

# EXPLORE!

**Walking in New Zealand**  
19 days

New Zealand - Trip code WZN



## Walking in New Zealand

New Zealand is all about the great outdoors, exploring on foot this trip brings you the best of what this compact, yet dramatic and varied country has to offer. The North Island combines awesome natural beauty with a rich Maori heritage and the South Island is blessed with dramatic scenery. Discover them both as we trek through volcanic landscapes, around picturesque lakes, next to impressive glaciers and along breathtaking coastlines.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Rotorua** - Explore the geothermal landscape of the Maori heartlands
- ★ **Tongariro Crossing** - Known as the greatest day walk in the world
- ★ **Abel Tasman National Park** - Discover this scenic coastal park on foot
- ★ **Fox Glacier** - Walk to the terminal face of this spectacular glacier
- ★ **Wanaka** - Enjoy walks around picturesque Wanaka
- ★ **Milford Sound** - Boat trip along the tranquil fiord beneath towering mountains
- ★ **Te Anau** - Visit this hiker's paradise and walk part of the Kepler Track
- ★ **Mount Cook** - Discover the soaring landscapes of the Southern Alps

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### WALKING GRADE:

##### Easy

Suitable for most people in good health, these easy walks are predominantly on good paths, at low altitude and on undemanding terrain. Previous walking or trekking experience is not necessary.

#### GROUP SIZE:

##### 10 - 15

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Auckland

Our trip starts in Auckland, New Zealand's largest and most diverse city. Surrounded by volcanoes and volcanic cones, beautiful beaches and rolling countryside, Auckland offers a great introduction to New Zealand. Depending on your arrival time you could take a short city tour of Auckland before we all meet for a briefing this evening.



**Accommodation: Grand Chancellor Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Travel south through Waikato region to volcanic Rotorua

After breakfast this morning, we depart Auckland and travel southwards through the Waikato Region to Rotorua, the North Island's most famous destination for overseas visitors and an important cultural centre. Visitors soon adapt to the distinctive sulphur smell, which comes from many vents to the underground thermal region. The region is known for its many geysers, steaming lakes and streams, and mud and hot mineral pools known for their curative properties. On arrival we will explore Rotorua town or take an optional walk in the area before we check in. Optional walks include around Blue Lake / Lake Tikitapu, (1.5 hrs, 5.5km), and a trail through the magnificent Redwood and Douglas Fir trees of Whakarewarewa Forest ( 1 hr, 3.4km). For those interested in walking the Explore Leader will recommend the most suitable walk for the weather and accompany the walkers. In the evening we get to experience a Maori 'hangi' dinner - cooked using heated rocks in a pit oven.



**Accommodation: Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 3 - Visit to Waimangu Valley geothermal park. Lake walk

This morning we visit Waimangu Valley, a fascinating geothermal park of bubbling mud pools, hissing geysers and steaming lakes created in 1886 following the volcanic eruption of Mount Tarawera. We walk amongst the hot springs and steaming cliffs and to inferno Crater which erupts to 8m high, every 38 days. Leaving Rotorua we travel through an important forested area via the picturesque Huka Falls to Lake Taupo, the largest lake in New Zealand. Later we drive to Tongariro National Park where there is a choice of several short walks.

Our main walk today in Waimangu is approximately two hours and covers six kilometres on a marked trail.



**Accommodation: Skotel Alpine Resort** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Walk the iconic Tongariro Crossing

The 19.4 km Tongariro Alpine Crossing track passes over diverse and dramatic volcanic terrain and has been described as 'the greatest day walk in the world'. In the presence of active volcanoes we can experience some of Tongariro National Park's special gifts: a cold mountain spring, steam vents, an active crater, lava flows, magnificent views and emerald-coloured lakes, all combining to make this an enjoyable and memorable trip. We start hiking in the Mangatepopo Valley, then continue at a gentle gradient as the main track climbs alongside a stream and around the edges of old lava flows. The climb from the valley to Mangatepopo Saddle between Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro is steep, but on a clear day, we may be rewarded with views of Mount Taranaki to the west. The track continues along a poled route across South Crater to a ridge leading up Red Crater from where we can get views of Mount Tongariro. From the highest point on the Tongariro Crossing, the summit of Red Crater (1,886 metres), the track leads down to three water-filled explosion craters called the Emerald Lakes. Minerals that have leached from the surrounding thermal area are the cause of their dazzling greenish colour. Below Ketetahi Hut the track continues down through tussock slopes to the forest bushline. At two points the track passes over the tongue of a lava flow from Te Maari Crater and for a distance, travels alongside a stream containing minerals from Ketetahi Springs. We are accompanied by a local guide as today is a free day for the driver / guide. Warm clothing including scarf, gloves and hat, is recommended. Other unguided optional walks are also available for those that do not wish to do the Tongariro Crossing.

The Tongariro Crossing Walk takes approximately eight hours and covers 19.4 kilometres. The terrain is unmade mountain paths

NB This hike is not an 'Easy' grade walk but has been included because it is so special. This a proper Alpine Crossing with some steep climbs and requires a certain level of fitness, proper hiking boots and walking poles.



### Accommodation: Skotel Alpine Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Explore Wellington

The trip continues southward through the fertile farmlands of Levin to Wellington (approximately 6 hours drive). New Zealand's capital lies partially on reclaimed land at the harbour and the steep hillsides adjacent to the Cook Strait. Wellington has been the capital city since 1865 and as such is also the country's political centre. We take a city sightseeing tour and drive to Mount Victoria from where we can enjoy a beautiful view over the city. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore.



### Accommodation: West Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Cross the Cook Strait and Marlborough Sound to the South Island

This morning, we visit Te Papa Tongarewa, the modern National Museum, which gives a good insight into New Zealand history, Maori Culture and Pacific culture. More than 20 galleries house imaginative exhibitions and interactive experiences that explore New Zealand's unique natural environment, dynamic art heritage, fascinating history and the vitality of Maori culture. In the afternoon, we say farewell to the North Island and board the Interisland Ferry to cross Cook Strait and cruise through the scenic Marlborough Sounds, an area of 'drowned' valleys, which resulted from the geological sinking of a mountain range. Today the Sounds are a maze of deep channels, sheltered waterways and secluded bays, encompassed by verdant bush-clad hills. After an approximately three-hour journey often described as one of the most beautiful ferry rides in the world we reach the idyllic harbour town of Picton.



### Accommodation: Gateway Motel - Picton (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Visit Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary. Walk along Queen Charlotte Track

This morning we board a water taxi and cruise to Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary (1 hour) where we enjoy a short walk (also 1 hour). Later we are dropped off at Resolution Bay to walk part of the Queen Charlotte track. This 67km coastal walking track stretches from historic Ship Cove to Anakiwa in the spectacular Marlborough Sounds, and enjoys a temperate climate which allows good year-round walking conditions. Today we are walking from Resolution Bay to Endeavour Inlet. The verdant, subtropical native bush is home to many of New Zealand's native birds. In the late afternoon, we reach Endeavour Inlet, and board the water taxi again to cruise back to Picton.

Today we walk for three to four hours, covering eleven kilometres on a marked coastal trail.



**Accommodation: Gateway Motel - Picton** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Explore Abel Tasman National Park by boat and on foot

After breakfast, we take the Queen Charlotte Drive between Picton and Havelock, one of New Zealand's most delightful scenic drives. Winding past the Sounds' numerous bays, this bush-fringed road takes us to the head of Pelorus Sound and the seaside village of Havelock. Once a thriving gold-mining town, Havelock is New Zealand's primary producer of Greenshell mussels. We then continue on to Keiteriteri, (Picton to Keiteriteri approximately three hours drive), where we take a water taxi in Abel Tasman National Park to Onetahuti. We will pass several offshore islands that provide a protected habitat for native wildlife including Tonga Island famous for its seals. From Onetahuti we walk down to Bark Bay to meet for our return boat transfer. Our journey then takes us back to Nelson, the town with the most sunshine hours in the country. Many years ago New Zealand's first roadside cafe opened here and today the town is home to craftsmen and artists.

Our walk today covers eight kilometres along a marked coastal trail and takes approximately two and a half to three hours - The walk is shorter at low tide.



**Accommodation: Palms Motel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 9 - Fossils, fur seals and Pororari River Track

Our journey takes us inland through an unbelievably scenic region with excellent roads and minimal traffic. Rugged, green and wild, the West Coast was in the nineteenth century one of the busiest and richest areas, when gold drew men from all over the world. On the way to Westport we'll travel through Murchison, where we can learn about the earthquake of 1929. At Hawks Crag we'll drive under a spectacular overhang, where the road has been cut out of solid rock. Just past Westport is Cape Foulwind, where we will take the Tauranga Bay Seal Colony Walk (20 minutes) to have a close encounter with a colony of New Zealand Fur Seals in their natural habitat. From Westport, we journey to Punakaiki, where visit the famous Pancake Rocks with dramatic blow

holes during high tides and take a walk along the Pororari River Track; this track follows a magnificent limestone gorge with two main features - a river with huge rocks in deep pools, and beautiful forest featuring subtle changes from sub-tropical to temperate. The duration of the walk will depend on the weather and time available, but will be up to two hours.

The Pororari River Track walk is approximately two hours and covers up to seven kilometres. The terrain is a riverside trail.



**Accommodation: Ashley Hotel Greymouth** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 10 - Walk in glacial valley

Leaving Greymouth behind us we take a short drive to our next stop, Hokitika, known as New Zealand's Greenstone capital. Most of this precious stone is found in this region and then turned into beautiful pieces of jewellery. We pass the forgotten gold miners' towns of Hari Hari and Ross on our way down the West Coast to Westland National Park. In the afternoon we reach the spectacular Southern Alps and the region of the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. Unfortunately at present the glaciers are in a state of retreat and as such we cannot walk to either of the terminal faces. We will however make our planned walk in the valley as the receding glaciers have carved out an impressive landscape which is fascinating to explore. If the weather is good then we will be able to view the glaciers from a distance. To get a closer view there is also the option, weather permitting, to take a scenic flight which offers a bird's eye view of the glaciers and surrounding landscape. Please speak with your Explore Leader who can help you arrange this activity locally.

Our valley walk takes approximately one hour and covers approximately three kilometres. The terrain is a glacier valley.



**Accommodation: Sunset Motel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 11 - Experience Gondwanaland. Drive to Wanaka

In the morning (weather permitting), we will go for a walk around Lake Matheson (approximately 1 hour 30 minutes), which could provide us with an excellent opportunity to take that perfect photo of Mount Cook with its mirrored reflection on the lake's calm water. We then continue our trip through Westland National Park, a World Heritage Park. The rainforest is very impressive and has subtropical character. Here we undertake a short bush walk (approximately one and a half hours) to reach the seldom-visited Monro beach, which once joined part of Gondwanaland. The Explore Leader will explain the different species of native trees, such as Rimu, Kahikatea and Beech. We continue driving via Haast Pass towards Wanaka, in Aspiring National Park, with breathtaking views of the surrounding snowy peaks and the glacier lakes Hawea and Wanaka.

Today we walk a total of approximately three hours over 3.6 kms. The terrain is Jurassic forest.



**Accommodation: Wanaka Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 12 - Free day to explore Wanaka

Wanaka is a hiker's paradise because of its beautiful environment. The tranquil township lies directly on the shores of beautiful Lake Wanaka, New Zealand's fourth largest lake. It reflects the snow-capped peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park whose dominant feature is impressive Mt Aspiring, towering above a magnificent glacier-sculpted wilderness. The area boasts a great variety of walking tracks. Today is free for exploring.



**Accommodation: Wanaka Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 13 - Discover Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. Take Queenstown gondola ride

After breakfast, we traverse the Crown Range road and take the opportunity to visit the partially restored and well-interpreted Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. This is a quiet reminder and tribute to the contribution made by the Chinese goldminers and business people to the region's goldmining, cultural and business history. We then continue on to Queenstown, the Adventure Capital of New Zealand. In the afternoon, we take the Skyline Gondola up to admire the views and take an optional walk to Ben Lomond before returning down to explore the town.



**Accommodation: Aspen Hotel Queenstown** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 14 - Walk part of the Kepler Track

After breakfast, we make our way to Te Anau, known locally as 'the walking capital of the world'. Some of the most wild and dramatic scenery in New Zealand can be found in Fiordland, in the southwest corner of the South Island. Fiordland is one of the largest National Parks in the world and a World Heritage area. Here the power of nature stuns the enthralled visitor - from its

waterfalls tumbling hundreds of metres into virgin, forested valleys and lonely fiords, to endless stretches of shimmering lakes and granite peaks. Today we walk part of the Kepler Track, one of the great walks of New Zealand. The track is gently undulating and wanders through mountain beech forest with some great river views.

Today we walk a total of approximately nine kilometres over three to three and a half hours. The terrain is beech forest.



**Accommodation: KG Hotel Te Anau** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 15 - Boat cruise on Milford Sound. Walk to Key Summit

This morning weather permitting we take a walk to Key Summit (approximately 3 hours), a half-day walk on the Routeburn Track. This walk is on an easy track and offers spectacular views of Fiordland National Park. We then drive to the most accessible and best known of the fiords, Milford Sound. The Milford Road (between Te Anau and Milford Sound) is one of the finest alpine drives in the world. The scenery is exceptional, ranging from broad grassy flats, dense rainforest, and towering mountains through to glacial lakes and alpine herb fields. No other road in Fiordland offers such a diverse glimpse into New Zealand's alpine zone. We take a 1.5 hour boat trip on the Milford Sound, which is dominated by the mighty cone of the Mitre Peak, rising steeply up from the water where we will have an included lunch. Late this afternoon, we arrive back in Te Anau.

Our walk today is approximately three and a half kilometres over three hours. The terrain is forest sub alpine shrublands.



**Accommodation: KG Hotel Te Anau** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

## DAY 16 - Walking in the shadow of Mount Cook

After passing through the rocky Kawerau Gorge and Cromwell village, the road winds upward to Lindis Pass. The plains of the Mackenzie highland lie before us. On the left are the mountains of the Southern Alps that we will continuously see whilst we drive to Mount Cook National Park. Reaching Mount Cook village, we enjoy the unique environment of different alpine plants and flowers and the panoramic vista of New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki Mt Cook (3764m). Walks may include Tasman Glacier and Tasman Lake. Blessed with a marvellous view of the surrounding peaks we overnight in the National Park.

There are different short walk available and one will be chosen by the Explore Leader depending on the weather. One of the regular walks is three kilometres and takes approximately one hour and forty minutes.



**Accommodation: Mount Cook Lodge and Motels** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 17 - Free day to explore

Today is free to explore the area or relax. There is plenty of hiking available for those that wish to do more walking. Walks include Mount Cook village, Hooker Valley and Kea Point. Please note that today us a free day for the driver / guide.



**Accommodation: Mount Cook Lodge and Motels** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 18 - Drive to Akaroa via Lake Tekapo

This morning we drive to the stunning turquoise Lake Tekapo, and visit the Church of Good Shepherd set on the shore surrounded by mountains. Built in the 1930's in memory of the local pioneers all the materials for the church were sourced from a within a five mile radius and the builders were instructed not to disturb the site so rocks , etc were incorporated into the walls. We then continue our drive to the French style village of Akaroa. The afternoon is left free to explore this quiet village and harbour sitting at the centre of an ancient volcano.



**Accommodation: Akaroa Criterion Motel** (or similar)

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 Standard Hotel

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 Single room available

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 19 - Trip ends in Christchurch

This morning we drive to Christchurch for a short city tour. The trip ends at 12.30 in Christchurch city for those not wishing to go direct to the airport with the main transfer which will arrival to Christchurch airport at 13.00. If you have booked a later flights you can be taken to the Heartland Hotel in Christchurch, where you are able to leave your luggage and be free to explore the city more this afternoon. A shuttle bus transfer will then be arranged from the hotel to the airport to meet your flight. There are limited facilities available at the hotel but showers are available at the airport if required.

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 Meals Provided: Breakfast

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# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2 5.5km

Day 3 6km

Day 4 19.4km

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7 11km

Day 8 8km

Day 9 7km

Day 10 2.6km

Day 11 3.6km

Day 12

Day 13

Day 14 9km

Day 15 3.4km

Day 16 3km

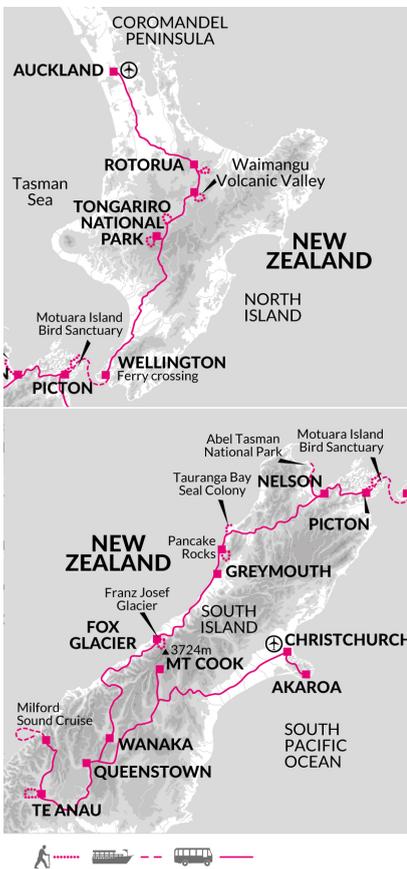
Optional Walks

## Walking grade

Easy

## Trek details

Walks on 10 days for between 1 and 8 hours. We have graded the trip as easy. The Tongariro Crossing day is a more difficult walk and will take approximately 8 hours but there are easier options available.



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 18  
Lunch: 1  
Dinner: 1



### Transport

Bus  
Boat  
Ferry



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Driver  
Local Guide(s)



### Accommodation

17 nights standard hotel  
1 nights simple hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

#### New Zealand

##### Climate

New Zealand's climate is maritime: mild and pleasant with abundant sunshine, high rainfall and a few extremes of heat and cold. However, settled weather cannot be counted on at any time of year - all seasons can be experienced in one day! Generally the

summer months (Nov-April) are warmest and most pleasant, with least rainfall. In the Southern Alps temperatures can fluctuate dramatically. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

**Time difference to GMT**

-12

**Plugs**

3 Pin Flat

**Religion**

Christian

**Language**

English

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Auckland - Sky tower NZ\$28; Revolving restaurant NZ\$70; Auckland War Memorial Museum NZ\$8

Wellington - Cable car NZ\$7.50; Zealandia NZ\$28 self guided / Night tour NZ\$75; Wellington Movie tour NZ\$55

Punakaiki - Paparoa National Park: River Kayak NZ\$40 for up to 2 hours and \$5 each following hour (per adult) Guided trips start from \$70 (per adult)

Fox Glacier / Mount Cook - Helicopter flights; NZ\$215-410

Wanaka - Jet Boat and Walk - NZ\$172.5

Christchurch - Lord of the Rings tour, visiting Mt Sunday ( film set Edoras) NZ\$245; Antarctic Centre NZ\$25; Willow Bank Wildlife Reserve NZ\$25; Punting on the River Avon NZ\$25 plus Garden tour NZ\$39; Day tour to Akaroa from NZ\$115

\* Prices are subject to change

### Clothing

You will need lightweight clothing, but also warmer clothing. Good rain gear is essential as is warm upper body clothing. Fine Merino products can be purchased in New Zealand and are warmer than synthetics. Please note that most accommodation in New Zealand has laundry facilities - washing machines and driers - available for guest use, and hairdryers are available in most places. Bring swimwear too.

Warm clothing including scarf, gloves and hat is recommended, particularly for the Tongariro Crossing.

### Footwear

We recommend you bring walking boots with ankle support- leather or fabric are both fine. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and if you want to do any water based activities. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable. Please make sure your boots are clean before travel; if your boots are dirty on arrival - this may result in long delays in customers where they will be cleaned in biosecurity before you are permitted to enter with them.

### Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. A backpack or soft holdall preferably with wheels may prove more convenient due to the variety of transport used on this trip. You will be required to carry your luggage to/from on/off coaches, trains and ferries.

### Equipment

Bring a torch, a water bottle and sunscreen. Due to increased exposure risk in New Zealand, we recommend a minimum of SPF 30+.

Due to lack of ozone, burn times are drastically reduced and adequate protection is a vital part of your holiday. Walking poles are useful on some walks. The diminutive biting sandfly (a type of blackfly) can be particularly bad on the west coast of the South Island. While their bites do not carry any disease, they can be particularly irritating for some people. Good insect repellents need to be carried (best purchased in New Zealand, as these are specific for the New Zealand sandfly). A good effective mild analgesic is available to soothe any bites.

## Country Information

### New Zealand

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£14

**Dinner price**

£20.00 - 24.00

**Beer price**

£3

**Water price**

£1

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

N.Z. Dollar.

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

You can purchase New Zealand currency from home, otherwise we recommend £GBP or \$US.

**Where To Exchange**

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities only.

**ATM Availability**

ATMs are available in all main towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

All major credit cards are accepted at all locations.

**Travellers Cheques**

Can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Ferry

### Accommodation notes

**Booking a Single Room**

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

At Greymouth and Mount Cook we stay in simple hotels. The motel style rooms are simple but have all the mod-cons required - en-

suite shower room, small fridge and tea and coffee making facilities.

## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

New Zealand: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian and Australian citizens.

USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done online - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

#### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the

dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Non refundable permits**

### **New Zealand**

#### **Vaccinations**

Nothing required. Tetanus recommended Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.