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small prices
big adventure

GRAND TRAVERSE

15 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price – NZ \$2,985

includes transport, most meals, shared tent accommodation, ferry crossing, Wai-o-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, gondola ride, wine tasting & much more...

Two islands – one amazing trip

a superb adventure from Auckland to Queenstown

This fantastic journey launches in the City of Sails (Auckland) and takes in the country's finest natural highlights as you head south. You will see a diverse set of landscapes from white sand beaches and dramatic Fiords to thermal geysers and towering forests.

DAY 1: AUCKLAND – HOT WATER BEACH

Leaving Auckland at 10am we travel to the Coromandel, renowned for its natural beauty, misty rainforests and pristine white, sandy beaches. Marvel at the views on a beautiful coastal walk or take in the coastline from the water by kayak. Visit the unique and famous Hot Water Beach to dig, then relax, in your own thermal pool! Soak up the breath-taking scenery and cameras ready for spectacular sunsets at our beachside camp.

walks: stunning coastal walk with views over the Pacific
 bike rides: scenic road cycling options
 activities (own cost): sea kayaking around hidden bays
 cabin upgrades: basic single from \$72, basic double from \$27pp
 meals: dinner

DAY 2: HOT WATER BEACH - ROTORUA

The morning is filled with activity as we make our way south into the thermal wonderland of Rotorua. On the way, those visiting Hobbiton leave us in Matamata as we continue to the cultural and geological heart of the North Island and the perfect place to experience and learn about Maori culture and the dramatic natural thermals, Rotorua. There is plenty of action to choose from such as Zip Lining, OGO and the Luge or go biking in the Whakarewarewa forest. We recommend finishing your day with a Maori cultural experience at the Tamaki Maori Village, there really is something for everyone!

walks: stroll through towering, ancient forests & unique thermal landscapes
 bike rides: great off-road trail rides
 activities (own cost): Hobbiton, Tamaki Maori Village, OGO, Luge, hot pools, Zipline canopy tour
 cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp
 meals: breakfast & lunch

DAY 3: ROTORUA - TURANGI

Enjoy a relaxed start to the day before we check out the geysers & mud pools at Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland. First, we visit the Lady Knox Geyser before exploring one of New Zealand's most extensive geothermal networks, a unique landscape with colourful sulphur lakes and diverse volcanic vistas. We then take time to explore the impressive Huka Falls before arriving into Taupo, considered the North Island's adrenalin capital. Test your fear of heights on the giant swing, bungy or go skydiving, the scenery is well worth it! We finish the day with a beautiful drive around the edge of Lake Taupo on our way into camp at Turangi.

walks: walks of various distances past dramatic waterfalls and around Lake Taupo
 bike rides: ride through the Redwood Forest or take the Lion's Track cycle path around the lake
 activities (own cost): skydive, bungy, giant swing, Wai-O-Tapu (free – this one is on us 😊)
 cabin upgrades: basic single from \$38, basic double from \$11pp
 meals: breakfast & dinner

DAY 4: TURANGI - PAKAKARIKI

Today you have the chance to experience the Tongariro Alpine Crossing - considered NZ's best day hike, offering a remarkable journey across volcanic landscapes. Lava flows, emerald-coloured lakes, magnificent views and steaming vents combine to make this an unforgettable hike. For those who aren't keen on hiking you can enjoy short local walks or cycle the Tongariro river track. After the hike, we make our way south and stay on the Kapiti coast in a quiet little place called Paekakariki.

walks: Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Tongariro river track
 bike rides: Tongariro river track
 activities (own cost): Tongariro Alpine Crossing, white water rafting (grade 3 rapids)
 cabin upgrades: basic single from \$60, basic double from \$25pp
 meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



"The only NZ operator top rated in National Geographic's Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth and the World Travel Awards."

Departs:

Auckland
 You can take extended breaks along the way

Finishes:

Queenstown
 Transfers to Christchurch can be arranged at an additional cost but contact us if it doesn't quite fit - we are flexible!

Groups:

Average around 18 per trip, max group size 26. You will be well looked after with 2 great guides on every trip

Fitness Level:

Suitable for all levels

Accommodation:

Camping in a carefully chosen selection of commercial and Department of Conservation sites by lakes, mountains & oceans. Most nights you can upgrade to a cabin or private room for a small fee (subject to availability).

There is 1 night spent in a hostel (Picton day 5) that is at an additional cost. Payment is to be made direct to the hostel on check-in.

Food:

We enjoy good food and supply tasty & healthy meals suitable for all diets + hot drinks - details on itinerary

Included:

All travel, shared tent accommodation (2 people per tent), ferry crossing, Wai-O-Tapu, gondola ride, Tongariro crossing (transfer payable), side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board, 14 x breakfasts, 5 x lunches, 8 x dinners & much more (see website for details)

Activities:

Bikes are available to hire for sections or for your entire trip. We enjoy great, free walks most days (the only payable one is the 3-day Routeburn Track and a transfer fee to the start of the Tongariro Crossing). Optional activities listed are not included but we do get great some group discounts + there are always free alternatives.

Tour price & optional upgrades:

Grand Traverse tour 2018.19	\$2985
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$295
Bring your own bike	\$115
Single tent upgrade	\$130
Sleeping bag hire	\$60

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Due to the nature of our trips itinerary details are subject to change to meet the needs of an individual group, adapt for weather etc. Full terms and conditions can be found at <https://flyingkiwi.com/other-bits-and-pieces/terms-and-conditions.html>

DAY 5: PAEKAKARIKI – WELLINGTON - PICTON

Heading south to "the coolest little capital in the World" (as recently named by Lonely Planet), our early arrival by 9am gives you time to experience some of Wellington's attractions or simply soak up the culture and buzz of our capital city. There are plenty for all tastes including the highly recommend Te Papa museum. Check out some of New Zealand's rare birds at Zealandia or take a walk-up Mt Victoria for great views across the city and harbour. Later that day, it's time to say goodbye to the North Island as the South Island welcomes us with picturesque scenery of the Marlborough sounds as we cross the Cook Strait by ferry. Camping isn't feasible tonight so we stay at a great friendly hostel where we have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board.

activities (own cost): Te Papa museum (free), city & movie tour, Zealandia, cable car
hostel (own cost): dorm bed from \$30pp, private single/double room from \$72
meals: breakfast



DAY 6: PICTON - KAIKOURA

Today we travel the scenic Pacific coast to Kaikoura where close encounters with seals and sea birds are common. Kaikoura translates to 'meal of crayfish' (Kai - food, koura - crayfish) a reference to the abundance of seafood and sea life in the area. The town has transformed from a sleepy fishing village into a hot spot for whale watching, dolphin swimming and seal spotting. This picturesque town sits right on the ocean at the foot of the mountains – a spectacular spot. Stretch your legs with a recommended afternoon peninsula walk and build up an appetite for a tasty feast of locally caught fresh seafood.

walks: Kaikoura peninsula walk with opportunity to spot seals, a variety of birdlife and the occasional dolphin!
bike rides: Kowhai bike track and a short road ride
optional activities: whale watching, sea kayaking, deep sea fishing
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast, & dinner



DAY 7: KAIKOURA – CHRISTCHURCH - RANGITATA

For those that are keen there is the chance to rise early for a wonderful sunrise and then enjoy one of our most highly rated optional activities – dolphin swimming. The resident dusky dolphins are amongst the most interactive and entertaining in the World and it's not unusual to swim with pods of 50 or more in their natural habitat, the ocean! We then have the chance to explore this quaint seaside town before heading south to Christchurch to collect and drop off those starting or ending their tour. You'll have time to explore Christchurch city and buy your lunch from one of the many quirky container cafes at the 'Restart Mall'. At 2:30pm we travel towards the Southern Alps with fantastic views across the Canterbury Plains – real Lord of the Rings country! Tonight's unique camp is at the Shearer's Headquarters (an actual operating farm) located at the foot of the Southern Alps.

walks: take an early walk around our coastal camp, evening walk in Peel Forest
bike rides: 18km country road, 9km country road cycling around camp
activities (own cost): highly recommended dolphin swim, dolphin viewing
cabin upgrades: basic single or double room from \$15pp
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 8: RANGITATA – LAKE PUKAKI

Wake up to mountain views and refresh yourself even more white water rafting on the mighty Rangitata River! If rafting isn't for you then no problem - soak it all in with a morning cycle or walk through the Peel Forest. We then continue through more jaw dropping landscapes (they don't stop in the South Island) to the picture postcard, Lake Tekapo. Here you will view the most spectacular turquoise waters which get their colour from the glacial flour brought down from the rivers flowing from glaciers high up in the mountains. Leaving Tekapo we head to one of our best wilderness camps – sitting on the shores of Lake Pukaki you can set up your tent and take in the views of the lake with New Zealand's highest peak Aoraki/Mt Cook visible in the distance.

walks: Peel Forest walks, lakeside walks around camp
bike rides: Tekapo Canal Alps to Ocean 30km, edge of Lake Pukaki trail riding
activities (own cost): white water rafting (grade 5 rapids!), horse-riding
cabin upgrades: no – wilderness camp no upgrade options
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 9: LAKE PUKAKI – MOERAKI

Immerse yourself in the snow-capped mountain scenery that New Zealand is famous for and explore Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Hike to the base of NZ's highest mountain following a trail up the Hooker valley where you'll cross swing bridges and get stunning views of the mountains before finishing up at a glacial lake with views of the Hooker Valley glacier. We then travel back towards the Pacific coast for a quick stop in the historic town of Oamaru before continuing onwards to the small village of Moeraki. Walk to a great view point offering expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and try to spot a little Blue Penguin along the shore. If you have a bike it's possible to visit a colony of extremely rare Yellow-eyed Penguins near to camp.

walks: to the base of Mount Cook and Hooker Valley, the Moeraki heritage Trail and viewpoint
bike rides: 15km road ride to Peter's lookout, Alps2Ocean Oamaru trail ride 13km, Yellow-eyed Penguin colony
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$58, basic double from \$23pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 10: MOERAKI - DUNEDIN

Before travelling south, we make a stop at the nearby Moeraki Boulders and then it's onto the historic Scottish city of Dunedin, the South Island's second-largest city. This southern city is home to the world's steepest residential street and the coastline is home to some fantastic and rare wildlife. It's possible to take a tour onto the Otago Peninsula to view some of this diverse wildlife which includes Albatross and Fur Seals. For the adventurous why not try surfing at one of Dunedin's best breaks! Our camp is a short distance from the beach with a variety of restaurants close by to choose from.

walks: tide permitting - walk to the Moeraki Boulders, walk the World's steepest street
bike rides: 6km downhill ride into Dunedin, explore Dunedin by bike, ride to camp or along the waterfront
activities (own cost): surfing, Otago Peninsula wildlife tour
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$40, basic double from \$12pp
meals: breakfast

DAY 11: DUNEDIN - HOLLYFORD

Today is one of our longer travel days as we drive through some of New Zealand's most dramatic natural scenery on our way to Fiordland. Large parts of the landscape have been carved out over thousands of years to leave stunning paths that weave through snow-capped mountains. We stop briefly in Te Anau, the hub and gateway town for Fiordland National Park and Milford Sound and your last chance to get supplies for those doing the Routeburn Track tomorrow.

From Te Anau we make our way into the gigantic Fiordland National Park, encompassing some 12,500km² it is New Zealand's largest National Park. Tonight's camp is a pretty special place in the heart of the Hollyford Valley, established in the 1930s. You can learn more about the history of the camp at the onsite museum. Cyclists have the chance to cycle to camp through some great native bush and walkers can do some nice short walks from camp (ask your guide about the secret glow worm trails).

walks: plenty of short walks from camp
bike rides: 8km road cycle to camp
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$45, basic double from \$15pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast & dinner

DAY 12: HOLLYFORD – TE ANAU

Travel one of the world's most scenic routes into Milford Sound! Described as the 'eighth wonder of the world', Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages. We highly recommend taking in the boat trip on Milford Sound with dramatic waterfalls, snow-capped peaks and possible wildlife spotting of dolphins, penguins and seals! As it's just the one road in and out, we head back along the same breath-taking route to our lakeside camp in Te Anau. Along the way, we drop off those doing the 3-day Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's 9 Great Walks. This 3-day hike passes through two National Parks and is a haven for native birdlife. Charge up your camera as this hike offers everything from mountainous peaks and sheer rock faces to pristine lakes, cascading waterfalls and dense, luxuriant forest.

walks: 3-day Routeburn Track (re-join group in Queenstown on day 14) – pre-book with the Flying Kiwi office as soon as possible as this activity can book out months in advance!
bike rides: 10.5km Te Anau loop, Ivan Wilson Park mountain bike trail
activities (own cost): highly recommend Milford boat cruise, Routeburn Track, Te Anau glow worm caves & boat ride
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$25, basic double from \$25pp
meals: breakfast & lunch

DAY 13: TE ANAU - QUEENSTOWN

Today we journey to Queenstown along the shores of the photogenic Lake Wakatipu. Once we arrive at the adventure capital of New Zealand you can enjoy spectacular views, a free Gondola ride and a huge selection of activities to choose from. There is everything here, from adrenalin pumping bungy, canyon swing and skydiving to a relaxing horse trek or boat cruise – this place has it all. There are great tracks around the lake ideal for bikers and hikers and all with wonderful views of this alpine region.

walks: Queenstown lakefront or hill walks
bike rides: Lake Wakatipu trail 16km
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
cabin upgrades: single en-suite from \$135, double en-suite from \$58pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast

DAY 14: QUEENSTOWN

With so much to do we spend the full day in fantastic Queenstown with the opportunity to enjoy those once in a lifetime experiences (don't forget to try the legendary and very tasty Fergburger!). Routeburn Track walkers re-join the group here at midday with time to try some of the many exciting activities this vibrant city has to offer. Tonight, we dine out at one of Queenstown's many delicious eateries - a great chance for your group to enjoy a true kiwi feast (own cost).

walks: Queenstown walks, Ben Lomond
bike rides: Lake Wakatipu trail, Queenstown trail 48km
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
cabin upgrades: single en-suite from \$135, double en-suite from \$58pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast

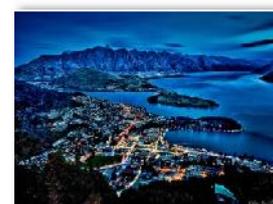
DAY 15: QUEENSTOWN

A last chance to indulge in the Queenstown action before finishing your tour with us here and saying farewell to your fellow Flying Kiwi travellers by 2:30pm.

walks: multiple walking options
bike rides: road cycling around town
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
meals: breakfast

Have more time?

Extend your trip by a few days to continue your travels into Glacier country or connect with our 8-day Wild West tour to Nelson/Picton - contact one of our friendly team with any questions.



All images we use are taken by passengers (no staged professional photographers or stock photography here) – so what you see is what you get!

Photos by: Tom Judd (main image), Lander Azkue, Megan Simpson, Randy Law, Alan Lepofsky, Chris Reynolds, Lindsey Keith, Matthias Gudath, theplanetd bloggers, Tine Busshardt, Rob Chandler, Derek Craddock

Grand Traverse Route Map



our trips give you.....

- More national parks**
- More activities, hikes & bike rides**
- More value for money**
- More time in the best locations**
- More chances to get off the beaten track**
- Guaranteed departures**

Do I need to book my own accommodation?

No, all of the camp sites are pre- booked and reserved for your trip. On the Grand Traverse there is 1 night in Picton where it's not practical to set up tents/use cabins. On this night we use a great hostel perfectly located for exploring the town. We have a dorm bed booked for everyone on board (payable on check-in) – if you would prefer a private room please let us know in advance. We can also help with booking accommodation pre and post tour if needed.

How do I upgrade to cabins?

Cabin upgrades can be pre-booked prior to your trip or each day on arrival into camp. If travelling during Dec, Jan, Feb we recommend pre-booking with us prior to travel as all cabin upgrades are subject to availability. To pre-book cabin upgrades there is an administration fee which is 10% of the total upgrade cost. There are 3 types of upgrades and approximate costs are:

Dorm bed / shared room

\$10 - \$20 per night (can only be booked on tour)

Private room with shared bathroom

\$45 per night (average cost for single room)

Private room with en-suite

\$95 per night (average cost for single room)

Can I hop-on and off the bus?

It is possible to take extended breaks at any point – buses go past every 9 days in the summer season, so you can hop off for any increment of 9 (9, 18, 27 days etc).

What is the average age of travellers on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi appeals to people of all ages. Most importantly it appeals to travellers who want to experience more off the beaten track locations, enjoy small group travel and are keen to try activities such as hiking, cycling, dolphin swimming and much more. Most people are between the age of 20 and 40 but we happily welcome travellers of all ages over 10yrs.

How fit do I have to be?

You don't have to be super-fit to travel with Flying Kiwi – all walks, bike rides and activities are optional and they range from light strolls to full day hikes in Alpine terrain. Your driver or guide will discuss the level of fitness required.

Is it ok to travel alone on Flying Kiwi?

Flying Kiwi is perfect for people travelling by themselves.

I'm a vegetarian or have other dietary requirements – is that a problem?

No problem at all, we are used to catering for all kinds of dietary requirements. As we cook for ourselves we can easily accommodate your needs. Just let us know when you book.

Where can I charge my camera, phone, batteries, i-pod or MP3 player?

Charging facilities are available at the commercial campgrounds (most nights) and some buses are also able to charge appliances.

Is there mobile phone / wi-fi coverage?

Most of our north island camps have network coverage available. On approximately ½ of the camps in the south island there is no network coverage. We do get access to wifi every few days and cafes /restaurants often provide access. For many people a highlight of our trips is the remote overnight locations and escaping connectivity!

What is a bush camp?

A bush camp is a campsite usually in a remote or wilderness location with stunning views and basic facilities.