

# NEW ZEALAND TOURS

These tours are from our last trip in 2016. We expect to repeat them however the price will likely go up slightly

## AUCKLAND

### Hop on/ off City Tour - Thursday, September 22nd

We arrive early (6:30 am) to Auckland so we have the whole day to explore. Our rooms will likely not be ready so once we arrive at our hotel we will drop off our luggage and head out on tours. I like the Hop On/ Hop Off city tour option as it gives everyone a lot of freedom to see the things they would like to see. You do not need to sign up in advance to do this. We will group together in our lobby after we arrive at our hotel and walk over to the starting point to begin our tour.

### Sailing in "The City of Sails", Friday, September 23rd

If you're going to "The City of Sails" then what better tour is there than to go sailing?! We will have 2 extremely nice, large yachts (sailboats) chartered for a 3-hour sail to accommodate the first 35 out of our group. The yachts are "[Haparanda](#)" and the "[Arcturus](#)". The two boats will coordinate and pick all of us up together and is walking distance from our hotel. Arcturus is a stable boat even in stronger winds, but it is an adventure experience. He says he encourages participation. This was really a fun tour on our last trip to Auckland. . Be one of the 35 people doing this tour. **COST: \$75**



**Other activities in Auckland:** No shortage of things to do here! I'm sure you can step up to our concierge desk and sign up for any of these tours while you are there:

<http://www.viator.com/auckland-tours/d391-ttd?pref=204>

## ROTORUA:

### Glowworm Cave Tour – September 24th

On our way from Auckland to Rotorua we make a stop at the famous Glowworm Caves. We have two options - the Dry and Wet tour. Please sign up for the tour you'd like to do.

**DRY TOUR:** Ruakuri Cave and Waitomo Glowworm Cave as a package deal for \$49 per person (normally \$58). Click here for more into and you will see this combo tour:

<http://www.waitomo.com/deals/Pages/most-popular-combo.aspx>

### WET TOUR – Black Labrinth

Black Labyrinth this is very much an adventure activity and involves getting dressed in a wetsuit and getting wet. This is



what we did last time but maybe the dry tour is more interesting. Click the link to read more:

**COST: \$75** (normally \$89)

<http://www.waitomo.com/black-water-rafting/Pages/black-labyrinth.aspx>

### LUNCH AT THE CAVES:

The glowworm cave company offers a buffet for groups who sign up in advance, otherwise it could take a while to get served lunch and time could be tight in between these tours. For \$15 they can have lunch prepared for us.

Here is the menu:

Soup of the day, with accompanying breads
Grilled marinated BBQ rump steak or Steamed fish with a creamy Karengo (NZ seaweed) sauce
Seasonal green salad, red onion and beetroot Horopito (NZ Pepper) and yoghurt dressed coleslaw Baby potato salad with spring onions and Kawakawa (Maori bush basil) Steamed rice Seasonal vegetables
Hot chilli sauce, Tomato sauce, Soy sauce, Vinaigrette
Pavlova with kiwifruit and cream Banana Cake
Tea, Coffee and Infusions

### September 25th

#### Full day tour of Rotorua!

Today we will have two tours. I am covering the cost of the bus. You will only pay for the admission fees.



### MORNING:

**[Waimangu Volcanic Valley](#)** Waimangu Volcanic Valley is Rotorua's premier tourist attraction and a 'must do' eco-experience when you visit Rotorua. Our exciting thermal attraction and sightseeing tours include unique ecology, rare botany and fascinating geothermal features such as steaming volcanic crater lakes. A protected scenic reserve and wildlife refuge, Waimangu Volcanic Valley geothermal park encompasses beautiful Lake Rotomahana and is set

in pristine New Zealand bush. Waimangu Volcanic Valley is just 20 minutes south of Rotorua and 40 minutes north of Taupo.

Your Waimangu Volcanic Valley walk or hike takes you on an ecology-focused adventure of the craters of this beautiful valley. As you walk through the youngest eco-systems in the world you will view a range of geothermal activity, native plants and bird-life, an activity not to be missed. Our group rate on the entry is just \$20. There may be a boat ride tour available but due to maintenance it could not be guaranteed.

### AFTERNOON:

**LUGE:** We will then go to the Skyline, up the Gondola and do some luge rides.

<http://www.skylineskyrides.co.nz> This is a blast! Cost for the gondola and 5 luge rides package is \$55 NZD (\$38us), however there are many other options there including a zip line! [http://www.skyline.co.nz/rotorua/ssr\\_attractions/](http://www.skyline.co.nz/rotorua/ssr_attractions/)



**Monday morning, September 26th**



### **RIVER RAFTING – ROTORUA**

In amongst beautiful, clean/green NZ lives a great deal of Maori History – the area is renowned for the tribal wars of the past. Behind and around the waterfall exists caves used for the hiding of women and children, and later the burial ground of Chief Tutea. There are many Maori Myths and Legends associated with this River known to the locals as Okere (waterfall).

The Kaituna River boasts the Highest Commercially Rafted Waterfall (7m) in the World. Fast and furious, this river has 3 waterfalls among the 14 rapids; two smaller waterfalls to practise on before attacking the 7-meter drop named Tutea Falls. On the Kaituna around 70% of the customers we take are first time rafters. It is fine for beginners provided you are reasonably adventurous. We will be back at the hotel by noon, in time for you to participate in the afternoon jet boating tour.

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.* **COST** (with transport): **\$75** **We will return in time to do the Jet Boating**

<http://www.raftabout.co.nz/white-water-rafting/kaituna-waterfall>



**OR:**

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING – ROTORUA**

This is a top notch mountain biking experience that our group really enjoyed on our last visit. Rotorua boasts possession of some of the best mountain biking in the Southern Hemisphere so this trail, through the scenic Whakarewarewa Forest with our guide will certainly prove that. This will be a 2-hour ride and mostly flat. The trails are best described as on rolling, undulating terrain. Here you can read more about this company and the bikes:

<http://www.planetbike.co.nz/hire.html> Cost, with our group rate and transportation will be \$65 (normally \$100). **We will return in time to do the Jet Boating**

## Monday afternoon, September 26th JET BOATING – ROTORUA



### NEW ZEALAND RIVERJET JETBOATING – GEOTHERMAL – NATURE “As Good As It Gets”

This is an awesome tour. The group really enjoyed this one on our last trip. Want to experience the romance seen on US reality show ‘The Bachelor’? The Squeeze’ is the perfect mystical experience with: the thrills of a jet boat ride along New Zealand’s Waikato River, a pure New Zealand nature experience, squeezing through rock passages revealed by time, culminating in a magical hot water spring waterfall dip.

Begin with a scenic jet boat ride through Tutukau Gorge. Sit back and take in the remarkable landscape, learn the history and legends of the area and enjoy an abundance of unique wildlife. Just when you thought you had an easy day ahead, your driver asks you to disembark the boat in knee deep warm water. You head towards a narrow gap in the cliff face ahead of you and start the challenge of The Squeeze. After maneuvering your way through narrow crevasses, climbing boulders, and wading through warm waist deep water you emerge in stunning native New Zealand bush. Immerse yourself in the environment and take the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere while relaxing in the thermal waters of a naturally heated bathing pool.

**NOTE:** You do not have to do the squeeze portion of this tour. The other option is to enjoy a walk around this magnificent thermal reserve called [Orakei](#) and see boiling mud, geysers and silica terraces. There is an additional \$10 charge to enter.

**COST:** (with transportation) **\$106.** <http://www.riverjet.co.nz/jet-boating/the-squeeze>



### OTHER IDEAS AND TOURS IN ROTORUA:

Here is a very nice website that gives you plenty of information on all the activity options in Rotorua: <http://www.rotoruanz.com/>

### QUEENSTOWN:

#### Milford Sound - Fly-Cruise-Fly-Jet Boat Wednesday, September 28th

This was, without a doubt, the highlight of our past trips to Queenstown. Milford Sound is one of the most beautiful places on earth. It is a fiord of spectacular beauty and natural grandeur, carved by ancient glaciers. The deep, icy blue waterway flows to the Tasman Sea and is set amongst the towering peaks of the majestic Fiordland National Park. Milford Sound is a 'must see' for any visitor to New Zealand. As well as a





flight into and out of Milford, a cruise on the Sound is a great way to discover and experience the many sights on offer.

We will be on the fly-cruise-fly plus Dart River Jet Boating program to Milford Sound. We fly to Milford Sound in 8-passenger planes. We take a boat cruise to enjoy this world heritage site, then we fly back, past Queenstown, to the Dart River where we take an amazing and very scenic jet boat tour. This is such a good one, very pretty area with a short hike down to the river. Then we take a very short bus ride

back to Queenstown. It's expensive but we are saving a bunch of money by combining these tours (the Dart River alone is \$229 nzd!) and also with our group rate of 15% off. **COST: \$365** (was \$431 last time!)

<http://www.milfordflights.co.nz/info.asp>

### River Rafting

**Thursday morning, September 29th**

This is a great class 3-5 river. Begin with an unforgettable coach trip into Skippers Canyon, famous for its exciting cliff edges and gold mining history. Meet your river guide before beginning your white water rafting journey through the spectacular canyon. Rafting from Deep Creek over peaceful waters at first, you'll head towards the exhilarating rapids of the lower canyon. The adrenaline pumps as you paddle multiple rapids before shooting Cascade Rapid to complete your adventure. Before returning to Queenstown, enjoy a sauna and hot shower at Cavells Rafting Base.

**COST: \$120** (normally \$145) **READ MORE:** <http://www.queenstownrafting.co.nz/shotover/>



### Shotover Jet Boat tour:

**Thursday afternoon, September 29th**

This is the original jet boat tour that got it all started. However if you are going to do jet boating in Rotorua (above) or on our first day with Milford Sound and the Dart River then you might not be interested in more jet boating. The award winning Shotover Jet is the world's most exciting jet boat ride, operating at high speeds and delivering gravity defying stunts to thousands of visitors every year. These unique qualities combined with the stunning setting of the Shotover River provide passengers with an adrenaline filled fun Jet Boating adventure. The

canyons are beautiful and a truly remarkable sight. Primarily made up of steep rock walls, that have been carved over thousands of years by billions of tonnes of fast flowing river water from the heart of the Southern Alps. We've got this set up for the afternoon.

**COST: \$75** (normally \$89) **READ MORE:** <http://www.shotoverjet.com/>

## TWIN CHALLENGE – RIVER RAFTING AND JET BOATING

Do both of the above tours – River rafting and Shotover Jet Boat Tour and pay \$185. This is known as the Twin Challenge and it's a savings of \$10.

## HIKING, LUGE, PARAGLIDING & MORE

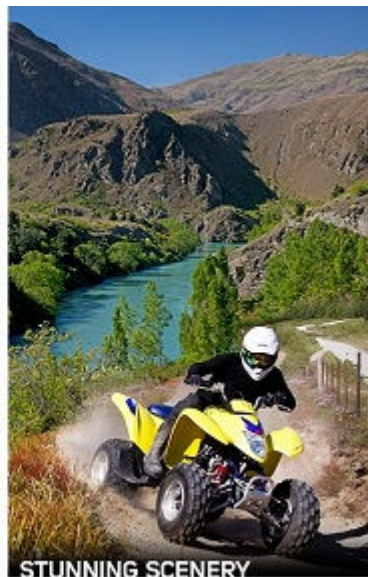
**FRIDAY, September 30th**

We need to get everyone up to the Skyline today for a great day of scenic activities. Very similar to the Skyline in Rotorua and run by the same company, they offer more luge rides but also mountain biking and even paragliding (I did it and loved it!). You can take the gondola up and back but I will lead a hike. It's steep but only takes about an hour. You don't need to sign up for any of these activities in advance.

## ATV Adventure Tour

**SATURDAY, October 1st**

Here's a new adventure for our New Zealand trips that I'm especially excited about since Queenstown is such a beautiful place. This **Adventure Tour** is designed for those looking for excitement and a challenge. This tour gives you the most amount of ride time (1.5 hours) within the half day tour.



We operate exclusively on 11,000 acres of New Zealand best off-road terrain. The terrain starts off in the gold workings on the Kawarau River and progresses up into the mountains. We ride in small select groups and guide according to how you ride so whether you're a beginner or a professional you are guaranteed a challenging and exciting time. Fun in the sun, awesome in the wet!

**We Provide:** return transport from the Off Road shop, a range of top of the line sports quads (90cc to 400cc quads), gumboots, full face helmets, goggles & gloves. Wet weather gear provided.  
<http://offroad.co.nz/adventures/quad-tours/adventure-sports-quad-tour/>

**Duration:** Allow 3 hours round trip with a minimum of 1.5 hours. Tour extensions available upon request.

**COST: \$155.** That's a 15% discount on this tour. This is for your own quad. They do not allow double riders.

## FREE DAY ACTIVITIES

On any day that you might not be joining us on a tour, here's some ideas for you.

There is a very nice walk through a park that I especially enjoyed on past trips called [Queenstown Gardens](#). It's a very pretty area with wonderful landscaping.

Another, very high adrenaline activity is the [Canyon Swing](#). It's like bungee jumping but even more intense with a big swing that takes you out over a huge canyon. I did it and survived but don't see myself doing it again.

How about a [wine tour](#)?

You can take a ride aboard the [TSS Earnslaw Vintage Steamship](#) located directly across the street from our hotel. The cruise are 90 minutes.

Here's a website with info on other activities in Queenstown. And there are activity booths everywhere in this town. <http://www.everythingqueenstown.com/> or [Viator](#)