



big adventure small prices

REVERSE TRAVERSE

14 or 15 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price - NZ \$2,680 (Queenstown)
Tour price - NZ \$2,885 (Christchurch)

includes transport, most meals, shared tent accommodation, ferry crossing, wine tasting & much more...

Two islands -- bottom to top

as we take in everything from dramatic glaciers to golden sand beaches



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

The following itinerary shows the trip starting in Queenstown. You can also start a day earlier from Christchurch and travel by shuttle across the Canterbury plains before joining the group for a night in Queenstown.

DAY 1: QUEENSTOWN – LAKE WANAKA

Leaving Queenstown at 2:30pm, we travel by mountains and on towards stunning glacial lakes. On the final stretch to camp we start getting views of Mt Aspiring National Park in the distance. Lake Wanaka is just over the next ridge and it's on the edge of this glacial lake that we find our next wilderness camp. Enjoy great views of Lake Wanaka and the mountains beyond as we absorb the beauty of the area.

- meals included:** dinner
- walks:** multiple walking options
- bike rides:** Lake Wanaka lookout to camp 10km
- cabin upgrades:** No – beautiful lakeside camp (alternatives will be found in bad weather)

DAY 2: LAKE WANAKA – GLACIER COUNTRY

Enjoy a relaxed morning at our lakeside camp then it's northward bound through Mt Aspiring National Park. Just before we reach the West Coast we stop for a walk to the amazing Blue Pools, and then head over the dramatic Haast Pass. As we travel towards the wild West Coast, the road follows braided rivers and huge glacier carved valleys. There are two more great walk options along the way, one through lush and ancient forests and the other through swampy vegetation, ending on the beach where it is possible to spot Hector dolphins. Tonight, we will be staying beside the beautiful Lake Paringa enjoying a true West Coast wilderness experience.

- meals included:** breakfast, lunch & dinner
- walks:** Blue Pools, Ship Creek
- bike rides:** Knights Point lookout to Lake Paringa 25km
- cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability

DAY 3: GLACIER COUNTRY - OKARITO

Today is your chance to explore one of NZ's most unique and spectacular natural wonders – Franz Josef Glacier. This staggering beautiful work of nature is 12 kilometres and descends from the Southern Alps to less than 300 metres above sea level. To get on the ice you must go up by helicopter but it's possible to view the glacier with a stunning walk through the main valley up to the terminal face. Before arriving at Franz Josef, we take a highly recommended walk around Lake Matheson where crystal clear reflections of Mount Cook and Mount Tasman make the perfect photo opportunity. Late afternoon, we have a short drive up the coast to our beautiful beachside campsite next to the Okarito lagoon – one of the very few places where there are still rare sightings of our native kiwi bird and the home to NZ's only colony of the White Heron (kotuku). Enjoy a fire down on the beach taking in the rugged coast and epic mountain views.

- meals included:** breakfast & dinner
- walks:** wonderful hike around Lake Matheson, Te Ara a Waiiau walkway to view the glacier
- bike rides:** Te Ara a Waiiau Cycleway, Okarito road ride 10km
- activities (own cost):** Guided Heli-Hike, skydiving, kayaking, West Coast wildlife centre
- cabin upgrades:** yes – selected nights only

DAY 4: OKARITO - PUNAKAIKI

Enjoy an early morning walk, with a view of the sunrise over the Southern Alps as a reward. We then continue up this spectacular coastal road to the quirky town of Hokitika, home to the Greenstone factories and a great place to pick up a traditional souvenir of your visit. Passing through Greymouth we keep following the coast to Punakaiki where you'll notice a change in the landscape and vegetation with huge limestone cliffs appearing and Nikau Palm trees become abundant. Our beach camp has great sunsets, a beautiful river and incredible views of Paparoa National Park. In the evening, explore a glow worm cavern then relax at the local tavern.

- meals included:** breakfast & dinner
- walks:** Okarito Trig sunrise walk
- bike rides:** West Coast Wilderness Trail 14km, road ride to camp 37km
- activities (own cost):** Punakaiki blow holes (free), horse-riding
- cabin upgrades:** yes – subject to availability

Departs:

Queenstown (14 days) or Christchurch (15 days)
The trip from Christchurch takes one day longer & includes a 7-hour shuttle journey to Queenstown.
You can take extended breaks anywhere along the way

Finishes:

Auckland
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 are 2 nights spent in hostels, Wellington (day 8) and Auckland (day 10) that are at an additional cost and payable locally.

Food:

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

Included:

11 x breakfasts, 3 x lunches, 10 x dinners, all travel, shared tent accommodation (2 people per tent), 1 night Queenstown hostel (ex CHC), wine tasting, ferry crossing, side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board, & much more (see website for details)

Activities:

Bikes are available to hire by the section or for your entire trip. We enjoy great, free walks most days. Optional activities listed are not included but we do get some great group discounts + there are always free alternatives.

Tour price & optional upgrades:

Reverse Traverse departing Queenstown 2019-20	\$2680
Reverse Traverse departing Christchurch 2019-20	\$2885
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$280
Bring your own bike	\$130
Single tent upgrade	\$140
Sleeping bag hire	\$75

Freephone: 0800 693 296 (NZ) or 1800 143 515 (AUS)
UK & Europe: +44 1392 660 606 (UK)
International: +64 3 547 0171
www.flyingkiwi.com

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://www.flyingkiwi.com/other-bits-and-pieces/terms/>

DAY 5: PUNAKAIKI – ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Before leaving Punakaiki we take time to explore part of the Paparoa National Park with a walk along the Porarari river or cycle up Bullock creek road to visit a cave resurgence. Leaving mid-morning we travel inland through the majestic Buller gorge and onto our favourite National Park, Abel Tasman. In one of the sunniest areas of the country you will discover beautiful secluded bays and stunning golden sand beaches. On arrival, you have the option to skydive or hang glide and then we look forward to spending 3 nights at our perfectly located campground, close to the park entrance which makes it the idea place to explore all corners of the park.

meals included: breakfast & dinner
walks: Porarari inland track, Truman track
bike rides: Bullock Creek 16km, Cave Creek, coastal ride to camp and Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): skydiving
cabin upgrades: yes – subject to availability



DAY 6: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Taking time to explore arguably the best beaches and clearest waters in New Zealand - there are excellent options for everyone here. You can walk, sail or kayak around the numerous golden bays and dive into the crystal-clear waters along the way. There will be plenty of chances for wildlife spotting (dolphins, seals and even Orcas!) Explore the heart of the park on one of our most highly rated optional activities - canyoning high flow waterfalls and rapids!

meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner
walks: Abel Tasman National Park track
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): Single & multi-day kayaking options, canyoning, sailing, water-taxi / walk, conservation tour
cabin upgrades: yes – subject to availability



DAY 7: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

We spend another full day at the doorstep to New Zealand's smallest, but most visited national park and our personal favourite, the Abel Tasman. Tonight, we'll be eating at a local hang out, The Fat Tui (own cost)

meals included: breakfast
walks: Abel Tasman National Park track
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): kayaking, canyoning, water taxi / walk, sailing, conservation tour
cabin upgrades: yes – subject to availability



DAY 8: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK – WELLINGTON

Leaving early, we make our way towards Wellington stopping for a brief visit in sunny Nelson, the home of Flying Kiwi. Before leaving Nelson be sure to farewell your Tour Assistant as a new Tour Assistant will join you here for the remainder of your tour. Your Tour Leader will say farewell in Picton. On route to Picton we'll make a stop at Pelorus bridge, a Hobbit film location and great place for a quick dip on a warm day. Finish this fantastic day with a scenic ferry (cost included) through the picturesque Marlborough sounds to Wellington - our base for the evening. Camping isn't feasible in the heart of the nation's capital so we will be staying at a great hostel giving you the best access to explore the city. We have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board.

meals included: breakfast
walks: walk to the geographical centre of New Zealand
bike rides: great option to cycle various lengths of the Tasman taste trail – part of the great New Zealand Cycle Trail
activities: wine tasting (free - this one is on us 😊)
hostel (own cost): dorm bed (shared room) from \$31pp, basic single from \$75, basic double room from \$89



DAY 9: WELLINGTON – NEW PLYMOUTH

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast (own cost) before checking out the sights of New Zealand's beautiful capital before we hit the road for our 11am departure. We travel up the scenic Kapiti Coast towards the Taranaki region – home to wonderful beaches, crashing waves and the spectacular Mount Taranaki, one of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world. Our campsite is beside the Taranaki coastline offering a short scenic walk or cycle to camp at the end of the day.

meals included: dinner
walks: the coastal walkway to camp
bike rides: the coastal walkway, easy path cycling to camp
cabin upgrades: yes – subject to availability



DAY 10: NEW PLYMOUTH - AUCKLAND

We depart early towards the limestone wonderland of Waitomo Caves, home to an endemic species of glow-worms that inhabit the vast cave systems. Black water rafting (optional) is a unique way to experience the caves as you float through the underground maze with the radiant light of the glow-worms to lead the way. We take time to enjoy a picnic lunch before heading to "the city of sails", New Zealand's largest city for a taste of big city life "kiwi style" and a great chance to join your group for a taste of the harbour bars and restaurants. Camping isn't feasible in the heart of the country's largest city so we will be staying in a great hostel giving you the best access to explore the city. We have dorm beds reserved for everyone on board and private rooms can be booked subject to availability. Payment is to be made to Flying Kiwi prior to arrival into Auckland.

meals included: breakfast & lunch
walks: farmland or cave walk through limestone formations
bike rides: 7km – 22km road options
activities (own cost): blackwater rafting, glow-worm cave tour
hostel (own cost): dorm bed (shared room) from \$40pp, basic single from \$75, basic double room from \$85



DAY 11: AUCKLAND – BAY OF ISLANDS

Leaving Auckland at 10am we head to the "winterless north" and the pristine beaches of the Bay of Islands. We stop at the incredible Uretiti beach for a swim and a walk along the sand. Grab a rugby ball and frisbee off the bus and brush up on your passing skills at this picturesque beach spot. On arrival into Paihia, the gateway town to the Bay of Islands, choose from the Mangrove walk or a beautiful cycle from the thundering Haruru waterfall.

meals included: dinner
walks: mangrove walk from Haruru Falls - highly recommended
bike rides: Twin Coast Trail – 16km trail ride
activities (own cost): Waitangi Treaty House (Maori culture), twilight kayak
cabin upgrades: yes – limited options subject to availability



DAY 12: BAY OF ISLANDS

Experience a full day exploring the Bay of Islands and its turquoise waters. This subtropical region is the perfect playground for water lovers and a great place to soak up the sunshine. With a staggering 144 islands, the Bay of Islands offers diving, sailing, swimming and fishing along with some excellent walks in the native forests leading to quiet beaches and special views. This region is also home to some of the oldest European settlement in New Zealand and many historic buildings.

meals included: breakfast & dinner
walks: scenic viewpoint or coastal walkway
bike rides: road cycling or Waitangi forest trail of varying lengths
activities (own cost): sailing, fishing, diving, dolphin swimming, kayaking, Maori Culture
cabin upgrades: yes – limited options subject to availability



DAY 13: BAY OF ISLANDS - OREWA

There is a day full of adventure ahead as we travel to the rugged and soulful West Coast. Our first stop comes with a chance to try your skills sand boarding or if you don't fancy heading down the sandy slopes there's a nice coastal walk. Then it's back on board as we head south towards the Waipoua Forest, travelling through the largest remaining tract of native kauri forests in northland. We leave the West Coast and cross back over to the East towards our final destination and camp for tonight, Orewa. Home to one of the Auckland regions longest and safest beaches it's a great place for a stroll and a swim.

meals included: breakfast & dinner
hikes: coastal walk to Omapere, walk amongst the Kauri trees of the Waipoua forest
bike rides: Twin Coast Cycle Way, Donnelly's crossing, Te Ara Tahuna Estuary Cycleway
activities (own cost): sand boarding
cabin upgrades: yes – subject to availability



DAY 14: OREWA - AUCKLAND

Orewa is often blessed with a beautiful sunrise over the sea which is well worth the early start to check it out. Leaving early from camp we travel the short distance to Auckland arriving there by 9:30am where it's time to say our final farewells.

meals included: breakfast
bike rides: Te Ara Tahuna Estuary Cycleway



Have more time?

Extend your trip by connecting with our 5-day Northern Light tour to Wellington
- 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: Ngai Tahu Tourism (main image), Chrys Tremphanmor, Megan Simpson, Randy Law, Alan Lepofsky, Chris Reynolds, Lindsey Keith, Matthias Gudath, theplanetd bloggers, Tine Busshardt, Rob Chandler, Derek Craddock, Ainhua Goenaga

Reverse 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. There are 2 overnight stops (detailed in itinerary) where it's not practical to set up tents/use cabins. On these nights we use great hostels perfectly located for exploring the cities & towns. We have dorm beds booked for everyone on board (payable on check-in) – if you would prefer a private room (subject to availability) 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. The average age is 27 years.

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 1/2 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.