



ANZ Nature Tours Ltd

PO Box 27-508, Wellington, New Zealand
 Ph: +64-4-385 1024 Fax: +64-4-385 1025
 website: www.anznaturetours.com email: info@anznaturetours.com

Self-Drive Itinerary "Fascinating New Zealand B&B" 19 days North & South Island

Day 1 Auckland

You arrive at Auckland Airport and pick up your rental car. During the tour to your hotel you will make acquaintance with the "City of Sails", as Auckland is also called. You can drive to the extinct volcanic cone of Mt Eden, from where you have a beautiful view over the city. Or continue to the elegant suburb of "Parnell" and to Auckland Harbour. The rest of the day is at your own free disposal. You may choose to stroll along the harbour or through the downtown shopping malls.



ACC: Bavaria B&B, Auckland (Standard)
ACC: Eden Park B&B, Auckland (Superior)

Day 2 Auckland – Dargaville – Waipoua Kauri Forest – Paihia (B) (ca. 295 km, 4½ h)

Early in the morning you leave the metropolis of Auckland and drive over the Harbour Bridge and along the Hibiscus Coast to Matakoho, where you visit the popular Kauri and Paper Museum (optional). In the afternoon you arrive at the Waipoua Kauri Forest where you find the typical Fern trees next to 1500 years old mighty Kauri trees. The tour continues via Opononi and along the Bay of Hokianga to the Bay of Islands.

ACC: Appledore Lodge & Cottage, Paihia (Standard)
ACC: Clearwater Retreat, Paihia (Superior)

Day 3 Boat trip – Russell – Paihia (B)

Today you could make a trip along the "ninety-mile-beach" up to the top of north island, "Cape Reinga" or Take a boat trip through the island world of the Bay of Islands, New Zealand's subtropical paradise that will even bring you to the famous "Hole in the rock" (optional). You can make a stop in Russell, New Zealand's oldest city and former capital. You can visit Waitangi (optional), where in 1840 a fundamental treaty between the English and the Maori was signed. Still today this Treaty of Waitangi has a great impact on the living together of the two cultures.

ACC: Appledore Lodge & Cottage, Paihia (Standard)
ACC: Clearwater Retreat, Paihia (Superior)

Day 4 Paihia – Auckland – Coromandel Peninsula (B)
(ca. 340 km, 4¾ h)

Early in the morning you drive via Whangarei and Auckland to the Peninsula of Coromandel. You have the opportunity to stroll through the township Thames and explore a bit of the history of the Coromandel Peninsula.



ACC: Cotswold Cottage, Thames (Standard)
ACC: Thorold Country House, Thames (Superior)

Day 5 Coromandel – Rotorua (B)
(ca. 167 km, 2½ h)

Today you can spend the day along the east coast and various beaches. Highlights are Cathedral Cove, Hahei Marine Reserve and Hot Water Beach, where you have the chance to dig our own hot pool straight at the beach (depending on tides). We suggest a boat ride along the coastline to discover the Marine Reserve (optional).



In the afternoon you arrive at Rotorua, the main attraction of the North Island. This thermal city is built around many hot mineral springs. Rotorua is also a centre of Maori culture. At night you can participate in a "Hangi", a traditional Maori meal cooked in a hole in the ground (optional). After the feast, the Maoris sing, play and dance, including all in their lively musical culture. Experience the Maori Challenge and the Haka. See the swinging of the poi symbolising the flight of the bird. All actions, games and dances are accompanied by harmonious singing (optional).

ACC: Springwaters Lodge, Rotorua (Standard)
ACC: Regent, Rotorua (Superior)

Day 6 Rotorua (B)

Rotorua, the North Island's most famous tourist destination and an important cultural centre. Visitors soon get used to the distinctive sulphur smell, which comes from the many vents associated with the underground thermal region. Rotorua is well known for its abundance of hot springs, steaming lakes and streams, geysers, multicoloured silica terraces and bubbling mud pools. If you like, you can enjoy a visit to Te Puia Thermal Park, in order to gain an impression of this geothermal active zone. Here, you can also see the famous kiwi and a traditional Maori carving and weaving school.

ACC: Springwaters Lodge, Rotorua (Standard)
ACC: Regent, Rotorua (Superior)

Day 7 Rotorua – Taupo – Napier (B)
(ca. 225 km, 3h)

The road to Taupo will keep you entertained with its unusual, volcanic geography and refreshing tracts of plantation pine forest. Before you reach the resort town of Taupo, situated on the edge of New Zealand's largest lake, you can make a stop at the Huka falls, located in the Wairakei Tourist Park. The Huka Falls are a set of waterfalls on the Waikato River that drains Lake Taupo in New Zealand.



The major entertainment on the road from Taupo to Napier is the fantastic scenery. There's a bit of everything - rugged hills, beautiful valleys, gentle plains and huge vistas.

Day 11 Abel Tasman National Park (B)

You can undertake a day trip into the National Park (optional), at first by boat along the dreamlike coast with its many lonesome bays, golden beaches and small islands. This unique coastal area is very popular with trampers. After the boat trip you undertake a light three-hour walk so that you may truly enjoy the indigenous forest and the beaches. In the afternoon you return by boat to Kaiteriteri.

ACC: Bayview B&B, Kaiteriteri (Standard)

ACC: Ocean View Chalets, Marahau (Superior)

Day 12 Abel Tasman NP – Barrytown/Punakaiki (B)
(ca. 275 km, 3¾ h)

Today's journey is a full day's drive, if all places of interest are to be seen. You take the route via Murchison and then along the fast flowing Buller Gorge with its gorges to the coast. Here you experience a dramatic change of vegetation.

You can make a small walk to "Cape Foulwind", where a small Seal colony can be discovered. Next you drive to the Pancake Rocks of Punakaiki.

These bizarre rocks belong to the spectacular Paparoa National Park. The soft chalk rocks are permanently being eroded by the wild Tasman Sea. They lie clearly separated from the harder deposits and this makes them look like piles of pancakes.

ACC: Kallyhouse, Barrytown (Standard)

ACC: Punakaiki Resort, Punakaiki (Superior)

Day 13 Barrytown/Punakaiki – Westland National Park – Glaciers (B)
(ca. 245 km, 3½ h)

Along the West Coast you pass the forgotten gold miners' townships of Hari Hari and Ross. In Franz Josef you reach the Westland National Park and the Southern Alps. Nowhere else on Earth the glaciers come down to an altitude of 250 meters above sea level and touch the rain forest without transition. A short side trip takes you to the Franz Josef Glacier and Fox Glacier. Here you have the opportunity to make helicopter round-trips with landing on the glaciers (optional).



ACC: Fox Glacier Lodge, Fox Glacier (Standard)

ACC: Ribbonwood Retreat, Franz Josef Glacier (Superior)

Day 14 Glaciers – Haast Pass – Queenstown (B)
(ca. 330 km, 4½ h)

You drive through the rain forests of the west coast. The Westland National Park belongs to the most fascinating and multi-faceted national parks of New Zealand. At Lake Moeraki, in the middle of the evergreen rain forest, you can undertake an easy one-hour walk through the moss and algae clad primal forest. You emerge from the forest at the wildly foaming Tasman Sea at Munro Beach.



Day 18 **Twizel – Christchurch** **(B)**
(ca. 285 km, 4¼ h)

Today you are driving to Christchurch. On your way to the South Island's biggest city you can take your time to go on a walk along a nature trail in the 'Peel Forest' to study the endemic fauna and flora. You pass through the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand's most intensive farming district. It is the largest flat country area in this country where you can see not only all varieties of farm animals including deer and emus, but also everything agriculture in this climate has to offer. Canterbury is the 'granary' of the country. On long, straight roads you drive through this area intersected by wind protection hedges to Christchurch, the 'most English city outside of England'.



ACC: Home Lea B&B, Christchurch (Standard)

ACC: Elm Tree House, Christchurch (Superior)

Day 19 **Christchurch – Departure (B)**

Drop off your rental car at the Christchurch rental car depot and depart NZ for your next destination.

*****END OF SERVICES*****
