

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Walking in New Zealand (WZN 2017 18)



TRIPDURATION
20
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Tour Type: Small Groups
Trek Grade: Easy

Trip Code: WZN

Trip Highlights - Walking in New Zealand

- ✓ Rotorua - Explore the geothermal landscape of the Maori heartlands
- ✓ Tongariro Crossing - Known as 'the greatest day walk in the world'
- ✓ Abel Tasman National Park - Discover this scenic coastal park on foot and by boat
- ✓ Fox Glacier - Walk to the terminal face of this spectacular glacier
- ✓ Wanaka - Enjoy walks around picturesque Wanaka
- ✓ Milford Sound - Boat trip along the tranquil fiord beneath towering mountains
- ✓ Te Anau - Visit this hiker's paradise and walk part of the Kepler Track
- ✓ Mount Cook - Discover the soaring landscapes of the Southern Alps

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 18 nights Standard Hotel
1 night Simple Hotel

Included Meals: 19 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Start Point: Join trip: Auckland

End Point: Trip ends: Christchurch

Transport: Bus, Boat, Ferry

Countries: New Zealand

Walking in New Zealand

New Zealand is all about the great outdoors and this trip aims to bring you the best of what this compact, yet dramatic and varied country has to offer as you explore on foot. The North Island combines awesome natural beauty with a rich Maori heritage and the South Island is blessed with dramatic scenery. Discover them both as you trek through volcanic landscapes, around picturesque lakes, next to impressive glaciers and along breathtaking coastlines.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Accommodation Grade: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Trek Grade: Easy

Suitable for most people in good health, these easy walks are predominantly on good paths, at low altitude and on undemanding terrain. Previous walking or trekking experience is not necessary.



Your trip itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

An Explore Leader is an integral part of any Explore trip and your trip will be led by one of our experienced Explore Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Explore Leaders are the key to the success of our trips; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Explore Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this trip fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join trip in Auckland

Our trip starts in Auckland, New Zealand's largest and most diverse city. Surrounded by volcanoes and volcanic cones, beautiful beaches and rolling countryside, Auckland offers a great introduction to New Zealand.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 In Auckland. Visit to Rangitoto Island

After breakfast we all meet for a briefing and if time make a short city tour of Auckland on the way to the downtown harbour to take the ferry the short distance out to Rangitoto Island. This iconic volcanic is a great place for hiking and bird-watching and we take a gentle introductory walk on the island. Today's walk covers approximately five kilometres over two hours. There are several walks on the island so details may vary depending on local conditions and the group.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Travel south through Waikato region to volcanic Rotorua

After breakfast this morning, we depart Auckland and travel southwards through the Waikato Region to Rotorua, the North Island's most famous destination for overseas visitors and an important cultural centre. Visitors soon adapt to the distinctive sulphur smell, which comes from many vents to the underground thermal region. The region is known for its many geysers, steaming lakes and streams, and mud and hot mineral pools known for their curative properties. On arrival we will explore Rotorua town or take an optional walk in the area before we check in. Optional walks include around Blue Lake / Lake Tikitapu, (1.5 hrs, 5.5km), and a trail through the magnificent Redwood and Douglas Fir trees of Whakarewarewa Forest (1 hr, 3.4km). For those interested in walking the Explore Leader will recommend the most suitable walk for the weather and accompany the walkers. In the evening we get to experience a Maori 'hangi' dinner - cooked using heated rocks in a pit oven.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Visit to Waimangu Valley geothermal park. Lake walk

This morning we visit Waimangu Valley, a fascinating geothermal park of bubbling mud pools, hissing geysers and steaming lakes created in 1886 following the volcanic eruption of Mount Tarawera. We walk amongst the hot springs and steaming cliffs and to inferno Crater which erupts to 8m high, every 38days. Leaving Rotorua we travel through an important forested area via the picturesque Huka Falls to Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand. Later we drive to Tongariro National Park where there is a choice of several short walks. Our main walk today in Waimangu is approximately two hours and covers six kilometres on a marked trail.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Walk the iconic Tongariro Crossing

The 19.4 km Tongariro Alpine Crossing track passes over diverse and dramatic volcanic terrain and has been described as 'the greatest day walk in the world'. In the presence of active volcanoes we can experience some of Tongariro National Park's special gifts: a cold mountain spring, steam vents, an active crater, lava flows, magnificent views and emerald-coloured lakes, all combining to make this an enjoyable and memorable trip. We start hiking in the Mangatepopo Valley, then continue at a gentle gradient as the main track climbs alongside a stream and around the edges of old lava flows. The climb from the valley to Mangatepopo Saddle between Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro is steep, but on a clear day, we may be rewarded with views of Mount Taranaki to the west. The track continues along a poled route across South Crater to a ridge leading up Red Crater from where we can get views of Mount Tongariro. From the highest point on the Tongariro Crossing, the summit of Red Crater (1,886 metres), the track leads down to three water-filled explosion craters called the Emerald Lakes. Minerals that have leached from the surrounding thermal area are the cause of their dazzling greenish colour. Below Ketetahi Hut the track continues down through tussock slopes to the forest bushline. At two points the track passes over the tongue of a lava flow from Te Maari Crater and for a distance, travels alongside a stream containing minerals from Ketetahi Springs. We are accompanied by a local guide as today is a free day for the driver / guide. Warm clothing including scarf, gloves and hat, is recommended. Other unguided optional walks are also available for those that do not wish to do the Tongariro Crossing. The Tongariro Crossing Walk takes approximately eight hours and covers 19.4 kilometres. The terrain is unmade mountain paths NB This hike is not an 'Easy' grade walk but has been included because it is so special. This a proper Alpine Crossing with some steep climbs and requires a certain level of fitness, proper hiking boots and walking poles.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Explore Wellington

The trip continues southward through the fertile farmlands of Levin to Wellington (approximately 6 hours drive). New Zealand's capital lies partially on reclaimed land at the harbour and the steep hillsides adjacent to the Cook Strait. Wellington has been the capital city since 1865 and as such is also the country's political centre. We take a city sightseeing tour and drive to Mount Victoria from where we can enjoy a beautiful view over the city. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Cross the Cook Strait and Marlborough Sound to the South Island

This morning, we visit Te Papa Tongarewa, the modern National Museum, which gives a good insight into New Zealand history, Maori Culture and Pacific culture. More than 20 galleries house imaginative exhibitions and interactive experiences that explore New Zealand's unique natural environment, dynamic art heritage, fascinating history and the vitality of Maori culture. In the afternoon, we say farewell to the North Island and board the Interisland Ferry to cross Cook Strait and cruise through the scenic Marlborough Sounds, an area of 'drowned' valleys, which resulted from the geological sinking of a mountain range. Today the Sounds are a maze of deep channels, sheltered waterways and secluded bays, encompassed by verdant bush-clad hills. After an approximately three-hour journey often described as one of the most beautiful ferry rides in the world we reach the idyllic harbour town of Picton.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Visit Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary. Walk along Queen Charlotte Track

This morning we board a water taxi and cruise to Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary (1 hour) where we enjoy a short walk (also 1 hour). Later we are dropped off at Resolution Bay to walk part of the Queen Charlotte track. This 67km coastal walking track stretches from historic Ship Cove to Anakiwa in the spectacular Marlborough Sounds, and enjoys a temperate climate which allows good year-round walking conditions. Today we are walking from Resolution Bay to Endeavour Inlet. The verdant, subtropical native bush is home to many of New Zealand's native birds. In the late afternoon, we reach Endeavour Inlet, and board the water taxi again to cruise back to Picton. Today we walk for three to four hours, covering eleven kilometres on a marked coastal trail.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9 Explore Abel Tasman National Park by boat and on foot

After breakfast, we take the Queen Charlotte Drive between Picton and Havelock, one of New Zealand's most delightful scenic drives. Winding past the Sounds' numerous bays, this bush-fringed road takes us to the head of Pelorus Sound and the seaside village of Havelock. Once a thriving gold-mining town, Havelock is New Zealand's primary producer of Greenshell mussels. We then continue on to Kaiteriteri, (Picton to Kaiteriteri approximately three hours drive), where we take a water taxi in Abel Tasman National Park to Onetahuti. We will pass several offshore islands that provide a protected habitat for native wildlife including Tonga Island famous for its seals. From Onetahuti we walk down to Bark Bay to meet for our return boat transfer. Our journey then takes us back to Nelson, the town with the most sunshine hours in the country. Many years ago New Zealand's first roadside cafe opened here and today the town is home to craftsmen and artists. Our walk today covers eight kilometres along a marked coastal trail and takes approximately two and a half to three hours - The walk is shorter at low tide.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 10 Fossils, fur seals and Pororari River Track

Our journey takes us inland through an unbelievably scenic region with excellent roads and minimal traffic. Rugged, green and wild, the West Coast was in the nineteenth century one of the busiest and richest areas, when gold drew men from all over the world. On the way to Westport we'll travel through Murchison, where we can learn about the earthquake of 1929. At Hawks Crag we'll drive under a spectacular overhang, where the road has been cut out of solid rock. Just past Westport is Cape Foulwind, where we will take the Tauranga Bay Seal Colony Walk (20 minutes) to have a close encounter with a colony of New Zealand Fur Seals in their natural habitat. From Westport, we journey to Punakaiki, where visit the famous Pancake Rocks with dramatic blow holes during high tides and take a walk along the Pororari River Track; this track follows a magnificent limestone gorge with two main features - a river with huge rocks in deep pools, and beautiful forest featuring subtle changes from sub-tropical to temperate. The duration of the walk will

depend on the weather and time available, but will be up to two hours. The Pororari River Track walk is approximately two hours and covers up to seven kilometres. The terrain is a riverside trail.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 11 Walk in glacial valley

Leaving Greymouth behind us we take a short drive to our next stop, Hokitika, known as New Zealand's Greenstone capital. Most of this precious stone is found in this region and then turned into beautiful pieces of jewellery. We pass the forgotten gold miners' towns of Hari Hari and Ross on our way down the West Coast to Westland National Park. In the afternoon we reach the spectacular Southern Alps and the region of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. Unfortunately at present the glaciers are in a state of retreat and as such we cannot walk to either of the terminal faces. We will however make our planned walk in the valley as the receding glaciers have carved out an impressive landscape which is fascinating to explore. If the weather is good then we will be able to view the glaciers from a distance. To get a closer view there is also the option, weather permitting, to take a scenic flight which offers a bird's eye view of the glaciers and surrounding landscape. Please speak with your Explore Leader who can help you arrange this activity locally. Our valley walk takes approximately one hour and covers approximately three kilometres. The terrain is a glacier valley.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 12 Experience Gondwanaland. Drive to Wanaka

In the morning (weather permitting), we will go for a walk around Lake Matheson (approximately 1 hour 30 minutes), which could provide us with an excellent opportunity to take that perfect photo of Mount Cook with its mirrored reflection on the lake's calm water. We then continue our trip through Westland National Park, a World Heritage Park. The rainforest is very impressive and has subtropical character. Here we undertake a short bush walk (approximately one and a half hours) to reach the seldom-visited Monro beach, which once joined part of Gondwanaland. The Explore Leader will explain the different species of native trees, such as Rimu, Kahikatea and Beech. We continue driving via Haast Pass towards Wanaka, in Aspiring National Park, with breathtaking views of the surrounding snowy peaks and the glacier lakes Hawea and Wanaka. Today we walk a total of approximately three hours over 3.6 kms. The terrain is Jurassic forest.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 13 Free day to explore Wanaka

Wanaka is a hiker's paradise because of its beautiful environment. The tranquil township lies directly on the shores of beautiful Lake Wanaka, New Zealand's fourth largest lake. It reflects the snow-capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park whose dominant feature is impressive Mt Aspiring, towering above a magnificent glacier-sculpted wilderness. The area boasts a great variety of walking tracks. Today is free for exploring.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 14 Discover Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. Take Queenstown gondola ride

After breakfast, we traverse the Crown Range road and take the opportunity to visit the partially restored and well-interpreted Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. This is a quiet reminder and tribute to the contribution made by the Chinese goldminers and business people to the region's goldmining, cultural and business history. We then continue on to Queenstown, the Adventure Capital of New Zealand. In the afternoon, we take the Skyline Gondola up to admire the views and take an optional walk to Ben Lomond before returning down to explore the town.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 15 Walk part of the Kepler Track

After breakfast, we make our way to Te Anau, known locally as 'the walking capital of the world'. Some of the most wild and dramatic scenery in New Zealand can be found in Fiordland, in the southwest corner of the South Island. Fiordland is one of the largest National Parks in the world and a World Heritage area. Here the power of nature stuns the enthralled visitor - from its waterfalls tumbling hundreds of metres into virgin, forested valleys and lonely fiords, to endless stretches of shimmering lakes and granite peaks. Today we walk part of the Kepler Track, one of the great walks of New Zealand. The track is gently undulating and wanders through mountain beech forest with some great river views. Today we walk a total of approximately nine kilometres over three to three and a half hours. The terrain is beech forest.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 16 Boat cruise on Milford Sound. Walk to Key Summit

This morning weather permitting we take a walk to Key Summit (approximately 3 hours), a half-day walk on the Routeburn Track. This walk is on an easy track and offers spectacular views of Fiordland National Park. We then drive to the most accessible and best known of the fiords, Milford Sound. The Milford Road (between Te Anau and Milford Sound) is one of the finest alpine drives in the world. The scenery is exceptional, ranging from broad grassy flats, dense rainforest, and towering mountains through to glacial lakes and alpine herb fields. No other road in Fiordland offers such a diverse glimpse into New Zealand's alpine zone. We take a 1.5 hour boat trip on the Milford Sound, which is dominated by the mighty cone of the Mitre Peak, rising steeply up from the water where we will have an included lunch. Late this afternoon, we arrive back in Te Anau. Our walk today is approximately three and a half kilometres over three hours. The terrain is forest sub alpine shrublands.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 17 Walking in the shadow of Mount Cook

After passing through the rocky Kawerau Gorge and Cromwell village, the road winds upward to Lindis Pass. The plains of the Mackenzie highland lie before us. On the left are the mountains of the Southern Alps that we will continuously see whilst we drive to Mount Cook National Park. Reaching Mount Cook village, we enjoy the unique environment of different alpine plants and flowers and the panoramic vista of New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mt Cook (3764m). Walks may include Tasman Glacier and Tasman Lake. Blessed with a marvellous view of the surrounding peaks we overnight in the National Park. There are different short walk available and one will be chosen by the Explore Leader depending on the weather. One of the regular walks is three kilometres and takes approximately one hour and forty minutes.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 18 Free day to explore

Today is free to explore the area or relax. There is plenty of hiking available for those that wish to do more walking. Walks include Mount Cook village, Hooker Valley and Kea Point. Please note that today us a free day for the driver / guide.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 19 Drive to Akaroa via Lake Tekapo

This morning we drive to the stunning turquoise Lake Tekapo, and visit the Church of Good Shepherd set on the shore surrounded by mountains. Built in the 1930's in memory of the local pioneers all the materials for the church were sourced from a within a five mile radius and the builders were instructed not to disturb the site so rocks , etc were incorporated into the walls. We then continue our drive to the French style village of Akaroa. The rest of the afternoon is left free to explore this quiet village and harbour sitting at the centre of an ancient volcano.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

This morning we drive to Christchurch for a short city tour. The trip ends at 12.30 in Christchurch or 13.00 at Christchurch airport. Any Flight Inclusive clients that have later flights will have the option to be taken to the Heartland Hotel in Merivale, Christchurch, where they will be able to leave their luggage leaving them free to explore Christchurch more if they wish. A transfer will then be arranged from the hotel to the airport to meet their flight. There are limited facilities available at the hotel but showers are available at the airport if required.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

On day 10 you stay at a simple hotel in Greymouth. The motel style rooms are simple but have all the mod-cons required - en-suite shower room, small fridge and tea and coffee making facilities.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 19 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

New Zealand

Lunch £: 14.00

Dinner £: 20.00 - 24.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

New Zealand

Bottle of Beer £: 3.00

Water £: 1.00

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Auckland - Sky tower NZ\$28; Revolving restaurant NZ\$70; Auckland War Memorial Museum NZ\$8

Wellington - Cable car NZ\$7.50; Zealandia NZ\$28 self guided / Night tour NZ\$75; Wellington Movie tour NZ\$55

Punakaiki - Paparoa National Park: River Kayak NZ\$40 for up to 2 hours and \$5 each following hour (per adult) Guided trips start from \$70 (per adult)

Fox Glacier / Mount Cook - Helicopter flights; NZ\$215-410

Wanaka - Jet Boat and Walk - NZ\$172.5; Jet Boat Walk and Helicopter NZ\$445

Christchurch - Lord of the Rings tour, visiting Mt Sunday (film set Edoras) NZ\$245; Antarctic Centre NZ\$25; Willow Bank Wildlife Reserve NZ\$25; Punting on the River Avon NZ\$25 plus Garden tour NZ\$39; Day tour to Akaroa from NZ\$115

* Prices are subject to change

Foreign Exchange

New Zealand

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in all main towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: All major credit cards are accepted at all locations.

Travellers Cheques: Can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices.

Local Currency: N.Z. Dollar.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: You can purchase New Zealand currency from home, otherwise we recommend £GBP or \$US.

Where to Exchange: Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities only.

Joining your Trip

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!

The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

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Travel Aware

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting cr@explore.co.uk or 01252 379438.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

New Zealand: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian and Australian citizens.

USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Vaccinations & Protection

New Zealand

Nothing required. Tetanus recommended. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.



Preparing for your Trip

DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	5km	2hrs
Day 3	5.5km	1.5hrs
Day 4	6km	2hrs
Day 5	19.4km	8hrs
Day 6		
Day 7		
Day 8	11km	3.5hrs
Day 9	8km	2.5hrs
Day 10	7km	2.5hrs
Day 11	2.6km	1hr
Day 12	3.6km	2hrs
Day 13		
Day 14		
Day 15	9km	3hrs
Day 16	3.4km	3hrs
Day 17	3km	1.5hrs

Optional Walks

Trekking Details

Walks on 11 days for between 1 and 8 hours. We have graded the trip as easy. The Tongariro Crossing day is a more difficult walk and will take approximately 8 hours but there are easier options available.

Climate

New Zealand

New Zealand's climate is maritime: mild and pleasant with abundant sunshine, high rainfall and a few extremes of heat and cold. However, settled weather cannot be counted on at any time of year - all seasons can be experienced in one day! Generally the summer months (Nov-April) are warmest and most pleasant, with least rainfall. In the Southern Alps temperatures can fluctuate dramatically. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Clothing

You will need lightweight clothing, but also warmer clothing. Good rain gear is essential as is warm upper body clothing. Fine Merino products can be purchased in New Zealand and are warmer than synthetics. Please note that most accommodation in New Zealand has laundry facilities - washing machines and driers - available for guest use, and hairdryers are available in most places. Bring swimwear too.

Warm clothing including scarf, gloves and hat is recommended, particularly for the Tongariro Crossing.

Equipment

Bring a torch, a water bottle and sunscreen. Due to increased exposure risk in New Zealand, we recommend a minimum of SPF 30+. Due to lack of ozone, burn times are drastically reduced and adequate protection is a vital part of your holiday. Walking poles are useful on some walks. The diminutive biting sandfly (a type of blackfly) can be particularly bad on the west coast of the South Island. While their bites do not carry any disease, they can be particularly irritating for some people. Good insect repellents need to be carried (best purchased in New Zealand, as these are specific for the New Zealand sandfly). A good effective mild analgesic is available to soothe any bites.

Footwear

Bring well worn in hiking boots. Sandals and/or old training shoes are useful if you want to do any water based activities.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. A backpack or soft holdall preferably with wheels may prove more convenient due to the variety of transport used on this trip. You will be required to carry your luggage to/from on/off coaches, trains and ferries.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

New Zealand

Population: 4,414,400

Size of Country: 268,021 sq km

Major Language: English

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: -12

Electric Supply & Plugs

New Zealand

3 Pin Flat

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group (www.tourismconcern.org.uk) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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