

Overseas Adventure Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN CUSTOMIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide[®]



Pure New Zealand

2026

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

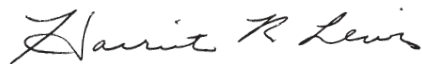
When you join us, you will slip seamlessly into local life as you explore off the beaten path in your small group. Like all our itineraries, this one is designed to give you an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who customize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Overseas Adventure Travel

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New Regent Street, Christchurch

Pure New Zealand Small Group Adventure

New Zealand: Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Dunedin, Milford Sound, Queenstown

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

17 days starting from \$7,295

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/nzo2026pricing

New Zealand is a thrilling microcosm of the natural world—a land where wild rivers and glaciers flow through rain forests to the sea, pristine lakes and pastoral forests hug volcanic slopes, and snowcapped peaks pierce the sky. We'll immerse ourselves in this magnificent setting from North Island to South, as we discover treasures as distinct as they are unforgettable. We'll view the thermal geysers of Rotorua, take an **overnight cruise across Milford Sound**, and much more.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 14 nights accommodation
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 1 internal flight
- 28 meals—14 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner)
- 14 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

Pure New Zealand



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1-2	Fly to Auckland, New Zealand
3-5	Auckland
6-8	Rotorua
9-10	Fly to Christchurch
11-12	Dunedin
13	Milford Sound Overnight Cruise
14-16	Queenstown
17	Return to U.S.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Australia: Sydney & Great Barrier Reef

PRE-TRIP: 7 nights from **\$2,995**

New Zealand's Bay of Islands

POST-TRIP: 3 nights from **\$1,295**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Sydney** before your Australia pre-trip extension from **\$240** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Auckland** before your main adventure from **\$240** per room, per night

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

Pacing: 6 locations in 15 days with one 1-night stay; 1 internal flight of about 2 hours

Physical Requirements: You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day; 4 overland drives 2-8 hours long.

Flight time: Travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have one or two connections

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/nzo

NEW ZEALAND: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

People-to-People Experiences: Experience **A Day in the Life** of a Maori community in Murupara, which includes a visit to a local pre-school that preserves the Maori language and culture, supported in part by Grand Circle Foundation. Plus, join a local family in Christchurch for a **Home-Hosted Dinner** featuring typical Kiwi dishes seasoned with good conversation and cross-cultural exchange.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Learn about **Controversial Topics** affecting everyday life in New Zealand, such as the unequal treatment received by the indigenous Maori people from nation's founding Treaty of Waitangi. Plus, visit a working sheep farm and witness a shearing demonstration.

Pure New Zealand

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

7 nights in *Australia: Sydney & Great Barrier Reef*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Cross the International Date Line

Day 3 Arrive in Sydney, Australia

Day 4 Explore Sydney • Optional Sydney Harbour Cruise

Day 5 Explore Sydney

Day 6 Fly to Cairns

Day 7 Cairns • Great Barrier Reef cruise

Day 8 Explore Cairns • Optional Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Gorge & Wildlife Habitat Walk

Day 9 Fly to Auckland, New Zealand via Sydney

Day 10 Auckland, New Zealand • Join main trip

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly overnight from the U.S. to Auckland, New Zealand.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

You continue your flight from Los Angeles to Auckland, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line. You regain this day when you fly back to the U.S. at the end of the trip.

Day 3 Arrive Auckland, New Zealand

- Destination: Auckland
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Auckland or similar

Morning: Most travelers will arrive in Auckland early this morning, where you will be met at the airport by an O.A.T. representative. Then, you'll transfer to our hotel to check in and receive your room assignments.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Enjoy a more laid-back day today to give you time to rest after the long flight here. You can relax and make use of the hotel's amenities, use free time to visit local shops, or find your own ways to interact with the locals. You'll find that Auckland is both a world-class city and a casual beach destination.

Later in the afternoon, our Trip Experience Leader will acquaint us with our location during an orientation walk, which will help familiarize you with the area, and an informative Welcome Briefing.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll take a stroll along Auckland's waterfront, or just relax at the hotel for the evening.

Day 4 Explore Auckland • Controversial Topic: The Treaty of Waitangi and Maori reparations with Dane of Ngati Whatua Orakei

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Auckland or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off on a walking tour led by your Trip Experience Leader around the streets of Auckland. You'll discover places like St. Patrick Cathedral, the Ferry Building, Aotea Square, Albert Park and the Auckland Art Gallery, and more.

Then, we'll drive to Bastion Point, where we visit Michael Joseph Savage Memorial Park. In this historic site where discussions surrounding the Maoris' right to the land began in the 19th century, we'll be greeted by a representative of the Ngati Whatua people, Dane of Ngati Whatua Orakei. They will perform a traditional welcome ceremony, tell stories of the tribe from the past, and express hopes for the future. The ceremony, performed in his native Maori language, will be our first glimpse into the culture of New Zealand's original residents.

After, our Maori host will enlighten our travelers about a **Controversial Topic:** The legitimacy of the Treaty of Waitangi—New Zealand's founding document—and how it lead to a discriminatory impact on the country's Maori population, who now experience disproportionate poverty.

The issue of what reparations today's Maori people deserve as a result of those historical grievances is a challenging one. This controversial topic is frequently the subject of public protest—including, famously, a 500-day demonstration in Bastion Point in 1977, on the site where we'll be discussing this subject with our Maori host.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: You'll have the remainder of the afternoon on your own, with the freedom to choose your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll visit the War Memorial Museum, which houses the largest collection of Polynesian artifacts in the world, and a volcano exhibit that explores these wondrous landscapes. Additionally, Auckland has many beautiful parks, trendy restaurants, and a revitalized waterfront area.

Dinner: Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: Enjoy a free evening in Auckland. Perhaps you'll grab a drink with fellow travelers at a local bar, or retire to your room to rest for tomorrow's discoveries.

Day 5 Auckland • Explore Waiheke Island • Winery & olive oil estate visits

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express Auckland or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Board a ferry to Waiheke, New Zealand's second-largest island. Upon arrival, we'll drive to one of the thirty boutique wineries on the island. We'll learn more about the different varieties that are produced here as we sample a selection of house-made wines. We'll also learn how the craft selections are created.

Afternoon: We'll drive to a nearby olive oil estate. Here, we'll learn about the estate's unique story in the olive oil industry and find out all about the process of making oil. We'll also participate in an olive oil tasting followed by time to ask any questions you may have.

Afterwards, board our ferry and make the return to Auckland, where you'll have time to explore independently for the rest of the afternoon.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Enjoy free time to explore the "City of Sails" on your last night in town, or perhaps retire to your room to rest before our early start tomorrow morning.

Day 6 Overland to Rotorua • Explore Hamilton Gardens • Visit National Kiwi Hatchery

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Rotorua Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Rotorua through lush green pasturelands in the center of the North Island, the epicenter of Maori life. It's believed that New Zealand's Maori people settled on the North Island about a thousand years ago, and they have held on firmly to their identity and traditions. Nearly a quarter of a million

indigenous Maori still maintain their unique lifestyle and culture, adding to the rich heritage of New Zealand and accounting for 14% of its population.

We'll arrive at Hamilton Gardens, a public garden park on the banks of the Waikato River complete with a lake, nursery, open lawns, and enclosed gardens. Each garden has its own theme, which together tell the history of gardening around the world. You'll have time to roam the grounds and, perhaps, stop to smell the roses.

Lunch: At a local restaurant in Hamilton Gardens.

Afternoon: Continue on to Rotorua. On the way, we'll stop at the National Kiwi Hatchery, and learn from the staff about breeding, raising, and caring for the national bird of New Zealand. Kiwi comes from the Maori language and means "hidden bird." Kiwis are now nearly extinct in the wild, which is why the nation has doubled down on conservation efforts, with nest egg teams across the islands.

We'll then continue on to our hotel near Lake Rotorua, arriving and checking in to our rooms in the late afternoon.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Relax and enjoy the amenities of the hotel, or take a stroll to soak in views of the lake. You may also wish to retire to your room to rest for the night.

Day 7 Rotorua • *A Day in the Life of a Ngati Manawa community*

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Distinction Rotorua Hotel or similar

Activity Note: The Maori tribe we meet with today is occasionally unavailable due to community events. If that occurs, another local activity will be offered instead.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the lands of the Ngati Manawa for *A Day in the Life* of one of New Zealand's only landlocked Maori tribes. We'll reach the tribal border and meet our local Maori guide, who will greet us with a traditional *pepeha* (introduction) and *karakia* (prayer), then join us aboard the coach as we make our way into town.

We'll then drive to a *Marae* (meeting place) in Murupara, where we'll be welcomed with a traditional Maori greeting and the local elders will enlighten us on the purpose of the *Marae* over some tea. Then we'll head to Kohutapu Lodge, located on the shores of Lake Aniwhenua. Here, we'll meet a local Maori community who we will share a meal with.

Lunch: Enjoy a traditional *hangi* meal with our hosts—a typical style of Maori cuisine in which the meal is cooked underground for hours. We'll enjoy a variety of meats, vegetables, and local favorites—including fried bread—followed by dessert. As we eat, we'll talk with our hosts about day-to-day Maori life and their social responsibility to the community around them.

Afternoon: We'll learn more about Maori traditions this afternoon. We may even have the opportunity to try our hands at a local craft.

When we're done, we will share some *rongoa*, traditional Maori tea said to have many health benefits. We'll learn from our hosts how their ancestors used the forest to gather medicine, and as a place of healing. This is also our opportunity to ask any questions we have about their culture, community and way of life. Our guides and hosts will speak candidly with us about anything, including complicated subjects, and about the solutions that local people, like this family, are working hard to implement as they attempt to reverse a 50-year long economic crisis.

Dinner: On your own in Rotorua. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Your freedom to choose your own discoveries continues this evening. Perhaps you'll venture to a local spa to relax in one of Rotorua's natural hot springs.

Day 8 Rotorua • Optional Waimangu Volcanic Valley tour • Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Rotorua Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a free day in Rotorua to explore on your own. Or, join our optional Waimangu Volcanic Valley tour. Rotorua is often called a thermal wonderland because of its volcanic activity. The region is replete with bubbling mud pools, geothermal geysers, and steam vents—a place where it's not at all unusual to spot the occasional small vapor stream rising from a crack in the pavement. Here, on the Volcanic Plateau, it simply comes with the territory.

For those on the optional tour, we'll drive to the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, a relatively young geothermal site created by Mount Tarawera's last eruption in 1886. We take a light 1-hour hike alongside a local guide who will provide us with their insider knowledge of the landscape as we descend into the lush valley of green vegetation, pink silica terraces, and blue waters. We'll discover the Inferno Crater, filled with brilliant turquoise water, and Frying Pan Lake, the world's largest hot spring. Our small group will also embark on a cruise of Lake Rotomahana, where our captain explains more about the history of Rotorua and shows us more geothermal sites that aren't accessible by land.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions. For those on the optional tour, lunch will be included at a local café.

Afternoon: Continue exploring on your own for those staying in Rotorua. If you are on the optional tour, we will drive back to Rotorua, where the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries.

Perhaps you'll discover Maori and European history at the Buried Village of Te Wairoa, or explore the treetops of Rotorua on a canopy tour.

Dinner: We'll meet in the hotel lobby and drive to a local Maori family's residence for a **Home-Hosted Dinner**. As we dine, we'll also enjoy lively conversation about life in New Zealand and the Maori way of life, an intimate opportunity for cultural exchange made possible only by O.A.T.'s small group size. Our hosts will have plenty of stories to share, as many of their stories have been handed down from generation to generation.

Evening: Free for your own discoveries. Maybe you'll retire to your room, or grab a drink with fellow travelers at the hotel bar to discuss today's adventures.

Day 9 Rotorua • Fly to Christchurch

- Destination: Christchurch
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Rydges Latimer Christchurch or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Rotorua Airport for our flight to Christchurch.

Lunch: On your own at the airport. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We'll fly to Christchurch this afternoon. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel in Cathedral Square.

From there, we'll set off on a walking tour of the city, led by our Trip Experience Leader. Though devastating earthquakes set Christchurch back in 2010 and 2011, this English-influenced beauty has been on a re-building boom that has revitalized the heart of the city and yielded plenty to see and do. You might choose a literal overview with a ride by gondola up Mt. Cavendish. Or stroll amid the colorful flower beds of the Botanical Gardens. Our tour will end in the new Riverside Market, where a variety of world cuisines compete for your attention.

Dinner: On your own in Riverside Market. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Enjoy a free evening. Perhaps you'd be interested to see a show at the historic Isaac Theatre Royal, a heritage building erected in 1908. It is the only Edwardian-style theater remaining in New Zealand. Check with your Trip Experience Leader to learn what's playing.

Day 10 Christchurch • Local farm visit

- Destination: Christchurch
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Rydges Latimer Christchurch or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to a farm in Rubicon Valley, nestled in the Southern Alps and home to more than 3,000 sheep. As we begin our back country exploration of the farm, we'll first have the opportunity to see the impressive teamwork of sheepdogs and sheep. We will get an in-depth look at the entire process of this farm—from the dogs rallying the sheep in the paddock and shuffling them into their pens to watching long-haired Romney sheep being shorn. While here, we'll also meet some of the farm's other furry residents, including alpaca.

Lunch: At the farm.

Afternoon: Drive back to Christchurch, where you'll have the freedom to explore on your own for the rest of the day. Perhaps you'll venture aboard the gleaming red trolley cars—a perfect way to see the many faces of Christchurch, from the Avon River to the Canterbury Museum and bustling New Regent Street.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Evening: The balance of the evening is free to relax in your room or discover the quaint charms of Christchurch on your own.

Day 11 Christchurch • Overland to Dunedin

- Destination: Dunedin
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Dunedin Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the coastal city of Dunedin. Along the way, we'll get endless views of the rugged beaches that dot the coast. Our first stop will bring us to historic Oamaru, a town steeped in Victorian architecture.

Lunch: At a local café.

Afternoon: Explore the quaint town of Oamaru on your own. Perhaps you'll stroll through the Historic Precinct where you can peruse many stores, handicrafts, museums, galleries, and more.

We continue on to Dunedin, stopping to behold the Moeraki Boulders. These oddly spherical stones are large and scattered across the beach. As with many things in New Zealand, there is deep Maori legend associated with these boulders. These boulders originally started forming around 60 million years ago through ancient sea floor sediments. The largest of the boulders are estimated to have taken about 4 million years to form. Due to shoreline erosion from coastal cliffs, these boulders, or concretions, have become more and more exposed. Our Trip Experience Leader will regale us with the history and legends behind them.

Later, we'll arrive at our hotel in the heart of the Warehouse precinct. You'll have the remainder of the day free for your own discoveries in Dunedin, known by many as the "Edinburgh of the South." Brimming with dramatic hills and cliffs and unlimited coastal views, the city offers Scottish influences with a Victorian style. Perhaps you'll stroll the narrow streets and admire the Victorian architecture, or perhaps you'll rest in your room after the day's transfer.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The remainder of your evening is free to walk around the hotel premises, soaking in the last views of the day, or to relax in your room.

Day 12 Explore Larnach Castle • Explore Dunedin

- Destination: Dunedin
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Distinction Dunedin Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off to explore Larnach Castle, known as “New Zealand’s only castle.” This Scottish structure offers a deeper look into the European history of New Zealand. A local guide will lead us on a private tour to explore the castle and its gardens. The castle was built during the gold rush of the 19th century by a prominent financier and politician. Wandering through the rooms that have been restored to their late 19th-century glory offers insight into the Larnachs’ wealth and at times fraught family history.

We’ll spend some time exploring the castle gardens before heading back to Dunedin for a walking tour led by your Trip Experience Leader. Our sightseeing tour also includes Signal Hill, the University, and Baldwin Street, the infamous “steepest street in the world.”

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You will have the remainder of the day free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you’ll explore the Otago Museum, with a collection of over 1.5 million objects, telling stories of nature, culture and science from the surrounding area. A highlight for many here is the Tropical Butterfly House, where colorful butterflies and lush flora abound. If you prefer to experience local wildlife, your Trip Experience Leader can recommend options.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You’ll have the freedom to explore on your own this evening—whether wandering through the surrounding city, enjoying the atmosphere of the hotel, or retiring early to rest.

Day 13 Dunedin • Milford Sound Overnight Cruise

- Destination: Milford Sound
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Milford Mariner or similar

Activity Note: Today’s transfer to Milford Sound will be over the course of 7.5 hours with stops included along the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Milford Sound—dubbed the “Eighth Wonder of the World” by Rudyard Kipling—situated in the heart of Fiordland National Park. Our journey will take us through dense forests, past Lake Te Anau, and through the Homer Tunnel, a three-quarter-mile engineering wonder drilled through pure rock.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Finish the drive to Milford Sound this afternoon, arriving at our fjord cruise ship for an unforgettable overnight cruise of Milford Sound. Our 60-passenger vessel features spacious viewing decks, a dining saloon, bar, and observation lounge. Accompanied by an expert naturalist guide, we’ll marvel at towering cliffs and the perfect cone of Mitre Peak, and view thundering waterfalls, beech forests, and unique flora and fauna as we cruise along the sound’s famous fjords. While we view the landscape, our naturalist guide will explain the history and geology of the area and be on hand to answer any of your questions.

Later, we’ll board zodiac tenders or kayaks to explore the region’s landscape and wildlife up-close. We may have the opportunity to spot

seals, dolphins, and penguins. Or, if you prefer to relax, you can rest on the observation deck and soak in the landscape that surrounds you. If you're feeling brave, there's always the option of a refreshing swim too. All activities are weather dependent.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll grab a drink with fellow travelers at the ship's bar to talk about today's discoveries, retire to your cabin to rest, or sit out on the observation deck and listen to the sound of the water as the stars shine above you.

Day 14 Milford Sound • Disembark ship • Overland to Queenstown

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Heritage Queenstown or similar

Activity Note: Our overland transfer to Queenstown will take about 7.5 hours, including stops along the way.

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Disembark the ship, and begin the drive to Queenstown. Along the way, we'll enjoy the scenery of the South Island—from the town's shoreline of Lake Wakatipu, to the mountains in the distance which are aptly named The Remarkables. The city has gained notoriety for being the "adventure capital of the world," attracting skiers, white-water rafters, and other thrill-seekers who are drawn to its rapids and peaks.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Afternoon: Enjoy some free time with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers.

After, we'll continue our drive to Queenstown. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel and receive our room assignments.

Dinner: At a local restaurant or at your hotel, depending on your departure.

Evening: Tonight, you might ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations in bustling Queenstown, perhaps stop by one of the restaurants offering live music, or simply linger at the hotel for a restful night in.

Day 15 Queenstown • Optional Dart River Jet-Boat Ride

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Heritage Queenstown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Let Queenstown truly awaken your sense of adventure when you spend the day enjoying the freedom to choose your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll choose to venture up the narrow roads of Skippers Canyon in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to take in views of the Shotover River and learn about the importance of this landscape to gold miners in the 19th century. Thrill seekers may want to push themselves even further by taking advantage of the city's many activities, including zip-lining and bungee jumping.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Afternoon: Continue exploring Queenstown on your own. Or consider joining a half-day optional tour for a jet-boat ride on the Dart River. We'll drive overland along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy, a frontier town at the base of the Southern Alps. Here we board a jet-boat for a journey across the lake, featuring huge snow-capped mountain backdrops made

internationally famous by movies such as *The Lord of the Rings*. The Dart River winds within a historic valley that has fascinated explorers for centuries, and as we head upstream, we'll enjoy views in an area so remote that few ever get a chance to experience it. On the downriver journey, our driver will demonstrate the maneuverability of the New Zealand-designed jet-boat and show you how this unique craft can spin and turn.

After returning to Glenorchy, we'll drive back to Queenstown.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Evening: This evening, you are free to explore Queenstown's quaint streets—perhaps meeting some local people along the way.

Day 16 Explore Queenstown • Discover Arrowtown

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Heritage Queenstown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Following breakfast, we'll join our Trip Experience Leader for a walking tour of Queenstown. Then, we'll to Arrowtown by

public transportation. An old gold rush town, this charming destination offers streets laden in gold mining history and quaint shops. Upon arrival, our Trip Experience Leader will bring us on a brief walking tour, and then we will have time to explore the shops or discover local history on your own.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You'll have the rest of the afternoon to discover more of Queenstown at your own pace.

Dinner: Cruise across Lake Wakatipu to the old Homestead of Walter Peak Station for a memorable Farewell Dinner of regional specialties.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free for you to explore on your own. Relax and retire to your room, or join fellow travelers at the hotel bar to recap your day's discoveries.

Day 17 Return to U.S. or begin post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the airport for your return flight home or to begin your *New Zealand's Bay of Islands* post-trip extension.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

3 nights in *New Zealand's Bay of Islands*

Day 1 Arrive Paihia

Day 2 Catamaran Cruise to Bay of Islands

Day 3 Tour Waitangi Treaty House

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Waimangu Volcanic Valley Tour

(Day 8 \$105 per person)

Today, we explore Waimangu Volcanic Valley. This relatively young geothermal site was created by nearby Mount Tarawera's last eruption in 1886. We take a light 1-hour hike alongside a local guide who will provide us with their insider knowledge of the landscape as we descend into the lush valley of green vegetation, pink silica terraces, and blue waters. We'll discover the Inferno Crater, filled with brilliant turquoise water, and Frying Pan Lake, the world's largest hot spring. Our small group will also embark on a 45-minute cruise of Lake Rotomahana, where our captain explains more about the history of Rotorua and shows us more geothermal sites that aren't accessible by land. Lunch is included.

frontier town at the base of the Southern Alps where we board a jet-boat for a journey across the lake, featuring huge snowcapped mountain backdrops made famous by movies such as *The Lord of the Rings*. On the return trip to Glenorchy, our driver will demonstrate how the jet-ski can make high-speed precision turns and 360-degree spins. Jet-boats were invented in New Zealand for shallow rivers like the Dart, and this is a thrilling way to view spectacular alpine scenery. From Glenorchy, we ride back to Queenstown.

Dart River Jet-boat Safari

(Day 15 \$165 per person)

On this half-day optional excursion, we'll explore the Dart River on an unforgettable jet-boat adventure in Mount Aspiring National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We travel overland along Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy, a

PRE-TRIP

Australia: Sydney & Great Barrier Reef

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » 7 nights accommodation
- » 10 meals—7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners
- » 3 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

A visit “Down Under” isn’t complete without the natural splendors of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef and the gems of cosmopolitan Sydney. Revel in the myriad colors and vibrant life of the Great Barrier Reef ... Stroll along iconic Sydney Harbour and discover its fascinating history ... This trip combines the best of both worlds.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

You depart today on your flight to Sydney, Australia.

Day 2 Cross the International Date Line

You continue your flight to Sydney, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line. You regain this day when you fly back to the U.S. at the end of the trip.

Day 3 Arrive in Sydney, Australia

- Destination: Sydney
- Accommodations: Rydges Sydney Central or similar

Morning: Arrive in Sydney, where an O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist you with your transfer to your hotel.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Enjoy some free time this afternoon to relax and settle in at the hotel, or you may venture to the Tea Room in the Queen Victoria Building to sip on afternoon tea and enjoy a variety of pastries and finger sandwiches.

Later, gather at the hotel for a Welcome Briefing and an orientation walk to acquaint ourselves with the area around our hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free for your own discoveries. You may choose to set off on an evening stroll, or retire to your room to get some rest.

Day 4 Explore Sydney • Optional Sydney Harbour Cruise

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Rydges Sydney Central or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Start your Sydney explorations with a train ride to Circular Quay and the world-famous Sydney Opera House, whose distinctive architecture has made it the city's signature attraction. This visually spectacular performance facility boasts four auditoriums that host symphony concerts, theater productions, and operas. We will enjoy a guided tour of the opera house, admiring its intricately decorated interior and exterior.

We'll then head over to the Rocks, a popular neighborhood that invites visitors to stroll its cobblestone lanes and take refreshment in its tearooms. It is now one of the city's hippest neighborhoods, where stylish Sydneysiders seek out the latest cocktails, attend theatrical events, and keep up with trends in food and fashion.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Enjoy free time to discover the city at your own pace or join us for an optional Sydney Harbor Cruise that begins at Circular Quay. Throughout the ride, we'll enjoy views of the city skyline and its iconic bridge, the largest steel arch bridge in the world. As we blend into the perpetual bustle of water-borne activity—15 million ferry crossings per year—we also discover that it remains a natural wonder: the harbor is home to 586 species of fish, boasts its own submerged coral reef, and contains water safe enough for swimming.

Dinner: Sit down for a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant.

Evening: The evening is free for your discoveries. You might choose to relax at the hotel, or explore Sydney's busy nightlife scene which has something for everyone—live music, dance, and cinema.

Day 5 Explore Sydney

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Rydges Sydney Central or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today is free for you to explore the city. You might want to take a bus to Bondi Beach, long known as the “playground of the Pacific” and the center of Australia's robust surfing culture. Continue your coastal discoveries by walking to nearby Bronte Beach or taking a ferry to Manly Beach.

Alternatively, perhaps you'd like to take a ferry to Taronga Zoo to witness Australian wildlife. In addition to housing native fauna, the zoo also offers sweeping views of Sydney's skyline and Harbour Bridge. For an up-close look at the iconic bridge, you might take a train to Milson's Point, a welcoming neighborhood located just across the harbor from the city center. After taking in views of downtown Sydney, you can make your way back to our hotel by strolling across the Harbour Bridge.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You are free to continue exploring independently this afternoon. Perhaps you'll continue your discoveries at Circular Quay in the heart of Sydney's waterfront. Circular Quay is a hub of activity where a constant flow of ferries and water taxis transport commuters

and day-trippers to their destinations all around the harbor. If the weather isn't conducive to outdoor exploration, a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Arts is a great way to spend your time. Located directly on the harbor in an art deco-inspired building, the museum contains over 4,000 works in its collections. It also boasts a rooftop restaurant and sculpture terrace offering expansive views of the harbor. However you spend your day, you're sure to find your own ways to mingle with Sydneysiders, who are not known for being shy.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You may wish to finish your packing and rest up before we travel to Cairns tomorrow, or stroll through Sydney's thriving Chinatown, with its characteristic street lanterns and graceful archways.

Day 6 Fly to Cairns

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll drive to the airport and catch our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel and receive room assignments.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Join your Trip Experience Leader on an orientation walk around your hotel and the surrounding neighborhood to get a lay of the land. Afterwards, you'll have the rest of the afternoon to explore Cairns independently.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You are free to spend the evening as you wish. You can enjoy a night on your own at the hotel, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Day 7 Cairns • Great Barrier Reef cruise

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Walk to the Reef Fleet Terminal in Cairns to begin today's exploration of The Great Barrier Reef.

We'll board our catamaran and depart Cairns for Moore Reef. Possibly the best description of the Great Barrier Reef we've ever heard comes down to five simple words: "the world's largest living thing." Its nomination for World Heritage status stated, "The Reef supports the most diverse ecosystem known to man ... an ecosystem which has evolved over millions of years."

After our catamaran ties up to a docked pontoon, we'll begin our discoveries of the Reef—a true sensory explosion, an azure scene of non-stop activity. We'll witness tropical fish darting about amid sea fans and anemones swaying with the waves, all mere inches from the water's surface. You'll also have the opportunity to snorkel, if you choose. As we explore the Reef today, we may also come across signs of coral bleaching—a natural occurrence that is a result of warmer water temperatures that cause corals to turn white. Today, you can ask our marine biologist more about the effects of rising temperatures on the Reef.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll once again be briefed on the best areas to snorkel before we dive into the crystalline waters. There's no one "right" way to explore the Reef, so you can swim or snorkel among the fish and wide array of corals. We'll return to Port Douglas and transfer back to Cairns in the late afternoon.

Dinner: On your own in Cairns. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: After a long day on the water, you may choose to use your evening to relax and refresh.

Day 8 Explore Cairns • Optional Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Gorge & Wildlife Habitat Walk

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, you might take the morning easy by lingering at the hotel or enjoy the freedom to explore the city of Cairns on your own.

Or, you may choose to join us for an optional Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Gorge Walk with a local guide at Mossman Gorge to learn about Dreamtime, the ancient "golden age" of the indigenous people's ancestors, during a 1.5-hour walk.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions. Those on the optional tour will enjoy an included lunch at Mossman Gorge.

Afternoon: For those not on the optional tour, you might choose to set out on an exploration to discover Cairns, or perhaps rejuvenate yourself body and soul with a session at a local yoga class.

If you chose to take the optional tour, we'll drive to the nearby Rainforest Habitat for a guided visit with an indigenous guide who will share with us the traditions of bush survival. We'll also witness Aussie wildlife, including koalas and many bird species.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You are free this evening to watch the last light of day dip into the sea on a nearby beach. Or, walk to the lively Cairns Night Market to shop and mingle with locals.

Day 9 Fly to Auckland, New Zealand via Sydney

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Activity Note: If you are on a January–March departure, your flight times may vary, slightly altering the timing on your first day on *Pure New Zealand*.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart for the airport in Cairns, where we'll begin our air journey to Auckland, New Zealand.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We'll board our flight for the first leg of our journey to Sydney. Later, we'll board our flight to Auckland, and arrive in New Zealand late in the evening.

Dinner: On your own. You may choose to grab something to eat at the airport in Sydney before your flight to Auckland.

Evening: We arrive in Auckland this evening and transfer to our hotel.

Day 10 Auckland, New Zealand • **Join main trip**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You'll have the morning to explore Auckland as you'd like.

Lunch: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader can help you find options.

Afternoon: The afternoon is yours to continue your Auckland explorations.

Dinner: On your own. You may choose to grab something to eat at the airport in Sydney before your flight to Auckland.

Evening: You may see what the nightlife in Auckland has to offer, or decide to relax at the hotel. Tomorrow, we'll begin our *Pure New Zealand* adventure.

OPTIONAL TOURS

Sydney Harbour Cruise

(Day 4 \$39 per person)

We board our vessel at the hub of Sydney Harbour, Circular Quay, and cruise for an hour and a half, getting striking views of the memorable city skyline as we blend into the perpetual bustle of water-borne activity.

Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Gorge Walk & Wildlife Habitat

(Day 8 \$182 per person)

Mossman Gorge, part of Daintree National Park, was originally inhabited by the Kuku Yalanji—known as the “Rainforest People.” The Gorge consists largely of steep mountain ranges, which maintain the rainforest environment by trapping moisture from the Coral Sea. Here, you'll interact with Australia's indigenous population, who will explain the history and significance of Dreamtime stories. During your explorations, you'll take in crystal-clear water and tropical plants. You'll also enjoy lunch and a guided wildlife tour, where you'll get the chance to spot species that can only be found in the rainforests of northern Australia—including musky rat-kangaroos and Boyd's forest dragons.

POST-TRIP

New Zealand's Bay of Islands

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » 3 nights accommodation
- » 5 meals—3 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- » 3 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Whet your appetite for New Zealand travel in the exotic Bay of Islands: the historical crossroads of European and Maori cultures. Explore one of New Zealand's most unique ecosystems in this subtropical archipelago of nearly 150 islands. Revel in the pristine natural environment and stunning coastal scenery as we cruise along crystal-clear turquoise waters, keeping watch for whales, dolphins, marlins, and penguins.

Day 1 Arrive Paihia

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Morning: Fly to Auckland to begin our journey to Paihia, in the Bay of Islands. Upon landing, we'll drive to Parry Kauri Park where we will walk on boardwalks under the shade of the mighty kauri tree, one of the world's largest and oldest trees. We will continue our bus tour and arrive in Whangarei.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Drive to Paihia with some quick stops along the way, such as the Hundertwasser Toilets, a public toilet and international work of art. We will then arrive at Paihia where we'll check into our hotel.

Our Trip Experience Leader will then lead a short orientation walk to introduce us to this quaint coastal town.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: The evening is free for you to explore. From our hotel you can take a short stroll to the beach, or take a taxi into the town center of Paihia for a brief walk.

Day 2 Catamaran Cruise to Bay of Islands

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: You're free to explore the Bay of Islands on your own this morning.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Explore the beauty of the Bay of Islands aboard a catamaran. Weather permitting, we make a passage through the naturally sculpted Hole in the Rock. We may spot local marine wildlife including dolphins, which inhabit these waters year-round, as well as seals, penguins, and even whales.

Our cruise will end at the peninsula town of Russell, New Zealand's first capital. Russell, a community with early ties to Europe, boasts many historic buildings such as the Christ Church, which is the oldest church in New Zealand.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: Ride the ferry back to Paihia. The remainder of the evening is free for your own discoveries. Check with your Trip Experience Leader for ideas.

Day 3 Tour Waitangi Treaty House

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the grounds of the Waitangi Treaty House for a tour of this historic site. The house was originally built as a simple four-room cottage in 1834 but has been restored and altered several times since then. It was here that representatives of the British Crown and many leading Maori chiefs of the North and South islands signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. The Treaty is seen as the founding document that transformed the homeland the Maori called Aotearoa into the nation of New Zealand. The Treaty Grounds include period homes and a war canoe so large it is capable of carrying more than 80 warriors.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You have the afternoon free to continue exploring this delightful seaside area. You can choose to visit a museum, browse a bookstore, or just savor the quiet nature of a local walk. Outdoor activities include kayaking, snorkeling, golf, swimming in the surf on one of the spectacular beaches, or walking the nearby nature trails.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You're free to unwind after the day's activities, or relax with your fellow travelers in the common areas.

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland • Return to U.S.

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll set out on our drive to Auckland.

Lunch: On your own on the way to Auckland. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We'll resume driving, arriving later this afternoon at the Auckland airport.

Dinner: On your own at the airport.

Evening: Your flight home departs this evening, depending on individual flight times.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 2 blank passport pages
- **Pre-trip extension in Australia:** You will need an additional blank page, for a total of 3.
- **Post-trip extension to New Zealand’s Bay of Islands:** No additional pages required.
- **Stopover in Bangkok:** You will need to add 2 additional pages to the applicable total listed above.
- **Stopover in Denpasar, Hong Kong, Seoul, or Tokyo:** You will need to add an additional page to the applicable total listed above.

Visas Required

We’ll be sending you a detailed Visa Packet with instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. *This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.*

- **New Zealand: A New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) is required.** Note that this is a digital process only—you must apply online or via an app (we will send instructions), and you will not receive a visa sticker in your passport. In addition, all travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary on the trip in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.
- **Australia (base and pre-trip extensions): An Australian Electronic Authority (ETA) is required.** You must obtain the ETA via the Australian government's app, Australian ETA. This app is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Note that this is a digital process only and you will not receive a label or sticker in your passport.
- **Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Japan (optional stopovers only): No visas required.** A visa is not required for U.S. citizens for stays of 30 days or less.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency).

Flight Itinerary for Entry to New Zealand

You will need to bring an extra copy of your flight itinerary for New Zealand in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

- **If you purchased airfare as part of your trip**, we will give you an extra copy of your flight itinerary in your Final Documents booklet for this purpose.
- **If you made your own international air arrangements**, you'll need to bring your own copy of your air itinerary and ticket numbers with you on the trip.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

PACING

- 6 locations in 15 days with one 1-night stay; 1 internal flight of about 2 hours; 4 drives of 2-8 hours
- International flights from Los Angeles to Auckland depart around midnight, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line, regained on the return trip, and 1 internal flight
- Airport transfers in Auckland take approximately 1 hour

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day
- Agility and balance are required for embarking boats in Milford Sound
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 40-80°F depending on time of year
- New Zealand's climate is mostly temperate: December-February are the warmest months, May-September are the coolest months; weather conditions can change quickly

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- We'll travel over city streets on foot, with occasional uphill walks along uneven rocky mountain terrain
- Travel by 21-passenger coach and 20-150 passenger boats

- 4 overland drives 2-8 hours long; 1 internal flight
- 1 cruise of 45 minutes, 1 overnight cruise in Milford Sound

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- Hotel rooms are smaller than those in the U.S. and offer simple amenities
- All accommodations feature private bathrooms

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **www.cdc.gov/travel** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

Please note, New Zealand's Ministry of Health is currently advising those with travel plans to Auckland to make sure they have been vaccinated against measles prior to commencing travel (although this is not a requirement for entry). You very likely have already had this vaccine in the past, but we recommend confirming this with your doctor. Should your doctor recommend you get the vaccine, please be aware that it takes two weeks to become effective.

Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Motion sickness medication (if you are susceptible)

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- New Zealand and Australia are healthy places, but it still pays to take care in what you eat and drink.
- Tap water is safe to drink but always beware of natural stream water.
- Take a reusable bottle of water with you on outdoor excursions to stay hydrated.

Food

- Food in New Zealand and Australia should not really cause any health problems—salads, fruit, and dairy products are fine.
- Be careful with food that has been cooked and left to go cold, which might happen in some self-service places.

Sun Exposure & Insects

The sun is stronger in New Zealand and Australia than it is in most of the U.S., so the effect of intense sunlight is an important health consideration. Be prepared with sunblock (SPF 50 or higher), sunglasses, a hat or other head covering, and lightweight loose-fitting clothing for covering up even when it is warm. Using insect repellent is advisable while you are out in the bush during the warmer months (November through April), especially in tropical northern Australia, or in southern New Zealand.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and are rarely accepted in shops and restaurants.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

Australia: Australian Dollar (AUD)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card. Many banks will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. Don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

New Zealand: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in New Zealand.

Australia: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in Australia.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, as not all are accepted around the world. If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

New Zealand: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout New Zealand, though American Express and Diners Club may be more limited than some of the other majors credit card providers (such as MasterCard or Visa). Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). New Zealand shops and banks use a PIN-based credit card systems. Depending on your credit card provider, you may or may not need a PIN to use your card. Please consult your credit card provider for more details.

Australia: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Some establishments may charge additional fees for credit card payments. Australian shops and banks use PIN-based and Tap and Go credit card systems. You may be able to authorize a payment by signature if your card was issued by an overseas provider, but this is becoming rare. A PIN is usually required so keeping varied payment options available makes sense.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*

- **Waiters:** Restaurants do not generally add a service charge. In New Zealand, it is not customary to tip but you may choose to leave a 10% tip if you have outstanding service. It is common practice in Australia to tip approximately 10% of the bill for good service. However, this is at your discretion, and not expected by the staff.
- **Taxi drivers:** If you are taking a taxi by yourself, keep in mind tipping is not common practice, but many people simply let the driver keep the change by rounding up the fare to the next whole number.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Please note: Tips are quoted in U.S. dollars for budgeting purposes; tips can be converted and paid in local currency (this is strongly preferred in New Zealand and Australia) or in U.S. dollars. Please do not use personal or traveler's checks for tips.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Customized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Customization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Customization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our customization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Customization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45-30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Bay of Islands Departure

Due to the unusually long drive from the hotel in the Bay of Islands to the Auckland airport, travelers on this post-trip extension who have made their own international air arrangements will be allowed to join the group transfer to Auckland. Because our group flights can depart anytime between 5pm and 9pm, travelers who made their own air arrangements are advised to book flights for 7pm or later, just to be safe. Please note that this means you may end up waiting at the airport for longer than usual.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".

- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype or FaceTime. These services are usually less expensive than making a traditional call, but you'll need a Wi-Fi connection and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet

In New Zealand, Internet speeds are comparable to the U.S. but hotels may charge for a high-speed connection. Many hotels in Australia will offer some sort of complimentary WiFi, while others will charge approx \$20-25 AUD for 24 hours. Keep in mind that many places limit the amount of usage, even if you pay extra for internet access, so you may not be able to stream videos or other high-usage content. But generally travelers report that they have enough WiFi to keep in touch with folks back at home without having to buy an expensive package from their service provider.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

New Zealand: +64

Australia: +61

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-ons .
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (<i>length+width+depth</i>). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches . <i>These sizes are OK if the weight limit is followed.</i>
Luggage Type	A hard-sided suitcase is preferred.

TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS
Same as main trip.

REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS
Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question. TIP from our regional office: Our staff in the South Pacific have found that the airlines in New Zealand and Australia can be surprisingly strict about enforcing weight limits. There have been incidences of travelers being asked to re-pack their suitcase at the airport. While you might be able “to get away with” more, we encourage you to stay within the limit whenever possible. Luggage handling: On arrival, you must pass through immigration/passport control and then take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a complimentary cart, which you then move through customs. When you exit customs, your driver will load your luggage onto your coach. You will need to handle your own luggage at all airports, but your Trip Experience Leader will pay for a baggage cart. Porterage at all hotels is provided for one bag per person.

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.
- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** One hard-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to loading procedures, we prefer soft-sided suitcases.
- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, we suggest several layers of clothing. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Warm clothes for the year-round volatile weather in the South Island:** “Be prepared” is the best maxim for travel to the South Island, where every kind of weather imaginable is possible—all within one day! Cold, wet weather is more likely to occur near the island's Southern Alps, where there may even be some snow. Winter lasts from May through September, but all the elements of that season—ice, hail, snow, sleet—can happen any time of year. An insulated jacket with hood (preferably waterproof), fleece pullover or wool sweater, gloves, and waterproof shoes are recommended for your comfort. Your outer jacket should be roomy enough to comfortably fit over your sweater or fleece top. Since spurts of very warm weather are equally common, dress in layers so you can easily adjust to any sudden temperature shifts.

- **Footwear:** You'll be on your feet a lot during the trip, and walking over some rough and slippery surfaces. Look for shoes with excellent ventilation as well as arch and ankle support. Sport sandals, boating shoes, or beach footwear are useful in some locations like Sydney beaches.

Style Hints

- New Zealand and Australia are essentially sportswear countries, with dress on our trip being functional and casual.
- Don't forget a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses for protection against the sun. Good walking shoes are a must.
- Smart casual clothing is accepted wear for Sydney Opera House performances.

Recommended Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. Each travelers packing list may be different depending on the climate you are used to. We recommend using **www.weather.com** and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don't forget a reusable water bottle—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric, like cotton or cotton-blend. Polo shirts are more versatile than T-shirts.
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best.
- ☐ Include one or two changes of smart casual clothing for restaurant dining
- ☐ Walking shorts for summer (summer in the Southern hemisphere is winter in the U.S)
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/ running shoes or low-cut hiking shoes, with arch support.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Warm rain jacket or lined windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Light cotton or wool sweater, as motor coach air conditioning can be cold
- ☐ Warm clothing for the South Island – see “Functional Tips” for details

☐ Underwear and sleepwear

☐ Swimsuit

Essential Items

☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but if you are sensitive to fragrances or new products, you may wish to bring your preferred brands.

☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses

☐ Sunglasses

☐ Sunscreen, SPF 50 or stronger

☐ Insect repellent with DEET (35% strength) – can also be purchased in Australia or New Zealand

☐ Light folding umbrella

☐ Moisturizer and sun-blocking lip balm

☐ Pocket-size tissues

☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand cleanser

☐ Flashlight

☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters

☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger

Medicines & First Aid Gear

☐ Your own prescription medicines

☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.

☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness

☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes

TIP: *If you forget something, or run out of space, many of the basics listed above—daily toiletries, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm, moist towelettes—can be purchased in New Zealand or Australia. So can many of the over-the counter medicines that follow.*

Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all O.A.T. adventures include a Home-Hosted Visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity at hotels in New Zealand and Australia is 230–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smart phones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner's guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Plugs

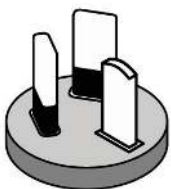
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you'll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Although you will only need one type of plug on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

New Zealand: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

Australia: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

Type I



Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

New Zealand: The winter season runs from May to September, but since weather in New Zealand is changeable throughout the year, especially in the South Island, all types of weather conditions can occur during any season. All months are at least moderately wet; though extended periods of settled, sunny weather can occur at any time of the year. Overall, the country has more sunshine than might be expected in such a variable climate. Weather conditions on the milder North Island differ from those on the tempestuous South Island.

- **North Island:** The northern region of New Zealand and its eastern coast tend to be sunnier and drier than the southern half of the country. While snow can occur almost anywhere at sea level in New Zealand, it is very rare in the extreme north of the North Island. Here the climate is almost subtropical with gentle winters and warm, humid summers. Rain is quite frequent in the northern part of the North Island and you should come prepared with adequate rain gear. Temperatures become cooler as you move south toward New Zealand's second major island.
- **South Island:** Known as the South Pacific's "Gateway to Antarctica," the South Island is equally famous for its unpredictable weather shifts. At any time of year, it's not unusual for a day to start with bright sunlight, turn to wind-driven rain, intensify to snow and sleet, and then miraculously go back to dazzling sunshine. Temperatures may soar into the 80s and 90s, then plummet into the 40s and 30s, all within a few hours.

Sydney, Australia: Sydney is in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Compared to other cities in this climate zone Sydney gets the more rainfall, meaning that rain can happen at any time of year.

Palm Cove, Australia: As part of the northeast tropical zone, Palm Cove is warm and wet year-round. The seasons here could be classified as rainy season and dry season rather than winter, spring, summer, and fall. Rainy season would be January–March and part of April; dry season is June–October; and the other months would be transitional shoulder seasons.

NOTE: If you are taking one of our optional stopovers before or after your OAT adventure, please be aware the climate and temperatures might be different from what you experienced during your tour. To prepare for weather differences and pack appropriate clothing, we recommend the following world weather sites:

- www.intellicast.com
- www.weather.com
- www.wunderground.com

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND			ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	75 to 61	77 to 62	2.8	73 to 55	78	4.4
FEB	75 to 62	80 to 63	3.4	73 to 55	81	4.2
MAR	73 to 59	81 to 66	3.1	70 to 52	81	3.6
APR	68 to 55	83 to 69	3.8	64 to 47	83	4.5
MAY	63 to 51	86 to 73	4.5	59 to 43	86	5.5
JUN	59 to 47	88 to 76	5.0	55 to 40	87	5.3
JUL	58 to 46	88 to 76	5.2	54 to 38	86	5.0
AUG	59 to 47	86 to 74	4.4	55 to 39	85	5.2
SEP	62 to 50	82 to 72	3.7	58 to 42	81	4.9
OCT	64 to 52	79 to 71	3.7	62 to 46	79	5.0
NOV	67 to 55	77 to 67	3.2	66 to 49	77	4.2
DEC	71 to 59	77 to 65	3.1	69 to 53	79	3.8

MONTH	CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND			QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	73 to 53	--	2.1	71 to 49	66	3.2
FEB	71 to 53	--	1.8	70 to 48	70	2.9
MAR	69 to 49	--	2.1	67 to 46	72	3.0
APR	63 to 44	--	2	59 to 40	77	2.9
MAY	58 to 39	--	2.7	52 to 35	80	2.6
JUN	53 to 34	--	2.6	46 to 30	81	2.2
JUL	52 to 33	--	2.6	46 to 29	82	2.2
AUG	54 to 36	--	2.1	50 to 32	77	2.5
SEP	59 to 39	--	1.8	55 to 36	70	2.6
OCT	62 to 43	--	1.8	59 to 40	68	3.0
NOV	66 to 46	--	1.9	64 to 43	66	2.5
DEC	70 to 51	--	2.2	68 to 47	65	2.4

MONTH	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA			PALM COVE, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	79 to 65	83 to 62	4.0	88 to 73	78 to 73	14.1
FEB	79 to 66	85 to 64	4.5	88 to 73	81 to 76	14.4
MAR	77 to 63	85 to 61	5.2	86 to 72	81 to 75	14.1
APR	73 to 57	84 to 59	4.2	82 to 70	78 to 72	6.7
MAY	68 to 51	83 to 57	3.9	79 to 66	77 to 72	3.3
JUN	63 to 47	83 to 58	5.2	77 to 63	77 to 71	1.9
JUL	62 to 44	80 to 52	2.5	77 to 63	75 to 69	1.1
AUG	64 to 46	79 to 50	3.2	79 to 63	73 to 66	1.0
SEP	68 to 50	79 to 52	2.2	81 to 64	69 to 64	1.1
OCT	72 to 55	79 to 55	3.1	84 to 68	70 to 65	1.4
NOV	75 to 59	78 to 56	3.4	88 to 70	71 to 67	3.4
DEC	78 to 63	82 to 61	3.1	88 to 72	72 to 68	6.3

MONTH	BAY OF ISLANDS (WAITANGI), NZ		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	78 to 61	--	12
FEB	75 to 60	--	18
MAR	74 to 59	--	17
APR	67 to 54	--	20
MAY	65 to 53	--	23
JUN	59 to 48	--	24
JUL	59 to 47	--	25
AUG	58 to 46	--	27
SEP	60 to 45	--	22
OCT	64 to 48	--	21
NOV	72 to 52	--	13
DEC	73 to 59	--	19

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

New Zealand Culture

New Zealand sits on two tectonic plates—the Pacific and the Australian plates—resulting in a fantastic display of natural contrasts across the North and South Islands. The shifting plates produce an unlikely mix of glaciers, geysers, beaches, and fjords in one nation. As these tectonic plates continue to shift, the landscape of New Zealand does as well, but one thing remains—the islands' warm and gracious locals.

New Zealand's cultural fabric is as diverse as the landscape around it, which is sewn together by European, Polynesian, and Maori origins. The Maoris descended from Polynesian settlers who arrived in New Zealand in the 14th century. The new inhabitants of the islands introduced new crops to the land and brought with them a foundation of traditions that has carried over into modern day.

Settlers began to arrive after James Cook mapped the country in 1770. Maori traditions began to die out as settlers tried to assimilate them to European culture, including converting the Maori to Christianity. Maori culture suffered greatly in the years of colonization and into the 20th century. Many were torn between the pressure to assimilate and the desire to preserve their own culture.

Since the 1950s, there has been a cultural revival and preservation of Maori traditions. First held in 1972, the biennial Te Matatini festival celebrates Maori culture and history, especially the tribal dance and song performances—known as kapa haka. The festival is held over several days and culminates in the national kapa haka championship. Maori waiata (songs) and dances have become increasingly popular in recent years.

While 67% of Kiwis are of European descent, waves of immigrants have brought a mix of cultures that are celebrated in New Zealand. Among 19th-century settlers were Scandinavians, Chinese, Italians, and Indians. Today, there are large communities of Pacific Islanders and Asians. These cultures are celebrated in a variety of ways, including the Lunar New Year, the Lantern Festival, and Diwali.

One of the major holidays in New Zealand is Waitangi Day (February 6), where the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi is remembered. The treaty promised Maori ownership of their land and rights as British citizens. Celebrations of this day include Maori ceremonies, sporting events, music, and parades. Waitangi Day is also used as a day of reflection on the historical effects of European settlement on Maori tribes.

New Zealanders have a strong egalitarian streak and believe in a “fair go.” There is also a strong individualistic attitude among Kiwis, which is believed to stem from their relative isolation in the South Pacific and the rugged terrain that surrounds them.

Christianity is the largest religion in New Zealand. However, in the 2018 census almost half of New Zealanders reported they had “no religion,” which is the first time the number of people who are religiously unaffiliated exceeded the number of Christians in the country.

Laundry Services

Previous travelers suggest packing fewer clothes and using laundry services along the way. Many hotels offer laundry services for a fee; please check individual hotel websites for more information about the availability of these services.

Taking Photographs

When taking photos of people in most countries, be polite and ask permission to take a close-up. In many countries, you should not be taking photos of children or older women without permission. Do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

Please obey any signs regarding photos at museum or sites; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room – use a room safe as needed. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt.

New Zealander Cuisine

Major cities in New Zealand offer cosmopolitan dining and a wide range of restaurants that serve every choice of international cuisine and are renowned for their excellent quality. In rural areas, menus often still reflect the traditional English-style of cooking—a meat and two vegetables. New Zealand specialties include:

- **Lamb:** This is one of the country's major exports and not to be missed if you like red meat

- **Venison:** New Zealand claims to be the first country to farm deer, and as a result, you'll find venison on the menu at both high-end restaurants and burger joints (often humorously referred to as a "Bambi burger")
- **Hangi:** A traditional cooking style with meat and vegetables slow-cooked in an underground oven or fire pit (a bit like a luau). Some restaurants recreate the dish by cooking the same ingredients in a clay pot.
- **Kumara:** A type of sweet potato that is often used in *hangi*
- **Green-lipped mussels:** Served European-style as steamed mussels in broth, these larger-than-average mussels are native to New Zealand's waters
- **Oysters:** Pacific oysters served on the half shell are a popular starter, especially the succulent, white-shelled Bluff oysters, available from March to about July
- **"Lobster":** Actually crayfish, but just as tasty! You may see this on the menu as crayfish, rock lobster, or spiny lobster.
- **Whitebait fritters:** Deep-fried patties or balls of batter made with small whitebait fish
- **Hokey Pokey:** A flavor of ice cream in New Zealand, consisting of plain vanilla ice cream with small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee.
- **Manuka honey:** A product on NZ that is renowned for its medical properties. It can be eaten or used in skincare products.
- **Lemon & Paeroa:** A lemon soda similar to—but stronger than—Sprite
- **Wines:** New Zealand produces some excellent wines, and is particularly known for its citrusy Sauvignon Blanc (white), dense Pinot Noir (red), and some light and refreshing rosés

Australian Cuisine

Two of the most popular cooking styles in sunny Australia are Mediterranean and Southeast Asian, though every type of cuisine can be found in its plethora of fine city restaurants, including Indian, Japanese, American, and French. The fresh local seafood is especially good, and the colorful regional vegetables are cooked up a hundred tasty ways to accompany traditional game dishes made with duck, beef, lamb, or kangaroo. Other items to be on the lookout for include:

- **Meat pies:** A relic from their English heritage, Aussies love a good meat pie, which is a savory pie with meat, vegetables, and gravy inside (similar to a chicken pot pie, but usually made with beef or lamb)
- **Mushy peas:** Peas that have been boiled and then lightly mashed—goes great with a meat pie
- **Sausage roll:** Think an oversized "pig in a blanket", and you're not far off

- **Chicken Parmigiana:** Yes, this dish has Italian roots, but it is well-loved throughout Australia (as is other Italian-Aussie cooking) and you'll find it in many pubs
- **Fish and chips:** Fried fish with a side of French fries
- **Barramundi:** A type of sea bass that is often served grilled or pan-seared; a healthy alternative to fish and chips
- **Beetroot:** A popular vegetable that is often put in sandwiches and burgers
- **Vegemite:** This one's an acquired taste, but while you're in Australia you may wish to try this savory spread made from yeast extract, which is typically spread as a thin layer on toast
- **Pavlova:** A much-loved dessert made with layers of meringue, fruit, and whipped cream.
- **Lamingtons:** Quite possibly Australia's national dessert, a lamington is a square of cake dipped in chocolate and then rolled in coconut flakes
- **Cherry ripe:** A candy bar only sold in Australia—cherry and coconuts in dark chocolate
- **Drinks:** Australia has both a vibrant wine industry and a plethora of brew houses. Local beers to look for are Coopers, Carlton Draught, Victoria Bitter, and Tooheys; while Shiraz (red), Cabernet Sauvignon (red), and Chardonnay (white) are popular wines.

Manners

Kiwis and Aussies are famous for their friendliness. You won't have to work hard to strike up conversations.

The etiquette of photographing most people in Australia and New Zealand is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. For cultural reasons, some Maori and Aboriginal people usually do not want their photographs taken, even from a distance. You should not assume that it is OK to photograph them. Ask your intended subject first or ask your Trip Experience Leader for advice.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

New Zealand

New Zealand has a strong sheep herding industry, so quality woolens shouldn't be hard to find—possum fur and merino wool blend garments can be found in most places. Jewelry made from greenstone (a type of jade found on the South Island), pearls, or paua shells are popular buys. Traditional Maori crafts include carvings in wood, stone, or bone; and flax weaving. Less obvious—but still typically New Zealand—souvenirs include t-shirts for the national rugby team or beauty products like the Evolu or Living Nature lines.

Australia

You can find craft items and screen-printed garments made by Aboriginal craft cooperatives throughout Australia—especially around Alice Springs and Ayers Rock (Uluru). The opal is Australia's national gem, and is used in many different types of jewelry. Items with typically Australian symbols like koala bears, kangaroos, boomerangs, etc. can make fun gifts, while items made out of eucalyptus leaf are lightweight and durable. In addition, both Australia and New Zealand produce distinctive wines that make fine gifts or souvenirs.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, **www.cbp.gov** has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

New Zealand Customs Regulations

The following regulations were taken from New Zealand's government customs website: **www.customs.govt.nz**

All regulations are subject to change without notice.

Before you arrive in New Zealand, you will receive a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card. You must tick (check) “Yes” in the Customs section of your arrival card if you are bringing any of the following into New Zealand:

- Goods that may be prohibited or restricted, such as weapons, hookah/shisha pipes, other ornamental pipes, objectionable (indecent) materials, wildlife products or illicit drugs.
- Goods in excess of the \$700 allowance and the tobacco and alcoholic beverages allowance. At time of writing, \$700 NZD was roughly \$500 U.S. The duty-free allowance for tobacco was 25 cigarettes, or 25 grams of tobacco, or 25 cigars, or a mixture of all three weighing not more than 25 grams. You could also bring up to 4.5 liters of wine, or 4.5 liters of beer, or three bottles each containing not more than 1,125ml of spirits, liqueur, or other spirituous beverages duty-free.
- Goods carried on behalf of another person
- NZ \$10,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currency (please have purchase receipts available)
- **Food items of any sort, whether restricted or not. This includes food given to you during your flight.**
- You will be fined on the spot (around NZD400) for anything that you do not declare on this form.

TIP: Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into New Zealand. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.

You do not have to declare your clothing, footwear, jewelry, or toiletries. These are regarded as personal effects if they are intended solely for your own use. **Important Note: If you have recently worn your shoes in rural or natural areas, please wash your footwear prior to entering New Zealand.**

Unlike other Customs administrations, there is no provision for travelers to obtain a refund of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their purchases when they leave the country. In order to purchase goods without payment of GST, travelers are required to purchase from a duty-free shop.

Australian Customs Regulations

Before you arrive in Australia, you will receive an Australian Arrival Card. Please keep in mind that Australian Customs Regulations apply when you enter Australia and that all regulations are subject to change without notice. In general, travelers are allowed to bring \$A900 (approximately \$818 U.S.) worth of goods into Australia free of duty and sales tax, not including alcohol or tobacco, when the goods accompany the passenger. The limit is \$A450 (approximately \$409 U.S.) for travelers under 18 years of age. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed per person is 2.25

liters. The maximum amount of tobacco allowed per person is 25 cigarettes or 25 grams of cigars. Food items of any kind—even ones that are allowed into the country—must be declared. For more information, you may want to contact the Australian Customs Service.

Security: In addition to their customs restrictions, the Australian government has security measures to limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point for people flying to and from Australia. All containers with drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and similar substances should not exceed 100ml (3.3 ounces) each and will have to be carried in a re-sealable clear plastic bag, no larger than 20cm x 20cm, and be inspected separately. There is a limit of one bag per person. Any sharp items (i.e. nail scissors) should be in your checked luggage.

Telephone from the United States: **011-612-9313-3010** or on the web: **www.customs.gov.au**.

TIP: *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into Australia. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS): The TRS enables you to claim a refund, subject to certain conditions, of the goods and services tax (GST) and wine equalization tax (WET) that you pay on goods you buy in Australia. To claim a refund you must:

- Spend AUD\$300 (GST inclusive) or more in the one store and get a single tax invoice. (You can submit paperwork from more than one store provided that you spent AUD\$300 at each store.)
- Buy goods no more than 60 days before departure
- Wear or carry the goods on board the aircraft and present them along with your original tax invoice, passport and international boarding pass to a Customs Officer at a TRS facility
- Claims at airports are available up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure of your flight

The refund only applies to goods that you take with you as hand luggage or wear onto the aircraft when you leave Australia. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia, such as wine, chocolate or perfume. However, unlike other tourist shopping schemes, most of the goods, such as clothing and cameras, can be used in Australia before departure.

You can collect your refund through one of the following methods:

- Check
- Credit to an Australian bank account
- Payment to a credit card

Customs will aim to post check refunds within 15 business days. Bank and credit card refunds will be issued by Customs within 5 business days, however, payment will be subject to processing by your bank or card issuer.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

New Zealand

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 103,363 square miles
- **Capital:** Wellington
- **Language:** English
- **Ethnicity:** European 71.2%, Maori 14.1%, Asian 11.3%, Pacific islander 7.6%, other 2.7%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** New Zealand, consisting of two main islands (the North Island and South Island, plus some smaller offshore isles), is situated about 1,250 miles southeast of Australia and surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean, the Tasman Sea, and the Southern Ocean.
- **Geography:** The Cook Strait, a rather turbulent waterway, separates the North Island from the South Island. From tip to tip, the whole country measures about 1,000 miles. Despite its generous length, its widest point is only 174 miles across. The South Island is divided along its length by the Southern Alps and the Fiordland's steep mountains and deep fiords record the extensive ice age glaciation of its south-western corner. The North Island is less mountainous, but its geography is marked by ancient volcanic activity.
- **Population:** 5,120,000 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Christian 44.3%, Hindu 2.1%, Buddhist 1.4%, Maori Christian 1.3%, Islam 1.1%, other 1.4%, none 38.5%, not stated 8.2%, objected to answering 4.1%
- **Time Zone:** New Zealand is on New Zealand Standard Time, 17 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 10pm in Wellington.

National Holidays: New Zealand

In addition to the holidays listed below, New Zealand celebrates a number of national holidays such as Easter, the Queen's Birthday, and Labor Day. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 Day after New Year's

02/06 Waitangi Day

04/25 Anzac Day

Late June/Early July Māori New Year (Matariki)

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

New Zealand: A Brief History

New Zealand's history is divided into two distinct phases: Pre-European settlement by the Maori and their ancestors, and European settlement from the 18th century onward. The first wave of settlement was by Polynesians from the Marquesas, Society, and Cook Islands. Their landing on the beaches of the North Island in about 1300 A.D. signaled the end of the 5000-year migration of these "Vikings of the Pacific" across the vast ocean. Over time, farming took on a more important role. Since the crops would not grow in the cooler southern areas, the emerging Maori culture settled predominantly in the warmer North Island and began a "golden age" of agricultural settlement.

Villages sprang up, often with a central marae (village common) and elaborately carved whare runanga (meeting houses). The arts began to flourish: wood carvers, medicine men, tattooists, and priests were employed by a people who no longer had to spend all their time hunting and gathering food. But as the population increased, so too did the desire for good farmland. Inevitably, warfare broke out amongst the different iwi or tribes. These iwi, each linked by a different ancestral canoe, began to specialize in warfare and thus the Maori became a nation of warriors.

Between 1769 and 1777, British Captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands aboard the Endeavour. While he met with some initial hostility from the islands' residents, Cook was able to forge a peaceful relationship with the Maori—but he soon claimed the islands for the British Crown without their consent.

The incursion with the most far-reaching and damaging consequences resulted from the introduction of liquor and European diseases, against which the Maori had no immunity. Thousands died from epidemics of what would be considered minor ailments today, such as influenza and measles. By 1830, New Zealand's Maori population had been dramatically reduced. By the late 1830s, the Maori were beginning to accept Christianity. As more and more Maori embraced Christianity, fewer aspects of the centuries-old Maori society were observed. Traditional Maori culture began to dissolve.

On February 6, 1840, representatives of the British Crown and various Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. In the English-language version, the treaty grants the Maori land rights and the right of British citizenship in exchange for ceding the sovereignty of New Zealand to the

British crown. But in the Maori-language version, the word for sovereignty is weaker, suggesting governance or the right to make the first offer on land for sale, rather than ownership. Add a hasty translation to different cultural understandings of land rights, and the result is a controversy that continues to this day. By 1858, the decline in land sales combined with the pressure on the British government to allow more settlers into New Zealand resulted in a dangerous imbalance. The government responded by using a falsified story about an attack on the settlement of Auckland as the justification for launching an all-out war against the tribes of the North Island. Outnumbered, the Maori were forced to concede over 4 million acres of the best farmland to the settlers.

While the land wars raged on—in some parts of the country until 1865—colonists continued to arrive. They turned sheep farming, which remains a vital part of New Zealand's economy. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s brought bright new economic prospects, and a surging population, to the South Island. With the invention of refrigeration, New Zealand suddenly assumed a much greater role in the world economic scene, as it could now export perishable products like meat, butter, and cheese. As New Zealand became more visible to the rest of the world, the native Maori population continued to decline precipitously. By 1900, fewer than 42,000 Maori remained.

New Zealand achieved complete independence from Britain in 1947. The economy soared following World War II, as agricultural prices rose dramatically. Soon, the country could boast one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world. Politically, New Zealand has been in the forefront of social welfare legislation for over a century. In 1893, it was the world's first country to grant women the right to vote. It also adopted old age pensions (1898); a national child welfare program (1907); social security for the aged, widows, and orphans (1938); and minimum wages, a 40-hour workweek, and unemployment and health insurance (also in 1938). Socialized medicine went into effect in 1941.

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Percival Hillary, along with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made history by ascending Mount Everest. Together, these two men went where no men had ever been. The 1970s saw a revival of Maori culture, driven by a demand for recognition and participation in economic prosperity. In 1985, the Treaty of Waitangi was amended to include claims dating back to the original signing of the treaty in 1840. Financial reparations were made to several Maori tribes whose lands were unjustly confiscated.

On the political front, Jenny Shipley became the nation's first female prime minister in 1997. The country has now had three female prime ministers. The Christchurch earthquakes of February 2011 drew international outreach and support. Many countries—the U.S. included—sent search and rescue teams or other aid.

Christchurch, New Zealand would be at the front of tragedy again, when two local mosques were the targets of a terrorist attack. On March 15, 2019, two mass shootings took place and 51 people were killed. In response to the terrorist attack the Arms Amendment Act was introduced later that same year. A Royal Commission of Inquiry was held and presented on November 26, 2020. The report made 44 recommendations, and in 2024, the current Attorney-General confirmed that the New Zealand Government was in the process of implementing 36 of them.

On December 9, 2021 Whakaari, also known as White Island, erupted in steam. The uninhabited island was a popular tourist destination that had frequent volcanic activity. There were 47 people on the island at the time of its eruption, 22 people were killed and 25 people were injured with life altering burns. Whakaari Management Limited (WML), who license tours operations to the island, was found guilty of not minimizing risk to the people who died on the island. Since its eruption in 2019, tourism has not resumed on the island.

Events That Shaped New Zealand the 20th Century: World War II

New Zealand's involvement during the Second World War began when it declared war on Germany alongside Britain on September 3rd, 1939. New Zealand troops in World War II had a very different perspective from their counterparts in the First World War fighting overseas as part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Having relatives who fought with ANZAC gave them some insight as to how badly a war can affect a country and its people.

Still, many New Zealanders felt a strong patriotic desire to join arms and fight alongside Britain—so much so that Michael Joseph Savage, New Zealand's Prime Minister, gave a speech just after war was declared and stated:

“Both with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future, we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand.”

The first major engagement during the war occurred in Greece, where several thousand New Zealand troops were deployed to help strengthen the Greek army against Italian and German invasion. In April 1941, the rapid occupation of mainland Greece by German forces resulted in the deaths of about 300 New Zealanders while about 1,800 were able to retreat to the island of Crete, which Germany sought next to occupy.

The Battle of Crete, also known as Operation Mercury, began on May 20th, 1941, when thousands of elite German paratroops descended onto the island of Crete in one of the world's first ever airborne assaults. For 12 days New Zealand, British, and Australian troops fought alongside the Cretan resistance under the command of Major General Bernhard Freyberg, who was head of the New Zealand Expeditionary force.

The initial invasion was mostly beaten back, as hundreds of German paratroops were killed before reaching the ground. As more German reinforcements poured in, the Allied forces soon found themselves overwhelmed and eventually surrendered on June 1st, 1941. Although the Allied forces had been defeated, their defenses proved to be quite effective as more than 6,000 German troops were killed or wounded while nearly 300 aircrafts were destroyed. Those staggering losses led Hitler to conclude that airborne invasions could no longer exploit the element of surprise and would therefore never be used again for the rest of the war.

By December 7th, 1941, the war had taken a radical turn when the Japanese Empire launched series of surprise attacks including the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Within a few months, Japan had seized a great amount of the Western Pacific as Japanese troops pushed down through Papua New

Guinea and launched bombing raids in Australia. With the threat of war right on its doorstep, defenses were thrown up in New Zealand in fear of a Japanese invasion which fortunately, never came.

New Zealand forces were also present on D-Day, as the Allied forces launched their invasion to reclaim Western Europe from Nazi Germany on June 6th, 1944. World War II came to an end with the surrender of Germany in May of 1945 followed by Japan about five months later. Though news of Germany's surrender had spread to New Zealand, the government banned all public celebration until the surrender was officially announced by Winston Churchill who served as the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom.

Australia

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 2,988,902 square miles
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Language:** English is the official language.
- **Ethnicity:** Australian: 25.4%, English: 25.9%, Irish: 7.5%, Scottish: 6.4%, Italian: 3.3%, German: 3.2%, Chinese: 3.1% Greek: 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** Australia is bordered by three oceans and four seas.
- **Geography:** Situated in the Southern Hemisphere and south of Asia, Australia is an island continent surrounded by three oceans and four seas. It is about 7,700 miles from Los Angeles. Australia is roughly the same size as the continental United States, measuring 2,500 miles from east to west, and 2,000 miles from north to south. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef, lies a short distance off the northeast coast and extends for over 1,240 miles. Australia is Earth's flattest continent. Eastern Australia is marked by the Great Dividing Range, although the name is not strictly accurate, since parts of the range consists of low hills. The western half of Australia consists of the Western Plateau, which rises to mountain heights near the west coast and falls to lower elevations near the continental center. This is the arid landscape commonly known as the Outback.
- **Population:** 22,751,014 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Protestant 30.1%, Catholic 25.3%, Orthodox 2.8%, other Christian 2.9%, Buddhist 2.5%, Muslim 2.2%, Hindu 1.3%, other 1.3%, unspecified 9.3%, none 22.3%

- **Time Zone:** Australia has three primary time zones, four when Daylight Savings Time is in effect. Time in Canberra is 14 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 8pm in Canberra.

National Holidays: Australia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Australia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. Each state in Australia also has a certain latitude in setting its own holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/26 Australia Day

04/25 Anzac Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

Australia: A Brief History

Australia's indigenous peoples believe that their tribes have lived here since the dawn of time—the Dreamtime—when their spiritual ancestors brought the land into being with song. Anthropologists believe that indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years, developing their culture largely free from outside influence. During this immense span of time, the ancestors of many groups now lumped together under the term “Australia's First Peoples” developed over 200 different languages and many local traditions. The Wathaurong, Arrente, Walpiri, and Anangu cultural groups, which are roughly like tribes or clans, are among those still present today. In addition to passing along spiritual practices that are still observed, ancient Aborigines mastered the challenges of living in a harsh environment. There is evidence that they planted crops, diverted streams, and maintained grasslands by deliberate burning in order to attract game for food. During the last several thousand years, the population increased, and different groups of indigenous people traded with each other across the continent. After thousands of years of independence from outside influence, indigenous life changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans.

Although people in Europe imagined the existence of a Terra Australis in late medieval times, they knew nothing of the real Australia until the 17th century. The first European to actually set foot on Australian soil was probably the Dutch sailor Dirk Hartog in 1616. In 1642, Abel Tasman of Holland explored the southern coast, which is why the Tasman Sea and Tasmania now bear his name. English Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay on Australia's eastern coast in 1770, establishing an English claim that eventually led to colonization. Another Englishman, Matthew Flinders, circumnavigated the continent at the beginning of the 19th century. These early explorations revealed the coast, but Australia's inland geography remained a mystery. When England could no longer send colonists or exiled convicts to America, Australia became a new destination for them. On January 26—the date now celebrated as Australia Day—in 1788, English Captain Arthur Phillip founded Sydney as a penal colony. From its inception, Sydney has been the capital of New South Wales, then a colony and now the most populous of Australia's six states.

Before England ended the practice in 1853, more than 150,000 convicts were sent to New South Wales and Tasmania; one-fifth of them were women. From the 1820s to the 1880s, increasing numbers of free colonists also settled in Australia. First in New South Wales, and later in the other colonies, governance became more democratic with power increasingly vested in legislative councils. Indigenous people were not included, and it was not until the 1960s that they were granted full citizenship in the group of British colonies that had come to occupy their native land.

In 1851 Edward Hargraves struck gold in New South Wales, an event that led to the tripling of Australia's population during the next 11 years. Australia remained a collection of distinct colonies until the dawn of the 20th century. In some ways, each colony's ties to Great Britain were closer than they were with the other Australian colonies.

After some earlier attempts at establishing greater unity had failed, the Commonwealth of Australia became a reality on January 1, 1901. A true national identity was forged only in the aftermath of World War I. Anzac Day, celebrated on April 25, commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing at Gallipoli in the First World War, a milestone in the growth of national consciousness. World War II compelled Australians to look beyond their traditional ties to Great Britain, forge the new ANZUS alliance with the U.S., and see themselves anew as a Pacific Rim nation. Australia celebrated its bicentennial in 1988, and Aussies took great pride in having Sydney selected as the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Recently Australia has been on the forefront of environmental activism, especially in regards to the question of water management, which came under scrutiny during a severe drought in 2005–2006. On the other end of the spectrum, Queensland had too much water a few years later, resulting in dramatic flash floods at the end of 2010. Another recent struggle has been the question of how to handle asylum seekers; this issue has been in the forefront of public debate and generated some controversial policies.

Events that Shaped Australia in the 20th Century:

Australia's Fight at Home and Abroad During World War II

When Great Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939, Australia entered the war on the same day. Australian troops would go on to fight against Germans and Italians in campaigns across Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and then the Japanese in Southeast Asia. But Australia was under no direct threat from Germany, so why did they enter the war at such an early stage? One reason, of course, is that they were still a Commonwealth of the British Empire, and Australians felt a strong loyalty to England. Another was assurances from the British that any Japanese advance toward Australia would be stopped in its tracks by Britain's warships stationed in Singapore, the largest Royal Navy base in Asia. Unfortunately, this position of power would eventually crumble as the war progressed.

As Britain continuously failed to defend their Navy base in Singapore, Australia experienced more attacks from the Imperial Japanese Army and the Australian government became discouraged with their allies, who, one by one, were falling in Europe against the combined Axis forces. Robert Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, was determined to speak with his allies about the threat of Japan in the Pacific and the lack of British reinforcements in Singapore. He flew to London

during the Blitz and met with Winston Churchill regarding the war in the Pacific. Upon his return to Australia in August 1941, when he was unable to gather support from his party to establish a War Cabinet, Menzies resigned as Prime Minister. John Curtin was sworn in a month later.

With the majority of Australia's forces focused in Europe and North Africa backing up the Allied Forces, Japan took the opportunity to take control of the Pacific and attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after, the British ships sent to reinforce Singapore were sunk. Australia, left with little support from Britain and facing off against Japan with most of their forces still assisting abroad, turned to the United States as their ally in the Pacific on December 27th, 1941.

The reinforcements from the U.S. came too slow, as British Malaysia, including Singapore, fell to Japanese occupation mere weeks after Pearl Harbor, with 15,000 Australian soldiers being taken as prisoners of war. On February 19th, 1942, Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory of Australia, was attacked by 188 Japanese warplanes, the first attack made against the Australian mainland. It was not the last. Over the course of 19 months, mainland Australia suffered through over 100 air raids.

After the attack on Darwin, Curtin called two Australian divisions back home, refusing Churchill's plans to have the divisions back-up forces in Burma. President Franklin Roosevelt ordered General Douglas MacArthur, his commander in the Philippines, to cooperate with Curtin to establish a plan of attack in the Pacific. With Curtin's support, General MacArthur became the "Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific" and moved the American forces to his new base in Melbourne.

In response, Japanese forces moved to isolate Australia, attacking Sydney Harbour and invading Port Moresby, a territory of Australia in New Guinea. The U.S. Navy repelled the Japanese forces from Port Moresby following their victories during the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. Defeated by sea, the Japanese Navy retreated and Port Moresby was instead attacked by the Japanese army on land.

The Australian army spend the next five months pushing the Japanese army out of Port Moresby, with their victory during the Battle of Milne Bay in August 1942 being the first noted instance of Allied forces defeating Japanese land forces. The Australian forces continued to battle against Japan in Papua New Guinea, steadily pushing their enemies out of the Australian territories. Due to the dense jungle, oppressive heat, and fierce Japanese resistance, the fight for New Guinea was said to be the most arduous campaign fought by the Allied forces during World War II.

As MacArthur pushed into the Philippines and towards Japan in mid-1944, Australian forces remained in the South Pacific, focused on the Japanese presence in Borneo and Indonesia. While the Borneo Campaign was heavily criticized as a waste of forces, the three goals of the campaign were achieved: the isolation of key Japanese forces, the capture of oil supplies, and the release of Allied prisoners of war.

When Allied forces prepared to invade Japan during the last couple months of the war, Australia served as a base of operations for the British Pacific Fleet and planned to participate in the invasion with land forces in Honshu and air forces in Okinawa. All plans were ceased when Japan surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By the time the war ended on September 2nd, 1945, almost one million Australian men and women had served in one of the branches of military during the war. Of that total, an estimated 31,700 were killed in battle, and 8,000 as Japanese prisoners of war.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

General South Pacific

Kon-Tiki, Across the Pacific by Raft by Thor Heyerdahl, with F. H. Lyon, Translator (Exploration) On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurous souls set themselves adrift on a raft off the coast of Peru. When they arrived in Tahiti five months later, they not only had a great tale of adventure on the high seas, but also changed the way historians viewed the migration of early humans.

Tales of the South Pacific by James Michener (Short Stories) Set during WWII in Polynesia, this series of loosely related short stories won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize and was the basis for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*.

The Happy Isles of Oceania, Paddling the Pacific by Paul Theroux (Travel Narrative) When noted travel writer Paul Theroux decided to tour the South Pacific, he figured that kayaking would be the way to go. In the end, he explored the coastlines of 51 different islands from New Zealand to Hawaii. This book is a terrific introduction to the region, combining history, anecdote, and acutely observed detail on people and place.

The Journals of Captain Cook by James Cook (Exploration) Cook's narrative of his expeditions between 1768 and 1779. Includes his explorations of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Hawaii, and a host of other previously unheard-of Pacific locales.

New Zealand

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton (2013, Fiction) In Victorian New Zealand a young gold prospector stumbles into a strange meeting of 12 local men who are there to discuss some even stranger events: a disappearance, a death, and a fortune.

Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All by Christina Thompson (2008, Memoir/History) An unusual mix of personal memoir and history that bounces between the story of the arrival of the European settlers in New Zealand and the American author's courtship and marriage to a Maori man. And the title? It comes from a famous story about the Maoris' reaction when they first saw the Europeans.

A Concise History of New Zealand by Philippa Mein Smith (2005, History) The title says it all. Travelers interested in a more detailed, scholarly history should look for the works of Anne Salmond, such as ***Between Worlds: Early Exchanges Between Maori and Europeans*** and ***The Trial of the Cannibal Dog*** (about Captain Cook's voyages).

Once Were Warriors by Alan Duff (1990, Literature) The controversial best-selling novel about the disintegration of Maori culture in contemporary New Zealand, and how the lack of a clear cultural identity can lead to strife and violence.

Australia

Lane's End by Jill Paterson (2014, Mystery) Part of the Fitzjohn Mystery Series set in Sydney, this novel sees Inspector Fitzjohn trying to solve a murder at a cocktail party in the Sydney Observatory.

Chasing Kangaroos by Tim Flannery (2007, Natural History) Part road-trip, part natural history, this book is an ode to Australia's national animal combined with the author's search to trace when and how the kangaroo first developed.

Dirt Music by Tim Winton (2001, Literature) A powerful and suspenseful story about the tragic passion between two vulnerable people—an alcoholic woman stuck in a broken relationship and a grief-stricken poacher.

True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey (2000, Historical Fiction) Undoubtedly Australia's most potent legend, Ned Kelly is a mythic hero and Wild West-style outlaw. This is a breathless adventure, with many angles, such as a boy's defense of his mother, and a man's confiding letter to a daughter whom he will never meet. Winner of the 2001 Booker Prize.

The Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes (1986, History) An immensely readable yet scholarly account of Australia's tragic origins. Hughes combines thorough research with a compelling narrative in this splendid work.

Suggested Films & Videos

New Zealand

Hunt for the Wilderpeople (2016, Comedy) Written and directed by Taika Waititi this charming, off-beat comedy follows a mixed-up 13-year-old named Ricky Baker and his cankerous, yet highly skilled foster father Hec as they hide in the woods from a manhunt launched by mistake.

The World's Fastest Indian (2005, Drama) A biographical film based on the life of New Zealand speed bike rider Burt Munro, and his attempts to break the land speed record on his Indian Scout motorcycle.

The Lord of the Rings (trilogy comprising of ***The Fellowship of the Ring***, ***The Two Towers***, and ***The Return of the King***) (2001–2003, Adventure) An epic retelling of the classic works of J.R.R. Tolkien, set in the legendary world of Middle Earth, which was loosely based on old Norse and Celtic myths. When director Peter Jackson needed to find diverse locations from craggy peaks, to lush hills, to peaceful meadows, he turned to his home country—the plot might be pure fantasy, but the scenery is real New Zealand.

Whale Rider (2002, Drama) A young Maori girl fights for a chance to lead her tribe. But will her grandfather consider a girl for their next leader?

The Piano (1993, Drama) A mute woman, who only expresses herself through her piano and in sign language to her young daughter, is sent to New Zealand for an arranged marriage. But soon after her arrival, a potential romance with a local worker leads to dramatic consequences.

Australia

Lion (2016, Drama) A five-year old boy is separated from his family in India and adopted by a couple in Tasmania. Later as an adult, he searches for his birth mother using a few memories and Google Earth. Based on a true story.

Sapphires (2012, Drama) Based on a true story, the movie follows four young Aboriginal women who become a soul singing group that entertain troops in Vietnam. A moving story that incorporates historical events, such as how the White Australia Policy and Stolen Generation affected mixed race families in the 60s and 70s.

Red Dog (2011, Comedy) Set in the late 70's and early 80's, this film tells the story of a rascally stray dog, named for the color of his coat, and how he brings the local community together. The story, which is based on a well-known book, showcases the new Australia that developed from the wave of immigration after World War II.

Animal Kingdom (2010, Thriller) A gritty Australian family-crime drama about an innocent young man who, when his mother dies, turns to his uncles for guidance. Too bad the uncles are a crew of hardened Melbourne bank robbers who are nearing the end of the line. Critically acclaimed film with an ensemble cast that features Guy Pierce playing the good cop for a change.

Australia (2008, Adventure) An English lady inherits a cattle ranch in Australia and works with one of the ranch hands to organize an immense cattle drive across the Outback, but then gets caught up in the events leading to WWII.

General South Pacific

South Pacific (1958, Romance) A Rogers and Hammerstein musical set on a tropical island during WWII. Will young the American nurse fall for the sophisticated French planter? Or will she wash that man right out of her hair?

The Endless Summer (1966, Documentary) The primary focus of this documentary is two young surfers searching the world for the perfect beach. But with scenes in Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, it also captures the rise of surfer culture in the South Pacific during the 1960's.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/
plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps or Maps.me

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber or Bolt or Grab

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App or Skype or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo or FLuentU or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

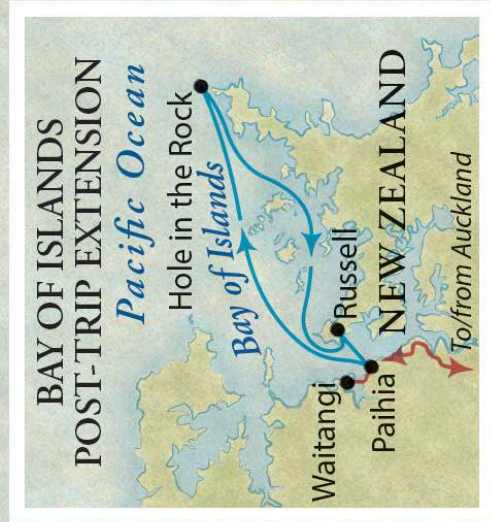
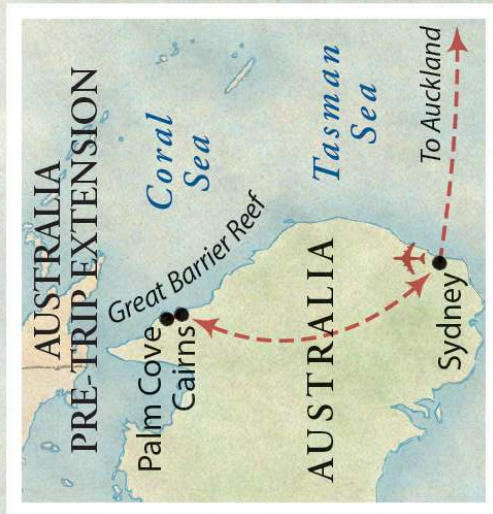
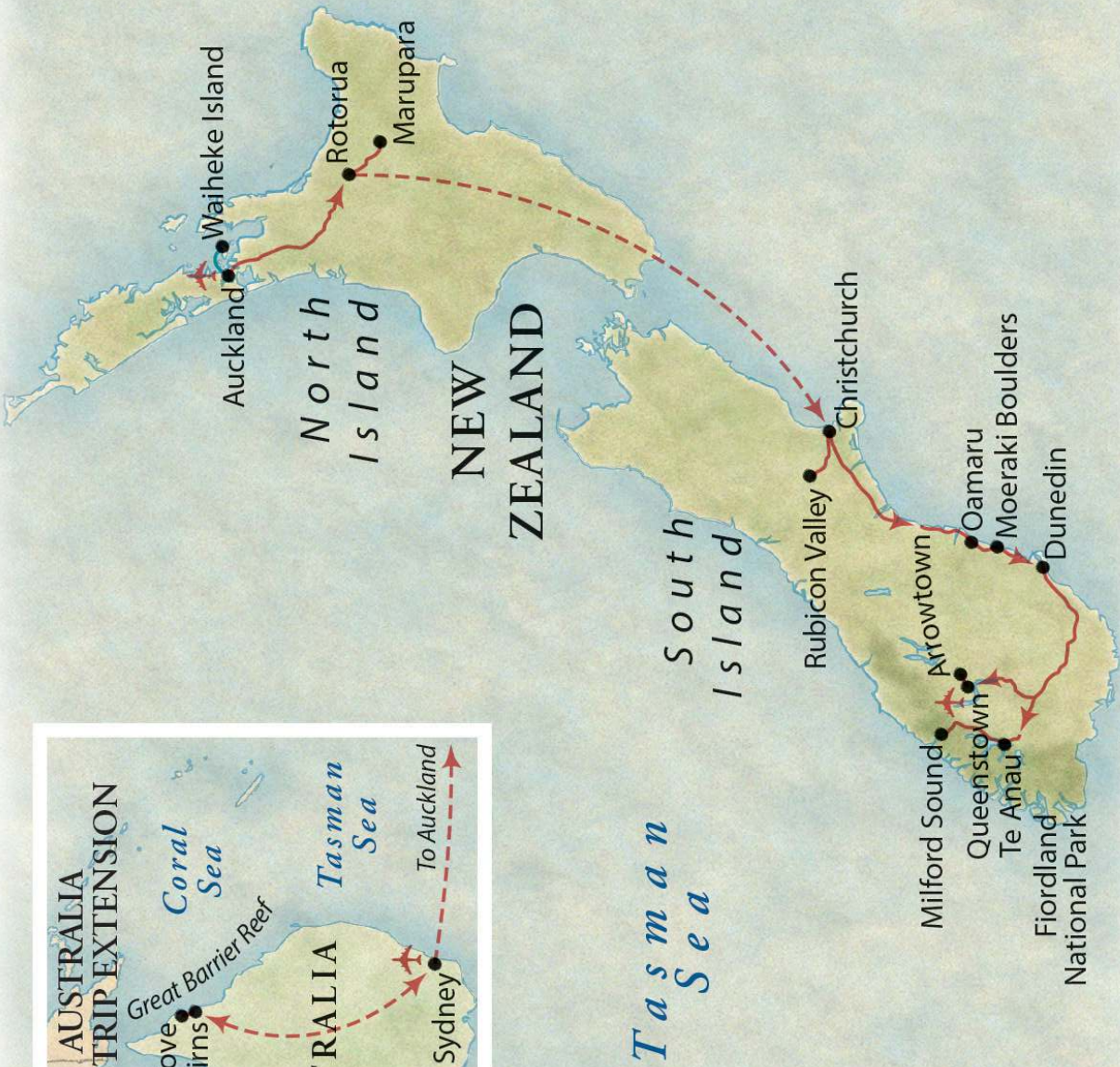
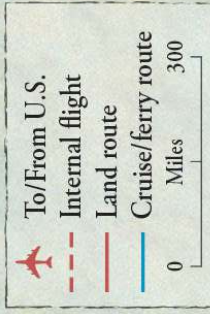
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