On the night before your tour starts accommodation is included. A night’s stay is included at: TMACS Hostel, Auckland. If you’d like, feel free to join us for a group welcome meeting at 6pm the night before the tour departure in the lobby.

**DAY 1 | AUCKLAND > HOT WATER BEACH |**
Departing Auckland we head south-east to the pristine beaches of the Coromandel and the world-famous Cathedral Cove (included). Here you have the option to kayak around this stunning coastline (optional activity) as well as the opportunity to visit Hot Water Beach (included); a unique surf beach where if you catch the tide right, you can dig a hole in the sand to create your own personal spa pool.

**ACCOMMODATION |** Hot Water Beach Holiday Park or similar

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Soak up the vibe of the Coromandel & visit Cathedral Cove
- Visit Hot Water Beach to dig your own hot pool

**DAY 2 | HOT WATER BEACH > KARANGAHAKE GORGE > WAITOMO |** Leaving the gorgeous Coromandel behind we’ll venture into the enchanting Karangahake Gorge nestled among the Kaimai ranges, for a hike (included) amongst the walkways and old mining tunnels. If that isn’t enough fun for one day, then never fear, next we'll be heading over to Waitomo for a magical tour of the world famous glow-worm caves (Included!). For those feeling a little more adventurous you will have the opportunity to upgrade to a Black Water Rafting trip.
ACCOMMODATION | Top 10 Holiday Park
Waitomo or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Hike through the Karangahake Gorge
- Experience the magical Glowworm Caves in Waitomo

DAY 3 | WAITOMO > HOBBITON > ROTORUA | We start the day with a walk through the Ruakuri Reserve and say goodbye to those glowing little critters. Next, we’ll pass through The Shire of Hobbiton where you’ll have the opportunity to discover the Hobbiton Movie Set (optional activity) before rolling on through to Rotorua; a mystical land of bubbling mud pools, rocketing geysers and natural hot springs. Optional activities (which are not included) are lugging down the SkyLine, White Water Rafting, Hells Gate, Mountain biking through the Redwoods, Zorb, Wai-o-tapu, Polynesian Spa or National Kiwi Hatchery.

ACCOMMODATION | Rock
Solid or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Geothermal wonderland, Kuirau Park

DAY 4 | ROTORUA > TAMAKI MAORI VILLAGE | Today is going to be pretty special, first we explore the geothermal reserve of Te Puia, with New Zealand’s largest geyser and a chance to see a real live Kiwi bird. Around midday, we head off to visit the Tamaki Māori Village where you will be immersed in the traditions and cultural values of the Māori people. Participate in a pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony), learn about the history of the marae (village) and the Rotorua-area from a local Māori guide before feasting on some top kai (food) from the hāngi pit. Afterwards, gather around a blazing bonfire where you will enjoy Māori myths and legends before relaxing in a private forest spa pool and retiring for the night in a traditional carved whare moe (sleeping house).

ACCOMMODATION | Tamaki Māori Village or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Māori cultural night
• Traditional hāngī dinner at Tamaki Māori village

**DAY 5 | TAMAKI MAORI VILLAGE > TAUPO** | Onto Great Lake Taupo we go, taking in a walk to the pounding Huka Falls (included) before heading up river to the more tranquil Spa Park to experience a geothermal natural spa (included). In Taupo there is lots to do, just tell us what you're in the mood for and we'll get you there. The lake itself (actually an extinct volcano crater) is a sight to behold from the shoreline (included), but the more adventurous might want to take the opportunity to sail across the lake on a yacht to the Māori rock carvings, or even get a birds-eye view by skydiving above it.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Tiki Lodge or similar

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

• Huka Falls and walkway to a natural spa

**DAY 6 | FREE DAY IN TAUPO** | Taupo's central location mean it's a hop, skip and a jump away from other world class activities which we give you the option to experience on day six. Head up the Sky Waka to experience Mount Ruapehu or hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing; a dramatic landscape of stunning contrasts created by extinguished lava flows and emerald lakes. It's no surprise Tongariro is often described as one of New Zealand's best one-day hikes.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Tiki Lodge or similar

**DAY 7 | TAUPO > WELLINGTON** | Today, we'll cruise through the southern end of the North Island to the capital, Wellington. Here you can experience Mount Victoria (included) and then passengers have the opportunity to experience the national museum, Te Papa and get amongst the thriving craft beer scene.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Hotel Waterloo or similar
INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Soak up the vibe of the capital Wellington
- Experience Mount Victoria
- Te Papa museum

DAY 8 | WELLINGTON >KAIKOURA | Today you’ll kick off by experiencing what's regarded as one of the most beautiful inter-island crossings in the world, the Cook Straight (included). Arriving into the top of the South Island we'll journey through the dreamy Marlborough region, home to more vineyards than your eyes can see. Stopping off for a tasting (or two...) along the way (included) to Kaikoura to spot unique marine life and experience local Kiwi cuisine.

ACCOMMODATION | Dusky Lodge or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Ferry Transfer
- Wine Tasting in Marlborough

DAY 9 | KAIKOURA > CHRISTCHURCH | Start the day with a sleep-in or for the more adventurous head out to sea to witness spectacular marine life such as dolphins, whales, albatrosses and so much more (extra activity). Around mid-morning, we'll head up the Kaikoura Peninsula walkway to walk among a large seal colony (included). After a morning experiencing a real-life Planet Earth episode we'll cruise to the diverse city of Christchurch, where we will go on a walking tour of the city (included) to learn about the street art, see the blooming botanical gardens, and learn about the history of a city that's experienced so much in recent times.

ACCOMMODATION | YHA Christchurch or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- See a large seal colony
- Walking tour in Christchurch
DAY 10 | CHRISTCHURCH > LAKE TEKAPO | Saying goodbye to Christchurch we'll hit the road and cruise into the magnificent Mackenzie Country, home to Lake Tekapo. Here we will visit the charming stone Church of the Good Shepherd (included), sat next to the breathtakingly blue waters of the lake framed with colourful lupins. As night falls, we will visit the 'Dark Sky Project' situated amongst the UNESCO Dark Sky reserve. (Included!)

ACCOMMODATION | Lakefront Lodge Tekapo or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Dark Sky Project, Lake Tekapo

DAY 11 | LAKE TEKAPO > MOUNT COOK > WANAKA | Cruising past the ‘powerade factory’ Lake Pukaki (you’ll know what we mean when you see it) we head for Mount Cook village where we will hike the Hooker Valley Walk (included) which has breath-taking views which will break your internet and blow your mind. Here you will have the opportunity to experience the Tasman Glacier by helicopter or take a scenic flight through the Mt Cook National Park (Aoraki). From mid-morning, we will continue to cruise through the National Park, through the stunning Lindis Pass through to Wanaka.

ACCOMMODATION | YHA Wanaka or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES
- Hike the Hooker Valley Walk

DAY 12 | WANAKA > QUEENSTOWN | Here in Wanaka, we will have the morning to hike the famous Roys Peak (included), snap ‘That Wanaka Tree’ or climb Mount Iron (included). For the more daring in the group, there’s the option to experience via Ferrata ‘Wild Wire’ or hit up the lakeside trails on a mountain bike. Late afternoon, you can catch your breath in the back of the bus as we cruise through the Crown ranges and head for the adrenaline fuelled Queenstown. We'll end the day heading up the
Gondola (included) for a tasty dinner at the ‘Skyline’ overlooking Queenstown.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Nomads Queenstown or similar

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Roy’s Peak Shuttle
- Skyline Gondola & Buffet

**DAY 13 | FREE DAY IN QUEENSTOWN** | Carrying on the adrenaline-pumping theme, you have a full day to fill with activities that suit all budgets and appetites for adventure. Try your hand at activities such as white water rafting, bungy jumping, skydiving, jet-boating or canyon swinging... if you dream it, it probably exists here in Queenstown. Speak to your Driver Guide who will be able to point you in the right direction.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Nomads Queenstown or similar

**DAY 14 | FREE DAY IN QUEENSTOWN** | Today we will head out into the heartlands of Otago to the picturesque town of Glenorchy to experience a scenic landscape brimming with southern charm.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Nomads Queenstown or similar

**INCLUDED EXPERIENCES**

- Trip to the town of Glenorchy (Otago)

**DAY 15 | QUEENSTOWN > FRANZ JOSEF** | Leaving bright and early we leave behind Queenstown and set off for Franz Josef. This is one of the most scenic drives of your tour. We'll cruise by the breath-taking Lake Hawea, past the aptly named 'Blue Pools' and visit the pounding Thunder Creek Falls before visiting Lake Matheson; a spot that makes a mockery of Instagram filters. We'll then arrive in Franz Josef where we'll retire to a wilderness hostel deep in the rainforest itself.

**ACCOMMODATION** | Rainforest Lodge or similar
INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Scenic drive
- Visit the Thunder Creek Falls & Lake Matheson

DAY 16 | FREE DAY IN FRANZ JOSEF | Today free day in Franz Josef where you have the opportunity to experience a Heli-Hike to the famous Glacier or you can explore this lush corner of New Zealand (for free) on foot and hit up the many trails in the area. For those wanting something a little more special to take home with them; passengers can head up the road to nearby Hokitika to carve their own greenstone necklace (pounamu).

ACCOMMODATION | Rainforest Lodge or similar

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Explore the glacial valleys of Franz Josef and carve your very own pounamu pendant

DAY 17 | FRANZ JOSEF > CHRISTCHURCH | On your final day we will cruise through the Arthur’s Pass National Park, a landscape of two halves. On the eastern side you’ll see wide, shingle-filled riverbeds and vast swathes of beech forest. Descend the western side and you venture through dense rainforest alongside and over deeply gorged rivers. Along this road we will stop off at the Devil’s Punch Bowl and the breath-taking Castle Hill. (Included.) You tour will end in Christchurch, a small city with a big heart.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Arthur’s Pass National Park
- Devil’s Punch Bowl, Castle Hill
### 17 Day North & South Island Tour Schedule (2019 / 2020)

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