

21 Day Road Trip 'Grand Island Explorer' (Christchurch to Auckland)



Flexible Itinerary

Our routes have been carefully chosen to include the best night stops and highlights. However, as road conditions, weather, local restrictions and group input may vary, no two trips will ever be the same. With the help of your tour leader and fellow travellers you may modify certain night-stops and highlights to give a truly unique experience.

Day 1 : Christchurch – Punakaiki

Going west from Christchurch we head over the fertile Canterbury Plains heading for the mountains. We leave the dry East Coast and cross the dividing range to go down to the lush, green and moist West Coast. The countryside changes radically as great deep blue rivers spring from the steep mountainsides. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 2 : Punakaiki – Franz Josef Glacier

The drive down the coast today is beautiful. We have several cultural activity options before leaving for Franz Josef Glacier along the coast of forests, lakes and hidden beaches. We pull in to Franz Josef in the evening and prepare for tomorrow's activities. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 3 : Franz Josef Glacier

Today we have many options. There are spectacular flights available in either a helicopter or a ski-plane. The flights offer unequalled views of the mountains, valleys and glaciers and there is the option of a snow landing depending on the trip you pick. There are also guided walks onto the glacier and excellent light hikes available in the valley. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 4 : Franz Josef Glacier – Queenstown

We drive the remainder of the west coast and climb up through the Haast Pass into the Southern Alps. This is a stunning drive with fantastic views of the mountains, rivers and lakes. Lots of great stops to take photos today. Tonight we arrive in Queenstown for three full days of fun and activities. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Days 5-7 : Queenstown

Over these three days you have the chance to see and experience the place that is widely acknowledged as being the extreme activity capital of the world. There is simply no end to the fantastic line up of optional activities including bungee-jumping, mountain biking, kayaking, rafting, helicopter rides, jet boating and paragliding. There is also a huge variety of shops, restaurants and fun things to see in town. On Day 1 in Queenstown we will do a tour of the area in the bus to orient you around Queenstown and to show you the outer areas such as Arrowtown, a quaint old gold mining town with lots of history. After that you have two days free to enjoy the area and do your own thing. Queenstown and its surrounds are an unforgettable and very special part of the world. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 8 : Queenstown – Milford Sound

We drive through to Milford Sound to go aboard the Milford Wanderer floating hotel fjord cruiser for your overnight cruise through the fjords. This place is stunning with tall mountain peaks, waterfalls and crystal clear water. You get to paddle a kayak over the tranquil waters and to see fascinating marine life. During the winter months of May to September this is a day trip only without kayaking. We also offer the awe-inspiring Dart River Jet Safari as an alternative to Milford for those who would prefer this in winter. Accommodation: Cruise boat included

YOUR TRIP DETAILS

Confirmation Number

Departure Date

Departure Location

Finish Date

Local Payment Amount

THINGS TO REMEMBER

You need to reconfirm your tour on +64 9 52 62 149 at least 48 hours before departure.

Your luggage **MUST** be kept to a maximum of 20kgs.

Travel Insurance is **NOT** included, you must arrange your own insurance, it's compulsory!

Drink lots of water, wear a hat and sunscreen.

Part of the enjoyment of our tours is participating!

Max People: 15



HOSTEL

Tour Code: GIC

TERMS & CONDITIONS

LUGGAGE: Luggage must be kept to a MAXIMUM OF 20KGS in a backpack or soft overnight bag with a small day pack for easy access to camera, film, sun block etc.

MEALS: Our emphasis is on fresh food wherever possible and our meals are nutritious and varied. We cater for vegetarian and gluten intolerance – please advise at time of booking. On ATA Road Trips a meal kitty of NZD\$10 per person per day will be collected locally. The meal kitty covers three meals on most days, but excludes alcohol, soft drinks and meals at restaurants. All money left in the kitty at the end of the trip is returned to the group.

FITNESS & PARTICIPATION: Our tours are active and most require a reasonable level of fitness. Tours graded '3 boots' are only suitable for very fit and active people who enjoy basic bush camping. They are not suitable for children. If you have any doubts about the suitability of your clients please check with our reservations team as we reserve the right to assess suitability to participate at check-in. Passengers are expected to help with the preparation of food, washing of dishes and general assistance to the guide as directed.

INSURANCE: Travel insurance is **NOT** included. We strongly recommend that passengers have their own travel insurance against illness, injury, loss/damage to personal belongings and not being able to travel on the confirmed departure date. It is compulsory for passengers travelling on ATA Road Trips to be insured.

PRICING, FEES AND LEVIES: Rates are quoted in AUD and are correct at time of publication. Prices can be subject to alteration due to extreme external economic pressure. No responsibility is accepted by the Adventure Tours Australia Group for unforeseen omissions or misrepresentation of our code-share partners. Fees and levies are charged in AUD per person and subject to change. Refer to our website for fees and levies on your specific tour.

Fuel Levy: Should the price of diesel increase by more than we regard as a reasonable increase a fuel surcharge levy may be introduced. This will be at a maximum of \$20 per person per tour.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL: Adventure Tours reserves the right to alter the route or itinerary of any of its tours and arrange alternative carriers to those advertised if necessary. No refunds will be given in these circumstances or in the event of any delay, curtailment or alteration of a trip resulting from any cause including severe weather conditions or mechanical failure. Adventure Tours can't guarantee pick up or drop off times and are not liable for passenger failure to connect with other services or any costs associated in such delays. We accept no responsibility for loss or damage to personal belongings or baggage. The Aboriginal components of our Top End tours are subject to cultural conditions. Participants may be absent due to cultural commitments with little prior notification and Adventure Tours reserves the right to amend the itinerary in these circumstances and no refunds will be given. Components of our trip are weather dependant and we cannot be held liable if they are not available on the day of travel.

LIABILITY: Whilst we make every effort to safeguard our clients, we cannot be held responsible for personal injury or sickness to any customer or damage or loss of property due to events which are beyond our control. Passengers should note that adventure travel involves a higher than normal risk and a signed release will be required from all participants before tour departure. We also take no responsibility for any act of neglect by any company whose services are used as part of our packages including but not limited to activity and accommodation providers.

PASSENGER NUMBERS: A minimum number of passengers is required to operate each tour. It may therefore be necessary to cancel a scheduled departure and to offer an alternative or full refund for that tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation of a booking or part thereof may incur fees, see our website for more details. Once travel has commenced, no refunds will be made for any unused services and clients will be responsible for their travel arrangements from that point onward.

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Highlights

Franz Josef Glacier
Queenstown
Milford Sound Cruise
Mt Cook National Park
Mt Ruapehu National Park
Tongariro Crossing (optional)
Huka Falls
Taupo
Rotorua
Maori Culture
Waitomo
Bay of Islands Overnight Cruise

Day 9 : Milford Sound - Omarama / Mount Cook National Park

After returning to dry land we drive up to Omarama near the foot of New Zealand's highest peak, Mt Cook. The drive is over expansive high country farmland with views of the Alps, rivers and lakes. Here we have a last night with all the gang before returning to Christchurch. This night will be spent in Mt Cook National Park whenever possible. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 10 : Omarama / Mt Cook - Christchurch

We swing into Mt Cook and hope to catch a view of this spectacular mountain. There are wonderful walks, lake views and photo opportunities galore. From here we continue on to Christchurch for a night out on the town. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 11 : Kaikoura

Leaving Christchurch we head up the beautiful coastline to Kaikoura where many adventures await us. Take a boat trip out to see the whales. Experience being close to some of the largest creatures in the world. For those who wish there are plane or helicopter flights to view the whales. Kaikoura is famous for its seafood and marine life with much to see and do. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 12 : Kaikoura & Nelson

Today we go to Nelson. Nelson is in the heart of the wine producing area. It is a very pleasant sunny place and home to some of the most beautiful sea kayaking in the world. We spend the afternoon exploring the town. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 13 : Nelson

We have a huge variety of activities to choose from including kayaking, boating, sailing in the Abel Tasman National Park, mountain biking or just relaxing in town or on the beach. Nelson is very picturesque and is a delight to visit. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 14 : Wellington via ferry

We cross to the north island on the inter island ferry and enjoy the fantastic scenery of the Marlborough Sound. We arrive in the afternoon and have a great opportunity for a night out in the capital city. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 15 : Wellington & Mt Ruapehu

We leave Wellington after visiting the fantastic museum on New Zealand called Te Papa. We head through the central North Island plains towards the great volcanoes and Tongariro National Park. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 16 : Mount Ruapehu

There are several options available for the day. Many will want to hike the famous Tongariro Crossing track. A good day hike which is known as the best of its kind in New Zealand. This hike has spectacular views of the volcanic plateau and the lakes. Those who do not go on the hike can go mountain biking or explore the beautiful local area.

During the winter the upper hike is not available due to snow and a lower forest hike will be offered weather permitting. Skiing and snowboarding plus other local sights are available during winter months. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 17 : Taupo & Rotorua

We head to Taupo, just one hour away which is widely acknowledged as the North Island's home of extreme sports. On the way we visit the spectacular Huka Falls. Here you can bungee-jump or ride in a jet boat, as well as do many other activities. Or how about just relaxing by the shores of the largest lake in New Zealand? The sights are fantastic and this will be one of your highlights. After lunch we go to Rotorua to visit Te Puia, site of the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute and thermal area. See geysers and boiling mud pools in an amazing display of the power of nature. We check in to our lodging and you have the option of a Maori Hangi dinner and concert for afterwards. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 18 : Rotorua & Waitomo

Today we have some great choices. You can do the boat trip and walk through the glow worm caves or go black water rafting. This is an unforgettable trip involving hiking and descending an underground river floating on an inner tube. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 19 : Waitomo & Bay of Islands

We leave Waitomo and drive north through fantastic scenery towards New Zealand's winterless north. We cross lush green farmland and make a stop at the Kauri forests to see the giant ancient trees. Upon arrival we make our way to the port to board our overnight cruise boat. On board we find a games room, bar and full fun facilities. The boat is equipped with kayaks, snorkelling gear and other equipment for all the planned stops at the islands on this 24 hour tour. Sit back and enjoy one of your trip highlights. This boat tour will be substituted May-Sep with another boat tour of equivalent value, quality and experience which may or may not be overnight depending on availability and conditions. Accommodation: Budget Lodging included

Day 20 : Bay of Islands Cruise

Today we have a host of available activities including kayaking, snorkelling, a boat trip to the islands or just relaxing on the boat. Accommodation: Cruise Boat or Budget Lodging included

Day 21 : Auckland

We make our way back South passing unspoiled beaches and lush forests. There are native trees of massive size that are over 1000 years old. This area has always been prized for its fantastic native hardwood timbers that are fortunately protected nowadays. Crossing the Auckland Harbour Bridge, with a spectacular view of the 'City of Sails', we arrive in Auckland to say our fond farewells.

Included: Services of a professional tour guide, all transportation by private adventure vehicle, 18 nights Budget Lodging, overnight boat trip in Bay of Islands (day trip during winter months May-Sep depending on conditions), overnight Milford Sound cruise (day cruise May-Sep departures with optional Dart River Jet Safari), Waitomo Caves entrance, entrance to the Te Puia Maori Arts and Culture Centre in Wakarewarewa, Te Papa museum in Wellington, inter-island ferry crossing, kayaks on the Milford Wanderer (Oct-Apr only), Skyline Gondola trip in Queenstown.

Note: Accommodation is generally on a 4-share basis in single sex rooms. In some areas we may need to use larger rooms. Double rooms can be obtained at extra cost depending on availability. This must be requested at the time of booking and additional costs paid direct.

