

New Zealand Tui Adventure



Trip Summary

If you want to escape the crowds, discover the real New Zealand and get a taste for kiwi culture and hospitality along the way, have we got the trip for you! The 'Tui' is an 8-day action-packed South Island adventure where you'll hike, bike, kayak, cruise, fly and jet boat in some of New Zealand's most iconic and remote wilderness. You'll check off iconic locations like Queenstown, Milford Sound, and Franz Josef Glacier, but also visit some off-the-grid settings like the remote Siberia Valley (accessible by a scenic flight into the backcountry!) In New Zealand, the best places can't be seen from the window of a tour bus, but they're accessed on foot, behind handlebars, or with a paddle in hand!

Itinerary

Day 1: Christchurch / Arthur's Pass / Franz Josef

Most people leave the Northern Hemisphere on a Friday evening, arriving into Auckland early Sunday morning • You'll lose a day crossing the dateline – but you get it back on the way home! • It's a short flight from Auckland to Christchurch on the South Island where we'll meet you • We'll then travel into the Southern Alps to hike Devil's Punchbowl in Arthur's Pass • The walk will take you through native beech forest to an awesome 131-meter (430 feet) waterfall, so make sure you have your camera handy! • From there, we'll head down the coast to Franz Josef where we'll stay the night • Nestled in the rainforest-clad foothills of the Southern Alps, Franz Josef is the heart of New Zealand glacier country • *Overnight Rainforest Retreat (L, D)*

Day 2: Franz Josef / Makarora*

With some 140 glaciers making their way down from the Southern Alps, this area is fittingly known as glacier country • Few sights equal the spectacle of two of these giant frozen rivers (Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers) imperceptibly grinding their way down through temperate rainforest to just 250 meters (820 feet) above sea level • We'll spend most of the day near Franz Josef Glacier hiking up through the forest to either Alex Knob or Roberts Point, both of which give incredible views of the ice • From Franz Josef, we'll travel down the coast through lush forest, and over the divide to a small mountain village called Makarora, where we'll enjoy some local fare • *Overnight Makarora Chalets (B, L, D)*

** Optional Heli Hike: an outrageously scenic alternative to today's hike is to heli-hike on Franz Josef Glacier itself at an extra cost. Please inquire with your Adventure Consultant for more details.*

Day 3: Makarora / Mt Aspiring National Park *

This morning, we'll wake up on the eastern side of Mt Aspiring National Park • From our lodgings in Makarora, we'll head off on your choice of activity • We'll start with a stunning scenic flight alongside the snowy Southern Alps to the Siberia Valley airstrip, a short hike from our home for the night • After lightening your packs at the hut, you can hike up the trail to Lake Crucible, a cauldron-like glacial lake with fantastic views of the valley below • Tonight, you'll be served a candle-lit dinner in a picturesque National Park • This is the only night on the 'Tui' where your accommodation is basic, though it's a true Kiwi experience and a lot of fun • Your load will be a little more than a day pack – your guides will carry the lion's share • You'll be carrying a backpack with a sleeping bag, a few



New Zealand Tui Adventure

spare clothes and some food – no need for anything more than that, although there are tents you can carry along if you'd prefer to camp out under the stars • *Overnight Siberia Hut (B, L, D)*

** When you book, you have the choice of two multi-day options (two days/one night each): Siberia Valley wilderness option or Makarora adventure, both in Mt Aspiring National Park. The Makarora adventure includes an accommodation with modern amenities instead of a mountain hut for the night.*

Day 4: Mount Aspiring National Park / Hawea River / Queenstown

After an early start, we spend the morning hiking to Kerin Forks, at the head of the Wilkin River, where we'll be met by a jet boat for an exhilarating ride back to Makarora to meet up with the rest of the group for lunch • After regrouping in Makarora, we'll have a picnic lunch before taking a beautiful drive through spectacular glacier carved valleys • The landscape changes rapidly from dense beech forests to semi-arid mountainous terrain • When we arrive at Lake Hawea, you'll be fitted with a mountain bike for a scenic ride along the Hawea River Trail • This gently undulating track follows the Hawea and Clutha Rivers through the rugged Central Otago landscape to the charming lakeside town of Wanaka • From Wanaka, it's a short but dramatic journey over the Cardrona Saddle to Queenstown, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, our base for the next couple of days • You'll sleep sweetly tonight at a lakefront hotel located in the heart of Queenstown • *Overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel (B, L)*

Day 5: Queenstown

Today you have two options – a full day hike or a free day to yourself • For those keen for an alpine hike, you'll meet your guide at reception at 9am, ready to head up the Ben Lomond Track • To save our legs a little, we'll take a short gondola ride up to Bob's Peak, which is 450 meters (1476 feet) above Queenstown • From there, we'll head out along the trail through alpine tussock-land towards the summit of Ben Lomond • From this vantage point, you'll find yourself immersed in amazing views over Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, which are themselves dwarfed by the surrounding mountains including Mt Aspiring • As an alternative, you can have a free day to explore on your own • Queenstown is the adventure capital of New Zealand (if not the world!) and all the comforts of civilization are packed into this tiny resort town: restaurants galore, sidewalk cafés, stylish lounge bars, day spas, and boutiques • You'll also find incredible optional activities here including horse trekking, kayaking, fishing, winery tours, hang gliding, mountain biking, bungee jumping, jet boating and skydiving • Or you can just soak up the atmosphere or lounge about reading a book • Your guides will happily share their favorite haunts and point you in the right direction for your free day today • *Overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel (No meals)*

Day 6: Fiordland National Park / Milford Sound

This morning, we set off for our largest and perhaps most spectacular national park, Fiordland • Once within the park we'll stop to stretch our legs at regular intervals, to explore some of the highlights of this World Heritage Area, including the Eglinton Valley, Mirror Lakes, Marian Gantry and The Chasm • The waterfalls viewed from the gantry will take your breath away! • Once through the Homer Tunnel we'll emerge at the top of a spectacular glacier-carved valley for a memorable descent to the shore of Milford Sound • Rudyard Kipling rated this fiord as the eighth natural wonder of the world and it is truly breathtaking, with steep granite walls plunging over a thousand meters

New Zealand Tui Adventure



to the Tasman Sea and waterfalls cascading into deep inky water • Tonight, you're in for an extra-special experience, as we'll board the Milford Wanderer for an overnight cruise in the sheltered fiord • For those who're keen, there's time to explore a short section of the Milford Track - you'll transfer on a smaller vessel to Sandfly Point and join a naturalist guide for approximately 1.5 hours, before rejoining the Wanderer in time for a sumptuous dinner! • *Overnight Milford Wanderer Cruise (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Milford Sound / Manapouri

Having seen Milford Sound from the deck of a ship there's one more unique activity we've got lined up for you, to experience the eighth natural wonder gliding along in sea kayaks • You'll cause very little disturbance to the water, being in kayaks, providing an excellent chance of meeting friendly fur seals and dolphins that are sometimes in the area • This trip is run by specialist kayak guides, and the paddling here is equally suitable for beginners and experts • After lunch, we'll explore the Fiordland wilderness on foot again, with a hike to Key Summit on the famous Routeburn Track • The panoramic views are incredible from this vantage point and you'll probably get to meet New Zealand's notoriously cheeky and intelligent alpine parrot, the kea (*Nestor notabilis*) • Tonight, we'll enjoy a celebratory dinner for the last night of Tui • *Overnight Lake Manapouri Inn (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Queenstown

After breakfast, we'll return to Queenstown • This is the end of your Tui trip and you'll have had an exhilarating week • We'll leave you buzzing with excitement, but feeling relaxed and refreshed as well! • *No overnight (B)*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Our Partner – Active Adventures

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Active Adventures. Active Adventures is a full-service tour operator specialising in customised, multi-day, small group experiences in New Zealand. They started with two adventurous guys, a van, and a simple plan: Show a handful of visitors New Zealand 'through the eyes of locals'. More than two decades later, local immersion is still at the heart of what they do, though along the way, they've perfected the art of personalised small group travel, with an emphasis on high-quality service and active elements. They run multi-day trips throughout New Zealand getting truly active and off the beaten track – hiking, biking and kayaking our way through New Zealand's best scenery.



New Zealand Tui Adventure

Activities

Hiking: Much of this adventure involves walking or hiking on trails with a moderate rating (and at times strenuous). Hikes range in length from 2 miles to 7.5 miles long and can be adjusted to fit your needs. Terrain includes dirt, rocks, sandy beach, tree roots, and rocks. Trails in New Zealand are typically not as well manicured as those in the USA, so expect to be hiking in mud, getting your boots wet, and to be navigating around rocks and tree roots. Often instead of switchbacks a trail will go straight up a hill! So, while the mileage may seem small, pay more attention to the elevation gains and the estimated time that the hike will take. The Tui suits people of a wide range of fitness levels and outdoor experience. If you keep reasonably active and like to give things a go, you're more likely to enjoy the trip much more. Typically hikes range between two and six hours to complete, but there are shorter alternatives to the longer hikes, and if you're used to pushing yourself further, we'll keep you challenged as well.

Bicycling: On Day 4, a bicycle ride along the Hawea Trail is up to 24 kilometers (15 miles) long and is mostly flat (260 feet elevation loss). You'll be biking along a wide, dirt track and the ride is vehicle supported.

Kayaking: Equipment and instruction provided. No experience necessary. Excursions last approximately 2 to 3 hours.

Discovery: New Zealand offers incredible opportunities for adventure, whether it be on backcountry hikes, atop looming glaciers, or in small resort towns. While in Christchurch, take time to explore the city by double-decker bus, vintage bicycle, gondola, tram or classic Edwardian punt – or grab your walking shoes and discover bars, eateries and an eclectic mix of boutique shops by foot. Embark on an adventure or two in Queenstown, the 'adventure capital of the world' and birthplace to bungee jumping. Keep an eye out for the endearing and flightless national bird: the kiwi (also what New Zealanders call themselves!) Witness a glacier cutting through a rainforest as you trek to the base of Franz Josef Glacier. Discover Mount Aspiring National Park, a walker's paradise consisting of a wonderful mixture of remote wilderness, high mountains, and beautiful river valleys. Did you know that Milford Sound's water appears black? The fiord is hundreds of meters deep, but the rainfall creates a layer of fresh water up to 6 meters deep, which sits on top of the ocean. All this rainfall washes a tannin from the forest, which stains the fresh water, resulting in its unique black appearance. Come discover this adventurous destination with the leaders in adventure travel!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, Austin Adventures guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

New Zealand Tui Adventure



Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Rainforest Retreat

Immerse yourself in the spectacular scenery of New Zealand's West Coast. The Rainforest Retreat is the leader in luxury accommodations in this rural area. Set on six acres of native bush with a nature-centric design, you'll feel as though you're truly sleeping in the rainforest when you relax in this comfortable abode.

Nights 2 & 3: Makarora Chalets

Tucked in under Mt Shrimpton, your 'A' frame accommodation borders the Mt Aspiring World Heritage National Park. These chalets are completely self-contained and are set in natural bush surrounds giving each unit seclusion and privacy.

Nights 4 & 5: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Situated in the adventure capital of the world, the Crowne Plaza Hotel will provide an excellent base camp for any adventures you may hope to have in Queenstown. Each room has a unique view, from mountain territory to lakeside peace, alongside unique aromatherapy profiles catered to each guest. Dine at threesixty, the world-class restaurant stationed right in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza, and enjoy your adventures with the perfect mixture of adrenaline and peace.

Night 6: Milford Wanderer Cruise

Sleep seaside on the Milford Wanderer overnight cruise, which will float the full length of the Milford Sound during your stay. This cruise boasts an onboard naturalist to answer any burning questions you may have about New Zealand's beautiful flora and fauna. A delicious 3 course dinner will be prepared for you, as well as a full-service continental breakfast.

Night 7: Lake Manapouri Inn

Mere feet from multiple trailheads and the beautiful Doubtful Sound, Lake Manapouri Inn provides the perfect space to rest and recuperate from many days of adventure. With rooms featuring a modern style of décor and remarkable views, you'll relax into these comfortable accommodations without fail.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. Meals are included as indicated in the daily itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



New Zealand Tui Adventure

Arrival & Departures

Arrival: On Day 1 of the trip, your guides can either pick you up from the Heartland Hotel Cotswold in Christchurch at 9:30 AM, or at Christchurch Airport in front of the Travel and Information Center at 10:00 AM. We recommend you fly into Christchurch no later than 9:00 AM on day of arrival.

Departure: On the last day of the trip, your guides can drop you off at the Queenstown Airport in time for flights departing after 12:00 PM. If you choose to extend your stay, your guides can drop you off anywhere in Queenstown around lunchtime.

Trip Price

From \$4,199 + tax

Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

2020 Dates

Departs weekly throughout the year, call for availability.

Host City

Begin: Christchurch, NZ (CHC)

End: Queenstown, NZ (ZQN)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*A scenic flight, a wilderness hike,
and an unforgettable jet boat ride*

New Zealand Tui Adventure



Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A nonrefundable \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Comfortable accommodation featuring the lodging listed in this itinerary.
- Meals as listed in daily detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- All guiding services: 2 guides per trip – a lead guide/driver & a co-guide/chef.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well-maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- All activities described in the itinerary including hiking, kayaking, and biking.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to your guides.
- 15% NZ government tax.
- Several meals in places like Queenstown and Christchurch.
- Optional add-on activities.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host city.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



New Zealand Tui Adventure

Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$750 nonrefundable per person deposit

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.