



FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL 
Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

Discover the real New Zealand with the locals



Food & Wine

Kiwi Style

**ISLAND
SANCTUARY**

Wanaka's best-kept secret

Journey into the heart of
FIORDLAND

5 FULLY GUIDED TRIPS
from gentle to challenging

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL.COM ►

FIRST LIGHT TRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

KIWI CLASSIC

AN ACTION-PACKED HIKING ADVENTURE

Challenge yourself and earn the views.

For those who want to play outdoors all day in the dramatic scenery while happily marinating in exercise-induced endorphins, we've saved the most heart-pumping and rewarding missions for you. The Kiwi Classic packs a lot in without rushing and there are lots of options, including challenges to really push yourself. Your guides cook up plenty of Kiwi fare to fuel your adventures and make sure you have a comfortable bed to fall into each night. Fresh air, sunshine, and encouragement provided - walk away with a grin and a real sense of accomplishment.

firstlighttravel.com



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HIGHLIGHTS:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Milford Sound | West Coast Beaches | Hiking |
| Routburn Track | Nelson Lakes | Multi-day Backpacking or Sea Kayaking |
| Fox Glacier | Hokitika | Biking |
| Kaikoura | Wanaka | Kayaking |
| Southern Alps | Nelson | Swim with Dolphins |
| Central Otago | Abel Tasman (Option) | Wine Tasting |
| Vineyards | | |
| Mount Cook | | |

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14 days	SOUTH ISLAND BASED	ACTIVITY LEVEL ■■■■■□	FOOD Home-Style Kiwi Cooking	ACCOMMODATION Comfortable Kiwi-Style Lodging	START Queenstown	FINISH Queenstown	Turn the page for the full itinerary.
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AN ACTION-PACKED HIKING ADVENTURE

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrive, Kayak and Overnight Cruise on World-Famous Milford Sound
Time for your first taste of pure New Zealand mountain air! After our introductions, we'll head for Fiordland National Park, where spectacular glacier-carved granite cliffs rise vertically from the valley floor, and waterfalls run down through dense rainforest everywhere you turn. We'll hop aboard a traditionally-designed vessel and cruise out onto stunning Milford Sound. In the afternoon we'll anchor in a secluded bay and take to the water with specialist nature guides in tenders (or kayaks when conditions allow) to meet the local wildlife. There couldn't be a more magical way to spend your first night with us.

Day 2 – Cruise Back and Hike Routeburn Track to Key Summit
Waking up in Milford Sound is such a treat, but we'll leave you to find out why.

After breakfast, we'll cruise back to the dock, enjoying the waterfalls, wildlife and awe-inspiring alpine scenery en route, with a pod of dolphins leading the way if we're lucky. Once we're back on dry land, we'll head off to discover Fiordland National Park on foot, with a hike up to one of our favourite places in this area – Key Summit on the famed Routeburn Track, which is bound to wake up the legs. Tonight you'll have time to explore the lakefront of Te Anau, where we'll spend the night.

Day 3 – Bike near Queenstown & Wine Tasting Central Otago
Today we leave the rainforest of Fiordland and head for the arid high country lakes of Central Otago. Explore the surrounds of Queenstown on two wheels and then enjoy a well-earned hearty picnic in the quaint gold-mining town of Old Cromwell followed by tasting some world class wines in

Central Otago. We'll be spending the next couple of nights on a high-country station (a ranch), whose skies are part of the Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve, the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and one of only eight similar reserves in the world. The absence of light pollution gives you a rare opportunity to experience some of the best stargazing on earth.

Day 4 – Your Choice in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park
Some of the most spectacular alpine hikes in New Zealand are here in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, with views normally reserved for serious mountaineers accessible to keen hikers like ourselves. It's home to not only its namesake, our highest and most sacred peak, but an impressive 19 peaks topping more than 3,000 metres. Your options today include a choice of various hikes, exploring the village on your own or splurging on a heli-hike glacier tour or glacier boat tour.

Day 5 – Hiking, Sightseeing & Explore Kaikoura Peninsula
Today's journey takes us all the way across the South Island, leaving the open spaces of Mackenzie Country and the Alps for the fertile green plains of Canterbury and finally to Kaikoura, a little town on the East Coast. We'll take our time, showing you all our favourite places along the way, and stopping for photos and short walks to stretch our legs. We'll overnight in Kaikoura.

Day 6 – Swim with Dolphins, Waterfalls
It's an unforgettable morning and a dream come true for wildlife lovers



Hike Most Days

Hike amongst all sorts of jaw-dropping scenery from lush rainforests and rugged coastal tracks to underneath hanging glaciers and up to hidden mountain lakes.

today. You'll jump up bright and early to swim with Dusky dolphins, a small species known for their spectacular aerobatics. We'll also see how many different varieties of fish, seals and even whales we can spot in this special marine reserve. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch at Maruia Falls, before we carry on north to Nelson, where we'll stay for the next couple of nights.

Day 7 – Explore Nelson

We'll be staying within an easy walk into town as today is yours to spend as you wish. Your guides can point you in the right direction if you want to go for a hike or a bike ride. Nelson is a gorgeous wee town with a lively art scene and great beaches so we recommend you enjoy a restful day and indulge in fine seafood, local wine and craft beer. Or if you'd like to keep the adventure level up, book a tour for canyoning, jetboating, skydiving or quad biking. One of the most popular options is a sea kayaking tour in nearby Abel Tasman National Park.

Days 8-10 CHOICE either Backpacking Nelson Lakes OR Sea Kayaking Abel Tasman

New Zealand is full of outdoor enthusiasts who take to outdoor pursuits with gusto and never miss a chance to get out exploring. Choosing your adventure is all part of the fun,

so we'll split up for the next few days and leave the choice up to you. Either challenge yourself to complete a backpacking circuit in Nelson Lakes National Park or head off to Abel Tasman for a sea kayaking adventure.

Backpacking CHOICE Days 8-10

The first day of the Angelus Circuit is an 11km hike alongside the shore of Lake Rotoiti to Lakehead Hut. Then on Day 9 we'll have an early start for the steady climb through beech forest to Angelus Hut, surrounded by a cauldron of rocky ridges and next to two large mountain lakes well above the treeline. On Day 10, it's a short climb onto Robert's Ridge and then we follow the rocky ridgeline for our descent back to St Arnaud. For two nights, we'll stay in public backcountry huts. The NZ Department of Conservation maintains over 950 of them dotted around the country. Your guides will carry the bulk of the gear while you carry a pack mainly with your essentials for the three days.

Sea Kayaking CHOICE Days 8-10 (Additional US\$699 + TAX)

Abel Tasman is world famous for its golden beaches, towering granite cliffs and beautifully clear warm water – it's a sea kayaking paradise, justly famous for its kayaking, which suits beginners as well as more experienced paddlers. From the base in Motueka, you'll get

geared up and board a water taxi up to Awaroa, near the top of Abel Tasman National Park, so we can take plenty of time working our way back to Marahau over the next couple of days. Along the way, we usually encounter plenty of local wildlife with ample time to explore the marine reserve. This is one area where it makes the best sense to camp out, so we can use some of the less well-known spots only accessible by kayak while your guides take very good care of you at camp.



Day 10 (Cont.) – End Hiking or Kayaking Adventure, Regroup and West Coast Beach

Having spent the last two nights apart, our two groups will reconnect and travel together across to Punakaiki on the rugged West Coast where we'll stay for the night. We'll catch up over a drink or two and enjoy a favourite Kiwi treat – 'fish and chips' at the local tavern!



IMAGE: MILES HOLDEN/TNZ

Routeburn Track

It's a steady climb up to Key Summit on the world-famous Routeburn Track – always well worth it.



Bike near Queenstown

Pedal well-formed tracks from a historic gold-mining town to the site of the world's first commercial bungy jump.



Aoraki/Mount Cook

Explore some of the great walking tracks in and around this UNESCO World Heritage site



Kayak Milford Sound

Wake up in the 8th wonder of the world and paddle out to meet the local wildlife.



"We all had a wonderful time and we are still reeling from the stunning views at Milford Sound, Lake Pukaki, Mt. Cook and the fun of Queenstown, Christchurch, and Nelson."

Shawn Aebi (Washington, USA) December 2016

Day 11 – Hike Paparoa National Park & Explore Hokitika

This morning we'll hike the secluded Pororari River Walk deep into the rainforest. You'll feel like you're walking right into Jurassic Park! Then visit the nearby Pancake Rocks to watch the ocean surge dramatically through blowholes in the rock before heading south to explore Hokitika. For the next couple of nights we're staying in one of our favourite spots, the tiny beach settlement of Okarito, where you'll feel the rest of the world melt away.

Day 12 – Kayak Okarito Lagoon and Hike Okarito Trig

You can paddle out this morning in sea kayaks to soak in the tranquility of Okarito Lagoon. More than 70 bird species have been recorded here, including the rare Kōtuku (White Heron), but you may be too busy catching the reflections of the snow-capped mountains on the water to notice. This afternoon it's up to you whether you'd like to relax with a book, stroll along the deserted beach, or hike up to the Okarito Trig for extraordinary views of the rugged coastline, mountains, rainforest and the lagoon.

Day 13 – Hike near Fox Glacier & Lake Matheson

Mountains, beaches and glaciers, all in one wild day! Our hike today takes us near to Fox Glacier for impressive views of the terminal face emerging from the rainforest. We'll then capture the stunning reflections of Lake Matheson as we head back into the beauty and vast open spaces of Central Otago. Overnight in Wanaka, a favourite lakeside holiday resort town for Kiwis and visitors alike.

Day 14 – Hike in Wanaka & Finish in Queenstown

This morning we'll hike to Diamond Lake and take

a steady climb to Rocky Mountain. Once we break through the tree line, we'll be rewarded with epic views over Lake Wanaka and Diamond Lake! What a way to end on a high note before returning to Wanaka for a last minute souvenir shop and final Flat White. Then it's a short trip back to Queenstown, where we complete our adventure and say our goodbyes. ■

KIWI CLASSIC

Give us a call if you need help converting into your own currency.

INCLUDES

13 nights' accommodation, services of two professional local guides, ground transportation, snacks and 36 meals, and all activities as described. Go to our website for our dates, availability and to book.

EMAIL US

OR PHONE US NOW

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