



SUMMER BLAST

16,17 or 19 Days

(with options to take extended breaks)

Tour price - NZ \$3,295 (16 days)
 Tour price - NZ \$3,455 (17/19 days)

includes transport, most meals,
 shared tent accommodation,
 gondola ride, wine tasting & much more...

See and do it all in the South

with superb activities, amazing natural beauty and great diversity

The Summer Blast is a great loop around the stunning South Island. You can start and finish your trip in Nelson/Picton (17 days), travel from Christchurch to Nelson/Picton (16 days) or do a full loop from Christchurch to Christchurch (19 days) and spend 2 nights in either Nelson or Picton (own cost). This itinerary shows a 17-day trip starting and finishing in Picton.

DAY 1: PICTON - KAIKOURA

Leaving Picton at 11am 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
- 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: dinner

DAY 2: 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 3: 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



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

Departs:

Christchurch (16/19 days) or Nelson/Picton (17 days)
 You can take extended breaks anywhere along the way

Finishes:

Nelson, Picton or Christchurch
 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).

Food:

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

Included:

All travel, shared tent accommodation (2 people per tent), gondola ride, wine tasting, side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, use of sports equipment on board, 16 x breakfasts, 6 x lunches, 11 x dinners & 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 (the only payable one is the 3-day Routeburn Track). Optional activities listed are not included but we do get some great group discounts + there are always free alternatives.

Tour price & optional upgrades:

Summer Blast (16 days) 2018.19	\$3295
Summer Blast (17/19 days) 2018.19	\$3455
Cycle hire for entire trip	\$330
Bring your own bike	\$125
Single tent upgrade	\$130
Sleeping bag hire	\$50

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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 4: 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 Omarama 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 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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. Sheer rock faces, 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 8: 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 bungee, 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 9: 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 10: QUEENSTOWN - MAKARORA

Our final morning in Queenstown and your last chance to indulge in the Queenstown's action before we farewell those finishing their tour and welcome new travellers joining us here. Leaving at 2:30pm, after the thrills and spills of Queenstown we travel through more mountains and on towards more 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.

walks: multiple walking options
bike rides: road cycling around town. Lake Wanaka lookout to Boundary Creek
activities (own cost): too many to list – something for everyone (see our website or ask us for details)
cabin upgrades: no – wilderness camp no upgrade options
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 11: MAKAROA – FOX GLACIER

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 in glacier country at the picturesque village of Fox Glacier.

walks: Blue Pools, Ship Creek
bike rides: 13km long and winding scenic downhill cycle from Haast Pass, 22km Copland track to Fox Glacier
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$53, basic double from \$18pp
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 12: FOX GLACIER - OKARITO

Today is your chance to explore one of NZ's most unique and spectacular natural wonders - Fox Glacier. This staggering beautiful work of nature is over 13 kilometres in length and plummets 2,600 metres from its peak in the Southern Alps. 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. A walk around Lake Matheson is highly recommended where crystal clear reflections of Mount Cook and Mount Tasman make the perfect photo opportunity. In the 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.

walks: wonderful hike around Lake Matheson, Te Weheka walkway to view the glacier
bike rides: Te Weheka Cycleway, Okarito road ride 10km
activities (own cost): Guided Heli-Hike, Terminal Face Walk
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$15pp
meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 13: 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. The pancake rocks and blowholes are the main attraction in Punakaiki where limestones rocks are stacked on top of each other and ocean swells are forced through gaps in the rock creating a whale's blowhole effect. In the evening, explore a cavern with some glow worms hanging out in the dark then relax at the local tavern.

walks: Okarito Trig Walk, Point Elizabeth walk
bike rides: West Coast Wilderness Trail 14km, road ride to camp 37km
activities (own cost): Punakaiki blow holes (free), river kayaking, paddle-boarding, horse-riding
cabin upgrades: basic single from \$60, basic double from \$23pp - (limited rooms available!)
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 14: 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.

walks: Porarari inland track, Truman track
bike rides: Bullock Creek 16km, Cave Creek, coastal ride to camp, Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): skydive, hang glide
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 15: 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! Tonight, we'll be eating at a local hang out, The Fat Tui (own cost)

walks: Abel Tasman National Park track
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): Single & multi-day kayaking options, canyoning, sailing, horse-riding, water-taxi / walk, conservation tour, conservation projects (free)
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp
meals: breakfast & lunch



DAY 16: 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.

walks: Abel Tasman National Park track
bike rides: Kaiteriteri bike park
activities (own cost): kayaking, canyoning, water taxi / walk, sailing, horse-riding, conservation tour
cabin upgrades: dorm bed (shared room) \$12pp, basic single from \$50, basic double from \$18pp
meals: breakfast & dinner



DAY 17: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK – NELSON / PICTON

Leaving early, we make our way to Nelson arriving by 11am where we say farewell to those finishing their tour here. If finishing your tour in Picton you have a short time to explore Nelson city before leaving at 12:30pm. 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 followed by some wine tasting at our favourite local Marlborough winery before arriving into Picton and saying farewell by 5pm.

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, if your tour finishes in Picton)
meals: breakfast



Have more time?

Extend your trip by a few days to continue your travels in the North Island by linking with our Northern Express or Hot Rocks tours. - 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: Nick Zivanovich (main image), Lander Azkue, Megan Simpson, Randy Law, Alan Lepofsky, Chris Reynolds, Lindsey Keith, Matthias Gudath, theplanetd bloggers, Tine Busshardt, Rob Chandler, Derek Craddock, Ainhoa Goenaga

Summer Blast 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. If doing the 19 day tour to/from Christchurch you will need 2 nights' accommodation in either Nelson or Picton. We can recommend a great hostel in either location and are happy to make a booking for you. 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 majority of 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 most 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?

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.