



**New Zealand Itinerary
Especially prepared for
Mr. & Mrs. A and Mr and Mrs. C**

Meals included indicated by:

(B) Breakfast

(L) Lunch

(D) Dinner

Note: names of hotels and some tour operators have been omitted from the itinerary published on the website. Please inquire for details.

MARCH 2005

SUN 13 DEPART USA on Air New Zealand XXXX

TUE 15 WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has strict Border Controls and there is an instant NZ\$200.00 fine for bringing in restricted goods. Please ensure that all the necessary items are correctly listed on your declaration form. Dispose of any fresh fruit leftover from your airline meal in the amnesty bins provided or declare it.

10.20 am Arrive Auckland International Airport. After completing entry formalities depart Customs and enter the Main Arrivals Hall where you will be met by local representative, who will provide you with the travel documents and vouchers for your New Zealand tour. He will be standing at the 'Meeting Point' behind the seating area with a Travel Time South Pacific signboard displaying your name. Transfer by Elite Tour Connections private vehicle and driver from the airport to the hotel, which is centrally located in the city. Normal check in time applies. The remainder of the day is free to explore the 'City of Sails' independently – admission is included to the Auckland Museum where you will see the interesting Maori and Pacific Island Court and gain an insight into the local culture. You may also wish to take a ferry to one of the pretty out lying islands, sail on the sparkling waters of the harbour in a yacht which previously raced in the America's Cup, ride the SkyTower for panoramic views across both harbours, wander through the boutique shops of picturesque Parnell Village or the quaint seaside suburb of Devonport with its cafes, studios and galleries – hop on/off shuttle coach service and admissions available at extra cost).

7.00 pm Dinner at Cin Cin (pay direct). Located at 99 Quay St – please contact to reconfirm reservation on PH:xxxx to this evening.
ACCOMMODATION: xxxx hotel (1 NIGHT)

WED 16 **AUCKLAND/BAY OF ISLANDS**

9.30 am You will be met at the hotel by Budget Rentals staff. Collect a Mitsubishi Diamante stationwagon or similar 3 litre automatic vehicle (seats 5 adults, luggage capacity 5 large suitcases).

Travel north through the seaside resorts of the Hibiscus Coast and the city of Whangarei to the beautiful Bay of Islands. Alternatively you may wish to take the West Coast route stopping at Matakoho to see the Kauri Museum where you will learn about the early gum and timber industry (not included) then visit the Waipoua Kauri Forest enjoying a short walk through native forest to see Tane Mahuta – the largest Kauri tree in the world. Continue on around the scenic Hokianga Harbour, an area of spiritual significance to the Maori people, then through the town of Kaikohe to the Bay of Islands. Recommend the vehicular ferry from Opuia to Okiato (runs every 20 minutes – pay direct).

Your accommodation is an Edwardian villa built in 1893 of heart kauri, which has been lovingly renovated within the era with colonial furniture and handmade patchwork quilts.

From the ferry travel towards Russell for 10 minutes then continue on Hope Ave to the 50km speed limit sign. XXXX B&B is another 100m farther on the right.

Please advise your hosts of your expected time of arrival so they can be there to welcome you.

Please contact Kingfisher Yacht Charters on PH:(09)403 8845 to reconfirm tomorrow's arrangements.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX B&B (3 NIGHTS)

THU17 **BAY OF ISLANDS**

(BL) Breakfast at the guesthouse.

8.50 am Report to the Russell Wharf. Bring sunhat, sunscreen, swimwear, towel and jacket/sweater. Wear flat shoes.

9.00 am You will be met at Russell Wharf by Kxxx Yacht Charters for a day sailing aboard a 15m yacht with a local skipper. Sail out through the many islands in the bay stopping for lunch in a sheltered cove. There is the opportunity for swimming, walks along the beach or help to sail the boat.

4.00 pm Return to Russell Wharf.

Please contact Blue Sea Charters to reconfirm tomorrow's fishing arrangements and weather forecast PHxxxx.

FRI 18 **BAY OF ISLANDS**

(B) Breakfast at the guesthouse.

7.50 am Report to Russell Wharf. Bring sunhat, sunscreen and jacket/sweater. You will also need to provide your own lunch.

8.00 am Depart Russell Wharf with Bxxxx Charters for a day of deep sea fishing off the coast. March is the best time of year for sport fishing in this area and the main big game fish are Striped Marlin, Blue Marlin, Shark and Elephant Tuna plus there are a wide variety of bottom dwelling fish that can be caught.

4.00 pm Return to Russell Wharf.

7.00 pm Dinner at Orongo Bay Homestead, by special arrangement for Mr. A's birthday.

SAT 19 **BAY OF ISLANDS/GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**

(BD) Breakfast at the guesthouse.

9.30 am Return rental vehicle to the Budget Rentals Carpark at Kerikeri Airport and deliver key to the Budget counter in the terminal building.

10.00 am Report to Great Barrier Airlines staff in the terminal building.

10.30 am Depart Kerikeri.

11.45 am Arrive Claris Airport, Great Barrier Island. You will be met by Medlands Rentals and transferred to collect your rental vehicle – a Toyota stationwagon 4WD or similar automatic vehicle (to be confirmed). A credit card imprint will be taken as bond. Please ensure the car has a full tank of petrol when returned to the airport.

Remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy the island. Please reconfirm tomorrow's fishing arrangements with Mr. xxxx at PHxxxx.

Your accommodation is set in secluded surroundings overlooking Tryphena Harbour. Two suites, which open onto private sun drenched decks offering idyllic views of rose gardens, lush valleys, olive groves and vineyards. There is a fully licensed restaurant on site with the most extensive wine list on the island including Cabernet Sauvignon from The Lodge's own vineyard.

Dinner is included at your accommodation this evening.

ACCOMMODATION: xxxx Lodge OASIS (3 NIGHTS)

SUN 20 **GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**

(BD) Breakfast at your accommodation.

7.50 am Report to Whangaparapara Harbour.

8.00 am Enjoy a half day bottom fishing in the waters off Great Barrier Island with local fisherman, Richard Lintot and his boat 'Reefrunner'. You will be returned to the harbour at the conclusion of the trip.

Dinner at your accommodation this evening.

MON 21 **GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**

(BD) Breakfast at your accommodation then the day is free to enjoy more of the island and its beaches, bush and coast.

Dinner at your accommodation this evening.

TUE 22 **GREAT BARRIER ISLAND/HAMILTON**

(B) Breakfast at your accommodation.

8.20 am Return rental vehicle to the Claris Airport and leave the keys under the mat in the car. .

8.30 am Check in for Great Barrier Airlines flight.

9.00 am Depart Great Barrier Island.

Arrive Auckland Domestic Airport. Report to the Budget Rentals Counter in the terminal building and collect a Toyota Prado or similar automatic 4WD vehicle. Airport collection fee applies – NZ\$17.00 + GST, pay direct.

Drive south over the Bombay Hills and into the fertile farmlands of the Waikato Valley to the city of Hamilton. The hotel is located in the central city within walking distance of a choice of restaurants and cafes.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX motel (1 NIGHT)

WED 23**HAMILTON/ROTORUA**

(D)

Today travel through the town of Cambridge then across rolling countryside and the bush-clad Mamaku Ranges into the thermal wonderland of Rotorua.

This afternoon enjoy a self drive sightseeing tour which includes a guided tour of Whakarewarewa Thermal Village where you will gain insight into how life is today, hear stories of ancestors and their 300 year history, see how the thermal activity is used for cooking and bathing as well as seeing the Penny Divers jumping off the bridge into the river below (afternoon tours departs at 1.00pm, 1.30pm, 2.00pm, 2.30pm, 3.00pm, 3.30pm and 4.00pm). Following this join a guided tour of Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve – home of the Pohutu Geyser and the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where young Maori are taught the carving and weaving skills of their ancestors.

6.30 pm

You will be collected from your accommodation by XXXX Tours coach. Transfer to a marae (pre-European Maori village) for a powhiri (welcome), hangi (dinner cooked over hot stones in an earth oven) and concert of Maori song and dance including the vigorous haka. Recommend jacket/sweater as the first part of the evening takes place outdoors. Dinner served approx 8.30pm and you will be returned to Rotorua approx 10.00pm.

Your accommodation is in an historic wooden hotel with wide verandahs, which stands by the lovely Government Gardens.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX HOTEL (2 NIGHTS)

THU 24**ROTORUA**

(L)

9.00 am

You will be collected from the hotel by XXXX fishing guide for a full day trout fishing (trolling by boat). There are eleven lovely lakes around Rotorua and a number of very good fishing streams, which flow in/out of them. Transportation, lunch, boat, rods and other tackle are included. Three fishing licences are also included although all 4 people can enjoy the day on the boat. Lunch will be fresh trout caught by you, cooked over a campfire.

FRI 25**ROTORUA/LAKE WHAKAMARINO**

This morning drive southeast of Rotorua past Rainbow Mountain and the forestry town of Murupara - the road is scenic but windy, narrow, hilly, slow and unsealed for about 100 kms from Murupara. Please be aware that there are also logging trucks operating in the area.

Lake Waikaremoana is a beautiful lake located in the Urewera National Park and is one of the most remote and sparsely populated areas in the North Island.

Your accommodation is at nearby Lake Whakamarino (meaning tranquillity) in two self-contained units.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX LODGE (2 NIGHTS)

SAT 26**LAKE WHAKAMARINO**

Free day for relaxing, walking, exploring or fishing. You can fish independently on payment of NZ\$17.00 per person to the local camp store at Lake Waikaremoana for a day license or you can hire a guide (NZ\$600 per day,

contact XXXX, professional fishing guide who is based at Lake Waikaremoana PH:(06)862 7850).

There are also a number of good bush walks in the area, which will take you through mixed broadleaf and podocarp forests providing wonderful views over the lake and spectacular 600 metre high sandstone bluffs. Time permitting a visit to the local museum where the areas geological and cultural history is recorded is recommended.

SUN 27 **LAKE WHAKAMARINO/NAPIER**

Today drive out to Wairoa on State Highway 38 (64 kms). Driving conditions are similar to those on the road into Waikaremoana, but half this road is sealed. At Wairoa turn south and follow State Highway 2 through hill country sheep and cattle farming country to the Hawkes Bay and Napier City.

The hotel is modern and centrally located on the seafront in Napier – all rooms have sea views.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (2 NIGHTS)

MON 28 **NAPIER**

9.50 am Report to the Napier Visitors Information Centre, Marine Parade for the Art Deco Guided Walk.

10.00 am Join your guide for a 1 hour walk around the streets of Napier City viewing the art deco features of the buildings. After a devastating earthquake in 1931, which destroyed much of the central city area, Napier was rebuilt in the prevailing architectural fashion of the time and has some well preserved buildings of this era.

The remainder of the day is free for you to explore some of the wineries here in the Hawkes Bay (self drive). Among the best known among these are Church Road Winery – suggest a tour and lunch here, the historic Mission Winery, Selaks, Craggy Range and Selini.

7.00 pm Dinner at The Mission Estate Restaurant.

TUE 29 **NAPIER/WELLINGTON**

Return rental vehicle to Budget Rentals carpark at Napier Airport and deliver key to the Budget Counter in the terminal building.

8:40 am Check in for flight NZ5049.

9:40 am Depart Napier.

10:30 am Arrive Wellington. Transfer by Crown Chauffeur Cars private car and driver from the airport with a 1 hour orientation tour of Wellington en route to your central city apartment, which is centrally located on the Terrace.

The afternoon is yours to explore New Zealand's capital city. You may wish to take the cable car to Kelburn (extra cost) and walk down through the Botanic Gardens to Parliament Buildings. There is also the Otari Native Botanic Garden, Wilton Rd where native flora was developed from an original piece of bushland. There are native species from all over New Zealand being preserved for future generations showing how it can be used for landscaping purposes (not included). If time permits, stroll around the waterfront to Te Papa – the National Museum of New Zealand where there are some excellent exhibits and inter-active displays (open until 6.00pm/free admission).

7.00 pm Dinner at The White House.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (1 NIGHT)

WED 30 **WELLINGTON/BLENHEIM**

7.00 am Transfer by Wellington Combined taxi from your accommodation to the Lynx Ferry Terminal, Queens Wharf.

7.30 am Report to the Lynx Counter.

8.00 am Depart Wellington on the Lynx ferry and cruise across the Cook Strait to the South Island. The last part of the cruise through the Marlborough Sounds is especially scenic.

10.15 am Arrive Picton. Report to the Budget Office in the terminal complex and collect a Toyota Prado 4WD or similar automatic vehicle (ferry collection fee applies – NZ\$17.00 + GST, pay direct). Drive across the hill to Blenheim (29kms). Forty years ago there was hardly a commercial grape grown here, but now Marlborough is New Zealand's top wine area and this region's wines are winning awards around the world.

12.30 pm Lunch at Vintners Retreat café.

In the afternoon you may want to visit one or two of the wineries to sample some of the excellent estate wines. Among the leading wineries are Hunters Estate, Cloudy Bay, Montana, Allan Scott, Herzog and Grove Mill. Self guide maps available at the Blenheim Visitors Information Centre.

Your accommodation is in a modern 2 bedroom villa, which is one of 14 similar villas set in 4 acres of park-like grounds surrounded by vineyards. Each villa is fully equipped with a kitchen, patio, barbeque and there is a swimming pool, petanque and tennis courts for guest use. Bikes can be hired and trout fishing arranged. From Picton take State Highway 1 towards Blenheim. At Spring Creek turn right into Rapaura Rd and travel 5.5kms to your accommodation on the right.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (1 NIGHT)

THU 31 **BLENHEIM/KAIKOURA (129 kms)**

This morning drive south down the Pacific Coast to Kaikoura, where the mountains meet the sea. The waters in this area are especially rich in nutrients, which attract a wide variety of sea life including Sperm Whales – the largest of all the toothed whales and seen in this area 95% of the year. There are also pods of playful Dusky Dolphins, seals, penguins and occasionally Orca can be seen.

12.45 pm Report to the Whaleway Station, Whaleway Station Rd. Dress warmly and if you suffer from heart/back problems please advise staff. If you suffer from motion sickness it is advisable that you take precautions prior to departure. After a safety briefing enjoy a Whale Watch experience by purpose-built boat and see these magnificent creatures in their natural environment. The waters of the bay are rich in nutrients, which attract a variety of marine life such as seals, dolphins and birds including the Wandering Albatross. Duration approx 3 ½ hours.

7.00 pm Dinner at FINZ of South Bay.

The hotel is located on the seafront. Superior grade rooms.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (1 NIGHT)

APRIL 2005

FRI 01 KAIKOURA/CHRISTCHURCH (183 kms)

This morning drive south down the eastern coastline, through the North Canterbury farmlands and the recently established vineyards in the Waipara District where you may wish to sample the local produce.

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island and renowned for its park and gardens. This afternoon you may wish to stroll through the central city to the Gothic-style Cathedral and the Canterbury Arts Centre where there are a number of arts and crafts outlets then through the lovely Botanical Gardens and alongside the meandering Avon River.

7.00 pm Dinner at Pescatore.

The hotel is centrally located in Cathedral Square - the old Government Building has been redesigned as a boutique hotel, which still retains some of the original features such as the sweeping staircase and hallway safes.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (2 NIGHTS)

SAT 02 CHRISTCHURCH

The day is free for you to explore Christchurch by car or on foot. You may wish to visit the Canterbury Museum and Art Gallery or take a drive out to the lovely gardens at Mona Vale Estate where there is the opportunity for punting on the River Avon (not included). In the afternoon drive out to the International Antarctic Centre near the Airport to learn about life on the great southern continent. See the replica of Scott Base as it is today, feel the force of Antarctic Storm in the Snow Room and see the audio-visual display of the seasons on the ice (admission included).

SUN 03 CHRISTCHURCH/DUNEDIN

11:50 am Return rental vehicle to Budget Rentals carpark at Christchurch Airport and deliver key to the Budget Counter in the terminal building.

12:10 pm Check in for flight NZ5053.

1:10 pm Depart Christchurch.

2:10 pm Arrive Dunedin. Report to the Budget Counter in the terminal building and collect a Toyota Prado 4WD or similar automatic vehicle. Drive into Dunedin City (29kms). This area was originally settled by the Scots and retains a good deal of tartan character. Wander around the Octagon (the very heart of the city), see the historic Dunedin Railway Station, visit the Settlers Museum giving an insight into early life in the area, enjoy the Art Gallery or perhaps take a guided tour of Olveston, which is a fine example of an Edwardian and the lifestyle of that era (not included). There is also the Cadbury Chocolate Factory and Speights Brewery, which offer tours or you may wish to join the Taieri Gorge Railway for an historic train journey into the scenic gorge behind the city (extra cost).

Your accommodation was built as a private residence by leading New Zealand industrialist Sir James Fletcher in 1923. It is built in a Dutch colonial style of architecture with decorative brick, extensive oak panelling, ornate plaster ceilings and leadlight windows. It set in a secluded garden and has just 6 en

suite guest rooms. Travelling towards the city from the south drive along Princes St, turn left into Manse St, left into High St.
ACCOMMODATION: XXXX LODGE (2 NIGHTS)

MON 04 **DUNEDIN**

(B) Breakfast at the lodge the the day is at leisure.

This afternoon drive out to the Otago Peninsula (allow approx 50 minutes).

1.50 pm Report to the Otago Trust Visitors Centre at Taiaroa Heads.

2.00 pm Join a one hour tour of the Royal Albatross Colony – the only mainland nesting site in the world. There will be a talk explaining the life cycle of these majestic birds then a walk up to the Observatory to view the nesting sites (steep pathway but leisurely pace).

3.35 pm Report to Penguin Place, Harrington Point Rd (5 minutes from Royal Albatross).

3.45 pm Enjoy a guided tour of a Yellow-Eyed Penguin Colony and see these endangered birds from especially built hides (90 minutes duration – wear walking shoes/boots).

TUE 05 **DUNEDIN/CLYDE (200 kms)**

(BL) Breakfast at the lodge.

Today drive south to Milton then west on State Highway 8 through Lawrence and Roxburgh following the trail of 19th century gold miners to Alexandra and Clyde.

12.00 pm You will be met at your accommodation by XXXX Wine Tours for a private half day tour. Grape growing and wine making in this Central Otago Region has increased in the last 10 years. The tour starts with a platter lunch at Olssen's of Bannockburn followed by visits and tastings at some of the other leading Central Otago wineries.

Your accommodation is a relic from the gold rush days. Originally built as a general store in 1863 Olivers still features the original stone stacked walls, weather beaten timbers and huge open fireplaces. There are now 12 en suite guest rooms in what were the barn, homestead and converted stables as well as an award-winning restaurant featuring local produce. Take State Highway 8 through Alexandra to Clyde – your accommodation is located on the right had side of the main thoroughfare.

7.00 pm Dinner at Oliver's.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX LODGE (1 NIGHT)

WED 06 **CLYDE/TE ANAU (240 kms)**

(BD) Breakfast at your accommodation and drive through the fruit-growing area of Cromwell then south travelling through the rugged Kawarau Gorge to Queenstown Airport. Drive around Lake Wakatipu in the lee of the mighty Remarkables Ranges to Kingston and then on through the picturesque Southland countryside to Te Anau on the shores of the South Island's largest lake.

Your accommodation is in a modern lodge built from logs with panoramic views out across Lake Te Anau to the Murchison Mountains of Fiordland National Park. The lodge is located on the Milford Rd – 4.72 kms from the township. The gateway is on the right hand side when driving from Te Anau, take the left

hand fork in the driveway then veer right to the lodge. Enjoy dinner at the lodge this evening.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX LODGE (2 NIGHTS)

THU 07 **TE ANAU**

(BD)

Breakfast at the lodge.

The fighting brown trout fishing in the Fiordland/Southland region are world-renowned. Today enjoy a full day trout fishing with local guide from Fiordland Lodge, who will provide all transportation, lunch, boats, rods and other tackle – Fishing licence is extra cost, pay direct. Please note that normally only one person fishes at a time. Your time of departure will be discussed on arrival at the lodge.

Dinner at the lodge this evening.

FRI 08 **TE ANAU/MILFORD SOUND (121 kms)**

(BD)

Breakfast at the lodge.

The morning is at leisure.

This afternoon drive through Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound (allow approx 3 hours). The scenery is stunning with high mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age Glaciers. There are clear rushing streams and waterfalls set in magnificent native rainforest. En route stop to see the reflections in the Mirror Lakes and The Chasm, where a rushing mountain stream disappears into the rocks.

4.10 pm Report to the Milford Sound Visitors Centre. Recommend overnight bag only. Overnight carparking available.

4.30 pm Depart Milford Wharf and cruise the fiord enjoying the stunning scenery of cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest, steep cliff faces and marine life that inhabits these waters. There is the opportunity to explore the shoreline by tender craft with your nature guide or independently by kayak. Dinner is served aboard as the boat anchors in a sheltered cove for the overnight stay.

ACCOMMODATION: MILFORD MARINER (1 NIGHT)

SAT 09 **MILFORD SOUND/QUEENSTOWN (292 kms)**

(B)

Breakfast on the boat.

9.15 am The boat berths at Milford Wharf. Drive to Te Anau travelling via the Cleddau Gorge, Homer Tunnel and lovely Eglinton Valley. From Te Anau drive back through Kingston and around Lake Wakatipu to the delightful lakeside resort of Queenstown.

Your accommodation is in a centrally located modern 2 bedroom apartment. From State Highway 6a continue on into Frankton Rd then into Stanley St. Turn left into Sydney St and report to the reception desk at Blue Peaks Lodge.

7.00 pm Dinner at the Clubhouse Restaurant at Millbrook Resort.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX APARTMENTS (2 NIGHTS)

SUN 10 **QUEENSTOWN**

(L)

8.30 am You will be collected by Queenstown Garden Tours for a visit to 3 private residential gardens in the area with your local guide. There will be the opportunity to chat to the property owners –at this time of the year the early

autumn colours will be beginning. Also enjoy a visit to historic Arrowtown which was once a rip roaring town in the 1860's goldrush.

12.30 pm Tour concludes.
Drive out of Queenstown to Gibbston Valley Winery on State Highway 6.

1.00 pm Enjoy a Harvester's Platter lunch at the Gibbston Valley café.

2.00 pm Join a 30 minute guided tour of the vineyard and winery, completing the experience with a tasting in the caves. Travel 76 metres underground into the Gibbston Valley Wine Cave. The rocky schist walls within the cave are lined with barrels of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay still reaching their prime. With constant humidity and a temperature of around 14 degrees Celsius, the cave provides a perfect haven for the maturation of these wines as well as providing a unique atmosphere for wine tasting.

Return to Queenstown perhaps driving via pretty Lake Hayes and the Shotover River where you may wish to experience the excitement of a jetboat ride through the rocky gorge (extra cost). Later this afternoon ride the Skyline Skyride aerial gondola to Bob's Peak from where there are panoramic views across Queenstown to the surrounding mountains (included).

MON 11 **QUEENSTOWN/WANAKA**

From Queenstown it is just a 75-minute drive to Queenstown travelling past Lake Dunstan and through the Kawarau Gorge or approx 60 minutes travelling across the Crown Range and descending through the Cardrona Valley.

You will be collected from the hotel for a tour of some private gardens in the Wanaka area which will also be feeling the touch of autumn at this time of the year.

Afternoon at leisure. This is a popular holiday resort, especially for the New Zealanders. There is a very good golf course, excellent trout fishing and two ski fields in the area. You may wish to visit Landsborough's Puzzling World for a bit of fun trying to find your way out of the maze and to see some of the puzzling things there (not included). Time and energy permitting you may also like to take a hike to the top of nearby Mt Iron from where there are wonderful panoramic views across Lake Wanaka to Mt Aspiring and the Southern Alps. There is also an interesting Warbirds collection of vintage warplanes at Wanaka Airport, which you may like to see (not included). One of the best private gardens in the area is the garden of Pat and Keith Stuart, which is located alongside their nursery in Warren Street. This is a 1-acre garden, which includes a water feature and a good variety of shrubs, trees and bedding plants (not included).

The hotel is located on the lakefront near the Rippon Lea Winery with tennis courts and kayaks for guests use.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (1 NIGHT)

TUE 12 **WANAKA/AWATUNA (426 kms)**

(D) Today will be a full day drive around glacial Lakes Wanaka and Hawea and across the Haast Pass through the Southern Alps - the scenery is stunning with high snow topped mountains all around. Descend following the Haast River towards the coast driving north through magnificent native rainforest and past pretty bush fringed lakes to Fox Township. There is a large glacier here – the Fox Glacier, and another glacier, the Franz Josef Glacier 23 kms farther north.

You may wish to stop at one of these to view the massive river of glacial ice flowing from snowfields high in the Southern Alps almost to sea level – quite an unusual feature in a temperate climatic zone. It is a 55-minute walk from the car park to the terminal face of the Franz Josef Glacier. There are also scenic flights over the glacier area available at extra cost. From here travel north through forests and farmlands with the Southern Alps rising sharply to the east and vistas of the Tasman Sea to the west. If there is time on arrival in Hokitika visit a greenstone factory, where a local jade stone is crafted into jewellery and ornaments of both modern and traditional design.

Your accommodation is a peaceful private coastal retreat with river frontage. It is a 2 bedroom self catering apartment with a full kitchen set in extensive gardens which feature native trees, shrubs and flaxes. Travel 15 kms north from Hokitika then turn right into Stafford Rd. Enjoy dinner at your accommodation this evening.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX Lodge (1 NIGHT)

WED 13
(BD)

AWATUNA/LAKE BRUNNER

Breakfast at your accommodation. From Awatuna drive north to Kumara and then turn east and drive 22kms following the signposts to Mitchells and Lake Brunner Lodge, where your accommodation is located in a bush setting overlooking the lake.

XXXX Lodge is a 1930s bungalow that was built in local timbers and was extensively refurbished in 2002. It has just 11 en suite guest rooms, and generates its own hydro-electricity and reticulates its own water. People come here from all around the world for high quality trout fishing. There is also a range of other activities available such as bird -watching, walking tracks, and canoeing.

Dinner at the lodge.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX LODGE (1 NIGHT)

THU 14
(B)

LAKE BRUNNER/NELSON

Breakfast at the lodge, then depart on a half day guided fly fishing for Brown and Rainbow Trout. Tackle and transportation are included. Fishing licences are extra cost and to be paid direct.

This afternoon drive out to State Highway 7 north of Greymouth and follow the Grey River north to the coal-mining town of Reefton. Pass through Inangahua Junction and the scenic but rugged Buller Gorge to Murchison continuing on over the Hope Saddle past the Golden Downs State Forest to the Nelson area.

This one of the sunniest places in New Zealand and is known for its arts and crafts, beaches, apples and fine wine. You may wish to visit the interesting World of Wearable Centre, which displays the best and most curious designs from this boutique fashion show or visit the world renowned Hoglunds Glassblowing Studios (extra cost).

The hotel is located in the city centre.

6.30 pm Dinner at The Boat Shed Café (first sitting).

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX (1 NIGHT)

FRI 15

NELSON/GOLDEN BAY (120 kms)

Today drive out to Richmond to visit the garden of Geoff and Gillian Etherington (opens at 10.00am). 5 minutes drive south of Richmond turn left into Clover Rd and the garden is just past Patons Rd on the left. Please leave your Travel Time voucher in the Honesty Box at the entrance as there may not be anyone there to meet you when you arrive, but there is a chance you will meet those working in the garden today at some point. This 6-acre garden is called the 'Gardens of the World', as trees, shrubs and plants from around the world are represented here. There is a section featuring native New Zealand plants plus there are Oriental, Europe, Africa, Australian and American sections.

Afterwards drive out via Motueka and over the Takaka Hill to Paton's Rock on Golden Bay. Time permitting en route you may wish to stop at the Waimea Winery, which is one of the best wineries in New Zealand.

Your accommodation is in a self-catering beach villa.

ACCOMMODATION: XXXX VILLA (4 NIGHTS)

**SAT 16/
MON 18**

GOLDEN BAY

Days at leisure for your own choice of activities. There are nature tours to Farewell Spit operated from Collingwood available at extra cost or enjoy a stroll along the beach. One day you may wish to drive back to Kaiteriteri and take a day tour into Abel Tasman National Park. There are launch cruises, kayaking and walking tours available at extra cost.

TUE 19

DEPART NEW ZEALAND

Today drive back to Nelson Airport (2 hours).

Return rental vehicle to Budget Rentals carpark at the Nelson Airport and deliver key to the Budget counter in the terminal building.

12:15 pm Check in for flight NZ8378 (You may be able to check your luggage all the way through to your final destination.)

1:15 pm Depart Nelson.

2:35 pm Arrive Auckland Domestic Airport. Transfer to the International Terminal – courtesy airport shuttle available if required.

5:45 pm Check in for your departure flight and pay the NZ\$25.00 per person Airport Departure Tax at the Bank of New Zealand.

7:45 pm Depart New Zealand on flight NZ6

12:40 pm Arrive Los Angeles. Please pick up your luggage and complete customs and immigration formalities.