



# New Zealand A La Carte

**S**outh Island in New Zealand is an amazing year-round holiday destination for all ages. It is one of the most favourite vacation spots among visitors. It's all here - spectacular glaciers, picturesque fiords, rugged mountains, vast plains, rolling hillsides, subtropical forest, volcanic plateau, miles of coastline with gorgeous sandy beaches - within easy reach of each other.

Whether you choose to come in **autumn** (March - May), **winter** (June - August), **spring** (September - November) or **summer** (December - February), the South Island will keep you occupied for days. Here are some top fun tips to get more New Zealand for your budget.

## Things to do for free

- **Frisbee Golf Course - Queenstown**  
Located in the Queenstown Gardens, merely a stone's throw from the centre of Queenstown is the Queenstown Frisbee Golf Course. Comprising 18 challenging holes throughout the gardens the course is popular with locals and tourists alike. Maps of the course can be picked up at Shoeclinik on Beach Street or R&R Sports on Shotover Street.
- **Drive the Southern Scenic Route - Southland**  
For a unique 'off the beaten track' experience, take the road less traveled - a world away from the rigours of everyday life - via the Southern Scenic Route. Opportunities abound to view wildlife in its natural environment - Hooker sea lions, NZ fur seals, Yellow-Eyed penguins and Hector's dolphins all thrive in the area. Visit the Curio Bay Petrified Forest, one of only two Jurassic forests in the world.
- **Self guided foodie tour - Marlborough**  
Lunch menus feature local delicacies like smoked salmon and blue cod. Talented chefs, from New Zealand and around the world, are drawn to Marlborough's high quality ingredients and outdoor lifestyle. One of the sunniest and driest areas in New Zealand, Marlborough is home to the country's largest wine production region with over 100 vineyards.



- **Visit a National Park**  
There are 14 spectacular national parks in New Zealand that along with protected forest parks, reserves and private land preserve nearly a third of the country's land as well as over 25 marine reserves preserving New Zealand's natural heritage. In the South Island, explore these natural gems: Southern Alps, Long Island-Kokomohua Marine Reserve, Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, Stewart Island and Rakiura, Pohatu Marine Reserve, Aoraki Mount Cook among others.

Containing some of the country's most treasured areas, they protect unique and beautiful areas that can be enjoyed responsibly by the public.

- **Fox & Franz Joseph Glaciers - West Coast**  
Fox and Franz Joseph glaciers, like many smaller others on the West Coast of the South Island, descend from the Southern Alps down into temperate rainforest just 300 metres above sea level. As these are among the most accessible in the world to visit,

you can easily walk to the foot of the glaciers and marvel at the sheer enormity of these moving ice masses.

- **BBQ at a beach or reserve**  
New Zealand's coastline boasts some of the world's most beautiful beaches. No part of New Zealand is more than 128km from the ocean. Some parks have free BBQs to use. Most charge a \$2 ignition fee so it's as good as free!

## Things to do under NZ\$150

- **Kiwi Spotting - Stewart Island**  
Stewart Island is one of the best places in New Zealand to see the elusive kiwi in the wild. With record numbers of over 20,000 on the Island, it is not only the keen bird watchers who are spell-bound by seeing this mysterious flightless bird, who escaped extinction by the skin of its beak. An evening guided kiwi spotting tour allows guests to get as up close and personal as one can with these endangered birds. Seeing this iconic bird in the flesh is as much exhilarating as it is empowering.
- **The Abel Tasman Coastal Track - Nelson**  
Explore the beautiful beaches and remarkable rock formations that mark the eastern boundary of the Abel Tasman National Park along one of New Zealand's Great Walks, the Abel Tasman Coastal Track. It takes 3-5 days, depending on which sections you wish to complete and you can integrate walking with kayaking. There are several accommodation huts, however many walkers choose to camp as some of the tent sites promise beachfront views. And what's more, access to the Great Walks in New Zealand is free to school aged children (not just New Zealand Nationals) which allows families to book on the tracks without worrying about the cost of the children's hut or campsite tickets.

## Things to do for under NZ\$250

- **The Milford Track - Fiordland**  
The Milford Track is New Zealand's most famous walk. Over four days you'll be in awe of the vast, remote wilderness of the spectacular Fiordland National Park. If you want to do this Great Walk independently, you simply need to purchase a Great Walks hut pass. Alternatively for a snippet of the track you could go on a one day guided walk that as well as including transfers and lunch, your guide will point out the birdlife and unique aspects of the valley.
- **Bungy Jumping - Queenstown**  
If you're an adventurer at heart, no trip to New Zealand would be complete without a bungy jump. New Zealand has been bungy jumping longer than anywhere else and they certainly know how to make quite the experience out of it. The Nevis Highwire bungy at 134m (440 feet) is Australasia's highest bungy. Getting there is an adventure in itself with a 35-minute ride, including 4-wheel-driving through a high country sheep station. The whole experience is made complete by climbing aboard a cable car for a breath-taking trip out to the Bungy Pod" above the beautifully rugged Nevis River. You'll receive a t-shirt for your stirring effort as well.

- **Stargazing Night Tour - Lake Tekapo**  
Mt John Earth & Sky Observatory is only 18 minutes away from Lake Tekapo where you will be picked up from for a night tour of this fully functioning observatory and view the stunning southern skies through New Zealand's largest telescope. Visitors can explore the wonders of the uniquely dark sky of the Mackenzie Basin, renowned for its lack of

light pollution and consistency of stargazing throughout the year. With a complimentary hot drink in hand you'll learn why this the observatory is proudly recognised and respected at an international level as one of the world's most beautiful spots for stargazing.

- **Wairaurahiri Jet - Fiordland**  
An intrepid journey into the heart of remote Southern Fiordland National Park, across mysterious Lake Hauroko, then dropping 600ft over 27kms of rock-strewn grade three rapids of the wild Wairaurahiri River. They pause to undertake a short-guided walk through part of the enchanting forest. On arrival at the isolated South Coast, explore the coastline and enjoy a tasty Kiwi barbeque at the Waitutu Lodge before you proceed on the return journey.
- **Whale Watch - Kaikoura**  
Kaikoura is one of the most accessible places in the world to see the amazing sperm whale. A resident population of Giant Sperm Whales although 'a typical Whale Watch' tour may encounter New Zealand Fur Seals, pods of Dusky Dolphins and the endangered Wandering Albatross. They have an outstanding 95% success rate.
- **Kayak Milford Sound - Fiordland**  
Kayaking is the ultimate way to experience the magnificence of this world famous fiord. At sea level you can become part of the environment, paddle beneath towering overhangs, waterfalls, the Pembroke glacier and mighty Mitre Peak. Leave the crowds behind and explore the nooks and crannies of the granite rock walls rising directly out of the sea, getting up close and personal with a variety of wildlife including fur seals, Fiordland crested penguins and dolphins.



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