

Spirit of New Zealand

- Choose your touring activity in the Bay of Islands and Nelson
- Sail the length of magnificent Milford Sound

Accommodation	High Level of Comfort
Tour Code	SNZ17
Tour Duration	17
Style	Small Group Tours - 4WD and Walks
Premier Dining	Includes 25 Meals
Tour Operator	Connections

Itinerary

Day 1. Auckland, Hokianga Harbour

Departing Auckland, head to the Kauri and Pioneer Museum to learn about pioneering settlers. Continue to Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve and see the Kauri tree 'Tane Mahuta', Lord of the Forest, as well as the 'Four Sisters' and Te Matua Ngahere Trees. Head to Hokianga for a four-hour 'Twilight Encounter' and explore the Waipoua forest by night.

Stay: Hokianga Harbour, Copthorne Hotel and Resort Hokianga
Dx1

Day 2. Hokianga, Bay of Islands

Take the time to soak up the sights and sounds of this idyllic harbor at your own pace. After lunch journey to Paihia to explore the gorgeous Bay of Islands, a National Maritime Park and home to 144 islands.

Two Night Stay: Paihia, Beachcomber Resort Bx1

Day 3. Bay of Islands

Today tailor your touring to suit your mood. Perhaps swim with dolphins, visit Russell, the oldest settlement in New Zealand, or if you're feeling active hike to the Hararu Falls. Tonight enjoy an early dinner, then either relax by the water or head out on a night time activity.

Bx1

Day 4. Bay of Islands, Rotorua

Travel south through one of the world's richest agricultural areas to Rotorua, a geothermal wonderland with bubbling mud-pools, gushing geysers and captivating culture. Once you've checked into your hotel, you're free to explore for yourself.

Two Night Stay: Rotorua, Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua Bx1

Day 5. Rotorua

You've got the entire day free today and your options are virtually endless. Whether you wish to raft the Kaituna River, stand on active volcanoes or learn about weaving and wood carving techniques at Te Puia Maori Arts and Crafts Institute - the choice is yours. Tonight there's plenty of fantastic options as well.

Bx1

Day 6. Rotorua, Tongariro National Park

Follow the Thermal Explorer Highway through green countryside, native bush and some of the largest alpine forests in the Southern Hemisphere. Visit Wai-o-tapu Thermal Wonderland, where you can feel the earth's power in a natural setting, as well as spectacular Huka Falls and tranquil Lake Taupo. If the weather's fine, there may be time for a swim in the clear waters. Continue south

What's Included

Sightseeing Highlights

- Spectacular guided hiking experience walking on Ice at Fox Glacier
- Explore World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park
- Discover Wellington, New Zealand's Capital
- Cruise across Cook Strait

Comfortable Accommodation

- Three nights at the Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown
- Two nights at the Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua

Premier Dining

- 16 breakfasts (B) and 9 dinners (D)

Tour Notes

- Land content only
- At the time of making your booking, let APT's experts secure you the best airfares available.
- Tour operates in reverse direction, please refer to tour code SNZ17R
- Guaranteed departures, Contact Us for details



and cross the vast volcanic plateau of World Heritage-listed Tongariro National Park. This afternoon is at your leisure to explore one of the many fine walking tracks or simply relax in New Zealand's first national park.

Stay: Tongariro National Park, Chateau Tongariro Hotel
Bx1 Dx1

Day 7. Tongariro, Wellington

Travel to the nation's capital, Wellington. Tour Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand, then enjoy free time to sample the restaurants, bars and cafés.

Stay: Wellington, Travelodge Wellington Plimmer Towers
Bx1

Day 8. Wellington, Nelson

After breakfast, board the Interislander cruise across Cook Strait to Picton and journey to Nelson, known for its wineries, breweries and local arts and crafts community.

Two Night Stay: Nelson, Trailways Motor Lodge
Bx1 Dx1

Day 9. Nelson

Enjoy a day to explore one of New Zealand's most beautiful regions, renowned for its golden beaches, sculptured granite cliffs, and its world-famous coastal track. You may wish to take a water taxi along spectacular coastlines, join a guided sea kayaking experience, or follow one of the many popular walking trails. Or perhaps sample wines on a winery and brewery tour or explore Nelson's famous arts and craft shops.

Bx1

Day 10. Nelson, Punakaiki

Journey alongside Nelson Lakes National Park and take time to explore this spectacular area. You'll then visit Lake Rotoiti or Lake Rotoroa and join short walks through the region. Tonight, stay at Punakaiki, nestled in the foothills of the Paparoa National Park.

Stay: Punakaiki Rocks Hotel
Bx1 Dx1

Day 11. Punakaiki, Fox Glacier

Perhaps walk to Punakaiki's Pancake Rocks, with their incredible blowholes. Travel along the coast to Fox Glacier village in the Westland World Heritage Park to tackle Fox Glacier. Your guide will lead you through ferns and rain forest across the ridge, from where you can see into the upper icefall. Continue down onto the ice, where you will be outfitted with instep crampons and follow steps cut by the guide. The route leads into the middle of the glacier for spectacular views of the icefalls and lower glacier.

Stay: Fox Glacier, Scenic Circle Glacier Country Hotel
Bx1 Dx1

Day 12. Fox Glacier, Queenstown

Journey via Haast Pass and Lake Wanaka to Queenstown. This exhilarating year-round alpine resort is perfect for adventurers and leisure-seekers alike. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps, it was named because it was 'fit for a Queen'.

Three Night Stay: Queenstown, Copthorne Hotel and Resort Queenstown
Bx1

Day 13. Queenstown at Leisure

Enjoy a day to discover the highlights of Queenstown. Tonight, step aboard the TSS Earnslaw for a cruise on Lake Wakatipu. Head to the Colonel's Homestead at Walter Peak where you'll enjoy high country hospitality and a carvery style buffet, featuring the best local produce. An entertaining after dinner farm show provides a glimpse into high country farming life before you cruise back to Queenstown.

Bx1 Dx1

Day 14. Queenstown at Leisure

After breakfast, perhaps take a half-day trip on board a jet boat on the Dart River Safari and enjoy a guided forest and lake walk. You might like to take a 4WD Back Country Adventure and try your luck with gold panning or spend a day walking the famous Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's great

walks, or wet your palate with a sample from award-winning wineries.

Bx1

Day 15. Queenstown, Te Anau

Travel through World Heritage-listed Fiordland National Park, passing the scenic Eglinton Valley and Homer Tunnel to emerge into magnificent Milford Sound. Cruise the full length of the Sound this afternoon, taking in the stunning views and discovering the hidden arms of the sound. Fur seals and bottlenose dolphins are often seen and at times, rare penguins can be observed. After your cruise, travel to Te Anau for the night.

Stay: Te Anau, Kingsgate Hotel

Bx1 Dx1

Day 16. Te Anau, Lake Ohau

Journey along the Kawarau River to the Cromwell district, where you can sample the fresh and dried fruits grown in the region. Journey over the Lindis Pass to Lake Ohau.

Stay: Lake Ohau Lodge

Bx1 Dx1

Day 17. Lake Ohau, Christchurch

Travel on to Lake Pukaki where you can take some amazing photos across the clear blue waters to Mt Cook - known to the Maori people as Aoraki, or 'cloud piercer'. Continue to Lake Tekapo, where there is an opportunity to take an optional fixed wing flight. Alternatively, take a short walk around the Church of the Good Shepherd before journeying to Geraldine. From here it's flat going before reaching your final destination, Christchurch.

Bx1