

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

New Zealand

Auckland, Mt. Cook & Queenstown

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Rotorua, Mount Cook, Queensland & More

New Zealand 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 Rotorua. 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 unstopably fun destination anywhere.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 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

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate

DAY 1 »

Auckland / Rotorua

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 crew member 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.

After lunch enjoy the leisurely scenic drive to Rotorua and Wai-O-Tapu. Sculptured out of volcanic activity and thousands of years in the making, Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland is considered to be New Zealand's most colourful and diverse geothermal sightseeing attraction. You are introduced to a uniquely different natural landscape - the key to what you see lies below the surface - one of the most extensive geothermal systems in New Zealand, extending over 18-sq. km.

Tonight, experience the majestic and magical Redwoods Treewalk. Truly a night walk to remember. Suspended high above the forest floor, encounter 75-meter-tall redwoods as you walk across eco-suspended bridges and platforms intricately designed to honor and accentuate the stunning natural environment. Regarded by many as one of the best tree-top walks in New Zealand.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: ROTORUA

DAY 2 »

Rotorua

This morning, get ready for a walk as you take in the scenery and landscape and prepare for a day of learning and exploration.

After lunch, you'll discover one of New Zealand's most magnificent geothermal wonderlands - featuring dramatic geysers, bubbling mud, and beautiful native bush. For generations Te Puia has welcomed manuhiri (visitors) from all over the world to explore the magic hidden within Te Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley. You'll also learn Te Puia has the National traditional carving and weaving schools, where guests can interact with the students and instructors as they work.

Back at the hotel, you'll have time to relax before our welcome dinner at Mitai Maori Village - an evening at Mitai will give you an authentic introduction to Maori culture leaving you amazed and in awe.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ROTORUA

DAY 3 »

Lake Tekapo / Mount Cook

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.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK

DAY 4 »

Mount Cook

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.

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK

DAY 5 »

Arrowtown / Queenstown

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 bungee 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!

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 6 »

Queenstown

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 and 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.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 7 »

Dart River / Mt. Aspiring

The morning is yours to sleep in, do some shopping, or join your guide for a walk to Queenstown Hill for 360o 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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 8 »

Departure

Part company with your guide mid-morning.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

Tour Hotels



[Pullman Hotel Rotorua](#)

Pullman Rotorua is an upscale hotel located in the city with views of the beautiful surrounding scenery. Enjoy a comfortable stay with modern amenities and warm hospitality.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Sofitel Auckland Hotel**
START CITY: **Auckland**
START TIME: **10:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of St. Moritz Queenstown Hotel**
END CITY: **Queenstown**
END TIME: **9:00 AM**