

Overland NZ

adventure with a difference



EXTREME NZ

Duration:	17 days
Start Point:	Christchurch
Finish Point:	Auckland
Accommodation:	Camping 🏕️ and Motels/Hostels 🏠
Meals:	All meals whilst camping
Transport:	Overland tour vehicle
Staff:	Tour Leader / Driver + Local Guides
Max Group Size:	24
Local Tour Payment:	NZ\$280
	*Winter Tour Supplement on some departures

City Guides: Our city guides have been produced to help you enjoy your pre and post departure points. These guides have base information about places to stay, highlights, activities and airport transfers for example which may serve as a good reference. Request the City Guide to **Christchurch**.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- South Island:** Christchurch - Mt Cook Region - Southern Alps – Dunedin - Franz Josef Glacier - Fox Glacier - Southern Lakes – Queenstown - Milford Sound - Pancake Rocks - Abel Tasman NP – Nelson
- North Island:** Wellington – Mt Taranaki - New Plymouth - Raglan Beach - Kiwi House - Waitomo Caves - Auckland

ITINERARY

Day 1: Christchurch to Omarama

Our tour starts in the South Islands largest city, Christchurch, also known as the ‘Garden City’. We head South through the Canterbury Plains towards McKenzie Country. We stop for views along the way at Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki. We have the option of a flight over New Zealand’s highest peak, Mt Cook, which is 3764m and produces fantastic aerial views of the mountains and surrounding areas. Tonight we spend the night at one of McKenzie Countries remote farm stations.

Day 2: Omarama to Dunedin

Today as we make our way to Dunedin, New Zealand’s Scottish and Victorian City, we stop along route to see Moreraki Boulders. Formed some 60 million years ago, these boulders have long been a subject of legend and curiosity. Dunedin is at the heart of one of New Zealand’s most renowned eco tourism areas. Not only can one see the world’s rarest penguin’s, the Royal Albatross, New Zealand’s Oldest University, but the world’s steepest street, and a 19th Century Castle. And let’s not forget an optional tour of the Speight’s Brewery, ‘The Southern Man’s beer’. Tonight we can enjoy a night out in this Scottish City.

Day 3: Dunedin to Te Anau

We head into Southland on the ‘Southern Scenic Route’ towards the famous Milford Sound. We make the ascent up to the Homer Tunnel, which is 1200m long and an experience on its own. As we drive into Milford Sound you will soon understand why we have travelled so far off the beaten track to get here. Come rain or shine this is truly New Zealand at its unparalleled and glorious best. Tonight we will relax before we take in the spectacular scenery.

Day 4: Milford Sound to Te Anau

Today we hop aboard the ‘Milford Wonderer’ for a breathtaking cruise in the heart of the sounds. You will see Mitre Peak, which has a dominate presence on the skyline. Milford Sound is 15km long and about 290m at its deepest. You also have the chance to visit the 160m Bowen falls. The fiords are home to a number of different wildlife, with Fur seals commonly being seen lying about on the rocks. Here you have the option of a Helicopter Flight over Milford Sound. We head back to Te Anau, New Zealand’s second largest lake. This lovely little lake side town will allow you to appreciate the spacious open areas, beautiful lake views and the amazing contrasts that the South Island has on offer.

Accommodation: 🏠

Accommodation: 🏠

Accommodation: 🏠

Accommodation: 🏠

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Day 5: Te Anau to Queenstown**Accommodation:** 

Today we head to the adventure capital of New Zealand, where it will be time for your adrenaline to get pumping. You now have a few options available to you as we arrive into Queenstown. First, you can take time to relax and get your breath back, or you can fasten your seatbelt and indulge in the adrenaline capital of New Zealand! With the variety of activities on offer in and around Queenstown, you will be spoilt for choice. Jump off the bungee bridge, go white water rafting and follow that by a jet boat ride. When you think you have had enough, there's always more! It's out of the wet cloths and on with the dry, as we paint the town red by night. (Winter trips have the option of hitting the slopes, to catch up on some skiing).

Day 6 & 7: Queenstown**Accommodation:** 

You have the next couple of days to explore this adventure town or just relax in the array of coffee shops on and around the lakes edge; the surrounding view will see your day pass very easily.

Day 8: Queenstown to Fox Glacier**Accommodation:** 


Today we make our way to the wild and wet West Coast but first we will stop at Arrowtown, one of the first gold mining settlements in New Zealand. Its tree lined streets and historic buildings lie beautifully nestled at the foothills of the Crown Range. We will then make one more stop before arriving at Fox Glacier, and that is at Wanaka, one of the most desirable places to live in New Zealand. With Lake Wanaka lapping at the shores, the picture postcard Southern Alps as its background and bordering Aspiring National Park, you will soon feel the same way as many others. We now head through the remote area of Haast and the dense rain forests, as we make our way to the foot of Fox Glacier.

Day 9: Fox Glacier to Greymouth**Accommodation:** 

Covering 13 kilometres and descending 1200 metres, these glaciers are only 6 km from the Tasman Sea and are amongst the fastest moving in the world. Here you have the chance to partake in some optional excursions such as a guided walk on ice, or maybe you would like to experience the thrill of a helicopter flight over this amazing mass of frozen water. We now head up the West Coast to Greymouth, the largest town on the West Coast, where you can browse the souvenir shops for the sacred Pounamu, (Greenstone that the Maori people used for tools and weapons that was found in the West Coast Rivers).

Day 10: Greymouth Via Punakaiki to Abel Tasman**Accommodation:** 

We drive further North today towards Abel Tasman National Park stopping along the way at Paparoa National Park where you can view the stunning Pancake Rocks and blow holes of the small coastal settlement of Punakaiki. For the next two nights we camp at Marahau, the gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park.

Day 11: Abel Tasman**Accommodation:** 

Today you have the option of visiting Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand's smallest National Park, but one of the most beautiful. 23,000 ha of rolling hills, native bush, hidden golden sand beaches and over 91km of coastal scenery - your day will be filled with images that will last a lifetime. This National Park can be enjoyed by walking the coastal track one way and with the return trip by launch or water taxi, or by sea kayaking the Coast and drifting slowly taking in the spectacular sights and watching dolphins, seals and the wildlife.

Day 12: Abel Tasman via Nelson to Wellington**Accommodation:** 

We make our way north today but before we leave the South Island behind us we will visit Nelson which is known as the sunniest place in the country. Nelson is a very lively and modern town and is renowned as a vibrant arts, crafts and festival centre. Once again we board our ferry to enjoy the scenery as we leave the South Island and head for Wellington. You will have time now to enjoy New Zealand's Capital city one more time.

Day 13: Wellington to New Plymouth**Accommodation:** 

An early start today as we make our way up the West Coast of the North Island to New Plymouth and the solitary dormant volcano, Mount Taranaki, standing 2518m high. Ice and snow permanently cover the peak of this majestic mountain. We will follow the 'Surf Highway 45' to reach New Plymouth. This is 105km of road, hugging the rugged coastline that sweeps around the feet of Mt Taranaki that produce's some of New Zealand's most legendary surf breaks. Tonight we can have a night out on the town local style on New Plymouth's Devon Street where there is a range of bar's and entertainment to suit everyone tastes.

Day 14: New Plymouth**Accommodation:** 

The day is yours to do as you wish. Perhaps take the day to explore Egmont National Park and the spectacular Mount Taranaki, or walk the award winning 7km Coastal walkway and view Sugar Loaf Islands. Or spend the day wandering the city visiting magnificent Pukekura Park, Govett-Brewster Modern Art Gallery and Puke-Ariki Contemporary Museum. Finally a visit to New Plymouth is not complete with out seeing Len Lye's famous sculpture the Wind Wand.

Day 15: New Plymouth to Waitomo**Accommodation:** 

We leave Mount Taranaki behind us today and continue our journey north to the famous Waitomo Caves, home of the Glow Worms. The caves were first extensively explored in 1887 and were opened to tourists in 1889. We take a 45min tour through the main cave network, which ends with a boat trip. This is where the silence and darkness, reveals the galaxy of light around us emanating from the Glow Worms. You also have a number of optional activities to choose from; do a Tandem Abseil into the lost world, try Black Water Rafting in a rubber tube or take a relaxing horse ride. Tonight we can relax at our camp for the evening.

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Day 16: Waitomo to Raglan

Accommodation: 

We are now back in the Waikato region, one of New Zealand's richest agricultural areas, with its green rolling hills and the largest river in the country snaking its way north. We make our way west to what is called the 'rugged coast' and to one of New Zealand's small rustic beach towns – Raglan. Internationally renowned for its surfing, this black sand beach town with its palm lined streets will suck you into the relaxed mode of Kiwi beach life. You can spend the afternoon relaxing on the beach, learning to surf or walk in the native bush. This evening is our last evening together; we can enjoy a night on the town, local style, reminiscing the last 30 days touring around New Zealand.

Day 17: Raglan to Auckland

We head North over the Bombay Hills before arriving in Auckland where this tour comes to an end.

NOTE:

All Overland NZ tours are flexible and we do our utmost to take you to the best places we possibly can. Our expeditions can sometimes be effected by local climatic conditions and anything else unexpected so please treat this information as a guideline only. When you come to New Zealand be prepared to take things as they come and above all don't forget your sense of humour!

TOUR PRICE

WHATS INCLUDED

- All transport whilst on tour
- Use of comprehensive cooking and camping equipment – sleeping mats and tents on board
- Services of professional crew
- The main sites listed in the trip dossier
- Mountain bikes for passenger use
- All listed Included Highlights
- Food – 3 meals a day whilst camping also most other breakfasts and lunches.
- Accommodation while on tour

WHATS NOT INCLUDED

- International flight transfers and taxes
- Pre and Post tour Accommodation (can be arranged at time of booking)
- Upgraded accommodation while on tour
- Items listed in 'Optional activities' section
- Items of a personal nature & spending money
- Travel Insurance and Visas
- Local Tour Payment

TOUR PRICE AND LOCAL PAYMENT

We tell you up front what is included and not included, so there are no hidden surprises along the way. We have designed a virtually all inclusive Tour Price combined with our Local Payment System. ****Local Tour Payment is non refundable.** The Local Tour Payment covers all your accommodation (camping, hostel and motel) and food costs whilst on tour.

ABOUT YOU, ABOUT OVERLANDING, ABOUT YOUR CREW

Here at Overland NZ we cater for everyone. The majority of our passengers are aged 18 - 55, travelling with a partner, by themselves or in a group of friends. They originate from the UK, Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe, and are looking for an adventure tour in New Zealand that has the structure of set departures and set itineraries. This trip is an Overland Adventure Tour where you will be required to pitch in and help with duties such as shopping, cooking and cleaning. It is group travel, and everyone must be respectful of each other. There could be some people you may not get on with all the time, but this is when agreeable compromises are met – we hope nothing infringes on the ultimate enjoyment of your tour. Remember, you are in New Zealand, it is an amazing country and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do! This trip will be what you make of it - it is not a luxury tour, so please do not expect it. If you are not sure if this is the right tour for you, or have special requests or health issues please talk to one of our staff who can advise you: email us at info@overlandnz.com. Your crew are there to help you, guide you, to inform you and to show you the best of New Zealand. Our crew work extremely hard on the road – they are available to our passengers 24 hours a day. They do all the 'behind the scenes' work so you don't have to. Your driver is responsible for getting you from A to B safely. Please remember, that a long day's drive day for you in the back of the truck also means a very long drive day for your Driver behind the wheel! Your Tour Leader is the person who makes all your accommodation reservations, all your excursion reservations, gives you the town/city information you are needing, tells you where the Internet Café etc is, helps you cook and shop to name but a few little jobs... Your crew are always conscious of every passenger's views, but sometimes they will have to make an unpopular decision and your understanding

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will be appreciated in these circumstances. If you wish to tip your crew at the end of a Tour, please do so. It would be nice for them to see how much all their hard work has been appreciated over the length of the tour.

****Please Note – trips with 10 and under passengers will have a Driver / Tour Leader only.**

OUR EXPEDITION VEHICLES

Our New Zealand truck is a purpose built Scania 93M series and is the only Adventure Overland Vehicle in the country. It is fully enclosed with tinted sliding windows, forward facing seats, two writing tables, heaters, fridge, safe and stereo as well as a fully stocked kitchen, cooking and camping equipment, two mountain bikes and plenty of room for your entire luggage. Our Overland trucks are designed for comfort, viewing and getting off the beaten track.



LIFE ON TOUR

Camping

Camping is always great fun and our vehicles are loaded with all the equipment needed. Campsites vary from established sites with all facilities to the occasional free camp. We use two person dome tents and we will team you up with another group member if you are planning to travel alone. We always stay at the best possible campsite in the area - nearly all of the campsites we use have very clean and ample shower facilities. Some of the more basic camps may be in places of spectacular beauty or in the National Parks. Here generally facilities may be limited but you will have a chance to get a real feel for the New Zealand wilderness. Whilst on tour there will occasionally be the opportunity to upgrade to 'rooms' in the campsites if you fancy a break from camping. These range from an additional \$10 - \$20 per night and usually come up once or twice a week. The local payment contributes your camping portion and you add the rest if you would like to upgrade from camping. The upgrades are usually simple chalets like rooms, some en-suite and some not. Some of our clients regularly upgrade and some camp 100% of the trip.

Hostels / Motels / Lodges

We use hostels/motels in a number of larger towns or cities. These have been chosen for their location and friendly atmosphere. We will try and accommodate your sleeping arrangements, but there might be occasions where a dorm room needs to be booked. There will be the option to upgrade (you will need to pay the extra money to upgrade) to double or private rooms if required.

Participation

Participation is essential. A successful and smooth tour depends very much on everyone taking part in the duties that arise i.e. cooking, vehicle cleaning and food shopping. With this in mind your crew will organize groups on a rotating roster. The most successful tours are those where everyone becomes involved as much as possible. These are not luxury tours, so join in! In the end the more you put in the more you get out.

Cooking and Food

When camping, cooking is usually done on a roster basis with 2 - 4 people cooking each day. Gas burners and BBQ's are used for cooking and are supplied along with pots, baking trays, frying pans, woks, lighting, camp seats etc. All eating utensils are also provided. Food on tour ranges from simple barbeques to, traditional meals, and buffets, an of course – your own restaurant dining. There is no shortage of fresh fruits and vegetables in New Zealand. Breakfasts are generally tea, coffee, toast, muesli/cereals and fresh fruit, while lunches are a range of filled rolls, salads and fruit. You will eat incredibly well, and we can cater for all special dietary needs.

Group Size

Our group size is usually around 7- 18 people, but at high times of the year we may run trips with a maximum of 22-24.

PRE AND POST TOUR ACCOMMODATION

We can book pre tour accommodation at our departure hotel/hostel for you if you provide us with your arrival details. You will need to pay for your room upon arrival. Post tour accommodation can be booked en-route with the help of your crew.

Pre Tour Christchurch:

Base Backpackers
56 Cathedral Square
Christchurch
New Zealand
PH: +64 (0) 3 982 2225
Email: wellington@basebackpackers.com
Web: www.basebackpackers.com

Rates:

6 bed dorm - \$26 per person
4 bed dorm - \$28 per person
Sanctuary - \$30 per person
Twin En-suite - \$85 per room (2 bds and a sgl)
Double En-suite with balcony - \$95 per room

**All prices are subject to change

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TRANSFERS

Prices below are approximate and are subject to change.

Christchurch:

Transfers - Shuttles (at every landing, door to door)

NZ\$15 – 20 1 person. Gets cheaper for more people.

Taxis: approx NZ\$30.00 depending on time of arrival

MEETING POINT AND TIME

Meeting Time: **9 AM: **Please confirm with your Tour Leader**

Christchurch: Base Backpackers

MISSED DEPARTURE ?

Missed departure - don't panic! We will sort you out and get you on board the vehicle as soon as possible. First check for messages at reception of the departure hostel as your driver will have left a message on how to catch the tour and his/her cell phone details. Please also call our Head Office on +64 (0)7 823 3943 or 0800 4285462 (free phone within New Zealand) so we can coordinate your arrival. If you know in advance you are going to be late, late please email your flight details to info@overlandnz.com so we can make a plan to transfer you to the vehicle. You will need to cover the cost of this transfer.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Here is a list of optional activities. Please remember that this is a **GUIDELINE** only. We are not responsible for price changes or unavailable excursions on your tour. All optional activities are completed at your own risk and are not necessary endorsed by Overland NZ. Before participating in these activities you should check carefully if you are covered by your medical insurance.

	\$NZD
DUNEDIN	
Back to Nature Tours	\$70.00
Cadbury World	\$15.00
Speights Brewery	\$15.00
Larnach Castle	\$20.00
MILFORD SOUND	
Helicopter Flight over Milford Sound	\$240.00
QUEENSTOWN	
Skyline Gondola Luge Ride	\$16.00
Shotover Jet Boat Ride	\$100.00
Dart Wilderness Jet 6hrs	\$210.00
Shotover Rafting Half Day	\$120.00
Helicopter Rafting Half Day	\$180.00
River Boarding Half Day	\$140.00
Tandem Hang Glide	\$175.00
AJ Hackett Bungy	\$140.00
The Ledge	\$125.00
Nevis Highwire 134m	\$195.00
Ledge Sky Swing	\$85.00
Thrilllogy – all 3 jumps	\$290.00
Pipeline Bungy Pipeline 102m	\$150.00
Tandem Skydive 9000 ft	\$245.00
12000 ft	\$295.00
15000 ft	\$395.00
Lord of the Rings 4wd Tours Half Day	\$120.00
Actionflite Aerobatics flight	\$215.00
Mountain biking Beginner to Advanced	from \$80.00
Horse riding Beginner to Advanced	from \$65.00
Scenic Flights Milford Sound Over flight	\$275.00
FOX GLACIER	
Helicopter Scenic Flight & Snow landing	from \$150.00
Heli-hike Half day guided hike	\$300.00
Hike Half day guided Glacier Walk	\$90.00
ABEL TASMAN	
Beaches & Bays Guided Kayak Trip	\$200.00
1 Day "Golden Sands & Lagoons"	\$140.00
1 Day "Astrolabe & Beyond"	\$145.00

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1 Day "Tonga Island Seal Tour"	\$195.00
Aqua Taxi Day Hike Unguided	from \$25.00
Horse Riding 2 – 2 ½ hr	\$55.00
Abel Tasman Sailing	from \$55.00
LAKE TEKAPO	
Scenic flight 40 minute Grand Traverse	\$250.00
NEW PLYMOUTH	
Scenic Flight	from \$120.00
Dam Drop	\$80.00
Whitecliff Abseil	\$60.00
Kayak Surf	\$50.00
Paritutu Traverse	\$50.00
Kayak Sugar Loaf Islands	\$40.00
Mt Taranaki Tours	from \$100.00
WAITOMO	
Cave World Black Water Rafting	\$95.00
Haggas Honking Holes 4 hours	\$120.00
Lost World 100m Abseil 4 hours	\$180.00
Cave World Night Abseil	\$215.00
Horse Riding 2 hrs	\$50.00
RAGLAN	
Learn to Surf	\$90.00

RECOMMENDED SPENDING MONEY

We recommend an average of NZ\$50-60 spending money per day. This should cover all your snacks, drinks and refreshments, laundry, postage, fax & e-mail, museum entrances and some souvenirs. This does not include money for optional excursions and the more expensive souvenirs that you are likely to buy. A combination of cash and credit and debit cards are the best way to carry your spending money. We recommend that you complete a budget table so you can make your choices, maximise your enjoyment of your holiday and have a realistic expectation of what cash you need to bring, or if on a tight budget know what you can afford. Remember the optional excursions are optional and you do not have to do them all, they are extras and not core to the enjoyment of your holiday. At times you may have to choose between activities.

VISAS

Visas are not included in the tour price or recommended daily spending money. For current updates on visa information you can try the website www.visaproject.com For information on the location of your nearest embassy or consulate we recommend the following website: www.yahoo.com/Government/Embassies_and_Consulates/

SECURITY

Travelling overseas can be a bit daunting especially if it is your first time. In New Zealand, general travel is safe and group travel even more so. Here are a few ideas to help you out.

- Take the same precautions you do when travelling around your own country
- Never flash wealth around, people WILL be watching.
- Listen to your crew's advice when entering a new area.
- Be prudent and keep your valuables in safe secure places.
- Use the safety box that is in the truck to store your important documents while travelling.
- Note. Overland NZ takes no responsibility for loss or damage to personal effects.

LUGGAGE

Remember your bags are your responsibility; it is up to you to collect all your belongings and carry them to and from the tour vehicle. It is not the job of the crew to carry or to look after your belongings. *If you cannot carry it yourself you shouldn't bring it.*

1 Duffel bag or backpack preferably with an internal or removable frame

Day bag

Sleeping bag, * 3 season, sleeping sheet

Good torch and spare batteries

Sun glasses, sun cream, hat

Writing material and diary

Toiletries + contraceptives

DriversLicence/Diving

Certificate/Passport/Photocopyof

Passport/Travellers cheque advice form and copy

Spare Glasses or Contact lenses and solutions

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CLOTHING

Waterproof jacket	1 pair sandals/trainers
Socks	1 pair thongs/flip flops/jandals
Trousers or jeans and track pants	1 Towel/Sarong
T-shirts/shirts	Swimsuit
Underwear	Smart casual attire for eating out
Cap	Warm jacket or jersey
Shorts/skirt/dress	

****Please be aware that even in summer, the weather in the South Island can tend to be very cold in the evening. Make sure you bring along a warm jacket.**

FIRST AID KIT

Antiseptic cream	Pain killers - Paracetamol/Panadol
Sunscreen & lip cream	Ear & eye drops
Insect Repellent	Butterfly tape (sterile strips)
Cotton wool & sterile swabs	Tweezers and scissors
Dressing pads and adhesive tape	Antibiotics for infected cuts
Bandages and Band-Aids	Broad-spectrum antibiotics (amoxicillin or Augmentin)

All passengers should have a complete medical and dental check-up prior to joining any of our tours. A comprehensive medical kit is supplied but it is only to be used in emergencies. Each person is responsible for his or her own medical kit as listed above

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Needless to say, NO illegal drugs are allowed on or near our tours. In New Zealand the law can be very harsh on drug related offences, so with this in mind our crew have been given the authorization to remove passengers from tours without hesitation or refund for such offences. If you have a prescription drug you must carry that prescription with you.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A camera case or bag is necessary to prevent damage by vibration, rain, dew or general dust and dirt. Zoom and wide-angle lenses are valuable accessories; combination lenses are a good idea for example 28mm - 70mm & 70mm - 200mm. Spare batteries for camera and flash are also advisable as well lens cleaning equipment. Use different types of film depending on the conditions you are photographing in i.e. 400asa is good for photographing in low light or dense foliage and black and white film can make great portrait shots. Of course, a good Digital Camera is what most people carry these days and the truck has a charger on board.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Your passport is the most important document you have when travelling. Always keep it in a secure location, either in a safe at the hostels we stay in or the trucks safe. Never leave your passport in your luggage. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months after departure back to your country of origin. If you are one of those people with dual nationality, the passport you start the tour on should be the passport you finish the tour on - but by all means bring your other passport in case of loss. Please remember that if you lose your passport it could take up to a week to get a replacement. Overland NZ accepts no liability for items mislaid or stolen while on tour or in safe deposit boxes in hostels. In the end it is your responsibility to look after your important papers and to make sure they are safe and sound. It is advisable to bring a few photocopies of your passport with you.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

A requirement for all overland travel is that you have valid insurance cover for the duration of our tour. It must cover you against personal accident, medical, cancellation, curtailment and repatriation expenses, you should also make sure you are covered for hiking and other expedition activities or optional excursions that you intend to do. Your travel agent can advise you on the best cover for you and your specific holiday. You should purchase your travel insurance policy at the same time as you book your tour. Take care with backpacker's policies, as some do not cover you against organised ground travel. Please remember to bring your policy with you.