

# Reisebine

## 24 Day North and South

Auckland - Auckland

**Duration:** 24 days / 23 nights

**Departs:** Tuesdays

**Departure Location:** Auckland CBD

**Finish Location:** Auckland CBD

**First Departure:** 05/05/20

**Last Departure:** 29/09/20

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1: Auckland to Hahei

Haere mai (welcome)! Your adventure kicks off in New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. We depart southbound for the Coromandel Peninsula via the old colonial town of Thames. We'll settle into our accommodation in Hahei. When the tides are just right, we'll head over to Hot Water Beach, where you can dig your own natural spa pool in the sand!

**Accommodation included:** Exclusive accommodation by the waterfront

**Activities included:** Hot Water Beach visit

#### DAY 2: Hahei

Today you have a full free day to embrace the laid-back Coromandel lifestyle. Get up early to catch the sunrise on the beach, then take a scenic coastal walk or opt to kayak to stunning Cathedral Cove. Another option is to take a guided boat tour through the cliffs and caves of the nearby marine reserve.

**Accommodation included:** Exclusive accommodation by the waterfront

**Optional activities:** Kayaking, guided boat tour

**Activities included:** walk to Cathedral Cove, sunrise on the beach

#### DAY 3: Hahei to Rotorua

We leave Hahei early, travelling through to Paeroa, home of New Zealand's oldest and largest soft drink company L&P, where we'll stop for a fun photo op at a local landmark. Carrying on, we'll arrive in Rotorua, known for its lively geothermal activity, rich Maori history and adventure tourism. Get the adrenaline pumping this afternoon and sign up for a white water rafting adventure, head to the adventure park, or take a walk around town.

**Accommodation included:** Comfortable central city hostel

**Optional Activities:** White water rafting, adrenaline-fuelled adventure park (big swings, bungys and more)

**Free Activities:** Whakarewarewa redwood Forest walk, see the bubbling mud pools at Kuirau Park

#### DAY 4: Rotorua

Often labelled the adventure capital of the North Island, you have a full free day in Rotorua to discover a wealth of adventure activities and geothermal wonders. Go ziplining through native bush, zorbing or take a truly unique guided jet boat adventure to bathe in a hot waterfall. Looking to relax instead? Visit the hots pools and bubbling mud baths at one of Rotorua's geothermal parks or take in a Maori cultural performance. Film buffs may want to sign up for a guided tour through the world-famous Hobbiton Movie Set. The choice is yours!

**Accommodation included:** Comfortable central city hostel

**Optional activities:** River jet tour, white water rafting, ziplining, zorbing, geothermal attractions, Maori village & performance experience, Hobbiton Movie set tour

#### DAY 5: Rotorua to Lake Aniwhenua

There's time to squeeze in one last Rotorua activity this morning before we head further off the beaten track to the remote area of Lake Aniwhenua for an exclusive cultural experience like no other. Your Maori host family will share with you their story and traditions, as well as their vision for making a difference in their remote community. You'll see sacred Maori rock art, play traditional stick games for hand-eye coordination and watch the preparation of a ground cooked 'hangi', before tasting it for yourself! (D)

**Accommodation included:** Scenic lakefront lodge

**Activities included:** Kohutapu 'Strademark' Experience – guided tour of sacred Maori rock carvings, introduction to the Murupara area, delicious ground cooked hangi feast, dessert and continental breakfast

#### DAY 6: Lake Aniwhenua (via Taupo) to Blue Duck Station

After breakfast we depart and head to Taupo, where the brave hearted can opt to plunge from a plane to skydive over Australasia's largest lake! If you're not up for an adrenaline hit, walk the Huka Falls Walkway track, or spend time exploring this popular lakeside town. In the afternoon, we make our way to Blue Duck Station, an award-winning 7,200 acre high country farm that is both a working station and an environmental conservation leader. Settle in and spend the evening learning a little more about what makes this unique destination a top-rated stop. (B)

**Accommodation included:** Country station lodge

**Optional activities:** Skydiving

**Free activities:** Huka Falls Walkway track, enjoy your hosts' hospitality and stories on the local wildlife and history

#### DAY 7: Blue Duck Station

Today you have a free day to explore this truly amazing and secluded location in depth. The included 4WD farm tour will give you a tantalising taste of life in remote, rural New Zealand. There are plenty of other optional farming and conservation-based activities for you to experience around the property as well.

**Accommodation included:** Country station lodge

**Activities included:** 4WD eco-wilderness farm tour

**Optional activities:** Horse riding, clay pigeon shooting, pest hunting

**Free activities:** Walk around the property, take in the lush scenery, Kaiwhakauka waterfall

### **DAY 8: Blue Duck Station (via Tongariro) to Raetihi**

We depart at 6am and head to the active volcanoes of the nearby dual World Heritage Site of Tongariro National Park. Today you get a chance to do what is rated as one of the world's best one day walks: the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Be prepared for some epic scenery as you walk across a rocky plateau with dramatic volcanic peaks, craters and turquoise lakes that you'll remember for a lifetime. Tonight, you can soothe your tired muscles from the big walk in the spa pool at your accommodation or relax with a celebratory drink by the fire.

**Accommodation included:** Historic residence with mountain views

**Optional activities:** Tongariro Alpine Crossing (subject to weather conditions)

**Free activities:** Taranaki Falls walk, visit the Volcanic Centre

### **DAY 9: Raetihi to Wellington**

Today we head to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city, via Ohakune, Taihape and Bulls. You have the afternoon to cruise around the shops and cafes along popular Cuba Street, discover the New Zealand wonders on display in Te Papa Museum or stroll along the waterfront.

**Accommodation included:** Central City hostel

**Free Activities:** Walk Oriental Parade, head up Mt Victoria for fantastic views, visit Te Papa National Museum

### **DAY 10: Wellington to Marahau (Abel Tasman)**

We catch an early Bluebridge Ferry across the Cook Strait to the South Island where you meet the bus in Picton. We will cruise through the famous Marlborough vineyard area and the coastal town of Nelson on our way to our amazing overnight stop of Marahau, right on the edge of the Abel Tasman National Park.

**Accommodation included:** Unique accommodation on the edge of the national park

**Included:** Ferry crossing from Wellington to Picton

**Optional activities:** Wine tasting

### **DAY 11: Marahau (Abel Tasman)**

You have the entire day free to explore this stunning coastal national park renowned for its golden sand beaches. An Aqua Taxi ride is included in your tour, but you are welcome to upgrade to a sailing or kayaking adventure. Hike, sail, kayak or skydive – Abel Tasman National Park is gorgeous no matter which option you choose.

**Accommodation included:** Unique accommodation on the edge of the national park

**Optional Activities:** Full day sailing trip, kayaking, skydiving, swim

**Activities included:** Walk part of the Abel Tasman track and catch an Aqua Taxi home

### **DAY 12: Marahau (Abel Tasman) to Franz Josef**

Buckle up for an awesome day driving down the incredibly scenic 'wild' West Coast, an area known for its untamed beaches and spectacular rainforest. We'll pass through Buller Gorge and down a stretch of road that was labelled one of the top ten drives in the world by Lonely Planet. We'll stop on our way down the coast to take a walk around the unique limestone rock formations known as the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and their fantastic blowholes. Our next stop is the historic gold mining town of Greymouth to collect passengers connecting from Christchurch. From here we'll continue on via Hokitika, to the quaint township of Franz Josef, home to the famous Franz Josef Glacier.

**Accommodation included:** Lodge in the middle of the rainforest

**Free activities:** Buller Gorge, Pancake Rocks and blowholes, Hokitita greenstone store

### DAY 13: Franz Josef

Enjoy a full free day to explore the glacier. Live your glacier walking dream with a guided tour through a world of ice or hike from town to view it from below, then unwind in the relaxing spa pools afterwards.

**Accommodation included:** Lodge in the middle of the rainforest

**Free activities:** Any of the good bush walks in the area

**Optional activities:** Guided glacier heli-hike, Glacier Vallesy Walk

### DAY 14: Franz Josef to Wanaka

Depart early to take a walk along the shores of the amazing mirror-like Lake Matheson, and then travel through the mountainous Haast Pass and Makarora with plenty of photo stops along the way. We pass by the beautiful Lake Hawea on our way to arrive in Wanaka by late afternoon.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel

**Free Activities:** Lake Matheson walk, Ship Creek walk, Blue Pools walk, Thunder Creek Falls walk, explore Wanaka

### DAY 15: Wanaka to Queenstown

This morning head out to cycle some of New Zealand's most beautiful bike paths along the lake before we depart Wanaka and cruise down to the famous original A.J. Hackett bungy site, where you can take the plunge - if you dare! Then, it's on to the 'Adventure Capital of the World!' Queenstown offers an optional big (make that huge) night out with a variety of excellent restaurants, pubs and live music.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel

**Activities included:** Scenic bike ride around Lake Wanaka (suitable for all levels)

### DAY 16: Queenstown - Day 1

With so much to see and do in and around Queenstown, you need three full days to take it all in! To get you started, a couple highlight activities are included in your package.

Today, you'll take an exhilarating jet boat ride amongst breathtaking scenery in the morning and then have the afternoon free for more Queenstown fun.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel

**Activities included:** Jet boat ride

### DAY 17: Queenstown - Day 2

Depart early on a day long trip to jaw dropping Doubtful Sound in stunning Fiordland National Park, where you'll take a three-hour wilderness cruise and learn more about this incredible natural wonder. You will return to Queenstown in the evening. Lunch is not included (sandwiches and snacks available for purchase on the day), so make sure you bring lunch, snacks and water.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel

**Activities included:** Doubtful Sound day trip

### DAY 18: Queenstown - Day 3

Make the most of your final free day doing any of the other incredible activities on offer or further exploring Queenstown. If you haven't already, we recommend riding the gondola or walking to the top of the hill for spectacular views of the town, lake and surrounding mountains.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel

**Optional Activities:** Any adventure activity that we mad Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jetboating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...), trip to Milford Sound

### DAY 19: Queenstown – Day 4

Make the most of your final free day doing any of the other incredible activities on offer or further exploring Queenstown. If you haven't already, we recommend riding the gondola or walking to the top of the hill for spectacular views of the town, lake and surrounding mountains.

**Accommodation included:** Central hostel close to the action

**Optional Activities:** Any adventure activity that we mad Kiwis can dream up (bungy, swing, jetboating, skydiving, mountain biking, zipline, horse riding...), trip to Milford Sound.

### DAY 20: Queenstown to Aoraki/Mt Cook

Depart Queenstown early to drive over the Lindis Pass through the beautiful Mackenzie Country and past the vivid blue waters of Lake Pukaki. Then, we head north to our amazing overnight stop at the base of New Zealand's highest mountain Aoraki/Mt Cook, arriving in the early afternoon.

**Accommodation included:** Stunning alpine lodge

**Optional Activities:** Visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, scenic flights, 4WD Tasman Valley tour

**Free activities:** Take photos of awe-inspiring scenery, do one of the many great short walks to the Hooker Glacial Lake (weather dependent)

### DAY 21: Mt Cook (via Tekapo) to Christchurch

Leaving Mt Cook, we make our way through a landscape made famous in the 'Lord of the Rings' films. We'll stop to admire the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, a famous photo stop. Relax in the Tekapo hot pools, go snow tubing or ice skating (winter only) or hike up to the Mt John Observatory where you'll witness stunning views of the lake from above. After lunch, we will continue to our overnight stop in Christchurch, a city where old meets new, as the rebuild continues following the devastating 2011 earthquake. Spend your afternoon wandering the city streets and laneways to discover creative street art intended to bring cheer and colour to a city once buried in rubble.

**Accommodation included:** Central Christchurch Hostel

**Optional Activities:** Tekapo Hot Springs, ice skating (April-Sept), snow tubing (June-Sept), stargazing (must hop off in Tekapo)

**Free activities:** Visit Lake Tekapo, Church of the Good Shepherd, Mt John Observatory walk, explore Christchurch by foot, check out the Cardboard Cathedral and inner-city street art.

## DAY 22: Christchurch to Kaikoura

We depart early this morning for a beautiful drive up the coast to seaside Kaikoura. You have the afternoon free for activities to check out the amazing marine wildlife that call this area home. Go on a whale and dolphin spotting tour, search for seals sunning themselves at Goose Bay or walk to the peninsula lookout for breathtaking views.

**Accommodation included:** Warm modern hostel

**Optional activities:** Whale watching by boat or by plane, swimming with dolphins, guided fishing trip

**Free Activities:** Walk around the peninsula and up to the lookout

## DAY 23: Kaikoura (via Picton) to Wellington

Leaving Kaikoura this morning, we wind our way up the rugged coastal roads for the top of the South Island. When we get to Picton there is time to stretch your legs and grab some lunch before we board the ferry to carry us over the Cook Strait to Wellington where you can spend the evening checking out the fantastic craft breweries and restaurants of the capital city.

**Accommodation included:** Central Wellington hostel

**Included:** Ferry crossing from Picton to Wellington

**Free Activities:** Explore Wellington City

## DAY 24: Wellington to Auckland

Today is a very early departure out of Wellington - this is an express day via National Park to Auckland, where your trip comes to an end when you arrive in the early evening. We hope you had a blast on your Stray Journey!

### Notes:

- Standard accommodation is **dorm share** in hostels, cabins and lodges
- Upgrades to twin/double and private rooms are available subject to availability
- Room upgrades do not apply in Hahei
- Luggage is limited one backpack, bag or case per person with a maximum weight of 15kg plus a day pack
- Trips are not suited to children aged 6 years or under. 7 – 17 year olds may travel if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian
- A basic level of fitness is required for medium length walks

This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over New Zealand's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.