



King Kiwi 19/20

11-Day National Mandarin Guided Tour

North & South Islands, New Zealand

King Kiwi Itinerary

Start: Auckland

Finish: Christchurch

Duration: 11 days/10 nights

2019 Departures: October 23rd; November 6th, 20th & 27th; December 4th 11th & 18th;

2020 Departures: January 1st, 8th, 15th, *22nd & 29th; February 5th, 12th, 19th; March 18th;
April 1st, 15th & 29th.

** For this departure, passengers stay overnight in Rotorua for both Days 2 & 3. There is a half day return trip to Taupo included. All the inclusions remain the same as the itineraries below.*

Standard Twin Pricing: \$2815 NZD

Single Room Upgrade: +\$1375 NZD

Pick Up Locations:

8:30am, Corner of Queen Street and Darby Street (The bus stop outside Westpac)

8:35am, Sky Tower (Bus stop on Victoria Street West at the tower side)

8:40am, YHA City (Go to the nearest bus stop on Queen Street)

Day 1: Auckland to Raglan



Haere mai (welcome)! Your Stray tour kicks off in New Zealand’s largest city, Auckland. From here we head south to our first overnight destination, Raglan. This laid-back West Coast town is world famous for its perfect surf breaks and stunning black sand beaches. On the way into Raglan, we will visit Bridal

Veil Falls, where a short walk through beautiful native bush leads to an impressive 55m cascading waterfall.

In the afternoon, you'll have the option to take a beginner's surf lesson or paddle around the harbour on a kayak or stand-up paddle board. In the evening, you'll have the chance to enjoy a beach/bush walk or witness a perfect sunset over the Tasman Sea – it's up to you!



Accommodation included: Raglan Sunset Motel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Walk to Bridal Veil Falls

Optional paid activities: Surfing, Kayaking & Stand-up paddle boarding (minimum number required)

Day 2: Raglan to Rotorua (via Waitomo Caves)

Departing early, our first stop of the day is Waitomo, a small rural town where the main attraction is in fact underground. Take an included boat trip through Waitomo's magnificent cave network where you'll have the chance to see thousands of glow-worms up close. From here, we will head straight to Rotorua. Before arriving in the town centre, you will take a short walk in the Whakarewarewa Forest, where mighty Californian Redwoods (up to 72m high) mixed with native undergrowth give the park a sense of grandeur. There are several track options starting from the parking area, as well as the starting point for the spectacular Redwoods Treewalk.



This evening, you have the option to visit the Tamaki Maori Village or the Polynesian Spa. At the award-winning Tamaki Maori Village, you learn about Maori art, ancient rituals and traditions and experience a delicious Hangi meal and interactive cultural performance. Alternatively, a relaxing soak in one of the many geothermal pools at the Polynesian Spa is a wonderful way to finish a busy day of adventure.



Accommodation included: Sudima Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Waitomo Spellbound glow-worm cave guided tour, Redwoods walk

Optional paid activities: Redwoods Treewalk, Tamaki Maori Village & Polynesian Spa

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 3: Rotorua to Taupo¹

Most will choose to start the day by discovering the place where the real Middle Earth story began, the Hobbiton Movie Set. Explore the hills, gardens and houses that were home to Frodo and Bilbo in Peter Jackson's epic trilogies. Those not interested in Hobbiton can opt to visit Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland, home to huge volcanic craters and a range of extensive geothermal activity, sign up for a show and tour at the Agrodome for a unique New Zealand farm experience or enjoy a free morning to wander around Rotorua's gorgeous lakeside and public parks.



Departing for Taupo in the early afternoon, we will stop at the lookout of thundering Huka Falls, NZ's most photographed natural attraction, on the way into town. Or you can take a 4km scenic walk alongside Waikato River from the Falls to Spa Thermal Park where Stray driver will pick you up. Next, we head to the town centre on the shores of Australasia's largest freshwater lake, the Great Lake Taupo. You have the rest of the afternoon free for activities. The most popular activity here is to jump out of a plane and skydive over the lake, but you can also test your bravery with a bungy jump or relax with a serene sailing trip on the lake.



Accommodation included: Acapulco Motor Inn or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Overview Huka Falls at the lookout

Optional paid activities: Rotorua - Hobbiton tour, Wai-O-Tapu Geothermal Wonderland, Agrodome farm show & tour; Taupo - Skydiving, Barbary Sailing (recommended from November to March) & Bungy/Swing over the Waikato River

Optional free activities: 3-4km Huka Falls Walkway (ends at Spa Thermal Park)

Meal included: Breakfast

¹ *Passengers departing on 22nd January 2020 will stay overnight in Rotorua for both Days 2 & 3. There is a half day return trip to Taupo included. All the inclusions remain the same as the itinerary above.*

Day 4: Taupo to Auckland (Fly to Christchurch)

It's time to say goodbye to Taupo/Rotorua this morning as we begin our journey north back to Auckland. We'll stop at the award-winning Hamilton Gardens. After lunch, we will have an ice cream stop in Pokeno before the final drive into Auckland.



We will stop at Auckland Airport where you will catch your flight to Christchurch. Your airport shuttle transfer to the accommodation and tonight's accommodation is included. Christchurch is the South Island's largest city and is also known as the 'Garden City' for its many public parks and gardens.



Accommodation included: ibis Christchurch Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Hamilton Gardens, Flight from Auckland to Christchurch & Transport from Christchurch Airport to the accommodation

Meal included: Breakfast, Ice cream in Pokeno

Day 5: Christchurch to Mount Cook (via Lake Tekapo)

Today, we'll head south across the Canterbury Plains and venture deep into the beautiful Mackenzie Region, known for its unbelievably blue lakes and snow-capped mountain landscape. At the iconic township of Lake Tekapo, famous for its turquoise glacial waters, we'll stop to explore the local historic sites, including the Church of the Good Shepherd.



From Tekapo, we continue past picturesque Lake Pukaki on route to our destination at the base of New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mt Cook. You'll have the option to take a scenic flight and enjoy spectacular alpine scenery when we arrive in Mt Cook. In the summer, when time permits, you can opt to walk the Hooker Valley track - a 4-hour self-guided walk that offers incredible views of NZ's

highest peak. Alternatively, the shorter Kea Point Track will also give you a great view of the summit and its glacier lakes.



As one of the few designated 'International Dark Sky Reserves' in the world, Mt Cook is one of the very best places in New Zealand to join a stargazing tour and be mesmerized by the night sky above.

Accommodation included: Mt Cook Lodge & Motels or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Visit Lake Tekapo, the Church of Good Shepherd & Lake Pukaki

Optional paid activities: Mt Cook scenic flight, Big Sky Stargazing tour (must be pre-paid by passengers)

Optional free activities: Hooker Valley Track (4 hours return) & Kea Point Track (2 hours return)

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 6: Mount Cook to Wanaka

Start your morning early with an invigorating hike through the Tasman Valley surrounded by the native alpine bush and the dramatic Southern Alps mountain range. We'll then visit a local salmon farm, where you can buy some of the finest freshwater salmon before we leave Mt Cook Village to continue south. Later on, we'll stop in Omarama for lunch.

From here it's over the Lindis Pass, and into the popular lakeside holiday township, Wanaka. You'll have the remainder of the afternoon to sign up for one of the many activities on offer, whether it's nearby walks, mountain biking around the lake, exploring the weird and wonderful Puzzling World, skydiving, or learning to fly your very own stunt plane.



Accommodation included: Wanaka Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Tasman Glaciers viewpoint walk & High Country Salmon farm visit

Optional paid activities: Scenic biking alongside the lakeshore (minimum number required), Skydiving, Learn to Fly & Puzzling World

Optional free activities: Visit the famous Wanaka Tree

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 7: Wanaka to Queenstown

We have a big day planned with lots of activities to look forward to as we make our way towards Queenstown. On route, we'll stop in Cromwell, famous for its fresh fruit produce and you can sample a delicious sweet treat. Next up is a visit to AJ Hackett's Bungy Bridge, where this sporting phenomenon originally began. If there was ever a time to try a bungy, today is the day!



After all that excitement, we'll continue to the historical township of Arrowtown, where you can experience first-hand a settlement of gold mining huts built by Chinese immigrants during the Otago Gold Rush of the 1860s.

At the end of the day we will arrive into Queenstown, known as the 'Adventure Capital of the World'! Your guide will drive you around the city centre, pointing out all the important places you need to know to ensure you make the most of your free day tomorrow. Queenstown has a lively nightlife with plenty of excellent restaurants, pubs and live music to check out.



Accommodation included: Rydges Lakeland Resort or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Visit the world home of the bungy jump, Walk around historic Arrowtown & Chinese migrant settlement

Optional paid activities: Bungy jump & Zipride at Kawarau Valley

Meal included: Breakfast, Sweet treat in Cromwell

Day 8: Free Day in Queenstown



You have a full free day to explore everything Queenstown has to offer. No matter what your pasttime of choice is, there is an activity for you! Options include bungy jumping, canyon swing, Shotover River

jet boating, skydiving, a walk up Queenstown Hill for unbeatable views, stroll the city gardens or simply soak up the stunning scenery and quality eateries in town.

Accommodation included: Rydges Lakeland Resort or equivalent (3-4 star)

Optional paid activities: Shotover Jet, AJ Hackett extreme activity options, Skyline Gondola (Walk-in or pre-booking recommended), Skydiving, TSS Earnslaw Steamship & Walter Peak Farm tours & Cardrona Ski packages (winter only)

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 9: Queenstown via Milford Sound to Te Anau

It's another early start as we depart for the natural wonder of Fiordland National Park. Sit back and take in one of the most spectacular drives on the South Island as we travel around the edge of Lake Wakatipu and watch the landscape morph from rolling farmland to mountains and dramatic fiords.



Our destination is New Zealand's most famous attraction, Milford Sound, sometimes called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. This afternoon we will board a scenic boat cruise and navigate through the deep green waters, surrounded by sheer mountains, dewy rainforest and tumbling waterfalls.



Keep your eyes open for the fur seals, dolphins and penguins that are often spotted in the fiord. After our Milford cruise, we will return to our accommodation situated right on Lake Te Anau, the South Island's largest lake.

Accommodation included: Kingsgate Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Milford Sound scenic cruise

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 10: Te Anau to Dunedin

We depart Te Anau this morning to make our way back to the east coast. Today's destination is Dunedin, a prominent university city known for its Scottish heritage, Victorian architecture, breweries and white sand beaches that are home to fur seals, sea lions, penguins and the only mainland breeding colony of royal albatross in the world.

We will arrive in time for those who want to join an afternoon Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour. Alternatively, you have free time to explore the city on foot, marvel at the classical architecture, stroll through the Botanic Garden, take a guided tour of the Speight's Brewery or visit the historic Larnach Castle.



Accommodation included: Kingsgate Hotel or equivalent (3-4 star)

Activities included: Stray bus drive around Dunedin city centre

Optional paid activities: ELM wildlife tour (recommended from October to March), Speight's Brewery tour, Larnach Castle

Meal included: Breakfast

Day 11: Dunedin to Christchurch

On our way out of town this morning we'll stop to visit Dunedin's Baldwin Street, one of the steepest streets in the world. From here, we drive north up the coast to the Moeraki Boulders, one of the South Island's most fascinating attractions. These naturally occurring giant spherical stones are embedded on a sandy beach. Each weigh several tonnes and range up to 3m in diameter in size.



Next stop along the coast is the old-world town of Oamaru. You'll walk through the Victorian Precinct with the option to check out Steampunk HQ, an intriguing museum dedicated to retro-futuristic sci-fi art.

After lunch in Oamaru, we express back to Christchurch, arriving in the afternoon at approximately 3 to 4pm. You will be dropped off at either the Christchurch International Airport or in the city centre. Sadly, this is where your Stray journey comes to an end, but we hope you had a blast!



Activities included: Dunedin Baldwin Street, Moeraki Boulders & Oamaru Victorian Heritage Precinct

Optional paid activities: Steampunk HQ Sci-Fi Museum

Meal included: Breakfast

What's Included:

- + Experienced Stray Mandarin-speaking driver guide
- + 10 nights' 3-4 star twin-shared accommodations
- + Touring as indicated
- + Meals: 10 x cooked breakfasts, 2 x special desserts
- + One-way flight ticket from Auckland to Christchurch (with 20kg check-in luggage)
- + Transport from Christchurch Airport to the accommodation
- + Raglan: Bridal Veil Falls walk
- + Waitomo: Spellbound glow-worm cave guided tour
- + Rotorua: Redwoods Forest walk
- + Taupo: Overview Huka Falls at the lookout
- + Hamilton: Take a walk in Hamilton Gardens
- + Mackenzie District: Visit Lake Tekapo, the Church of Good Shepherd and Lake Pukaki
- + Mt Cook: Tasman Galciers viewpoint walk, High Country Salmon farm
- + Queenstown: Visit the world home of the bungy jump, Walk around historic Arrowtown & Chinese migrant settlement, Point out the town centre highlights on the bus
- + Fiordland: Milford Sound day trip (including scenic cruise)
- + Dunedin: City centre Stray bus drive, Walk up Baldwin Street
- + Otago Region: Visit Moeraki Boulders
- + Oamaru: Victorian Heritage Precinct & Historic town centre walk

Optional Paid Activities:

- + Raglan: Surfing, SUP boarding & Kayaking (minimum number required)
- + Rotorua: Redwoods Treewalk, Tamaki Maori Village, Polynesian Spa, Hobbiton Movie Set tour, Waiotapu Geothermal Wonderland, Agrodome Farm show & tour
- + Taupo: Skydiving, Barbary Sailing (recommended from November to March) & Bungy Jump/Swing over the Waikato River
- + Mt Cook: Scenic flight, Big Sky Stargazing tour (must be pre-paid by passengers)
- + Wanaka: Scenic biking alongside the lakeshore (minimum number required), Skydive, Learn to Fly & Puzzling World
- + Queenstown: Shotover Jet, AJ Hackett Queenstown extreme activities, Skyline Gondola (Walk-in or pre-booking recommended), Skydiving, TSS Earnslaw Steamship & Walters Peak Farm tours, Cardrona Ski packages (winter only)
- + Dunedin: ELM Wildlife tour (recommended from October to March), Speight's Brewery tour, Larnach Castle
- + Oamaru: Steampunk HQ Sci-Fi Museum

What to Bring:

- + Camera
- + Water bottle
- + Sturdy walking shoes
- + Bathers/towel
- + Hat & sunscreen
- + Warm layered clothing
- + Waterproof jacket
- + Toiletries
- + Insect repellent
- + Motion sickness tablets