



From
£7,788 GBP

Single Room
 £8,908 GBP

Twin Room
 £7,788 GBP

Prices valid until
 30th December 2026

14 days

Duration

Level 3 - Moderate to
 Challenging

Activity

Small group walking tour of New Zealand

Oct 04 2026 to Oct 17 2026

Small Group Walking Tour of New Zealand for seniors.

Odyssey Traveller is pleased to introduce our new small group walking tours of New Zealand for seniors and mature travellers, focusing on the spectacular scenery of the North and South Islands.

Our walking tour is for up to 10 people, typically mature and senior travellers joining as a couple or solo. These tours will guide you through



Small group walking tour of New Zealand

<https://www.odysseytraveller.com>

11-May-2026

New Zealand's history, Maori culture, and landscapes, taking you off the beaten track into areas many visitors do not explore — away from the more popular routes like the Hollyford or Routeburn tracks.

For many visitors, the South Island gets most of the attention with Franz Josef Glacier, Milford Sound, Queenstown, and historic Christchurch. But the North Island also has much to offer, including the Bay of Islands, Poor Knights Islands, White Island, Waiheke Island, the bird sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi, Art Deco Hawke's Bay, alpine Tongariro, and the Waitomo glowworm caves.

This small group walking holiday is limited to 10 people, though it can be booked as a private group with a minimum of 4 travellers.

Our hiking tours involve walking 8–20 km per day, combining short walks with moderate hikes in a variety of landscapes. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and we provide guidance to help you prepare for the tour.

The arrival of Europeans, mostly British settlers, set in motion a co-existence with the Maori people, who were already adapted to New Zealand's diverse environments and climates — from the subtropical north to the alpine south. Our route follows this story, heading north from Auckland to the Bay of Islands, then south through Auckland to Tongariro National Park. Here, you will enjoy the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, a full-day adventure through volcanic peaks and stunning landscapes.

New Zealand (Maori: Aotearoa) is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, with a total land area of 268,000 km² (103,500 sq mi). It consists of two main islands — the North Island (Te Ika-a-Māui) and the South Island (Te Waipounamu) — plus around 600 smaller islands.

This small group tour is led by an Odyssey tour guide and supported by local experts who share their knowledge about the history, culture, and landscapes of each area. Tours are designed for mature and senior travellers, with groups typically ranging from 6 to 12 people, and this



tour limited to 10 travellers.

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through [on this link](#) .

Articles about New Zealand published by Odyssey Traveller:

- [Questions about New Zealand](#)
- [Foundations for democracy in New Zealand: 900s – 1945](#)
- [Definitive Guide to Auckland, New Zealand](#)
- [Preparing for a walking holiday](#)

For all the articles Odyssey Traveller has published for mature aged and senior travellers, click through [on this link](#).

External articles to assist you on your visit to New Zealand:

- [Walking and hiking New Zealand](#)
- [Great walks of New Zealand](#)
- [Walking New Zealand \(magazine\)](#)
- [History of New Zealand](#)
- [Visit New Zealand](#)
- [One day in Wellington: City walking tour itinerary](#)

Highlights

1. Walk the Tongariro crossing, regarded as one of the best one day walks the World heritage listed national park

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2. Explore temperate rain forest in Northland including the Kauri tree habitat
3. Enjoy the famous Kepler Track hike
4. Spend a day on the famous Milford track
5. Helicopter up into a former glacial valley the Southern Alps and tramp back down.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Auckland - Russell, Bay of Islands

Overview:

Haere mai ki Aotearoa – Welcome to the Land of the Long White Cloud.

This morning (time to be confirmed), the group and your private guide (Jean-Michel Jefferson) will meet at the Heritage Hotel in Auckland and start your journey North to Russell (drive time: 4 hrs. approx.).

Welcome dinner this evening is confirmed for 06:00pm at the hotel with the group.

This charming town is the perfect base for exploring the Bay of Islands. Russell holds an important place in New Zealand's history, being the country's first sea port, its first European settlement and New Zealand's first capital in nearby Okiato. The town's streets retain their original layout and names from 1843, and many of its historic buildings can still be visited today.

Accommodation:

The Duke of Marlborough Hotel

Day 2

Locations: Russell

Overview:

After breakfast, we will pick up our pre-packed lunch and board the ferry at the jetty in front of our hotel and take the 40 min journey to

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Urupukapuka Island.

Ferry details: 08:30am – Paihia Wharf (Pier 7) to Otehei Bay Travelling on Explore service 0830PRO (arriving 9:15 a.m.)

We will disembark at Otehei Bay and visit the Island Conservation Centre before heading off on your day walk. Here we can learn about the island's fascinating prehistoric and colonial history, as well as the ground-breaking work of Project Island Song and DOC to restore native bird life to the recreation reserve.

Urupukapuka Island is packed with fantastic walking tracks, ranging from 1-hour strolls to 5-hour hikes, so whatever your stamina level we will find something for you. The most notable of these is the 7.3km Urupukapuka Island Archaeological Walk. This track, designed to be walked in a clockwise direction, can be accessed from most of the larger beaches on the island, and if a 5-hour trek is a bit too much for you, it can be broken down into two shorter 2.5-hour walks. As well as boasting some of the most spectacular panoramic views imaginable, you will be taken past many of the dozens of pristinely preserved archaeological sites on the island, some of which may be up to 1000 years old. From prehistoric Māori pa, villages, gardens, and food storage, right up to early 20th Century buildings used by famous author Zane Grey, there are countless historic sites to explore on Urupukapuka Island.

Return to Russell by ferry: 12:15pm: Otehei Bay to Paihia Wharf (Pier 7) Travelling on Explore service 1215ORP (arriving 1:00 p.m.)

Accommodation:

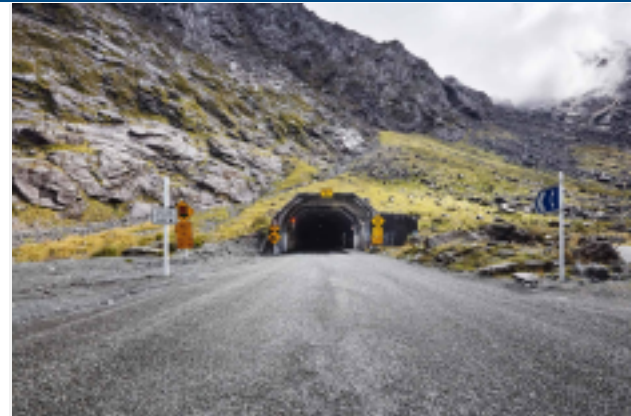
The Duke of Marlborough Hotel

Day 3

Locations: Bay of Islands - Auckland

Overview:

After breakfast we depart Russell and drive to Puketi Forest (1.5hrs drive) where we meet our private walking guide. We enjoy an intimate 3-hour guided walk through Puketi Forest, the ancient kauri rainforest (15,000 hectares). With over 360 indigenous species of plants, this subtropical rainforest is one of the most diverse in New Zealand. Learn to recognise and name some of the native trees: the mighty kauri, tawa,



rimu, totara and nikau (New Zealand's native palm tree) to mention just a few. Listen and maybe see the native birds: tui, fantail, pied tit, fernbird and kukupa. Spot the Northland green gecko and tusked weta. Learn more about the unique flora and fauna. Discover what's threatening New Zealand's subtropical rainforests: possums, stoats, ferrets and kauri dieback and what we can do to protect the ecosystem.

Accommodation:

The Heritage Auckland

Day 4

Locations: Taupo

Overview:

After breakfast we depart Auckland and continue Southbound to Sanctuary Mountain. (2hrs drive). We meet our guide for a privately guided tour of the Tuatari Wetlands. We discover the secrets of the Tautari Wetland and learn why wetlands need to be restored. We will hear the story of the people behind the wetland; the family who gifted the land to the Trust. Walk along the inside of our multi-species predator-proof fence and find out how we keep the wetland pest-free. Explore the Tuatarium with your guide for an insight into the fascinating world of tuatara – their history, life cycle and unique physical characteristics and hear about how they came to be at Sanctuary Mountain. The wetland is also home to a breeding pair of flightless takah?. A species once thought to be lost forever, the takah? made history when they were rediscovered 1948. Encountering a takah? for the first time can transport you to a pre-historic world! Please note: Viewing of takah? may be restricted during their breeding season (Oct-Jan).

Accommodation:

Hilton Lake Taupo Hotel



Day 5

Locations: Taupo

Overview:

Early morning breakfast is included at the hotel this morning, before heading to the meeting point to meet our private hiking guide. Today we will hike half-day a Volcanic Explorer Guided Walk. Enjoy the beautiful landscape of the Tongariro National Park with this half-day tour. We will start on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing track and head up to Soda Springs before returning to the start.

Accommodation:

Hilton Lake Taupo Hotel

Day 6

Locations: Wanaka

Overview:

We will have a more leisurely start today as you recover from yesterday's big hike. We then travel to Rotorua to check in for your flight to Queenstown (1hr 45mins drive).

Flights included:

NZ8150 Rotorua to Auckland Departing 11:00am and Arriving 11:40am

NZ 621 Auckland to Queenstown Departing 12:25pm and Arriving 14:15pm

On arrival at Queenstown Airport, we will pick up our new vehicle and drive to Wanaka (1hrs drive).

New Zealand's South Island hosts the purest natural landscapes you'll ever experience. From wildlife to wineries, from glacial valleys to star-filled skies, nature's best flourishes against a palette of dramatic scenes.

Accommodation:

Wanaka Homestead

Day 7

Locations: Wanaka

Overview:

After breakfast we will drive to Makarora (1hr drive) to start our Siberia Wilderness Adventure in Makarora with a 10-minute scenic helicopter flight, taking in aerial views of the towering ice-carved mountains and glaciers.

We land in the remote Siberia Valley and enjoy a relaxing 3-hour unguided walk on a well-marked track. You will then rendezvous for a fast-paced 30-minute return jet boat ride through the icy blue waters of the Wilkin and Makarora Rivers.

A packed lunch is included today.

Accommodation:

Wanaka Homestead

Day 8

Locations: Wanaka

Overview:

Today is a free day for the group to explore.

Wanaka is set against the pristine alpine backdrop of Mount Aspiring National Park. Crystal clear lakes and rivers are fed from the glaciers of Mt Aspiring National Park and is the backdrop to the stunning landscapes of the region. There are a number of options today such as exploring the Mount Aspiring National Park wilderness, or a trek up to the instagram famous Roy's peak, or hiking around the lake or perhaps a late afternoon wine tasting from the local wineries which are known for their Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Your driver/guide will be available to advise on activities and offer transfers where possible.

Accommodation:

Wanaka Homestead

Day 9

Locations: Te Anau

Overview:

After breakfast at the hotel, we drive to Te Anau today with stopping off at Mavora Lakes for a short walk on the way, ending in Te Anau for the evening (drive time: 4 hours 30 minutes).

The quaint and peaceful township of Te Anau is nestled on the edge of a lake of the same name and is known as the “Gateway to Fiordland”. Fiordland National Park is the largest of New Zealand’s 14 National Parks with an area of approximately 12500 sqkm and is a major part of the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage site. We will stay three nights at Distinction Luxmore Hotel. Distinction Luxmore is conveniently located in the heart of Te Anau’s town shopping centre and a short stroll from Lake Te Anau, the South Island’s largest lake.

Accommodation:

Distinction Luxmore Hotel Te Anau

Day 10

Locations: Te Anau - Milford Track

Overview:

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our hiking guide who will join us on our Kepler Track hike. A packed picnic lunch is included today. We begin with a short helicopter flight over scenic Lake Te Anau, beech forest and alpine areas to land near Luxmore Hut on the Kepler Track. From this Department of Conservation Hut we explore the alpine tussock fields and enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding Fiordland mountains. From here we have the possibility of ascending to the summit of Mt Luxmore if fitness levels, the weather and time allows. After time in the alpine area, we hike down the mountain on the well-formed Kepler Track. The track descends through mountain and silver beech forest and passes under towering limestone bluffs to the sandy beach of Brod Bay, the pick-up point for the rewarding water taxi trip back to Te Anau. From Luxmore Hut it is a downhill walk (8 km) requiring a medium level of fitness. If you wish to explore past the Hut and toward the Summit there would be an additional 1-3 hours of hiking

up and down. Your guide provides an opportunity to learn about the natural and human heritage of Fiordland, with plenty of stops for photographs, bird-watching and interpretation along the way.

What to Bring: Comfortable walking boots/shoes, waterproof jacket, warm clothing including thermal hat and gloves, sun hat, water bottle, and day pack. Walking poles are optional and may be provided by tour operator, if requested.

Accommodation:

Distinction Luxmore Hotel Te Anau

Day 11

Locations: Te Anau

Overview:

After breakfast at the hotel, we meet our hiking guide who will join us on our Milford Track hike. A packed picnic lunch is included today. We will experience a guided walk on the 'finest walk in the world'. Departing from the Milford Sound end, this 11 km walk meanders alongside the cascading river to the spectacular waterfall Giants Gate, and is suitable for all abilities. The Milford Track walk is in the lush west coast rainforest at sea level. This tour includes water taxi transfers and a scenic cruise in Milford Sound. We will cruise along calm waters between sheer cliffs, carved out by centuries of ice erosion, catching sight of majestic Mitre Peak and cascading waterfalls that thunder into the depths below – it's no wonder Rudyard Kipling described it as the 'eighth wonder of the world'.

Accommodation:

Distinction Luxmore Hotel Te Anau

Day 12

Locations: Queenstown

Overview:

Today we transfer to Queenstown, where we meet our private driver for a back road 4wd adventure from Te Anau to Queenstown and end it by

taking a shared Earnslaw cruise, Queenstown.

This leisurely 90-minute cruise across Lake Whakatipu showcases some of Queenstown's spectacular alpine scenery, while offering you plenty of time to explore a piece of Queenstown's living history – the over one hundred year-old TSS Earnslaw. Inside a visit to the engine room reveals the giant steam engines at work. Close by, we will be able to view the collection of historical photos in our mini-museum, check out the bridge, or, if you'd rather, kick back and enjoy a wine or beer or some café food at our on-board Promenade Café and Bar. The TSS Earnslaw has carried many famous visitors, including Queen Elizabeth, Prince Phillip and even President Bill Clinton.

Accommodation:

The Heritage Queenstown

Day 13

Locations: Queenstown

Overview:

Today is a free day in Queenstown, but we suggest a drive over the Crown Range and stop for lunch at the iconic Cardrona Tavern (at own cost) before descending into the Queenstown Basin. We can stop off at historic Arrowtown and have some free time to explore the area. If desired, some of the group can go on various short walks in the area.

Tonight we will enjoy a group farewell dinner at Botswana Butchery.

Accommodation:

The Heritage Queenstown

Day 14

Locations: Queenstown

Overview:

Our walking tour of New Zealand concludes after breakfast.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 13 nights accommodation.
- 13 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 2 dinners.
- Transport by modern and comfortable coach.
- Entrances and sightseeing as specified.
- Services of a Tour Leader for the duration of tour
- Detailed Preparatory Information

What's not included in our Tour

- Return international airfare and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls and laundry

Level 3 - Moderate to Challenging

Participants must be in excellent health, extremely mobile and live an active lifestyle. Program activities may include up to 6 hours of continuous strenuous, moderate to fast paced activity per day over varied terrain.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.