

# 2007 NEW ZEALAND ITINERARY

## **MARCH 30TH:**

Once we get to our hotel we will drop off our luggage and enjoy the city of Auckland since there is little chance our rooms will be ready so early. We can take the Hop on/ Hop off tour bus that will stop at many of the key sites. No need to sign up for this in advance.

7:00 PM: Meet in the lobby to group together for dinner plans.

## **MARCH 31ST:**

We will depart our hotel at 8 a.m. for the Bay of Islands tour. We should be arriving back at our hotel at approx. 9:30 p.m.

## **APRIL 1ST:**

We will depart our hotel at 8 a.m. please be checked out of your room with your luggage and in the lobby at 7:45. We arrive at the Black Water Rafting at 11:45 a.m. for the tubing tour in the glow worm caves. We depart in groups of 12 in 45 minute intervals for the 3-hour journey. As you are waiting for your group to depart, or for the group to complete the trip if you are in an early group, you can enjoy the on-site café and free admission to the Museum of Caves. Please leave your bathing suit and towel outside of your luggage when we leave Auckland.

The Black Water Rafting people will provide everything else we need including wet suits.

7:00 PM Meet in the lobby for dinner plans

## **APRIL 2ND:**

8:30 a.m. Rafting people meet in the lobby for your pick-up

9:30 AM: Meet in the lobby for our full day tour of Rotorua.

7:00 PM Meet in the lobby bar for drinks. We'll leave at 7:30 p.m. for dinner.

**NOTE:** Our 2011 trip now includes one more night in Rotorua

## **APRIL 3RD:**

10:15 Meet in the lobby, ready to go for our bus to the Rotorua Airport for our 12:20 flight.

6:00 PM Meet in the lobby bar for drinks. We'll leave at 7 p.m. for dinner.

## **APRIL 4TH:**

7:05 AM Our tour to Milford Sound will be confirmed. Please be in the restaurant to check with Ed.

7:20 AM Meet in our lobby for our Milford Sound Combo tour pick-up.

6:00 PM Meet in the lobby bar for drinks. We'll leave at 7 p.m. for dinner.

## **APRIL 5TH:**

1:10 PM Meet in our lobby for the Shotover River Rafting

6:00 PM Meet in the lobby bar for drinks. We'll leave at 7 p.m. for dinner.

#### **APRIL 6TH:**

9:45 Meet in our lobby for the Shotover Jet Boating tour

6:00 PM Meet in the lobby bar for drinks. We'll leave at 7 p.m. for dinner.

#### **APRIL 7TH:**

The day is free up until we depart. Maybe you'll want to get in one more bungee jump before we leave? We'll see if we can get a late checkout and let you know. Meet in the lobby at 10 a.m. if you'd like to hook up with people for some shopping or other activity.

2:15 PM Meet in lobby, ready to go for our bus to the airport for our 4:45 flight.

## **TOURS**

### **AUCKLAND**

#### **BAY OF ISLANDS**

This is a beautiful area that we will first bus to and then take a cruise of. The downside is the bus ride of approx 3.5 hours each way. But we will be rewarded with a wonderful day. Please read more about the cruise by [clicking here](#). You can also take our bus trip to Paihia, in the Bay of Islands, and not take the cruise but take a ferry to Russel Island and enjoy a leisurely day there.

#### **Here is our itinerary:**

- 0730 Depart Auckland for the Bay of Islands  
Stop enroute at the Parry Kauri Park.
- 1145 Tour of the Waitangi Treaty House and Grounds with a local guide.
- 1315 Cruise departs Paihia. Cruise out to Cape Brett and the Hole-in-the-Rock
- 1620 Cruise returns to Paihia
- 1630 Coach departs Paihia
- 2000 Coach arrives back in Auckland

#### **TOUR AUCKLAND**

For those who aren't keen on the 1st tour idea you can just take the Hop On/ Hop Off bus that tours Auckland to enjoy a day in the city which will stop at all the sites. We've done this with lots of our city trips and it's a very enjoyable way to discover a new city. Check out <http://www.explorerbus.co.nz/> for more info.

#### **MORE TOUR IDEAS IN AUCKLAND**

Here's a great website that gives you plenty of links to other tours available in Auckland. If you see something you like, let us know and if enough people are interested in the same tour we'll set it up.

[http://www.aucklandnz.com/VisitorInformation/Things\\_To\\_Do/articlelist.aspx?SubGroup=Tours](http://www.aucklandnz.com/VisitorInformation/Things_To_Do/articlelist.aspx?SubGroup=Tours)

## **ROTORUA:**

## WAITOMO GLOW WORM CAVES

On April 1st we will be busing to Rotorua but on the way we'll detour to Waitomo and take a tour of the famous Glow Worm Caves. I'm pretty sure everyone is going to want to do this fantastic tour. I have made a reservation for all of us on the Black Labyrinth Tour, Waitomo's original and amazing underground cave tubing experience that is known and talked about all around the world. It's 3-hour tour that will have you working your way through tight squeezes, take leaps of faith over cascading underground waterfalls and float serenely down river as you enjoy the glowworm show on the vaulted limestone galleries up above. Your journey concludes when you emerge into the sunlight of the Waitomo forest. [Check out this company's website.](#) Normal price is \$81 nzd but our group price is 72 nzd or \$50 in us.

## RIVER RAFTING

There is some excellent river rafting to be had in the Rotorua area. We have contacted 2 of the best companies. You can even try Sledging which was featured on the Amazing Race! Check out the info on these websites: <http://www.kaitiaki.co.nz/home.asp> <http://www.kaitunacascades.co.nz/index.html> Prices are listed on the website and are very reasonable. These companies will pick-up at our hotel.

The sledging is done on the class 5 Kaituna. The river rafting can be done on the Kaituna or the easier Rangitaiki. We should probably try to keep our group together with one choice. The Kaituna would then be the best choice. The outfitter says: *It is a very user-friendly river with only the one grade 5 drop. There are two much smaller drops before the big one so that you get to practice what to do before you experience the 7m's. To sledge, they do need to be CONFIDENT SWIMMERS and have reasonable physical fitness levels, or they will not enjoy it. It is also a lot easier if they have used flippers/fins before – even if just snorkeling.* When signing up, please let us know which river you had in mind.

\$85 for the Kaituna River Rafting (\$58 us)

\$95 for the Rangitaki River Rafting (\$65 us)

\$99 for the sledging (\$68 us)

You do not need to sign up for the Rotorua tour. The bus fees are paid. You will be only responsible for admission fees.

## ROTORUA ADVENTURE DAY:

We will have just 1 open day in Rotorua. There is a lot to choose from but I think the best choice would be a complete tour of the area. This is a suggested itinerary that was given to me. All prices are in nzd.

Agrodome show at 0930, <http://www.agrodome.co.nz/>, this is \$15.00 pp  
They also have a lot of other activities there, like the Zorb and swings etc, they are all listed on the website. You could perhaps have another hour there, so 0930 till about 1200.

Then go to the Skyline, up the Gondola and do some Luge Rides.

<http://www.skylineskyrides.co.nz>

Gondola \$18.00 pp

Luge Rides could be paid for pp, they are \$7.50 per ride, but get cheaper the more you buy. They could also have lunch up there.

Then about 1500 go to Te Puia, this is the mud pools, and geysers etc

[www.tepuia.com](http://www.tepuia.com)

\$24.50 pp, for about 1 ½ hours.

## QUEENSTOWN:

### MILFORD SOUND

This is truly an amazing place that I would say is a “must see”. It’s a long, but very scenic bus ride of about 4-1/2 hours or we can fly. There is also a coach one-way and fly back. The only issue with flying is the weather and the day in Milford Sound can be canceled with poor weather, however I just don’t think the 4-1/2 hours each way is going to appeal to most people. This is why I am suggesting the flying both ways. So we will fly in, then get on a boat and take a 1 hour and 45 minute cruise. For more on the cruise with a full description of what you’ll see [click here](#). With the flight, this is pricing out at approx \$365 nzd or \$254 in usd. If you [visit this web page](#) and scroll down to their pricing you will see that the fly-cruise-fly is less money than the coach-cruise-fly, which didn’t make sense until they explained to me that this would guarantee our passage to Milford Sound even in bad weather and that if we were unable to fly they would refund the difference to us, but this option is still way more money than flying both ways so my suggestion is to take our chances on the weather and fly both ways.

### DART RIVER SAFARI

We did this on our last visit to New Zealand and it was a total blast. They use the same boats as the famous Shotover River Jet Boats and give a much longer tour of the beautiful Dart River. It also includes a nice hike and scenic drive. Check it out at <http://www.zqn.co.nz/dartriver/> You see the price from Queenstown at \$209 nz or about \$145 us. We’ll be working on saving a bit of money with a group rate.

### COMBINE THE MILFORD SOUND WITH DART RIVER

**NOTE:** This is what we ended up doing on this trip

This seems like a great deal and a real full day. If you go back to the [Milford Sound Scenic Flights site](#) and scroll down to **Milford Fly - Cruise - Fly/Dart River Safaris Combo** you will see a price of \$495 to take in both tours and fly to Glenorchy where the Dart River tour begins. If you added the \$365 and the \$209 together this would add up to \$574 nz so to get both tours for \$495 (\$344 us and before any group discount) and to fly to Glenorchy as well, this seems like a great choice. Here is the description:

Fly from Queenstown to magnificent Milford to enjoy a launch cruise traveling the full length of Milford Sound. Return by scenic flight landing at Glenorchy to join Dart River Safaris to journey into the untouched wilderness of a World Heritage Area before coaching back to Queenstown.

### **RIVER RAFTING**

Yes, more river rafting! We did this also on our last visit to Queenstown and it was a hit. Check out this website for more info. You will see their rate of \$159nz. This is before our discount if we have enough people who are interested.

<http://www.raft.co.nz/shotover.asp>

For more on what to do in Queenstown check out this website:

<http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz/information/Activities/>