allows us the flexibility to get on the road early and get from point A to B all that much faster.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private bus, kayak, boat, ferry

What transportation will we take on this trip?

Our vans are mini-coaches. All mini-coaches tow a trailer for luggage and camping equipment (when needed). All groups have one CEO/Driver.

The vehicles are factory built with comfortable seats and air-conditioning. It is mandatory to wear a seatbelt while riding in our vehicles.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hostels (10 nts), basic hotels (4 nts), houseboat (1 nt), basic lodges (7 nts), floating boat hostel (1 nt in summer, cabin in winter months). Most nights are multi-share.

What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Multi-share accommodation, on a single-sex basis (typically 4-6 people per room), is very common in New Zealand and is the way you will be spending most of your nights. We have specifically chosen unique accommodations to give local flavour to your trip.

Couples: Please note that due to the types of accommodation used in New Zealand, couples will likely be split into separate rooms where we use multi-share hostels. Pending availability, couples may be able to pay extra while on tour to have their own room in some destinations.

Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. Towels and soap are not always provided at overnight stops, so it's best to bring your own for bathing. Bathroom and showering facilities are shared and are very rarely en-suite.

PRE/POST ACCOMMODATION: If booking additional nights before or after your tour, accommodation will be multi-share on a mixed gender basis.

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

By Taxi: \$70-80, approximately 30 minutes.

By Shuttle Bus: \$33 for 1 person, \$8 per additional. The "Super Shuttle" is a 24-hour service that takes approximately 1 hour. The shuttle waits outside of the terminal and provides door-to-door service.

By Skybus: \$18 per person. Leaves from outside the airport terminal every 10-15 minutes and takes approximately 1 hour.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office in Melbourne. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so we may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Office and after office hours emergency number

From outside Australia: +61 432 705 621

From within Australia: 0432 705 621

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local operations manager, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

What should be on my packing list?

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Warm gloves
- Warm layers
- Scarf
- Warm hat
- Warm waterproof jacket

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Locks for bags
- Binoculars (optional)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Long pants/jeans
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Moneybelt
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Footwear
- Outlet adapter
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Hat
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Ear plugs
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Walking poles

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: The weather in New Zealand varies depending on the season. Make sure to check the forecast for the time you will be visiting and pack weather appropriate clothing for your trip.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

The currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in New Zealand and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of local currency (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in New Zealand in the gateway cities and most banks do accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates:
www.xe.com

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is not customary in New Zealand or Australia to tip service providers, but if you do experience outstanding service it is good to do so. Such service would only usually be in places like quality restaurants and it would be very rare that you would tip more than 10%. Unless specifically asked to do so at the time (by your CEO) - do not tip your local guides. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, you may consider a small tip - but it certainly isn't expected.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- Please see the full itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

Minimum age of 18 years for this trip.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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