



Small prices
big adventure

ULTIMATE WINTER EXPLORER

27 or 28 Days

includes food, transport, ferry crossings & winter accommodation supplement

New Zealand's winter wonderland

combine the best activities & accommodation with snow adventure



"this trip was perfect, you couldn't have done any more." Johanna, Sweden

This itinerary shows a trip starting from Auckland and heading north first (27 days). Other popular starting points are Auckland heading south first, Wellington or Christchurch (28 days).

Point 1: Depart Auckland at 9am, heading north to the beautiful Bay of Islands. Pass through Whangarei, the last city as we go north to the small tourist town of Paihia. Visit Waitangi where the Treaty of New Zealand was first signed on 6 February 1840 and thundering Haruru Falls.

- Cycle the scenic route to Haruru Falls (12km), Kawakawa to Haruru Falls (25km)
- Mangrove walk to Haruru Falls (2hrs)
- Treaty House visit
- Dinner - Bay Bolognaise

Point 2: Spend another day in this beautiful area. Known as the Winterless North where locals say you can swim year round. If a mid-winter dip doesn't sound appealing don't worry there are plenty of other things to keep you occupied! Paihia is proud to be recognised as 'the Jewel of the Bay of Islands'.

- Haruru Falls loop (12km), scenic loop to Russell (18km), farm land loop (50km)
- Paihia view point (1hr), Paihia to Opua (3hrs)
- Sailing, waka tour, fishing, Cape Reinga day trip, diving Rainbow Warrior, hole in the rock fast boat
- Breakfast - Paihia pancakes, lunch, dinner - Thai green chicken curry

Point 3: We head back towards Auckland taking the West Coast route where you can view the amazing Opononi dunes and the Waipoua Forest. Camp near Waiwera hot pools for a soothing dip.

- Waipoua forest, estuary ride (8km)
- Short walks - (10-30mins)
- Hot pools
- Breakfast, dinner - Waiwera wraps, beef with salad

Point 4: We depart Auckland at 10am heading south towards the real Middle-earth. Cultural capital Rotorua is our destination with thermal wonders and Maori history. Dig and bathe in your own thermal pool.

- Bike Whakarewarewa forest
- Hike Whakarewarewa forest, Rotorua walkway
- Hobbiton movie set tour, OGO, agroventures, luge, Hells Gate mud pools
- Breakfast, dinner - Middle Earth steam oven cooked chicken pieces with vegetables

Point 5: Here come the premier ski fields and the North Island volcanic region. On the way to the National Park we stop in at the impressive Huka Falls, then on to Taupo and all its natural beauty.

- Bike Huka Falls to Taupo (6km)
- Walk Huka Falls to Taupo (2hrs)
- Thermal pools, high ropes, bungee, skydive
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner - homemade hamburgers

Point 6: This is the day to enjoy fun in the snow for all levels. If you are not into skiing you can experience the stunning, scenic and world famous Tongariro Crossing or the Whanganui River canoe trip.

- Fishers track (17km - NZ cycle trail), range of rides
- Tongariro crossing (full day), range of shorter options
- Skiing or snowboarding, canoe trips
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner - bangers & mash with veggies

Point 7: Start the day with a cycle on the mountain to sea cycle trail, or enjoy short hikes at the foot of Mt Ruapehu. Continue south to the adrenaline filled Gravity Canyon then onwards to our coastal camp.

- Old Coach road (15km - NZ cycle trail)
- Range of bush walks (15mins-1hr)
- Gravity Canyon - flying fox, bungee, giant swing
- Breakfast, dinner - classic Kiwi fish & chips with salad

Point 8: After a short drive to Wellington we leave the North Island, heading south to the beautiful town of Picton. The Cook Strait three hour scenic ferry ride passes through the amazing Marlborough Sounds.

- No cycle options today
- Mt Victoria loop (2hrs), range of central city walks
- Te Papa museum, botanical gardens, cable car
- Breakfast

Point 9: Depart Picton at 9am travelling south. Enjoy encounters with fur seals and a myriad of sea birds. Enjoy the magnificent snow-capped Kaikoura ranges while relaxing in the hot pools!

- Coastal highway cycle (27km)
- Kaikoura peninsula walk (1.5hrs)
- Whale watch, kayaking, fishing
- Breakfast, dinner - Kaikoura Saucy Seafood Gumbo

Point 10: After spending the morning exploring Kaikoura we head towards Christchurch. If joining here we depart at 3pm towards the alpine village of Methven where we take an inland scenic route to enjoy the snowy mountain ranges.

- Local rides around Kaikoura
- Short local walks
- Dolphin swimming, dolphin viewing
- Breakfast, dinner - chicken wraps & stir fry veggies

Tour Departures:

Auckland 27,30 July & *23,*26 August

Wellington 3 August

Christchurch 5 August

(all departures are subject to minimum numbers)

Finishes:

Wherever you started the loop but contact us if it doesn't quite fit - we are flexible!
* These trips finish in Picton at a reduced cost.

Groups:

Maximum of 28 passengers but average size is 16-18 pax - this gives you a social, but more individual, experience than using companies with larger groups.

Accommodation:

Staying in carefully chosen lodges, backpackers and cabins in great locations. Multi share rooms with upgrades to private rooms available most nights (subject to availability).

Food:

Tasty & healthy meals suitable for all diets, hot drinks & soup - details on itinerary. (meals may be changed subject to ingredient availability)

Included:

All travel, side trips to remote areas & walking tracks, sports equipment on board, food & drinks (as per itinerary), accommodation & much more

Optional hires:

- cycle hire (daily) \$15
- half day/full day ski pass from \$58
- half day/full day ski/board hire from \$33
- half day/full day ski clothing hire from \$33

= Optional Activities

Full details of our terms and conditions can be found at <http://www.flyingkiwi.com/terms-and-conditions.html>

July-September 2013:

\$3990

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Point 11: An early start for those wishing to enjoy the slopes at one of our favourite ski fields, Mount Hutt. The summit is 2190m above sea level and has the largest skiable area in the South Island. You can, of course, just relax and enjoy this vibrant village, home to amazing Lord of the Rings scenery.

-  Short local rides or full day options
-  Methven walkway (3hrs)
-  Skiing or snowboarding, horse riding, Lord of the Rings 4WD tours
-  Breakfast, lunch, dinner – kumura bake

Point 12: Today we head through central South Island stopping at the breathtaking turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo. Visit the historic church, named Church of the Good Shepherd, built in 1935. This church is one of the most photographed in New Zealand and we recommend you head inside to see why for yourself!

-  Mountain bike Tekapo
-  Mt John summit (3hrs)
-  Earth & sky observatory, hot pools, ice skating, tobogganing
-  Breakfast, dinner – creamy chicken pasta

Point 13: We enjoy a scenic drive back to the East Coast and a visit to the Moeraki Boulders. These bizarre boulders have been exposed through shoreline erosion from coastal cliffs. We continue south to the historic and picturesque Dunedin, home to the world's steepest street.

-  Bike worlds steepest street, Mt Cargill downhill
-  Walk the worlds steepest street, heritage walks (1hr)
-  Speight's brewery tour, Cadbury Chocolate factory tour
-  Breakfast, dinner - fantastic Flying Kiwi fish dish

Point 14: Before leaving the region you can experience the wildlife capital of New Zealand, the Otago Peninsula. Home of the Royal Albatross and the endangered Yellow Eyed Penguin. Journey south to the edge of the Fiordland National Park which has spectacular fiords, lakes and valleys and pristine mountain-to-sea vistas.

-  Cycle the Otago peninsula
-  Short city walks
-  Otago peninsula - albatross colony, penguin viewing, seal viewing
-  Breakfast, dinner - famous Flying Kiwi Nachos

Point 15: One of the most spectacular bodies of water in New Zealand, Doubtful Sound is not to be missed! Virtually untouched by man you will feel more serene the longer you stay here. From one extreme to another - we have a night drive to Queenstown, the adrenalin and adventure capital of New Zealand. Queenstown has it all!

-  Te Anau loop - multiple distance options
-  Walk the Manapouri track (3-6hrs)
-  Doubtful Sound wilderness cruise
-  Breakfast, lunch

Point 16: Wake up in the Southern Hemisphere's premier four season lake and alpine resort. Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown's stunning scenery is inspiring and revitalising. Enjoy!

-  Queenstown trail (NZ cycle trail), mountain biking options
-  Multiple walk/hike options
-  Skiing/snowboarding, too many to list ask us for more details!
-  Breakfast, dinner - Queenstown Classic Kiwi Roast

Point 17: Another day in beautiful Queenstown and a good chance to experience some of the more relaxing activities, taking in the majestic surrounds.

-  Queenstown trail (NZ cycle trail), mountain biking options
-  Multiple walk/hike options
-  Skiing/snowboarding, too many to list ask us for more details!
-  Breakfast, lunch

Point 18: Today we head to the beautiful alpine region of Wanaka where you can spend the afternoon on the slopes of the famous Cardrona ski field. There is a tradition that at the bottom of the mountain women leave their old bra's on the Cardrona Bra Fence before leaving town! Great short hike option with amazing views of the region.

-  Sticky forest, multiple lakeside ride options
-  Mt Iron loop (1.5hrs)
-  ½ day skiing/snowboarding, Puzzle World
-  Breakfast, dinner - Bra Fence Beef Stew

Point 19: We head over the dramatic Haast Pass with views of the Southern Alps that will astound you. Enjoy short walk options through rainforests and past waterfalls and pools along the way. Continuing North we reach glacier country and the amazing Fox Glacier, a 13km long glacier located in Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

-  Cycle the Haast Pass
-  Short walks - Blue Pools, Thunder Creek falls, dune and forest walks
-  Breakfast, lunch, dinner - Fox Chicken Satay

Point 20: Spend the day exploring the glacier or enjoying this unique town and the activities on offer including a walk around beautiful Lake Matheson. We head up the coast to the Franz Joseph township which has a population of around 300 and is home to the 12km long Franz Josef Glacier.

-  Local rides, ride to Franz Josef (26km)
-  Lake Matheson loop (1.5hrs)
-  ½ day or full day glacier hike, heli hike, ice climb
-  Breakfast, lunch, dinner – tomato crispy bacon fettuccini

Point 21: Our travels further north have us stopping at the Bushman's Museum which is set up to show how the locals used the forests in the earlier days. After this, experience the exhilarating tree top walk before arriving at the famous and stunning Pancake Rocks.

-  Coastal rides
-  Short walks - Pancake Rocks & blow holes, Truman track
-  Tree top walk
-  Breakfast, dinner - famous Flying Kiwi fish dish

Point 22: Leaving Punakaiki we travel through the Buller Gorge to the tranquil alpine town of St Arnaud in the beautiful Nelson Lakes National Park. Offering tranquil forest, mountains, clear streams and lakes both big and small.

-  St Arnaud cycle tracks
-  Multiple lakeside walking options, Pororari river track (3hrs)
-  Breakfast, lunch, dinner - lasagne with salad

Point 23: Our next destination, the Abel Tasman National Park, is one of NZ's most stunning spots. Well known for its golden sand beaches and world-famous Abel Tasman Coastal Track. Our accommodation is at the Park entrance.

-  Coastal cycle around the bays into Marahau
-  Multiple National Park walking options
-  Skydive, hang glide, fly an aerobatic plane
-  Breakfast, dinner - mid winter kiwi BBQ

Point 24: A day to explore this area with options galore!

-  Multiple bike options
-  Hike the coastal or inland track
-  Kayaking, sailing, water taxi
-  Breakfast, lunch, dinner - guides choice!

Point 25: We leave this tranquil area and head back to Picton, taking in the town of Nelson on the way. If you are in Nelson on a Saturday morning then the famous Saturday market is a must! Visit a boutique vineyard en route to your evening ferry crossing back to Wellington.

-  Cycle the great taste trail to Nelson (NZ cycle trail)
-  Short walks - centre of NZ
-  Winery tour
-  Breakfast

Point 26: Explore Wellington before departing at 11am heading north to Taupo. Take in the sights of Tongariro National Park and snow capped peaks.

-  Turangi river track (16km)
-  Turangi river track (4-6km)

Point 27: Leaving early we head to the Waitomo Caves, a limestone wonderland. Activities and a farm walk option. We arrive late afternoon into Auckland for a taste of big city life 'kiwi style'.

-  Cycle the Waitomo area
-  Farm walk (2hrs), cave walk (20mins)
-  Black water rafting, glow worm cave tour
-  Breakfast, lunch



FAQs:

- + you can start at any point on the loop
- + trips are flexible – contact us to create your own custom tour
- + optional activities aren't included but we get great discounts as a group & there are often free alternatives
- + the trips are brilliant for those keen on skiing/snowboarding and there are heaps of alternative options for those that don't fancy hitting the slopes