Travel & Cruise Desk
(503) 636-5684
www.travelcruisedesk.com



Ski Canterbury & The North Island

Your New Zealand ski adventure begins in Auckland at Snowplanet, an impressive indoor snow park offering year-round skiing and snowboarding. Next, you'll journey to Rotorua to experience Māori culture and witness geothermal wonders before heading to Whakapapa Village to explore the extensive ski fields of Mount Ruapehu. Travelling south, you'll fly from Wellington to Christchurch and then to Arthur's Pass to ski at Porters Alpine Resort. Finally, your tour concludes in Methven at Mt Hutt, known for its wide-open terrain and spectacular views.

Starts in:	Auckland
Finishes in:	Christchurch
Length:	11days / 10nights
Accommodation:	Hotel 3 star
Can be customised:	Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: Late model rental cars

Includes: Fully inclusive rental car insurance (excess may apply)

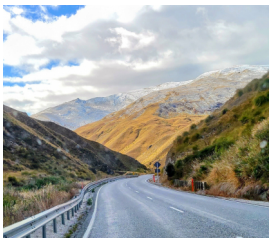
Includes: Unlimited kms

Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring

Included activity: Electronic Travel Guide and In-Country Support App

plus much more...

Day 1




Welcome to Auckland

Welcome to Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau. Auckland is New Zealand's vibrant "City of Sails," and the country's largest metropolitan area. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Surrounded by native bush, lush rainforests, and pristine beaches, Auckland is a haven for both adventurers and urban explorers. Wander through world-class museums and galleries in the city centre or enjoy a peaceful retreat at the Auckland Gardens, where stunning landscapes showcase New Zealand's diverse flora. Stroll along the lively waterfront to savour fresh seafood and international cuisine at Viaduct restaurants. For an unforgettable perspective, ascend the iconic SkyTower, New Zealand's tallest structure, and take in panoramic views of the city and its picturesque islands.

Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Your accommodation: Grand Millennium Auckland

Located in the heart of the city, a stay at Grand Millennium Auckland places you within walking distance of some of the city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment venues.



Day 2




5 Day Lift Superpass with NZ Ski

The New Zealand Superpass is the most flexible lift pass in New Zealand, giving you access to Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Mt Hutt along with Snowplanet, Turoa, Whakapapa, Porters, Roundhill, Mt Dobson, and Ohau ski areas. Get more choice, more fun, and more snow time with your New Zealand Superpass, and make the most of your New Zealand holiday!
With 5 days of New Zealand Superpasses, you've got lift access to New Zealand's premier ski areas plus the fun and excitement of a range of off-mountain attractions around New Zealand. You can mix it up a little and ski a day at the different alpine resorts or maybe you've got your eye on a run that you want to conquer over 5 days. Want to ski a little longer, don't own your own gear or snow clothing, or not sure if your skills are up to scratch? No worries, chat to us about adding additional days, rentals, or lessons.

Snowplanet

Snowplanet is New Zealand’s only indoor snow park – so you can enjoy the snow 365 days a year. With over 8,000 square metres of real snow, you’ve got plenty of room for skiing, snowboarding, snowtubing, and games. There’s a comfy restaurant too, complete with snow views, where you can relax and recharge your batteries. Never skied? Not a problem. They have skilled instructors who will get you up to speed quickly.

Your accommodation: Grand Millennium Auckland

Located in the heart of the city, a stay at Grand Millennium Auckland places you within walking distance of some of the city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment venues.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3







Auckland to Rotorua

Your drive south from Auckland begins by crossing the Bombay Hills, which mark the boundary of the greater Auckland area, before leading you into the rich, sprawling farmland of the Waikato region. The drive takes approximately 2.5 hours non-stop, but we recommend allowing 3 hours for a relaxed journey. For a fantastic leg-stretching stop, you may consider a slight detour into Hamilton to visit the renowned Hamilton Gardens (known for its amazing themed garden collection). Alternatively, the quirky small town of Tirau, famous for its buildings shaped like a giant sheep and sheepdog, is right on your main route and makes a quick and fun photo stop. As you continue south, the scenery transitions, and telltale signs of steam and other geothermal activity will signal your arrival into the fascinating thermal and cultural hub of Rotorua.

Rotorua

Discover the geothermal, adventure, and cultural wonderland of Rotorua. As you explore, you may see steam rising from cracks in the road, bubbling and hissing water in pools along the lake's edge, and the unmistakable smell of Sulfur. Rotorua is rich in Māori culture and history, with many Māori inhabitants recognising the great potential of the volcanic land. For an outdoor adventure, head to The Redwoods and experience the rainforest treetops from high up. There are a few accessible trails for disabled hikers and great biking trails as well. If you’re lucky, you might spot some of New Zealand's native birds, such as the Pīwakawaka (Fantail) and the Tūī. Alternatively, enjoy the Lake Tikitapu Blue Lake Walk or explore Kuirau Park, where you'll find bubbling mud pools and steaming lakes. Don't miss the private thermal reserves such as Te Puia and Wai-O-Tapu, where you can walk among bubbling mud pools, spouting geysers, and Sulfur ponds. Just a few minutes from the town centre, the Agrodome and National Kiwi Hatchery offer an insight into nature. Rotorua's rich Māori culture is a must-see. Spend an evening with Te Pā Tū, complete with a traditional-style dinner or stroll along the lake edge to reach one of the country's oldest Māori villages at Ohinemutu. When hunger strikes, visit Eat Street in Rotorua CBD, a vibrant street lined with delicious eateries and restaurants to satisfy any craving. No visit to Rotorua would be complete without experiencing Rotorua's original tourist attraction - a relaxing spa treatment. This town boasts an array of wellness experiences to unwind in. Whether you are seeking adventure, culture, or relaxation, Rotorua offers an unforgettable experience.

Te Pā Tū Evening Māori Cultural Experience - Dinner Included

New Zealand’s Most Awarded Cultural Attraction, presenting Te Pā Tū. Feast on song, drama, tradition, and divine seasonal kai (cuisine) within the forest Pā (village) blanketed by towering Tawa trees, blazing bonfires, and a forest-formed amphitheatre. Te Pā Tū shares Māori history, traditions, and cultural aspirations across 4-hours of celebration and feasting. These events change with each season of the Maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar.

Your accommodation: Sudima Lake Rotorua

Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua boasts a location that is second-to-none, right on the shores of beautiful Lake Rotorua. Adjacent to the world-famous Polynesian Spa complex and just a short stroll to all the attractions in Rotorua.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 4







Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland is a spectacular showcase of New Zealand’s colourful and unique geothermal elements sculpted by thousands of years of volcanic activity. You will be introduced to a diversely different natural landscape, extending over 18-sq. km. Enjoy viewing the volcanic features as you walk at your own pace along well-defined tracks. Relax in the first-class Visitor Centre, home to the Gift Shop and Café facilities. Visit the Mud Pool, the largest in New Zealand, it was originally the site of a large mud volcano which was destroyed through erosion in the 1920s. See the history and beauty of the Lady Knox Geyser at 10:15 am every day where a daily eruption happens of up to 20 metres.

Rotorua to Whakapapa Village

Today you'll drive from Rotorua to Tongariro National Park along the thermal highway. Pass through Taupo and be sure to check out the Wai O Tapu Thermal Wonderland or Waimangu Volcanic Valley both well worth a visit if you can spare the time. Visit the Huka Falls, New Zealand's largest volume of water or take in the boiling mud pools and steam vents as you wander the nearby geothermal reserve, Craters of the Moon. Continue on to the township of Turangi, known as one of the world's best trout fishing locations before emerging out into Tongariro National Park.

Your accommodation: Skotel Alpine Resort

Located in the tussock on the edge of the Whakapapa Village in the heart of the Tongariro National Park The Skotel Alpine Resort offers a wonderful atmosphere and well equipped rooms to relax and enjoy the region from.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 5




Whakapapa Village to Whakapapa Ski Field

Driving from Whakapapa Village to Whakapapa Ski Field is a short 6 km journey along Bruce Road, taking approximately 10 to 15 minutes. The road is fully sealed and well-maintained, offering a scenic ascent up Mount Ruapehu. During winter, road conditions can vary, and restrictions may apply, such as requirements for 4WD vehicles or fitting snow chains. It's essential to check the current road status before departure. Parking at the ski field operates on a first-come, first-served basis and can fill up quickly during peak times. For the return trip, simply follow Bruce Road back down to Whakapapa Village.

Whakapapa Ski Field

Whakapapa Ski Area on the north-western slopes of Mt Ruapehu is New Zealand's largest ski area. Whakapapa is home to New Zealand's premiere beginners' area, Happy Valley. It's a big complete learners area in its own valley away from the worry of faster skiers/boarders putting you off. It has its own cafe, rental complex and ski school meeting area. The gentle slope is nice and long, giving you plenty of time to really get the hang of your new sport and there is a slow-moving chairlift that takes you to the top of the slope while giving your legs a rest between runs. There are also more than 30 groomed trails that intermediate skiers and boarders love. The volcanic terrain at Whakapapa gives a massive variety between trails, giving you the choice of bumps, chutes, drops, bowls or nice wide runs. With 24 black and black diamond runs plus the lift accessed Black Magic backcountry area, there is plenty at Whakapapa to get the adrenaline pumping even for the most expert of experts.

Your accommodation: Skotel Alpine Resort

Located in the tussock on the edge of the Whakapapa Village in the heart of the Tongariro National Park The Skotel Alpine Resort offers a wonderful atmosphere and well equipped rooms to relax and enjoy the region from.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6




Whakapapa Village to Turoa Ski Field

Driving from Whakapapa Village to Tūroa Ski Field takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, covering about 70 km. Depart Whakapapa Village via State Highway 48, then turn south onto State Highway 47, continuing until you reach the junction with State Highway 4. Follow SH4 south through the National Park and onto Ohakune Mountain Road, which ascends to Tūroa Ski Field. This road is sealed and well-maintained, but during winter, it may be restricted to 4wd vehicles or those with snow chains. Parking at Tūroa operates on a first-come, first-served basis and can fill up early during peak times. For the return trip, retrace your route

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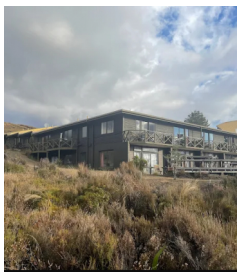
Turoa Ski Field

Turoa Ski Area on the south-western slopes of Mt Ruapehu offers a massive 722m of vertical descent on New Zealand's highest chairlift - the High Noon Express. The Alpine Meadow at the base of Turoa Ski Area is a wonderful little beginners' area. It has a massive 120m long carpet lift, which is like a conveyor belt over the snow and super easy to use.The intermediate terrain at Turoa is mostly wide and smooth, making it a perfect progression from the beginner runs. There are 12 groomed intermediate runs, all of which are nice and long and many of them link to one another so you can enjoy excellent intermediate skiing and riding from the top of Australasia's highest lift to the base area. Enjoy the natural half-pipes and chutes through the Organ Pipes and the Solitude backcountry area or the amazing wide sweeping terrain of the Triangle and the Glacier backcountry area.

Your accommodation: Skotel Alpine Resort

Located in the tussock on the edge of the Whakapapa Village in the heart of the Tongariro National Park The Skotel Alpine Resort offers a wonderful atmosphere and well equipped rooms to relax and enjoy the region from.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7




Whakapapa Village to Wellington

This drive takes you to New Zealand's capital, Wellington. Leaving Whakapapa Village, make your way through the Rangipo Desert, skirting the edges of the Tongariro National Park, one of New Zealand’s three world heritage sites. Catch a glimpse of the volcanically active Mt Ruapehu and Lord of the Rings fans, will appreciate the view of Mt. Ngauruhoe, better known as Mt Doom. Continue south to the rural towns of Taihape, Mangaweka, and Bulls before arriving on the spectacular Kapiti Coast before arriving in Wellington City.

Wellington

Wellington known in Māori as Te Whanganui-a-Tara is home to New Zealand’s centre of government. Often referred to as ‘mini Melbourne', this windy city is a melting pot of art, culture, food, and fashion. Quirky laneway bars, underground art shows, and hipster eateries make up its inner-city vibe, while a host of sandy beaches outside the urban bustle bring a cheerful holiday feel. Head to Te Papa Museum for a history lesson and a ticket to one of its many international exhibitions or jump aboard the Wellington Cable Car - the only running funicular railway in the country. For those with an eye for boutique, fashion wander through Cuba St to sample some of the city's best vintage stores. Break for coffee at a hipster cafe and be sure to snap a pic outside the ‘Beehive,’ New Zealand’s parliamentary debate chamber. Go behind the scenes at Weta Workshop Experience, the Oscar Award Winning design studio behind Lord Of The Rings, The Hobbit, and Avatar. If you're a foodie at heart, a two-hour round trip to Martinborough is a must-do. Take your time as you wind through spectacular wine country. For an educational day out, learn about New Zealand's native species at Zealandia, the world's first fully-fenced eco-sanctuary and home to over 40 types of endangered and native birds.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Zealandia By Night Wildlife Sanctuary Tour

Taking a night tour of Zealandia wildlife eco-sanctuary is an unforgettable experience and one that comes highly recommended. A conservation success and safe haven for some of New Zealand's rarest native animals, Zealandia is home to many remarkable species of birds, reptiles and insects living wild within a beautiful 225 hectare (one square mile) valley, just 10 minutes from the central city.

Your accommodation: Hotel Ibis Wellington

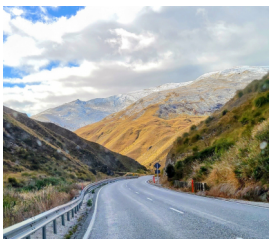
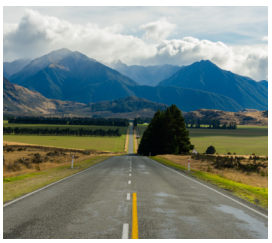
Hotel Ibis Wellington is ideally located in Featherston Street in the heart of Wellington City and easy walking distance to Wellington's famous cafe lifestyle.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8




Depart Wellington today

Choose to explore more of Wellington's sights before dropping your rental car at the airport depot and continuing your onward journey.

Air New Zealand flight Wellington to Christchurch

Fly from Wellington Airport to Christchurch Airport.

Collect Rental Car

This tour's from price includes an intermediate-sized vehicle, setting you up for comfortable travels. Yet, we understand every adventure is unique! Feel free to select the perfect wheels from our incredible collection of rental cars, spanning from economy hatchbacks to premium SUVs.

Christchurch to Arthur's Pass

Crossing the Canterbury Plains, the rich farmland that attracted and helped settlers prosper becomes apparent as you head out of the city and towards the mountains.
The drive through the Waimakariri offers some spectacular views of the braided river valleys. Castle Hill Scenic Reserve sits in limestone country and the area is dotted with remarkable rock outcrops. Today its a popular location for climbers to practice but in the past it was also an important place for Maori in past years as they provided shelter on their seasonal journeys between the coasts. There is a network of walking paths allowing you to explore. The high country lakes and mountain landscape is unique. Arthur's Pass National Park covers 114,500 ha right in the heart of the Southern Alps.

Your accommodation: Arthurs Pass Alpine Motel

Located in the main part of Arthur's Pass, this is the ideal location to enjoy and explore Arthur's Pass National Park. Close to cafes and the visitor centre, your accommodation is in comfortable, self-contained units.



Day 9





Arthurs Pass to Porters Alpine Resort

Driving from Arthur's Pass to Porters Alpine Resort is a scenic journey of approximately 70 km along State Highway 73, taking about 1 hour and 15 minutes under normal conditions. Departing Arthur's Pass Village, you'll head east on SH73, descending through the Southern Alps and passing through the picturesque Castle Hill Basin. After passing Lake Lyndon, look for the well-signposted turnoff to Porters Alpine Resort on the right. The access road to the resort is about 9 km long, mostly sealed and well-maintained, though it becomes steeper near the top, during winter, snow chains may be required.

Porters Alpine Resort

Porters Alpine Resort is a relaxed, welcoming ski field just over an hour from Christchurch. It’s known for its easy-access slopes, varied terrain, and some of the best learner facilities in the region. Beyond the groomed runs, adventurous skiers and boarders can explore wide basins and natural features higher up the mountain. With big views across the Canterbury high country and a casual, friendly vibe, Porters is a local favourite for both quick day trips and laid-back family adventures.

Arthurs Pass to Methven

Descending from the Southern Alps through the Canterbury High Country, pass by Lake Pearson. A beautiful tranquil lake and a good spot for fishing or bird watching. Further on you'll find Castle Hill, often referred to by climbers as one of the best rock climbing and bouldering locations in New Zealand. The limestone rock makes the area a year-round climbing destination. Follow the inland scenic route through the tiny villages of Glentunnel and Glenroy towards Windwhistle and the spectacular Rakaia Gorge taking time to stop and enjoy the spectacular views on this route. A short drive further you will reach the rural town of Methven, renowned for its outdoor adventure and during winter it's the hub for activities such as skiing at Mt. Hutt and heli-skiing in the backcountry. In the warmer months you can enjoy local walks, take in the view from a hot air balloon or enjoy the thrills of a jet boat ride on the Rakaia River.

Your accommodation: Brinkley Resort Methven

Nestled into the foothills of majestic Mt Hutt, surrounded by the perfect mixture of nature and a range of exhilarating recreational and pleasure activities at this Qualmark 4 star property.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 10



Methven to Mt Hutt Ski Field

Mt Hutt Ski Field is just 26km from Methven. After leaving the Methven township, you will drive a short distance through Canterbury countryside until you reach the well-signposted access road to Mt Hutt ski field. After your day in the snow, you will return to Methven on this same route.

Mt Hutt Ski Field

Mt Hutt has been voted New Zealand’s best ski resort for seven years running at the World Ski Awards. A true alpine experience, with wide-open terrain, leg-burning runs, monster snowfalls, and spectacular views. You’ve not skied in New Zealand until you’ve skied Hutt!
Mt Hutt is your go-to for epic freestyle skiing and snowboarding with four terrain park zones featuring jumps and features for all abilities and with the Summit chairlift is an easy way to access great backcountry riding and skiing.
Mt Hutt offers 365 hectares of skiable terrain for you to explore, with the longest run, a lengthy 2km. With its mixture of 25% beginners, 50% intermediate, and 25% advanced terrain there is a range of trails for everyone to conquer. Food and beverages are available at Sixteen10 Espresso Bar, Ski High Cafe, and Opuke Kai which offers mulled wine and an a la carte experience on the mountain, where you can recharge your batteries for your next run. For visitors to the South Island, it's easy to hire all the gear you need on the mountain, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm. For the littlies, there is a licensed child's creche for 3 months to 5yrs and a snow sports school for both kids and adults who are finding their snow legs.

Your accommodation: Brinkley Resort Methven

Nestled into the foothills of majestic Mt Hutt, surrounded by the perfect mixture of nature and a range of exhilarating recreational and pleasure activities at this Qualmark 4 star property.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 11





Methven to Christchurch

Follow the inland scenic route across the Rakaia Gorge taking time to stop and enjoy the spectacular views of the river. The tiny villages of Windwhistle, Glenroy and Glentunnel guide you towards Darfield, a larger agricultural service centre and then onto the city of Christchurch.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Nationwide Self Drive
Starts:	Auckland
Finishes:	Christchurch
Tour length:	11
Accomodation:	Hotel 3 star
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Grand Millennium Auckland
Day 2	Grand Millennium Auckland
Day 3	Sudima Lake Rotorua
Day 4	Skotel Alpine Resort
Day 5	Skotel Alpine Resort
Day 6	Skotel Alpine Resort
Day 7	Hotel Ibis Wellington
Day 8	Arthurs Pass Alpine Motel
Day 9	Brinkley Resort Methven
Day 10	Brinkley Resort Methven