

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

New Zealand

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

Day 1: AUCKLAND. Upon arrival at Auckland Airport, you will be met by an IQOTC representative and transferred to **The Langham Hotel** for a two night stay in club level rooms with butler service. This luxury hotel is located near the University of Auckland and upper Queen Street. The hotel's Partington's Restaurant is one of the best fine dining experiences in Auckland City. A regular courtesy shuttle for guests operates to the wharf area.

Day 2: AUCKLAND. This morning we include a private three hour sightseeing tour which includes downtown Auckland, Westhaven Marina and the Viaduct Basin, where the Americas Cup syndicates were based for several years. See Auckland Harbour Bridge, the views from Mt Eden, which is the tallest of the many extinct volcanic cones around which Auckland is sited, the Domain Gardens, quaint Parnell Village, the lovely Parnell Rose Gardens, Waterfront Drive and conclude with a visit to Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter to see the sea life, including penguins in a special sub zero enclosure. The afternoon is at leisure.



Day 3: AUCKLAND/ PAUANUI. After breakfast this morning you will privately transferred to Pauanui along the Coromandel Coast. Cross the Bombay Hills and travel east through picturesque farmlands and over the Hauraki Plains to Thames. If you are interested in wines you may want to stop en route at the Hotel Du Vin or if you have an interest in birding it is just a short detour to the world renowned wading bird sanctuary at Miranda. From Thames cross the bush clad Coromandel Ranges to Pauanui on the Pacific Coast. The afternoon is free at Pauanui for an optional game of golf or to relax at the resort. Two nights at the **Lakes Resort**, located 2.5 miles from the Pacific Ocean and set in a valley surrounded by bush-clad hills. There are significant wetlands here which attract a variety of wildlife. Your accommodation is in a villa, which is luxuriously appointed with gas fire, TV and DVD player. There is a full kitchen, dining room, laundry facilities and a patio where you can relax and watch the sunset to the west. The 18-hole championship golf course here is of international standard. Dinner is included at the Legends Café at the Resort (two course a la carte).

Day 4: COROMANDEL PENINSULA. A leisurely morning and this afternoon you will be met and taken on a private half-day guided nature tour of the Coromandel. The tour includes a walk through a regenerating Kauri forest full of tree ferns and a visit to an old gold mine that includes the sparkling beauty of glow-worms. If the tide is right, you will also visit Hot Water Beach, where you can dig your own hot pool in the sand and bathe while the seawater washes over you. Dinner is included at the resort on your return.



Day 5: PAUANUI/ WHANGAMATA/ TAURANGA/ ROTORUA. After breakfast, depart Pauanui and travel south by private vehicle and driver down the coast through the lovely beach resort town of Whangamata to Waihi, the site of a large open cast gold mine. From here continue south through the Bay of Plenty to Tauranga and Mt Maunganui, which is New Zealand's most popular beach resort. Pass through the Kiwifruit centre of Te Puke and drive past pretty Lake Rotoiti before turning south and driving through the lovely rainforest, past the pretty Blue and Green Lakes to Tarawera. Check into an executive suite at **Solitaire Lodge**, a luxury lodge located in pristine surroundings overlooking lovely Lake Tarawera, 20 minutes drive outside of Rotorua. There are just ten suites here, all furnished to the highest standards with floor to ceiling windows and private terraces affording stunning views across the native bush and the lake. The waters of Lake Tarawera have a well deserved reputation for trophy size Rainbow Trout. Guides (ghillies) can be arranged for lake fishing or for fly fishing in one of the many rivers and streams in the area. Your 2-night stay here includes dinner and breakfast, use of kayaks and motorized dinghies, all trout fishing gear and tackle plus a complimentary cocktail hour. Dinner is included at the lodge this evening.

Day 6: LAKE TARAWERA. Breakfast will be followed by a three hour chartered cruise on lovely Lake Tarawera from the Solitaire Lodge jetty. This includes a stop at Hot Water Beach for a swim in the thermal waters there. The balance of the day is free to relax and enjoy your pristine surroundings – perhaps a walk along Spencer Road, swimming in the lake, kayaking or trout fishing. Dinner at the lodge.



Day 7: ROTORUA/ QUEENSTOWN/ GLENORCHY. After breakfast at the resort, you will be collected by private vehicle for a guided tour of Te Puia – the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, where there are spectacular geysers and boiling mud pools. This will also include a concert of Maori song and dance in the beautifully carved Maori Meeting House on the Marae. After the concert, transfer to Rotorua Airport in time to check in for your flight to Queenstown (FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED). Upon arrival in Queenstown, you will be privately transferred to Glenorchy (45 minute drive). Three nights included in a Lodge Suite with private terrace and heart-stopping lake-view suites at **Blanket Bay**, a luxurious five star lodge on the banks of Lake Wakatipu. The balance of the afternoon is free to relax and explore this wonderful lakeside resort. Breakfast and dinner is included at the resort daily.

Day 8: MILFORD EXTRAVAGANZA. A morning at leisure and at noon you will be collected from the hotel and transferred to the airport for your helicopter flight over Milford Sound. Imagine mountains gliding by as your helicopter winds its way through the Southern Alps on an unforgettable flight to Milford Sound. Land, take a stroll and absorb the natural beauty of Fjordland. Your flight then sweeps the full length of the fjord until you reach the rugged west coast offering a unique opportunity to view the seals in their natural colonies. Experience a glacier landing before touching down in one of our secret wilderness sites for some “over the top” hospitality including champagne and a cheese board. Return to Queenstown and then transfer back to Blanket Bay for your dinner and overnight.



Day 9: QUEENSTOWN. Breakfast at the lodge will be followed by a full day of exciting private sightseeing. Your tour includes the Shotover River, with a thrilling jet boat ride through rocky river gorges, a visit to historic Arrowtown, which was the site of a major 1860s gold rush and where some of the scenes from the award winning Lord of the Rings trilogy were filmed, and pretty Lake Hayes. Continue to the Gibbston Valley Winery for a vineyard tour to sample some of the excellent estate wines now being produced in Central Otago. A harvest platter lunch is included at the winery. After lunch transfer back to Blanket Bay for an afternoon at leisure.

Day 10: DEPARTURE. After breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your departure flight.