

Auckland, Mt. Cook & Queenstown

# New Zealand Cultural Walking Adventure



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS™





“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Auckland, Mount Cook, Queensland & More

Our New Zealand adventure tour will take your breath away. If the snow-capped peaks don't do it, then the sheer cultivated beauty of Waiheke Island will. You're as likely to gasp at the thrill of sailing on an America's Cup yacht as at the chill splendor of Tasman Glacier Lake where icebergs surround your boat. As we divide our time between New Zealand's two main islands, Classic Journeys will introduce you to a land you would not find on your own. We'll visit with a family on their vast sheep station. You'll sip wine at a renowned vineyard in a setting you could easily mistake for the Napa Valley. Our local guide also arranges for naturalists, historians and expert specialists in glacier walking and jet boating. As you sample the green lip mussels...learn about Maori folklore and culture...and walk the swing bridge across the wild Hooker River, you'll appreciate New Zealand as the most scenically diverse and unstoppably fun destination anywhere.

## DAY 1

AUCKLAND

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- Sail the harbor in a racing yacht
- Enjoy an easy guided walk of the city

Auckland is the spectacular starting point of our time together. This morning, we'll board a sleek America's Cup yacht for an exhilarating ride. You can participate as a crewmember or sit back and enjoy the sail. Either way, you'll be amazed at the stories shared by the crew and at the spectacular views of the skyline. ***Please dress comfortably. We suggest you bring an extra warm layer of clothing.***

After lunch, we'll pay a visit to the Maritime Museum. Rated one of the world's three most livable cities, Auckland's climate is mild and it embraces not one but two harbors. So it's the perfect spot for an urban walk. Back at the hotel, you'll have time to relax or do a little exploring on your own before our welcome dinner.

**Overnight:** Auckland

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

WAIHEKE ISLAND

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- Taste the local olive oil and wine
- Picnic at a renowned winery
- Take in the views on a leisurely country walk

When you disembark from this morning's 35-minute ferry ride, you'll be forgiven if it looks like you've actually traveled thousands of miles to the Napa Valley. It's Waiheke Island, though, out in New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf, and we're here for the day. With its rolling hills and sweet microclimate, the island boasts gorgeous beaches, a laid-back and free-spirited attitude, and dozens of excellent vineyards. We'll stop for an olive oil tasting at a family estate. Then we're off to a tasting and picnic lunch at Stonyridge Vineyards, one of the country's finest. Here on Waiheke we're at the same latitude as the southern tip of Sicily, and it shows in the world-class cabernet blends. The walking is superb as well, and we'll wander along headland footpaths with great views down to the beach and across the amazingly blue waters.

Late afternoon, we dock back in Auckland. The rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to take it easy and explore the world-class culinary scene as you head out for dinner on your own.

**Overnight:** Auckland

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 3

LAKE TEKAPO / MOUNT COOK

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- Photograph Lake Tekapo
- Stargaze in the country's only International Dark Sky Preserve

This morning, we shift focus to the South Island with a short flight and then a drive to Mount Cook. En route, we'll pause at Lake Tekapo, very possibly the most iconic site in New Zealand and a prized shot for photographers. With mirror smooth water, shores crowded with wildflowers, and the jagged ring of mountains that embraces it, the lake is truly dazzling.

Our home for the next two nights is in Aoraki Mount Hood National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Area. The highest mountain in New Zealand, Mount Cook is the king of the snow-capped Southern Alps, but just one of the park's 23 peaks that are more than 9,000 feet high.

Dinner tonight is in our hotel's restaurant where floor-to-ceiling mountain vistas steal the show. This region is also the country's only International Dark Sky Preserve, so you'll want to step outside afterward for some incredible stargazing.

**Overnight:** Mount Cook

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 4

MOUNT COOK

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- Walk amid the Southern Alps on the Hooker Valley Track



- **Weave among icebergs on a glacial lake**

Mythically scaled. Mind-blowing. Stupendous. It's hard to find the adjectives that come close to describing the scene you wake up to this morning. After a hearty breakfast, we'll head out for a once-in-a-lifetime walk on a stretch of the Hooker Valley Track that begins right on the grounds of our hotel. Sharp-edged and snow-capped, the mountains give new meaning to the word awesome. The walk, though, is remarkably easy with groomed gravel trails and stretches of boardwalk that protect the bogs. Swing bridges (slender suspension-style spans) draw you across the Hooker River; the water is a pearly blue surge of fresh melt from the surrounding glaciers. Sir Edmund Hillary trained for his ascent of Mt. Everest here on Mount Cook, and along the path we see a memorial that pays tribute to the many other climbers who were lost on the challenging peaks.

This afternoon's explorations begin with a ride into the Tasman Valley for an easy alpine walk and a boat ride on a lake cluttered with icebergs. Calved by the receding Tasman glacier, the islands of aquamarine ice are unlike anything you've ever seen.

While you relax over dinner this evening, you'll likely have a whole new appreciation for the peaks that tower over your rack of New Zealand lamb or one of the other fine dishes on the menu.

**Overnight:** Mount Cook

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 5

### ARROWTOWN / QUEENSTOWN

- **Pan for gold in Arrowtown**
- **Explore the mountains on a 4x4 safari**

From the vast solitude of the mountains, we head this morning for a town filled with centuries of human history. Arrowtown lies in a glacial basin that was a longtime hunting ground of the Maori people. Then, in 1862, one of the natives working as a sheep shearer found gold. The rush was on and as many as 15,000 prospectors crowded the valley. As the rush cooled, the local government imported Chinese workers to continue the mining. We'll take a walk in their historic settlement for a look at that chapter in the South Island's history. Of course, we'll also head to the river to pan for gold. Nuggets still do turn up!

The best way to experience terrain this wild is on a 4x4 safari. We'll climb into iconic, luxury Land Rover Defenders with professional drivers and guides to splash through mountain streams and scale rugged slopes. It's a thrill to see the peaks from this perspective, and the drive includes visits to locations around Glenorchy and the Wakatipu Basin that appear in "The Lord of the Rings".

Just a mile or so down the road is the birthplace of bungy jumping on the historic suspension bridge that soars across Kawarau Gorge. If you're up for making the leap, just let your guide know and we'll help you make arrangements!

Late in the afternoon, we arrive at our hotel in downtown Queenstown.

**Overnight:** Queenstown

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 6

### QUEENSTOWN

- **Visit Buzzstop: Manuka Honey Centre & Honey Bee Farm**
- **Enjoy a wine tasting at a renowned vineyard**

The Buzzstop is 'All things Bees & Honey under one roof.' A sweet introduction into the wonderful world of Bees & Bee Keeping. Put on your Bee Suit, slip on your gloves. Join an experienced local Kiwi Bee Keeper to open and work an active Hive. Hold a frame covered in 100's of busy bees. Discover the inner workings of these amazing colonies, and their importance to our global food chain. Next, spin your own honey. Remove the 'capping' from your frame to expose the delicious honey underneath. Then you'll spin your frame in a powered extractor. Watch through the clear lid to see your honey flying out under the centrifugal force. Ready to pour out the 'honey gate'.

For wine lovers and enthusiasts alike, you'll taste and sip at Kinross Winery - showcasing exceptional Central Otago wines along with tales of this industrious and proud wine region.

Later, return back to Queenstown. The city boasts a lively restaurant scene, and you'll have the opportunity to explore it at dinner on your own. And you won't want to miss the Maori performance at the top of the Skyline Gondola. It's a fun way to

learn about the Maori myths and legends and to see the fierce Haka war dance complete with foot-stamping, body slapping, protruding tongues and chants.

**Overnight:** Queenstown

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 7

### DART RIVER / MT. ASPIRING

- **Thrill to a jet boat ride**
- **Learn about Maori culture and local wildlife**

The morning is yours to sleep in, do some shopping, or join your guide for a walk to Queenstown Hill for 360° views of the area. After lunch, we're off to one of our favorite New Zealand activities: A jet boat safari on the Dart River. Piloted by experienced guides, you'll go for an adrenaline-pumping, water-skimming journey on cinematically beautiful braided rivers into the heart of Mt. Aspiring National Park. We'll step ashore for a walk through an ancient beech forest as your guides share Maori folklore, stories of early settlers, and their considerable knowledge of the local flora and fauna, while we take in the outstanding views.

After a drive back to Queenstown, enjoy the balance of the day as you please before our lively farewell dinner tonight.

**Overnight:** Queenstown

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 8

### DEPARTURE

- **Begin your journey home**

Part company with your guide mid-morning.

**Overnight:** None

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### Sofitel Auckland

Situated at the edge of Waitemata Harbour amid the city's liveliest new neighborhoods, this glamorous property is quietly sophisticated. Decorated in contemporary style, the rooms feature by floor-to-ceiling windows, and a 20-meter heated indoor pool.

**OVERNIGHT:** Auckland | **NIGHTS:** 2



### The Hermitage Hotel

Originally built in 1884, the Hermitage is located deep within Aoraki Mount Hood National Park. Expansive windows bring the outside into the contemporary style rooms. And you're only steps from some of the most magnificent scenery on earth.

**OVERNIGHT:** Mount Cook National Park | **NIGHTS:** 2



### St. Moritz Queenstown

Built in the style of an elegant alpine residence, this luxurious property offers wonderful views of Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables Mountains. Guest rooms are decorated with understated elegance. The hotel also offers a gym, sauna and hot tub garden.

**OVERNIGHT:** Queenstown | **NIGHTS:** 3

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

<b>TRIP LENGTH</b>	8 Days, 7 Nights
<b>START</b>	Lobby of Sofitel Auckland Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand
<b>END</b>	Lobby of St. Moritz Queenstown Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand
<b>TERRAIN</b>	Easy to moderate

## What's Included

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference



## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

*Samuel*  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in New Zealand...

- Sailing an authentic America's Cup Yacht
- Walking among the vineyards and olive groves of Waiheke Island
- Jet boating into the Dart River Valley through world-renowned Mt. Aspiring National Park
- Cruising across Lake Wakatipu to Mt. Nicholas farm with BBQ lunch
- Joining along a guided walk on scenic passageways of Mount Cook

"Every point of the trip had me saying "Wow.""

-Cindy G., Whitestone, NY.