



## Experience New Zealand – 21 Day Self-drive Tour



**Quoted by: Marion**  
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A journey with individual character and a combination of attractions, culture and active experiences of nature – ideal for travellers who want to experience the genuine New Zealand off the beaten tourist tracks.

The vehicle, accommodation and ferries will be booked for you. Travel relaxed in your own vehicle without the need for a time-consuming search for accommodation.

**On many small hikes (if you wish) in some of the most beautiful national parks, you will experience the scenic highlights of both islands: rainforests, volcanoes, geysers, glaciers, mountain lakes, beaches and – in contrast – the big cities.**

New Zealand, the double island on the other side of the globe, is a paradise for friends of nature. Nowhere else will you find climate zones, sceneries and vegetation as diverse and close to each other than here. Bushwalking, the name that New Zealand has given hiking, is the most direct way to experience Nature's beauty. Therefore, this tour offers many possible hikes and walks in the most beautiful national parks. You will see sleeping and active volcanoes, lonely bays, deep mountain lakes, geysers and thermal areas as well as fiords and rainforests. Experience the „double culture“ of Polynesian Maori and European immigrants with their diverse traditions and feel the flair of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

### Special Highlights:

- Waitomo Caves – the glow worm caves on the North Island
- Wai-O-Tapu – 5 million years of Earth's history
- Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach
- Tongariro National Park
- Excursion to Farewell Spit, Golden Bay – a nature reserve for seabirds
- Visit of a vineyard
- Cruise Milford Sound and Queen Charlotte Sound
- Experience rare dolphins close up





### Why choose this trip? Tips from our guides:

- ✓ With the wet and cold season in Europe starting, at the other end of the world the spring has just arrived in New Zealand. Or come in our autumn – the perfect way to prepare yourself for your summer, by warming yourself up after a northern winter!
- ✓ Experience culinary delights and finest wines in fantastic nature
- ✓ Rustic characteristic accommodation off the normal tourist track, e.g. the Hotel „Danseys Pass Coach Inn“ built in 1862
- ✓ 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the World - the Milford Sound, rainforests, half-deserts, alpine high country, volcano plateaus and the most beautiful coastal areas untouched since the last glacial period! An intense experience of Nature!
- ✓ Free days with the option for more activities or just time to relax
- ✓ Excursion to the Yellow-eyed Penguins, one of the rarest species of penguins in the world! You will only find them in the south of New Zealand!

### Sales price in EURO or NZ Dollars per Person in one room according to final choice Hotel/Motel 3\*+ or B&Bs etc.

Stay at Hotel/Motel 3*+, Studio	
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Stay at B&B 3* incl. breakfast	
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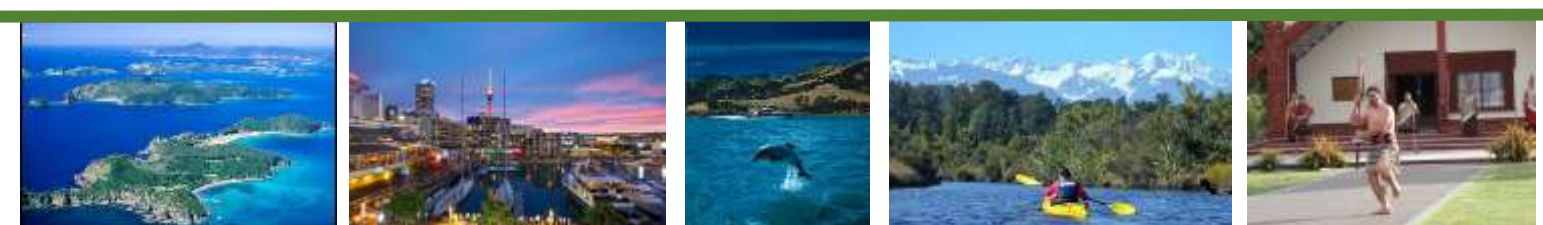
Price on the basis of 2 travellers in one room. **Price and availability are subject to change due to the booking situation in high season (October until End of April incl.).**

#### Services:

- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ 20 nights in Motels/Hotels 3\*+ incl. Kitchenette, without breakfast
- ✓ or in Bed & Breakfast 3\* incl. Breakfast
- ✓ 20 day rental of a Nissan Tiida, Economy Class 1500cc, or similar with partially comprehensive insurance and one way fee
- ✓ Ferry crossing: Wellington – Picton
- ✓ Entry Wai-o-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland
- ✓ Individual, half-day cruise in the Queen Charlotte Sound
- ✓ Milford Sound Scenic Cruise
- ✓ Support by our office in Taupo
- ✓ Insider tips

#### Non-service:

International flights, additional trips and excursions





### Please note:

#### There are 2 overnight stay varieties for this tour.

1. Overnight in B&B of middle class incl. Breakfast. Other categories on request.
2. Overnight in Motels or Motor Lodges of middle class without Breakfast.

Price on the basis of 2 travellers in one room. **Price and availability are subject to change due to the booking situation in high season (October until End of April incl.).**

#### Accommodation:

The right choice of overnight stays is very important to us, for at the end of an active day, every guest would like to relax in comfortable and pleasant surroundings. In cities such as Auckland, Christchurch or Queenstown, we choose centrally located 3-4 star hotels/motels. In other areas we prefer selected accommodation "NZ-owned and operated" where possible, combining authenticity with the comfort of a good 3-4 star accommodation.

#### Motels: Essen/Breakfast:

In most of the accommodation you will be able to order breakfast. Some accommodation also have a Restaurant where one can get breakfast. The prices vary between \$18 und \$28 (e.g. „Continental“ with toast, cheese, luncheon, marmalade/jam and cereal or „Cooked/English Breakfast“ with eg. scrambled or fried eggs and tomatoes, bacon and baked beans). You can go shopping for your own breakfast as most units have cooking facilities, microwave and sink, some have an electric cooker or hob / electric frying pan. Gluten-free food is available all over New Zealand.

Individual extension of your vacation with the option e.g. Bay of Island and Cape Reinga or the Cook Islands can be included, if wished.

#### Services Rental Car:

Included is the standard insurance with an **excess of NZ\$2,000.00** (credit card impression is made).

By request an additional insurance (excess reduced to NZ\$0.00) can be arranged (dependent on Rental company used).

24h roadside assistance NZ-wide

Unlimited Kilometres

No fee for additional driver





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**Rental car Class Economy 1500cc, e.g. Nissan Tiida Sedan or similar**



We can offer you another model, if you wish – this particular model is an example and is favoured because of its good value for money ratio.





**Possible hikes/walks: all hikes/walks have an easy to medium rating**

- Cathedral Cove (tide dependent) ca. 2h
- Hot Water Beach (tide dependent) ca. 1h
- Wai O Tapu Wonderland ca. 2h
- Huka Falls ca.1/12h
- Waitomo - Ruakuri Walk ca. 3h
- Beach walk west coast/North Island ca. 1h
- Abel Tasman Coast Track ca. 4h
- Golden Bay Farewell Spit ca. 2h
- Pancake Rocks ca. 1h
- Hokitika Beach ca. 1 – 2h
- Otago Rail Trail ca. 2 - 3h
- Nugget Point ca. 1h
- Surat Bay ca. 2h
- Mt. Cook National Park – Kea Point ca. 1h
- Mt. Cook National Park – through the valley of the Hooker Glacier ca. 3h
- Botanical Garden Christchurch ca. 1-3h





## Itinerary:

*Any amounts mentioned in this tour are indicative only and subject to change.*

### 1. Day - Arrival in Auckland.

A Shuttle will bring you to your hotel in the centre of Auckland, just minutes away from the wharfs. The rest of the day is at your own disposal. You have time (depending on your flight arrival time) to explore the City of Sails. Your accommodation is close to the so-called 'Viaduct Basin' – the yacht harbour of Auckland's millionaires – so that it is easy to find interesting places and the many restaurants and pubs. And a lot of good restaurants and pubs and bars are just minutes away from your hotel.

Perhaps you can already find your first restaurant for your first dinner in New Zealand?

**ON: Auckland**



### 2. Day – To the beaches! /3h 20m

A Taxi will bring you to the Downtown Rental Station where you will pick up your vehicle. Now your Tour really begins! You leave New Zealand's largest city to reach your first goal Whitianga on the Coromandel Peninsula. Drive the direct route on the State Highways and through a Gorge that still shows its history of the gold mining days or the scenic (albeit longer) route along the beautiful coasts of the Hauraki Gulf.

Visit Hot Water Beach close to Whitianga, where you can dig your own hot pool at low tide, and walk to Cathedral Cove, one of the most famous photo scenes in the country. Go for a dip in the blue waters or walk Cooks Beach/Hahei, go kayaking, or on a tour with a glass bottom boat.

**ON: Whitianga**





### 3. Day – Hot water everywhere! /3h 35m

Along the coast of the „Bay of Plenty“, you are on your way to the centre of Maori culture – Rotorua. You will pass many kiwi orchards as these grow plentiful here, because of the mild climate. Go for a walk around town and this evening you have the possibility to visit a Maori Village with a Hangi, which is the traditional feast of Maori. You will also see demonstrations of dances and a traditional welcome ceremony. Thousands of years ago this area was shaped by volcanic activity and still is one of the most impressive of New Zealand’s thermal areas with its high-fizzing geysers and bubbling mud pools.

**Optional:** Maori Village and Hangi Dinner Concert ca. NZ\$130pp.

**ON: Rotorua**

### 4. Day – Wai O Tapu Wonderland „How the world began“ /1h

Experience the power of the Earth and 5 million years of geological history while walking through Wai O Tapu Wonderland, the tribal area of the Arawa Maori. Here (outside of the park) you could bathe in a natural hot spring. On your way to Taupo on the crater lake by the same name stop at the Huka Falls. The Waikato River (New Zealand’s Rhine) narrows from a width of ca. 100m to ca. 15m. The resulting bubbling water gave the place its Maori name– Huka = foam. You will stay at New Zealand’s largest inland lake for a couple of days to be able to do some trips from this central place into the surrounding area.

How about a relaxing afternoon in the Hot Pools? Wairakei Terraces offers large pools with different temperatures as well as massages!  
Or how about a trip on a quadbike?

**ON: Taupo**







### 5. Day – Taupo – Possibilities:

1. A quiet day – admire the surrounding area (esp the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park) from the lake, book a cruise. And in the afternoon pure relaxation in the hot pools of Wairakei Terraces or DeBretts??

### 2. Day trip to Waitomo Caves – Taupo – Waitomo Caves – Taupo /3h 50m

The caves are famous for their so-called „Glow Worms“ (but not the fireflies you know). These are transparent glowing larvae of fungus gnats hanging from the ceiling of the caves. The soundless cruise is an experience ... as if moving underneath a unique starry sky. Once there, you have a choice

of different cave trips. The visit of the caves only is from at the moment ca. NZ\$50pp, and NZ\$235pp for „Black Water Rafting“ (e.g. Kiwi Cave Rafting NZ\$150, Triple Cave Combo NZ\$118 or Black Labyrinth Tour NZ\$135).

**Further Options at Waitomo Caves: Waitomo – Ruakuri Walk:** Tunnel walk through wild, spectacular karst scenery, ca. 3 h.

**3. Tongariro Crossing** – You will be picked up at your accommodation early in the morning by a special Shuttle (at the moment \$60pp return) which will bring you to the start of this walk. This hike will take you between 5 – 7 hours, depending how fit you are and how many breaks (for photos) you make. In the afternoon another of these shuttles will pick you up at the end of the walk and bring you back to your accommodation in Taupo.



**4. Day trip to Napier** – City tour, National Aquarium, drive the Hawke’s Bay, wine tasting

**ON: Taupo**





### 6. Day – To our Capital /4h 45m

Today you will travel on the so-called Desert Road through the Tongariro Nationalpark, famous for its three volcanoes Mt. Ngauruhoe, Mt. Tongariro and Mt. Ruapehu. Carry on with some stops on the west coast to our capital Wellington. Along the way, visit one of the most beautiful beaches of this region and walk along the ocean, ca. 1-2h (Otaki).

Explore New Zealand's capital late this afternoon – the Parliament and the historic Quarter with St. Paul's Church; the

spectacular views from Mt Victoria over the city and the harbour. Nice weather will even show you the South Island! What a lasting impression of the „most beautiful of capitals“!

Or spend time at our National Museum TE PAPA, directly on the waterside promenade, and combine this visit with an easy walk on that promenade. Entry is free.

The Māori name, 'Te Papa Tongarewa', translates literally to 'container of treasures'. A fuller interpretation is 'our container of treasured things and people that spring from mother earth here in New Zealand.' Modern and interactive the museum shows New Zealand's history, Maori and their culture as well as very interesting aspects of the geological makeup of the island (a markedly intense experience of an earthquake simulation) and changing special exhibits.

**ON: Wellington**



### 7. Day – Wellington and ferry to South Island

After Breakfast walk to the Parliament, together with the Old Government Building (largest wooden building in the southern hemisphere) one of the biggest attractions of the city. Every hour, on the hour you can join a free guided tour. Or let a cable car bring you up the hill to the Botanical Gardens with wonderful views of the city.

The ferry will bring you to the South Island in the afternoon. Enjoy the crossing on the Cook Strait and the fiord-like arms of the Marlborough Sounds. A short, but impressive experience!

There is time to explore the small harbour of Picton at the end of the picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound in the evening.

**ON: Picton**





### 8. Day – Sounds, Coasts and Bush / 2h 40m

In the morning you will participate in a „Delivery Cruise“, the boat delivers necessary groceries, the mail and walkers to the remote houses and resorts of the gorgeous Queen Charlotte Sound. Early afternoon you carry on via the Queen Charlotte Scenic Driveway to Motueka, at the entrance of the Abel Tasman National Park.

*The walk on the Queen Charlotte Walkway requires an additional overnight stay!*

**ON: Motueka**



### 09. / 10. Day – 2 Free Days in the Abel Tasman National Park

You can plan for these days individually. The Abel Tasman National Park with its golden beaches is the epitome of paradise for many travellers.

There are many possibilities to spend the days, e.g. a day trip along the **Abel Tasman Coast Track**, a much loved walkway. You cruise to one of the many bays (with a water taxi) and then walk back (or vice versa) (ca. 3-4h) or enjoy some kayaking as well (could be all day) – really enjoyable.

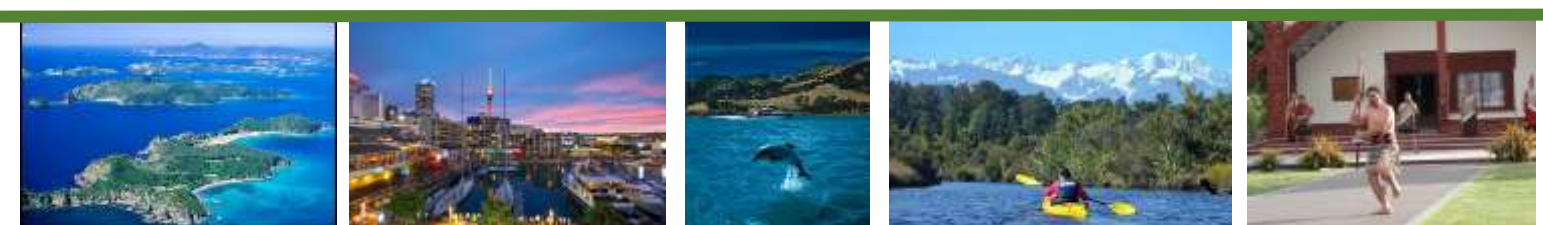
**More possibilities:**

- **Swim, Boat trips** or a **Kayak tour**.
- **Day trip to the Golden Bay and Collingwood / 50 km one way:** a guided

tour of 6.5 hours to Farewell Spit can be booked from here. The Farewell Spit is managed by the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) and serves as a nature reserve for seabirds. This tour guides you to and on the sand dunes which houses a gannet colony and an old lighthouse. This tour is tide dependent!

- **Day trip to Golden Bay** with a visit of Pupu Springs, the clearest sweet water spring in the southern hemisphere (visibility under water up to 70m), a salmon farm, the Cobb Dam (great views of the area and the Kahurangi National Park, one of our largest Nationalparks) and Takaka, a Hippie-remnant in the Golden Bay/Abel Tasman Region.

**2 x ON: Motueka**





**11. Day – The Wild Westcoast calls to you! /5h 10m**

From Abel Tasman Nationalpark drive to Hokitika, the Jade- and Gold-Centre of New Zealand. Do not miss a walk through the town – Souvenir Alarm!

On the way, visit the famous Pancake Rocks Punakaiki and walk among the rocks. This formation which indeed is reminiscent of a stack of pancakes, is especially impressive when the wild westwind is blowing – the waters of the Tasman Sea are being pushed up between the rocks and shoot spouts of water in the air. If time permits, visit Shantytown Park (entry ca. NZ\$40pp incl. gold panning).

Over 30 historic buildings transfer you into the time of the “Great Gold Rush” of the 1860s. An old, still working steam train Type 508 - Avonside Engine Company, Bristol, England built in 1877, invites a trip around the area. If you wish to try your luck, try your hand at gold panning and who knows, maybe you will have another souvenir to take home!

**ON: Hokitika**

Do go for an evening walk on the wild beach and admire one of the most impressive sunsets you will ever see!

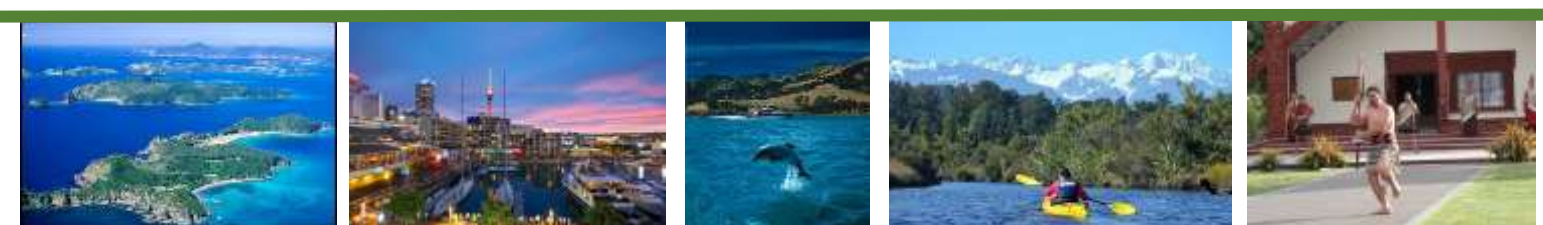


**12. Tag – And now to our Adventure Capital / 6h 15m**

From the Glaciers your journey goes (with a possible stop in Wanaka) via the Haast Pass to our adventure capital Queenstown. Your photo collection can be greatly increased on this route, as there are many, many views worthy of being photographed!

Maybe you have lunch at the Hard Antler Bar & Restaurant in Haast? Good food, impressive place!

**ON: Queenstown**





### 13. Day – Queenstown – Free Day Queenstown

Queenstown, the *St. Moritz* of New Zealand, offers a wide array of activities. Whether you are interested in a jet boat trip or want to try a bungee jump (first commercial bungee in New Zealand), rafting, walking, hiking, a steamboat trip across Lake Wakatipu with a high country farm visit or would like to try the fabulous Central Otago wines – almost everything is possible.

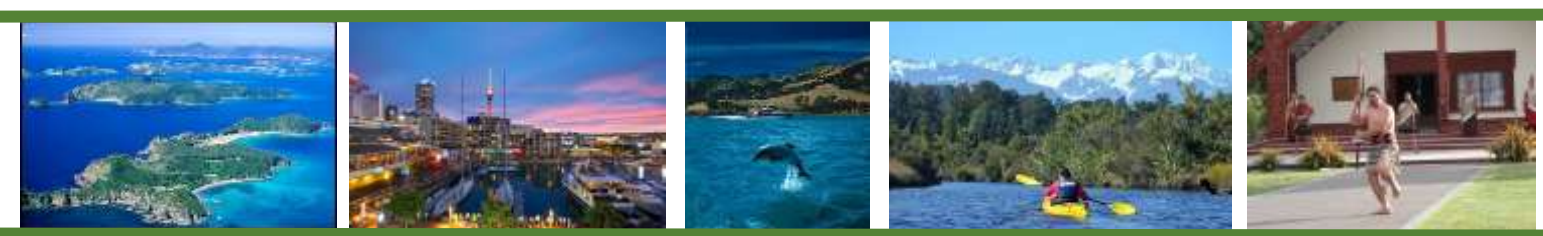
**ON: Queenstown**



### 14. Day – The 8. Wonder of the World awaits /3h 55m – Te Anau /1h 45m

Today you will drive to the 8th wonder of the world „Milford Sound“ in Fiordland National Park. This Park is a World Heritage Area and a scenic boat trip (at 1.45pm) through the dreamy background of the Sounds, surrounded by almost vertical rock of 1200m height is breath-taking and mystical. The drive there will lead you through one of the last mountain regions unchanged since the last ice age.

**ON: Te Anau**





**15. Day – Off the beaten track to the Catlins / 3h 25m**

A drive off the beaten tourist tracks is a drive to the Catlins. On the way, visit a variety of attractions, e.g. numerous hidden waterfalls and Surat Bay with its sea lions and seals. With a bit of luck (tides) you can see the „Petrified Forest“ in Curio Bay. This Petrified Forest is estimated to be about 180 million years old.

There is always a place to stop and enjoy a short walk.

We suggest to have breakfast/ lunch/ afternoon tea at the Niagara Falls Cafe. Great Food!

**ON: Catlins**

**16. Day – Albatross, a castle and sea lions! /1h 25m**

Via Nugget Point you drive to Dunedin, the University City. Drive to the Otago Peninsula and maybe visit Larnach Castle, the only castle in New Zealand (entry fee applies). Some kilometres further along the peninsula you will find the only land-based (and close to civilisation) Albatross Colony in the world. Close by you can go on a guided tour on a private farm to see the shy Yellow-eyed and Dwarf Penguins.

**More possibilities:**

Natural history boat trip along the coast to the breeding colony of the Royal Albatross, you will also see cormorants (locally called shags), penguins and ocean-dwelling mammals such as sea lions.

Or a drive into the canyons of the back country with the Taieri Gorge Railway – very recommended!

**ON: Dunedin**





### 17. Day – Driving in the Hinterland /2h

Expect another attractive highlight of your tour, a drive through the back country region Maniototo. The road goes between mountain ranges and impressive landscapes to your next goal. And on the way you could rent a bicycle to ride part of the famous Otago Rail Trail (return to your car will be organised). You will stay at an accommodation of a special kind – the Danseys Pass Coach Inn built in 1862, far off civilisation.

**ON: Danseys Pass Coach Inn**



### 18. Day – From mountains to really high mountains /3h 30m

This day brings you closer to Twizel. On the way to the Waitaki River you could have a look for the Elephant Rocks which served in many movies as a backdrop. Along the river you could stop and visit a vineyard, known for excellent wines like Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc with its tropical fruity taste so typical for this region.

After check in drive a little further (about 50km) to Mt. Cook, the highest mountain of New Zealand. If the weather is nice you would have the chance for a scenic flight around the mountains and the glaciers of the Southern Alps. The walk of about 1h to Kea Point or into the valley of the Hooker Glacier (about 3h) with views of Mt. Cook can be done from Mt. Cook Village. Or you could just lean back and enjoy the imposing landscape.



Something special would be a kayak tour on the Tasman Glacier Lake (4 – 5 h).

You will be back in Twizel later this afternoon.

At night you could book a guided tour on Mt. John – the Mt. John Observatory Tour, as this region is one of the worldwide few with the official „Dark Zone“ status.

**ON: Twizel**





**19. Day – And finally our Garden City – or French? / 4h**

On your last leg of your tour you pass Lake Pukaki – when the weather is nice the views of the highest mountains is astounding. Follow the canal with its turquoise waters that connects this lake with Lake Tekapo. Stop at a salmon farm before you enjoy your last nature views on the Scenic Route to Christchurch.

Try one of the best pies of the country in Fairlie!

**ON: Christchurch**



**20. Day – Christchurch.**

- City Tour in a Doppeldecker
- Visit of the Botanical Gardens
- Kayak or punting on the Avon River
- Excursion to Akaroa, our French town on the Banks Peninsula



**Description:**

**Christchurch – Akaroa – Christchurch, 1h 20m one way**

Akaroa is a pretty little French-style town in one of the most beautiful bays. The views of the town, bays, lakes and forests on this drive are fantastic.

If you are interested, you can book a cruise of the harbour or to go out to swim with the Hector dolphins, the smallest and rarest dolphins of the world. The inquisitive dolphins are in the bay most of the year and greet the boats regularly.

**Optional:** boat trip Swimming with (Hector) Dolphins. Only 12 swimmers are allowed each trip.

**ON: Christchurch**



**21. Day - Return rental, transfer Airport and return home**

