



# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

## New Zealand

Auckland, Mt. Cook & Queenstown





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

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## Rotorua, Mount Cook, Queenstown & More

New Zealand will take your breath away. 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 unstoppably fun destination anywhere.

DAY 1 »

## Auckland / Rotorua

- Board a sleek America's Cup yacht for an exhilarating ride
- Visit Hamurana Springs Nature Reserve for a nature walk with your expert local guide

As soon as you arrive in Auckland, you'll begin to understand why it's nicknamed the "city of sails" and why sailing is such an important part of the history and culture of the country. For more than 150 years, New Zealanders have sailed competitively, using vessels that have ranged from magnificent kauri keelers to handcrafted dinghies. In the 1980s, Kiwi yacht designers gained prominence on the global stage. And from 1995 to 2021, they hoisted the trophy in four out of the seven America's Cup regattas. Immerse yourself in the sailing culture as you board a sleek America's Cup yacht for an exhilarating ride. Along with your expert local guide, you can participate as a crew member or sit back and enjoy the sail. Either way, you'll enjoy the stories shared by the crew and the incredible views of the skyline.

After lunch, make your way to Rotorua for a visit to Hamurana Springs Nature Reserve. Enjoy walking through forested footpaths and spotting wildlife in their natural habitat in this pristine and preserved park. Stroll along the trails and over the clear-water springs on footbridges, pausing at scenic overlooks along the way.

Tonight, experience the majestic and magical redwoods during a memorable tree walk. Stroll across the eco-suspended bridges and platforms, which were intricately designed to honor and accentuate the stunning natural environment. High above the forest floor, encountering redwoods over 230 feet tall, this is an experience you'll remember long after you've returned home.

MEALS: L, D      OVERNIGHT: ROTORUA

DAY 2 »

## Rotorua

- Enjoy an authentic introduction to Māori culture as you meet and dine with natives
- Visit Waiotapu, which is Māori for "sacred waters" and is a thermal wonderland

Today you'll experience an authentic introduction to Māori culture, gaining important insight into their rich heritage. Begin with a warm welcome from your hosts and a short bush walk to view ancient rock carvings. Listen to stories of their local history while sipping on warm Kawakawa tea together. For lunch, you'll get up close to hangi (a Māori method of cooking food using heated rocks buried in a pit oven) before savoring a lunch of traditional dishes. Throughout the day, you'll engage with various customs and traditions that offer a deeper understanding of Māori ways of life.

After lunch, you'll discover Waiotapu, which is Māori for "sacred waters". Here, sculptured out of volcanic activity and thousands of years in the making, is a thermal wonderland that experts consider to be New Zealand's most colorful and diverse geothermal site. Enjoy walking through a uniquely natural landscape and exploring one of the most extensive geothermal systems in New Zealand, on foot at eye level.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: ROTORUA

DAY 3 »

## Lake Tekapo / Mount Cook

- Explore scenic Lake Tekapo on the South Island
- Stargaze in the country's only International Dark Sky Preserve

Following breakfast, take a short flight to the South Island and head to Mount Cook. En route, stretch your legs at Lake Tekapo, one of the most iconic sites in New Zealand and a prized shot for photographers. Get your camera ready to capture the mirror-smooth water, wildflowers along the shore, and the jagged ring of mountains that embraces it.

Your home for the next two nights is in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Area. The highest mountain in New Zealand, Mount Cook is the king of the snow-capped Southern Alps and just one of the park's 23 peaks that are more than 9,000 feet in height. Marvel at the nighttime views since you are staying in the country's only International Dark Sky Reserve. You'll want to make time each night after dinner for some incredible stargazing.

MEALS: B, D      OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK

DAY 4 »

## Mount Cook

- Walk amid the stunning Southern Alps on the Hooker Valley Track
- Set out on a scenic alpine walk that leads to a pristine glacial lake

Mythically scaled. Mind-blowing. Stupendous. It's hard to find the adjectives that come close to describing the scene you'll wake up to this morning. After a hearty breakfast, begin your explorations with a ride into the Tasman Valley for a scenic alpine walk that leads to a pristine glacial lake. Leave land behind and hop into a boat, getting a closer, uninterrupted view of the Tasman glacier's imposing terminal face. Surrounded by New Zealand's most imposing snow-capped mountains, the truly 360-degree views are unlike anything you've ever seen.

After lunch, head out for a once-in-a-lifetime walk on a stretch of the Hooker Valley Track that begins right on the grounds of your perfectly-sited hotel. Sharp-edged and snow-capped, the mountains give new meaning to the word awesome. Your walk is curated so that even though you've got mountains around, you strike out on groomed gravel trails and stretches of boardwalk that protect the nearby bogs. Swing bridges bring you across the Hooker River where 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, you'll see a memorial that pays tribute to the many other climbers who were lost on its challenging peaks.

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: MOUNT COOK

DAY 5 »

## Arrowtown / Queenstown

- Pan for gold in historic Arrowtown
- Visit with an experienced local Kiwi beekeeper

From the vast solitude of the mountains to a town filled with centuries of human history. Located in a glacial basin that was a longtime hunting ground of the Māori people, gold was found here in Arrowtown in 1862. The rush began and as many as 15,000 prospectors crowded the valley. The rush cooled, but their historic settlement remains, and you'll get an up-close look at that chapter in the South Island's history.

Later, get ready for a sweet introduction to the wonderful world of bees and beekeeping. Put on your bee suit and slip on your gloves as you join an experienced local Kiwi beekeeper to open and work an active hive. You'll get the opportunity to hold a frame covered in hundreds of busy bees to discover the inner workings of these amazing colonies and learn about their importance to our global food chain. Next, make your own honey by removing the 'capping' from your frame to expose the delicious honey underneath and spinning your frame in a powered extractor. Watch through the clear lid to see your honey fly out under the centrifugal force and pour out of the 'honey gate' and then sample some afterward.

MEALS: B, D      OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 6 »

## Queenstown

- Ride a cable car for stunning panoramic views
- Sip and stroll in the picturesque vineyards

After breakfast, take a scenic ride in the iconic Skyline Gondola and take in the stunning views as you ride the steepest cable car lift in the Southern Hemisphere! When you get to the top, enjoy the breathtaking views of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown, and soaring peaks.

Later, you'll explore the picturesque vineyards of a local winery on foot at eye level. Gain insight into the wine-making process and pause to sip some of the acclaimed varietals, including the exceptional Central Otago wines. This is the southernmost wine-making region in the world, and your hosts will share stories of the industrious winemakers who have carved out a life in this scenic wine producing valley.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 7 »

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## Dart River / Mt. Aspiring

- Enjoy a safari river ride to spot wildlife
- Learn about Māori folklore

This morning you'll head out to Glenorchy and the Wakatipu Basin that appear in "The Lord of the Rings". Here you will trade footpaths for braided rivers as you explore the Dart River on a jet boat safari deep into a stunning UNESCO World Heritage site. Piloted by experienced guides, you'll go for a water-skimming journey on the beautifully braided rivers into the heart of Mt. Aspiring National Park. Step ashore for a walk through an ancient beech forest as your guides share Māori folklore and stories of early settlers.

On the return to Queenstown you will make a detour to enjoy a stroll around a seemingly remote horseshoe-shaped sub-alpine lake.

MEALS: B, D      OVERNIGHT: QUEENSTOWN

DAY 8 »

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## Departure

- Begin your journey home

After breakfast, you'll part company in Queenstown.

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 Cook 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

LOCATION: Lobby of Sofitel Auckland Hotel  
CITY: Auckland, New Zealand  
TIME: 9:30 AM

### → DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of St. Moritz Queenstown Hotel  
CITY: Queenstown, New Zealand  
TIME: 9:00 AM

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
  - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
  - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
  - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
  - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
  - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
  - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

## What's Included

- Accommodations for 7 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 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.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**  
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

## Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.