

WONDERLAND

Magical New Zealand

ITINERARY

TOUR PREPARATION

PRICING & ACCOMMODATIONS



Date	Price	Duration	Availability	
March 14 – 27, 2020	\$7,500	14 DAYS	Open	BOOK NOW

About This Tour

After spending 30 years exploring the globe with gay groups, visiting well over 125 countries, Toto Tours founder Dan Ware is often asked: "What is your favorite destination in the world?" That question is a little unfair, as every place is spectacular in many ways, but New Zealand wins for most breathtaking scenery, cleanest environment, friendly people, and a vibrant indigenous culture.

The islands of New Zealand were forged relatively recently from the cauldron of the Earth's molten core, as volcanoes rose from the sea, creating a spectacular landscape of mountains, coastlines, fjords and lakes. Few countries encompass such contrasts in geography and culture as New Zealand. Famous writers have called New Zealand the "eighth wonder of the world" and "probably the most beautiful place on earth," and most first-time visitors often agree. It is so wild and pristine that film director Peter Jackson chose it to be the dramatic setting for his film versions of Tolkien's Middle Earth saga: "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings."

Toto Tours invites you to experience the best that New Zealand has to offer. We take you from cosmopolitan Auckland, to a taste of Maori culture in Rotorua, the peaceful and majestic beauty of Fjordland and Doubtful Sound, to the capital of adventure activities in Queenstown. Join Toto Tours in this amazing wonderland, as we discover the magic of New Zealand and celebrate our 30th Anniversary!

Tour Highlights

- Bay of Islands *
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds *
- Swim with Dolphins *
- Auckland
- Tiritiri Matangi Island Bird Sanctuary
- Hobbiton
- Waitomo Glow-Worm Caves
- Rotorua Cultural and Thermal Tour
- North Island Lake District
- Wellington
- WETA Workshop tour
- Kiwi-Spotting Night Walk
- Ferry to South Island
- Nelson
- Abel Tasman National Park
- Punakaiki Pancake Rocks
- Southern Alps
- Franz Josef Glacier Heli-Flight and Landing

- Wanaka
- Queenstown
- Earnslaw Steamer Lake Cruise
- Farmlife and Sheep-Shearing Demonstration
- Fjordland National Park
- Cruise on Doubtful Sound
- Dart River Jetboat Adventure
- * **Optional pre-tour, March 10 – 14, 2020**

BAY OF ISLANDS OPTIONAL PRE TOUR

March 10 – 14, 2020

The enchanting region north of Auckland has never been included in previous Toto New Zealand adventures, but we are changing that now because the Bay of Islands is something that must be seen. If you can spare a few additional days before the main tour begins, you won't want to miss this exciting prelude to the main tour.

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Arrive in Auckland / Welcome Dinner

Arrive in Auckland and settle into our historic hotel. Join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner this evening. Auckland and surrounding suburbs have a population of approximately 1.5 million. It is New Zealand's largest city and spreads generously over a narrow isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea. Over 60 extinct volcanic cones and craters characterize the landscape, while an endless procession of sails in the harbor is typical of the relaxed way of life here. Auckland was the state capital until 1865 and is today the economic center of New Zealand. Overnight in Auckland. *(Dinner included)*



Bay of Islands

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Bay of Islands

Head to the Bay of Islands via Matakana this morning. The Matakana Coast and its flourishing wineries is a favorite destination for wine and food lovers. We stop to explore Sculptureum Gardens and Galleries - six galleries display works from around the world, themed glass art, figurative works, works from recycled materials, works of animals, modern abstract works in plastic and other materials. The gardens burst with colorful plantings, prehistoric rocks, and panels that display reflections in writing on Gardens, Inspiration, Wisdom, Art and Music. Share a delicious "Trust the Chef" lunch at Rothko before heading further north to Paihia, Bay of Islands. With its clear blue waters, abundant marine wildlife and myriad of islands, the beautiful Bay of Islands is New Zealand's finest maritime playground and one of New Zealand's leading holiday destinations. Overnight in Paihia. *(Breakfast / Lunch)*



Paihia

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Maori Culture

Pick up a paddle to gain insight into Maori tribal customs, rituals and traditions as you work together to move your Waka (Maori war canoe) up the Haruru River this morning. Explore the Waitangi Treaty Grounds this afternoon. Located on the north side of the Waitangi River, 3km north-west of Paihia, Waitangi holds special significance in New Zealand's history. It was here on 6 February 1840 that New Zealand's founding bicultural document, the Treaty of Waitangi, was signed between some of the northern Maori chiefs and Captain William Hobson, representing Queen Victoria of Britain. Overnight in Paihia. *(Breakfast)*



Maori Culture

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dolphin Cruise and Swim

Take to the water again this morning on a cruise for viewing dolphins. Encounter these intelligent and playful mammals in their natural environment. You may even have an opportunity to swim with them in the warm waters of the winterless north (conditions permitting). This afternoon we return to Auckland and our hotel there. Overnight in Auckland. *(Breakfast)*



Dolphins

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Meet Group for Main Tour

You will have the morning and afternoon entirely free to explore Auckland on your own. During the day, your fellow travelers on the Main Tour will be arriving at various times. We gather in the hotel bar for cocktail hour and the main tour begins. *(Breakfast)*



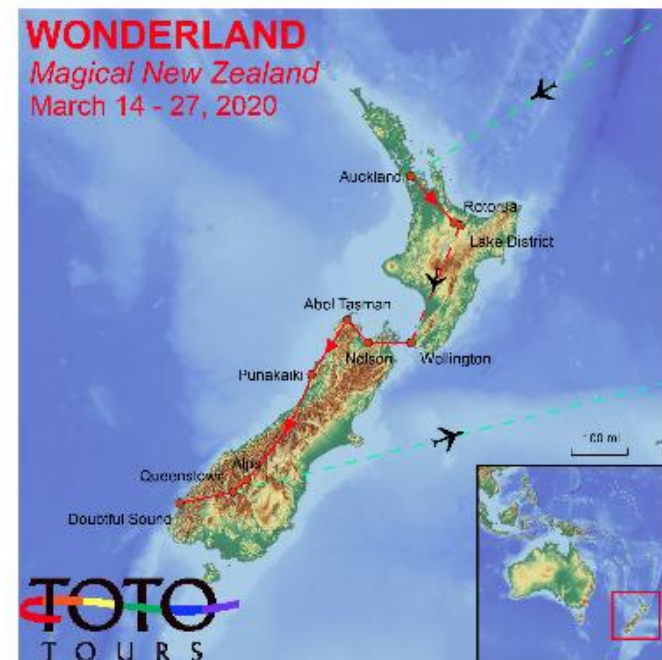
Auckland

MAIN TOUR

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Arrival in Auckland / Welcome Dinner

If you are not participating in the optional pre-tour extension, make your flight arrangements to arrive in Auckland, New Zealand by mid-day. We can arrange an additional night at our hotel if you wish to arrive a day early (on the 13th). Join your fellow travelers for a welcome drink in the hotel bar this evening before heading out to our Welcome Dinner. Auckland is one of the few cities in the world to have harbors on two separate bodies of water. The central part of the urban area of Auckland covers a narrow isthmus between the Tasman Sea, and the Pacific Ocean. Auckland's amazing geography and warm, humid climate has inspired a lifestyle that is regularly ranked in the world's top ten. Overnight in Auckland. *(Welcome Dinner included)*



Tour Map - Click to Enlarge

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Tiritiri Matangi Island

Board a ferry to Tiritiri Matangi Island, home to one of New Zealand's bird sanctuaries. Learn about conservation efforts here while seeking out endangered bird and reptile species, including the flightless takahe and the tuatara. This evening, enjoy free time to discover Auckland, known as the "city of sails" for the many sailboats that teem in its harbor. Overnight in Auckland. *(Breakfast / Lunch)*



Birdwatching on Matangi Island

Monday, March 16, 2020

Hobbiton / Waitomo / Rotorua

Travel to Rotorua via Hobbiton and Waitomo. Tucked away on a picturesque private farm, enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set. The set was completely rebuilt for The Hobbit and remains as it was seen in the The Lord of the Rings film trilogy. Have a cool drink in The Green Dragon Inn before tucking in to a themed banquet in the Marquee. Continue to Waitomo and explore an otherworldly cave system illuminated by the turquoise light of thousands of tiny glowworms. Continue to Rotorua, a city built on geothermal landscapes, and visit a traditional Maori meeting house in Whakarewarewa village to take part in a Maori mihi whakatau welcome ritual. Upon arriving, local Tuhourangi guide Karen Walmsley, whose family has been hosting visitors since 1886, will provide the group with her unique insights about the daily life of the village. Karen guides the group on Maori protocol as they take part in a “whakatau” welcome ritual at a traditional meeting house, followed by a light meal. Overnight in Rotorua. ***(All Meals)***



Hobbiton

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Lake District

Karen joins the group again this morning to visit the North Island's stunning Lakes District, which boasts 18 sparkling lakes and three major rivers. Spend the day exploring the Lake Tarawera area with Karen. Lake Tarawera, whose name means "Burnt Spear," is one of the largest lakes in New Zealand. The lake was home to many small Maori villages and mission settlements until Mt. Tarawera erupted in 1886. Legend has it that a "waka wairua" (phantom canoe) appeared on the lake as a portent of death a few days prior to the eruption. Learn about the history of the Tuhourangi people and their relationship to this unique environment. Weather permitting, disembark at Te Rata Bay and take a walk in the warm waters and shores of Hot Water Beach. Overnight in Rotorua. *(All Meals)*



Mount Tarawera and Lake

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Wellington Flight / WETA Workshop Tour

This morning fly to Wellington, New Zealand's charming capital city. Visit the famous WETA Workshop, the special effects group behind several blockbuster movies, including The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of their design studio and participate in a hands-on demonstration of the creative process used to develop their props. In the afternoon enjoy time at leisure. We recommend a visit to the "must-see" for visitors to Wellington - Te Papa, the country's bold and innovative national museum. After dinner, we search for kiwis during a guided after-dark walk at Zealandia, an important mainland wildlife sanctuary whose innovative predator-proof fence was the first of its kind. Overnight in Wellington. *(Breakfast / Dinner)*



Wellington

Thursday, March 19, 2020

South Island

This morning feed your curiosity with a tour of the Wellington Museum, full of weird and wonderful tales that make Wellington the colorful city it is today. Hear the legend behind the iconic Beehive design and learn about the little coffee house that defied the Wellington City Council. Finish with a great cup of coffee and a delicious treat to get a taste of Wellington's vibrant café culture. This afternoon appreciate spectacular vistas as we ferry across the Cook Strait to the port of Picton on the South Island. Continue to Nelson, a picturesque seaside town that often records the highest annual sunshine hours in New Zealand. The town offers a unique blend of culture and heritage, landscape and leisure, art and crafts and fine wine. Overnight in Nelson. *(Breakfast / Dinner)*



Approaching Picton

Friday, March 20, 2020

Abel Tasman National Park

We set off this morning to the magnificent Abel Tasman National Park, one of New Zealand's smallest National Parks and most treasured gems. Native forest reaches almost to the waterline, where it meets golden beaches and rocky headlands. Walking and hiking are superb with scenic tracks leading around the coast. Sea kayaking is a great way to explore Abel Tasman National Park as you can get close to wildlife such as dolphins, seals and penguins – we've arranged for you to both walk and kayak the park today.

Overnight in Nelson. *(Breakfast / Lunch)*



Abel Tasman Kayaking

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Punakaiki

This morning we visit to the World of Wearable Art and Collectable Cars Museum. View a stunning selection of more than 60 wearable art garments, alongside more than 140 veteran, vintage and classic cars. The Museum showcases two very distinct collections that collide in a celebration of design, innovation and wonder. We head to Punakaiki, with its dramatic coastal scenery. This small town is most famous for the Pancake Rocks and their impressive blowholes. Overnight in Punakaiki. *(Breakfast / Dinner)*



Punakaiki Pancake Rocks

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Southern Alps

We set off for Franz Josef, a tranquil village nestled among the native forest of the West Coast and overlooked by the massive peaks of the Southern Alps. Not to be missed here is the famous Franz Josef Glacier, which we discover with a scenic helicopter flight which lands us on the Glacier. Along with its twin, the Fox Glacier, Franz Josef is the most low-lying glacier of its type in the world. This afternoon we take a behind the scenes tour of the West Coast Wildlife Centre. Here you can learn about the region and New Zealand's rarest kiwi, the Rowi. This evening we recommend the Glacier Hot pools. Pop in for a relaxing soak in the public pools or pre-book a private pool for the ultimate experience (own arrangements). Overnight at Franz Josef Glacier. *(B,D)*



Franz Josef Glacier

Monday, March 23, 2020

Wanaka

Today we head to Wanaka, taking the scenic route through Haast Pass with many opportunities to stop for photographs and shorts walks en route. This afternoon we take a cruise on Lake Wanaka. We'll go ashore on remote Mou Waho Island, a predator-free nature reserve that is home to the rare flightless buff weka, a curious, even friendly, bird that has been extinct on the mainland since 1920. A guided bush walk to the top of the island reveals a hidden lake on the summit, a very photogenic spot where we'll have High Tea serenaded by birdsongs with the panorama of the Southern Alps displayed before us. Overnight in Wanaka. *(Breakfast / Lunch)*



Lake Wanaka

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Queenstown

Enjoy a leisurely morning with breakfast and late-morning hotel check-out. This afternoon, we travel along the spectacular Crown Range Road, with vistas of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables Range unfolding as we travel through to Queenstown, adventure capital of New Zealand! This evening board TSS Earnslaw, believed to be the oldest working coal-fired passenger steamship in the southern hemisphere, to cruise across stunning Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm. Disembark at Walter Peak to meander through the lakeside gardens to Colonel's Homestead where we are seated for dinner. Afterwards, we join an entertaining farm experience which gives an insight into life in the New Zealand high country including a sheep shearing demonstration. The night-time cruise home is magical. Join in the camaraderie of a sing-a-long with the ship's pianist. Overnight in Queenstown. *(Breakfast / Dinner)*



Queenstown

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Fjordland

Journey into Fjordland National Park for a wilderness cruise through magnificent Doubtful Sound. As we navigate these pristine waters, take in the majesty of the fiords and their surrounding cliffs, blanketed in lush forest and sprinkled with waterfalls. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins and fur seals! *(Breakfast / Lunch)*



Drive to Fjordland

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Lakes / Jetboat Cruise / Farewell Dinner

On your final full day in New Zealand, venture into the undulating landscapes of the Southern Lakes District and experience the tranquility of Lake Wakatipu's cerulean waters. After taking in the spectacular surrounding landscapes along the way, arrive at the lakeside village of Glenorchy. We continue to historic Kinloch Lodge to enjoy lunch on the grounds. After lunch we board a jetboat for a spectacular journey deep into the heart of the world-renowned Mount Aspiring National Park. Experience a unique combination of breath-taking scenery and an exhilarating ride as we follow the braided, glacier-fed river by jet boat. Your skipper shares stories about the area's rich history, the Greenstone trail and Maori legends. We'll also tie up the boat to walk amongst the ancient beech tree forests. Return to Queenstown and celebrate your time in New Zealand with a festive farewell dinner. *(All Meals)*



Dart River Jetboating

Friday, March 27, 2020

Departure

The tour officially ends after breakfast this morning. We provide transfers to the airport for your return flight today. If you wish to extend your stay in Queenstown, please let us know on your reservation form so that we can keep your room available for another night. *(Breakfast)*



Farewell to New Zealand

TOUR PREPARATION

Entry Requirements-- For citizens of the U.S and Canada, all you need is a valid passport for travel to New Zealand for stays less than 90 days. Your passport must be valid for at least three months from date of entry.

Immunizations & Health— No immunizations are required, but it is wise to have your inoculations up to date. Is your tetanus booster current?

Exit Requirements - Departure taxes are included in the price of your airline ticket.

Suggested Reading:

The Bone People, by Keri Hulme

The Little Country, by John Guthrie

The Quiet Earth, by Craig Harrison

Suggested Viewing:

South Island: Black Sheep (2006)

North Island: The Piano (1993) with Holly Hunter

North Island: Whale Rider (2003) with Keisha Castle Hughes

Auckland: Once Were Warriors (1994) with Cliff Curtis

Countrywide: The Lord of the Rings 1, 2, 3 (2001, 2002, 2003) and The Hobbit 1, 2, 3 (2012, 2013, 2014)

Making Travel Arrangements to New Zealand

On this tour, international airfare is NOT included. One domestic flight within New Zealand is included in the price of this trip. You will fly internationally to Auckland (airport code AKL), and return home from Queenstown (code ZQN). We encourage you to work with Steven Goldberg at Frosch Travel in Chicago, who will help you find the best flights to Auckland with return from Queenstown. Please arrive in Auckland by 4:00 pm on March 10, 2020 (if taking the pre-tour extension) or 4:00 pm on March 14, 2020 for the Main Tour. Plan your departure from Queenstown at any time on March 27, 2020.

Steven Goldberg / Frosch Travel

Toll-Free in USA: 1-800-323-1276

International guests, please call +1-312-371-9686

Email: steven.goldberg@frosch.com

When calling, please identify yourself as a Toto Tours participant. If you leave a message on Steven's voice mail, he will return your call promptly. He will be happy to discuss your travel plans and help you decide when to purchase your ticket for the best rate.

NOTE: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible we often must turn away last minute registrants because we relinquish hotel space and air reservations 8 – 12 weeks prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

WHAT TO BRING

In March, it will be late summer / early autumn in New Zealand so the weather will be cool (never hot). The average temperature for both the North and South Islands in March will range from 50 to 70 degrees F in most of the areas we visit. Be sure to bring a jacket and sweater, and a hat and gloves if you think you will need them. Bring layers which can be added and removed for comfort.

Suggested Packing List:

- Proof of citizenship. Passport required.
- Nice casual wear for dinners.
- Long pants - combination of all-weather pants / zip-off sportswear / casual slacks.
- Shirts – combination of long-sleeved, short-sleeved, and t-shirts.
- Socks, underwear for 13 days.
- Sweater or lightweight jacket for cool evenings.
- Rain gear.
- Personal toiletries, and bug repellent
- Anti-diarrheal medication.
- Waterproof hiking shoes.
- Swimsuit for hotel and thermal pools.
- Camera, lots of digital memory, extra batteries.
- Ziploc Bags (sandwich size for documents, gallon size for wet items or toiletries).
- Electrical Adapter. Electricity is supplied throughout New Zealand at 230/240 volts (50 hertz), although most hotels and motels provide 110 volt AC sockets (rated at 20 watts) for electric razors only. [Click here](#) to see what type of adapter to bring.
- A good book for your flights and the drives.

MONEY MATTERS

The currency is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD). ATMs are widely available and credit cards generally accepted. [Click here](#) to up-to-date exchange rates for the New Zealand Dollar.

Tipping Guidelines – The idea of tipping isn't firmly fixed in New Zealand, with locals being resistant to the practice. However, among workers in the tourism industry it is becoming more accepted. [Please Click here](#) to read an article on tipping and etiquette in New Zealand.

We will make group tips where appropriate, and guidelines will be provided prior to departure with a suggested contribution to a group tipping fund.

THE TOTO SPIRIT

Toto Tours provides Adventure Travel Experiences as differentiated from tours in the traditional sense. Adventure Travel allows (even encourages) you to be an active participant. Adventurers can be identified by certain traits. They are:

- fun-loving optimists who have a sense of humor and accentuate the positive;
- good natured realists who are willing to accept situations as they exist;
- undaunted by the unexpected, like occasional delays or bad weather;
- willing to forego some of the amenities we normally take for granted;
- eager to try new things & test limits;
- punctual;
- not whiners!

People always ask us "What is your favorite tour destination?" In answer we unhesitatingly reply: New Zealand! Join us on this exciting journey of discovery in a place that qualifies as a true Wonderland. If you have any questions, please email us at: tototours@gmail.com.

Travel Insurance

We recommend you purchase travel insurance with Travel Guard to cover for unforeseen events prior to and during your trip. Please follow the link below or call us for more information.

Travel Guard®

[LEARN MORE](#)

Cover your trip with a Travel Guard
travel insurance plan.



PRICING – MAIN TOUR

(tour prices per person)

Price: \$7,500 in double occupancy hotel accommodations.

Private Room: \$1,400 additional, for a total tour price of \$8,900.

(Paying a single supplement is not required. Toto Tours will try to match you with a roommate if you are traveling alone and prefer to share a room. If this is not possible, a single supplement will be applied to your reservation before the final payment date.)

Deposit: \$600

(Due at time of registration for the tour. May be paid with a credit card.)

Remaining Balance (main tour): \$6,900 double / \$8,300 single

Remaining Balance Due: December 24, 2019 (80 days prior to departure)

(Full payment required with reservation form if enrolling after this date.)

Note: The tour price does not include bank service charges for processing credit card payments, and assumes that the balance of the tour price will be paid by check. If you would like to pay the final balance with a credit card, a 4% service charge will be applied. Let us know if you wish to pay by credit card, and we will adjust your invoice accordingly.

Included: 13 nights hotel accommodations; airport transfers; hotel breakfasts daily plus Welcome & Farewell Dinners; other meals as listed in the itinerary; ground transportation in climate controlled motorcoach; one internal flight within New Zealand; Ferry crossing between North and South Islands; sightseeing activities and entrances as listed in the itinerary. This is a fully guided and escorted tour.

Not Included: International airfare to Auckland (AKL) and returning from Queenstown (ZQN); ground transportation for sightseeing on your own (taxis, local guides, etc.); meals and optional activities not specifically listed in the itinerary; camera fees; alcoholic beverages; insurance; laundry, telephone calls, faxes, or any other expenses of a personal nature. Tips to drivers and guides and other conveyance attendants are not included; tipping guidelines for our group tips will be provided prior to departure.

PRICING – OPTIONAL BAY OF ISLANDS PRE-TOUR

(extension prices per person)

Price: \$1,500 in double occupancy hotel accommodations.

Private Room: \$400 additional, for a total extension price of \$1,900.

Additional Deposit: \$200, making total deposit due \$800.

Remaining Balance (main tour plus extension): \$8,200 double / \$10,000 single

Included: 4 nights hotel accommodations; airport transfer; hotel breakfasts daily plus Welcome Dinner; other meals as listed in the itinerary; ground transportation in climate controlled motorcoach; sightseeing activities and entrances as listed in the itinerary. This is a fully escorted tour extension with local guides added at each attraction.

Not Included: International airfare to Auckland (AKL) and returning from Queenstown (ZQN); ground transportation for sightseeing on your own (taxis, local guides, etc.); meals and optional activities not specifically listed in the itinerary; camera fees; alcoholic beverages; insurance; laundry, telephone calls, faxes, or any other expenses of a personal nature. Tips to drivers and guides and other conveyance attendants are not included; tipping guidelines for our group tips will be provided prior to departure.

ACCOMMODATIONS

(Click hotel name to read description)

Pre-Tour

- Auckland (2 nights split) - [Heritage Hotel](#)
- Bay of Islands (2 night) – [Paihia Pacific Resort](#)

Main Tour

- Auckland (2 nights) – [Heritage Hotel](#)
- Rotorua (2 nights) - [Sudima Hotel](#)
- Wellington (1 night) - [Bay Plaza Hotel](#)
- Nelson (2 nights) – [Trailways Hotel](#)
- Punakaiki (1 night) - [Punakaiki Resort](#)
- Franz Josef (1 night) - [Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier](#)
- Wanaka (1 night) – [Wanaka Hotel](#)
- Queenstown (3 nights) - [Novotel Lakeside Hotel](#)