

2007-08 WALKING & HIKING ITINERARY
PREMIERE INN TRIP

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

New Zealand

TRAMP THROUGH SOUTH ISLAND PARADISE

TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP CALL
800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)



Important Facts
at a glance

10 DAYS, 9 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates
and pricing details

ROUTE RATING

Levels 1–3

See [below](#) for details.

**IN BUSINESS FOR
27 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE**

Don't be surprised if you return from New Zealand with a thirst for adventure, a lingering feeling of wanderlust and a noticeably more laid-back disposition. It tends to happen when you visit a place of such incredible natural beauty and diversity. New Zealand is a place where glaciers live next door to rain forests, where you can begin your day in the snowcapped mountains and end it on a deserted beach, and where Kiwi hospitality is ever-present. The first day of our 10-day walking adventure on the South Island takes us from the east coast to the soaring Southern Alps of Arthur's Pass National Park, a rugged area of lakes, beech forest and picture-perfect mountains. Reaching the wild West Coast, you'll start to get a feel for the South Island's varied attractions—from old mining towns and remote beaches to massive glaciers and icy peaks. Turning inland again, explore the South Westlands World Heritage site (a birdwatcher's paradise) and then Wanaka, our home base at the end of our trip. So, leave your worries behind, and let's get to tramping, mate!

DAY 1

SEE "ARRIVING & DEPARTING" FOR MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

SHUTTLE TO GODLEY HEAD 30 MINUTES

GODLEY HEAD WARM-UP HIKE 2 MILES

SHUTTLE TO ARTHUR'S PASS 2½ HOURS

SHEEPDOG DEMONSTRATION 1 HOUR

Welcome to wild and wonderful New Zealand! After meeting in Christchurch, we hop in the Backroads vans and drive southeast to Sumner and the Godley Head recreation area, the northern headland of the Lyttelton Harbour Basin. Maori guide Joseph Hullen joins us for the day and explains the rich and vibrant culture and history of his people, from pre-European times to the present. Warm up your legs on an easy downhill trail to Taylor's Mistake (named for the U.S. sea captain who mistook the bay for the entrance to Lyttelton Harbor) with spectacular views of the Banks Peninsula, Christchurch and the South Pacific.

After shuttling to a lunch spot in the small farming town of Darfield, we continue on to the Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass, a unique combination of secluded resort and working sheep station designed to conserve and showcase the natural environment. Check into your room, then relax and enjoy the panorama of the Southern Alps out your window. You'll have the opportunity today to watch a sheepdog herd in a flock of Merino sheep and get a sheep-shearing demonstration—done the old-fashioned way, by hand! We gather tonight for cocktails followed by a gourmet dinner—a rather unexpected surprise in this remote wilderness setting. *Lodging: Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass*

DAY 2

MUSTERERS HUT HIKE 6.8 MILES (1,810-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: SUMMIT 8.8 MILES (2,840-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

Join your Backroads Trip Leaders on a hike up Bealey Spur and past alpine lakes to a



Our Accommodations
Premiere Inns

**WILDERNESS LODGE
ARTHUR'S PASS**

(2 nights) Under the gracious proprietorship of leading local conservationist Gerry McSweeney, this cozy mountain retreat and high-country sheep station is surrounded by beech forests and snow-covered peaks.

Arthur's Pass
phone: 64-(0)3-318-9246
www.wildernesslodge.co.nz

**PUNAKAIKI ROCKS
HOTEL & VILLAS**

(1 night) Situated close to the famous Pancake Rocks and blowholes at Punakaiki, this eco-friendly hotel offers impressive views along the beach and inland as far as Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.

Punakaiki
phone: 64-(0) 3-731 1168
www.punakaiki-resort.co.nz

**FRANZ JOSEF
GLACIER HOTEL**

(2 nights) Comfortable guest rooms in a garden setting with spectacular views of the glacial valley.

Franz Josef
phone: 64-(0)3-752-0729
www.scenic-circle.co.nz

**WILDERNESS LODGE
LAKE MOERAKI**

(2 nights) This riverside lodge offers cozy guest rooms and excellent cuisine in a remote rain forest setting.

Lake Moeraki
phone: 64-(0)3-750-0881
www.wildernesslodge.co.nz

EDGEWATER RESORT HOTEL

(2 nights) Well-appointed suites and lush grounds on the shore of mountain-rimmed lake

Wanaka.
Lake Wanaka
phone: 64-(0)3-443-8311
www.edgewater.co.nz

historic sheep station hut once used by musterers (shepherds) during the days of high-country sheep farming. The route climbs gently through a lush beech forest with a soft mossy floor and offers grand views of the surrounding snowcapped peaks and braided Waimakariri River below. This is a great hike for bird lovers—look for New Zealand's smallest bird, the rifleman, as well as others such as grey warblers, bellbirds, harrier hawks and the gregarious alpine parrot called the kea. If you're feeling energetic, continue to the summit for a magnificent 360-degree panoramic view. We reconvene this evening for another wonderful meal. *Lodging: Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass*

DAY 3

ARTHUR'S PASS HIKE 3 MILES (600-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO PUNAKAIKI 2 HOURS

PORORARI PUNAKAIKI LOOP 5.3 MILES (500-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: 3 MILES (100-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

After a hearty breakfast at the lodge, we load up our gear and shuttle about 25 minutes to the start of an alpine hike. This morning your leaders will take a look outside and, depending on the temperamental weather, choose from one of several different hikes. Regardless of which trail you follow, the beauty of this area is bound to impress. The summer months are the best time to see flowers in bloom, and plants and shrubs, such as the New Zealand lily, alpine Hebe, alpine Olerias, Coprosmas and the spiky Spaniard. Waterfalls are also a common site.

Our next destination is the seaside town of Punakaiki, home to the curious Pancake Rocks. These columnar limestone and mudstone formations, created by an earthquake millions of years ago, were sculpted by the powerful natural forces of rain, sea and wind into what appears to be stacks of pancakes. Heavy swells funneling through a series of blowholes create a dramatic display of geysers that are especially dramatic at high tide. Following a traditional New Zealand pub lunch, we head out on an afternoon hike up along the Pororari River by way of a luxuriant subtropical rain forest alive with massive tree ferns, huge rata trees and New Zealand's only palm, the nikau. From time to time, the path opens up to reveal perfect vistas of rivers and beaches, and offers glimpses of the canyon-like karst formations for which this part of Paparoa National Park is known. Joining the Inland Pack Track, we move away from the river and cross into the neighboring Punakaiki River Valley, passing through tall stands of native New Zealand podocarp trees. In the spirit of adventure, the only way to cross the Punakaiki River here is to walk through it. There's no way not to get your feet (and shins) wet—this is where you'll be glad you brought your sports sandals or an extra pair of sneakers! Back on dry land, we follow a gravel road through farmland to the Punakaiki Rocks Hotel & Villas.

Whether or not you're taking the Pororari Punakaiki loop, you'll certainly want to walk the 15-minute loop trail (easily accessible on foot along the road from the hotel) that leads to the Pancake Rock formations. *Lodging: Punakaiki Rocks Hotel Hotel & Villas*

DAY 4

SHUTTLE TO HOKITIKA 1 HOURS

SHUTTLE TO HARI HARI TRAILHEAD 1½ HOURS

HARI HARI COASTAL WALKWAY 4.7 MILES (250-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: BEACH AND LOOKOUT ROUTE 3.6 MILES (150-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO FRANZ JOSEF 1 HOUR

Today starts with a shuttle down the dramatic coast to the gold-rush town of Hokitika,

EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS

passing through the coal towns of Rununga and Greymouth. You'll have time to explore Hokitika, now famous for its crafts and greenstone carving. You may want to tour the Greenstone Factory to see how immense boulders are ground and cut by diamond saws, then sculpted into jewelry.

A southbound shuttle waits to carry us to the start of our afternoon hike—notice the coastal farmland giving way to lush native vegetation as we near our destination. The route follows the Hari Hari Coastal Walkway, which winds through a kahikatea forest alongside the Wanganui River and takes us all the way to the Doughboy—a huge moraine by the sea. Climb the stairs to the top of the Doughboy, where on a clear day there's a fantastic view stretching from the Tasman Sea to the Southern Alps and from the Punakaiki Coast to the Fox Glacier. After a stroll on the beach, make your way back through a forest of regenerating kahikatea, rimu, silver pine and lancewood trees. A final shuttle brings us to the town of Franz Josef. Settle in at our home for the next two nights, the Franz Josef Glacier Hotel, offering some of the most breathtaking views in the glacier valley. *Lodging: Franz Josef Glacier Hotel*

DAY 5

LAYOVER DAY IN FRANZ JOSEF

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES – WEATHER-PERMITTING

CALLERY-WAIHO GORGE HIKE 5.5 MILES (300-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

The Franz Josef Glacier is one of the few glaciers in the world that descends into temperate rain forest—a unique mingling of cascading ice and lush vegetation. If you'd like to explore the glacier up close today, there are several spectacular ways to do so. Weather permitting, you can take a scenic flight over the glacier or embark on a guided walk on its terminal face. Or you may decide to combine the two with a thrilling heli-hike experience: Hover above the icy mass in a helicopter and then peer into deep crevasses while trekking across the surface. (These activities are not included in the trip price; however, Backroads has reserved space on these activities and your leaders will help you make arrangements.)

Today's moderately challenging afternoon hike, with some rough and rocky terrain, takes you from the Franz Josef Glacier back to the town of Franz Josef. After a short drive to the end of the glacier road, it's a short hike up to Sentinel Rock for a grand overview of the glacier. From here you'll join the Callery track, passing Peter's Pool, a reflective pool (called a "kettle lake"), and historic old dense stands of kamahi, rata and luxuriant mosses. Follow a boardwalk down to the spectacular Callery River Gorge, where a massive swing bridge crossing the expanse is definitely photo worthy. On hot days you can see (and hear) chunks of glacial ice clinking down the river. From here you can retrace your steps across the swing bridge and take a loop trail back to the main road (and meet up with the van), or continue along the track on the other side of the river all the way to Franz Josef.

You're on your own for both lunch and dinner today. There are several restaurants in this bustling little township to choose from; your leaders are happy to make recommendations. *Lodging: Franz Josef Glacier Hotel*



Top Reasons Why
you should take this trip

We provide a variety of route options so you can do as much or as little activity as you like each day.

You'll stay in the area's finest hotels, each carefully selected based on our rigorous quality standards.

You'll enjoy the best of the region's cuisine, as well as Backroads' trademark grand picnics.

Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

**WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE**

DAY 6

SHUTTLE TO LAKE MATHESON 30 MINUTES

LAKE MATHESON LOOP 2.7 MILES (150-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: 6.2 MILES (150-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

FOX GLACIER VALLEY HIKE 3 MILES (100-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

CHALET HIKE 3.7 MILES (600-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO LAKE MOERAKI 1½ HOURS

Today begins with a shuttle to magnificent Lake Matheson, which originated as an enormous slab of glacial ice nearly 14,000 years ago. This lake is one of the most photographed in New Zealand, so don't hesitate to pull out your camera and take advantage of this photo opportunity. Following a walk around the lake, it's a quick ride in the Backroads van to the start of an out-and-back hike, with more beautiful vistas, to the mighty Fox Glacier. We stop for lunch at a great local café before another short shuttle. Our hike along the south side of the Fox Valley follows a gentle uphill through the forest before emerging suddenly onto an overlook with spectacular views of the glacier spreading below.

After retracing our steps to the trailhead, we leave the glacier region behind and shuttle to the Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki, a quiet hideaway in the rain forest. ("Moeraki" is Maori for "to sleep or dream by day.") The Moeraki is a sister property of the Wilderness Lodge Arthur's Pass, so you can expect the same exceptional cuisine and selection of fine wines. *Lodging: Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki*

DAY 7

LAYOVER DAY IN LAKE MOERAKI

BLOWFLY HUT HIKE 4 MILES (200 FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

MUNRO BEACH WALK 4.5 MILES (40-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

This morning, join your Backroads leaders for an excursion to the Blowfly Hut, one of many huts built along Kiwi "tracks" as a bunkhouse for long-distance hikers. The path follows an old Maori cattle trail as it winds through a beautiful rain forest along the Moeraki River. If you're up for a challenge, cross the river to the hut on a dramatic V-shaped swing bridge. (Even if you don't cross the bridge, it's a hike you won't want to miss.)

This afternoon, after lunch at the lodge, head out on another rain forest walk to spectacular Munro Beach. This area has been designated a World Heritage site; the pristine ancient forests surrounding Lake Moeraki are protected from future development and offer incredible scenery in every direction. Down at the water, scour the beach for pounamu, New Zealand's native jade, or just enjoy the beautiful views of the Tasman and its pounding surf.

If you'd rather spend part or all of the day at the lodge, or do something other than the Backroads-led hikes, the naturalists at the Wilderness Lodge offer a wide variety of activities, including a complimentary hour-long hike. There are also several longer guided hikes and canoeing excursions (weather-permitting) on Lake Moeraki or on the Moeraki River (please note that these activities aren't included in the trip price). If you'd like to explore on your own, feel free to walk the well-marked trails surrounding the lodge, swim or go canoeing on the lake.



Route Rating
to map your activity level

Backroads' route rating system is the most comprehensive and accurate in the travel industry. To find out how these ratings translate into varying levels of physical challenge and activity, please visit our Web site www.backroads.com and select the route rating button for the trip of your choice.

LEVEL 1
2-5 miles/day
2-3 hours/day

LEVEL 2
5-7 miles/day
2-4 hours/day

LEVEL 3
7-9 miles/day
3-5 hours/day

**ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU**

This evening we meet in the lodge's beautiful riverside lounge before sitting down together for dinner. *Lodging: Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki*

DAY 8

SHUTTLE TO HAAST RIVER 30 MINUTES

RIVER JET-BOAT TRIP 1½ HOURS

SHUTTLE TO WANAKA 2 HOURS

DIAMOND LAKE-ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRACK 5.5 MILES (1,345-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

We leave the West Coast today and shuttle to the Haast River to meet our jet-boat driver for an exhilarating and informative 18-mile ride up the river, past thundering waterfalls and beech forests that cling tenaciously to the rugged landscape.

Returning to dry land, we jump back in the vans and make our way to the town of Wanaka, and picnic on the shore of Lake Wanaka with gorgeous views of the glaciated peaks of Mount Aspiring National Park. Today's hike, entirely on private land, follows a trail created as a community project. While perhaps one of the most spectacular half-day hikes on the South Island, it doesn't come without challenges. Steady climbs and some particularly steep sections mark your way to the summit of Rocky Mountain. On a clear day, your reward is a 360-degree vista of the surrounding mountains.

We spend the next two nights at the luxurious Edgewater Resort, which offers a serene setting and plenty of amenities, including tennis courts, a putting green, sauna and hot tub. This evening you're on your own to explore Wanaka and its numerous restaurants. *Lodging: Edgewater Resort Hotel*

DAY 9

LAYOVER DAY IN WANAKA

OPTIONAL FLIGHTSEEING TO MILFORD SOUND (WEATHER-PERMITTING) OR OTHER ACTIVITIES

OPTIONAL ALBERT TOWN TO WANAKA WALK 6 MILES

For a fantastic day trip, consider taking a scenic flight (weather permitting) over the Southern Alps to Milford Sound, one of New Zealand's most famous natural treasures. The outing also includes a boat cruise through the sound, with views of dramatic cliffs laced with waterfalls and covered with dense foliage. If you opt to stay in Wanaka, you'll have no shortage of activities to choose from—try canoeing on the lake, paragliding, jet-boating or playing a round of golf. (These activities are not included in the trip price. Backroads has reserved space on the scenic flight and your Trip Leaders will help to make arrangements once you are on the trip.

If you're in the mood to walk, you can join the optional morning hike. After a shuttle to Albert Town, follow the Clutha River to Lake Wanaka, making your way around the lake through affluent neighborhoods and back into the town of Wanaka. You're on your own for lunch today, so you can sit down to a leisurely meal or grab a quick bite between activities. The afternoon is yours to explore the lovely township of Wanaka.

Tonight we reconvene for our final dinner at the nearby Cardrona Hotel Restaurant and Bar. Raise your glass to new friends and lasting memories of your Kiwi adventure. *Lodging: Edgewater Resort Hotel*



Note

While the information presented here details this trip's planned routes, activities, accommodations, meeting and departing times, we are constantly seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date on any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.

**ORGANIZE A
BACKROADS PRIVATE
TRIP FOR YOUR
FAMILY, FRIENDS OR
COLLEAGUES FOR THE
TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

DAY 10

MOUNT IRON HIKE 2.5 MILES (400-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHUTTLE TO QUEENSTOWN 1½ HOURS

Make the most of your last day with an early-morning trek up Mount Iron, an impressive glacial rock formation rising high above the surrounding countryside. The hike to the summit passes through farmland and manuka woodland. At the top you'll have sweeping panoramic views of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea and the patchwork pattern of farms covering the Cardrona Valley below. The distant snowcapped peaks of the Harris Mountains and Mount Aspiring complete the breathtaking scene.

After breakfast back at the hotel, we shuttle to the Queenstown airport. See “Arriving & Departing” for end-of-trip logistics.

ARRIVING & DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, meet your Backroads Trip Leaders (the folks wearing Backroads shirts) at 9 a.m. at The George hotel in downtown Christchurch. The hotel is located at 50 Park Terrace, opposite Hagley Park and the Avon River. **Please arrive dressed in your hiking clothes and have your rain gear handy.**

Because of our early meeting time, you will **need to arrive in New Zealand the day before the trip starts and spend the night in Auckland or Christchurch.** See “Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip” for suggested accommodations.

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

On the last day of the trip, we shuttle from Wanaka to the Queenstown airport, arriving at approximately 11:30 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this airport shuttle, please do not schedule your flight out of Queenstown for before 12:30 p.m.

DEPARTURE TAX

A departure tax of \$25 NZ (approximately \$16 U.S.) must be paid upon your departure from the country at the Auckland airport. Be sure you have enough New Zealand dollars left at the end of your trip to cover this cost.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

This trip starts in Christchurch, New Zealand (airport code: CHC) and ends in Queenstown (ZQN).

Several major airlines fly to New Zealand from North America, including Air New Zealand, Qantas and American; your flight will likely route through Auckland, New Zealand, or Sydney, Australia. Flights from North America to Auckland (airport code: AKL) take 13–16 hours, not including layovers. Most flights arrive in the early morning, and due to flight time and time zone differences, flights from North America land two

days after departure. Keep this in mind as you calculate travel time. From Auckland, it's a 1½-hour flight to Christchurch.

For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere to see a listing of our recommended travel agencies, or work with your own travel agent. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for services such as booking airfare and hotel rooms.)

GETTING FROM THE CHRISTCHURCH AIRPORT TO CENTRAL CHRISTCHURCH

It's a 15- to 20-minute trip by taxi from the airport to central Christchurch, where The George hotel is located. Expect to pay about \$15–\$20.

WHERE TO STAY BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, visit <http://www.backroads.com/gettingthere> to see a listing of our recommended travel agencies, or work with your own travel agent or the hotels directly. Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details.

The prices listed in this section are the Internet and/or Best Available Rates in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted. These rates were accurate at the time of printing, but **hotel rates are always subject to change.**

CHRISTCHURCH

THE GEORGE (OUR MEETING LOCATION ON DAY 1)

Located in the heart of Christchurch, which *Condé Nast Traveler* calls one of the “world’s friendliest cities,” this member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World is just around the corner from the best shopping, theaters and public gardens. You’re sure to have a memorable stay here thanks to the flawless service and luxuriously adorned guest rooms. For two of New Zealand’s finest dining experiences, you don’t have to leave the hotel: Pescatore is considered one of the country’s top 10 seafood restaurants, while 50 on Park is known for its inventive cuisine and more casual ambience. The George has computers available for Internet access, as well as wireless Internet throughout the hotel. 50 Park Terrace; Phone: 64-(0)3-379-4560; www.thegeorge.com; Rates: From \$260; 55 rooms

CROWNE PLAZA CHRISTCHURCH

Providing marvelous views of the Southern Alps and Port Hills from its central location on Victoria Square, the Crowne Plaza is within easy walking distance of Christchurch’s cultural attractions. This upscale hotel offers attentive service and three restaurants: Enjoy sushi at Yamagen Restaurant, savory gourmet cuisine at the elegant Canterbury Tales Restaurant or a brasserie-style dining experience at Victoria Street Cafe. Corner of Durham and Kilmore Streets; Phone: 877-227-6963 (For Crowne Plaza reservations) or 64-(0)3-365-7799; www.christchurch.crowneplaza.com; Rates: From \$195; 298 rooms

RYDGES CHRISTCHURCH

Living up to its reputation as “one of the South Island’s finest hotels,” Rydges has built a loyal following based on impeccable service, contemporary yet distinguished décor and an unbeatable location overlooking the enchanting Avon River. An added convenience is the

hotel's proximity to enticing restaurants, stylish boutiques, manicured public parks and lavish botanical gardens. Corner of Oxford Terrace and Worcester Street; Phone: 61-(0)2-9261-4929 for reservations or 64-(0)3-379-4700; www.rydges.com; Rates: From \$240; 208 rooms and suites

CHARLOTTE JANE

For cozy and romantic accommodations, you can't choose a better spot than the charming Charlotte Jane. A meticulously restored Victorian home, it was named after one of the "First Four Ships" filled with English settlers that sailed into Lyttelton Harbor in 1850. The inn sparkles with stained glass windows, polished hardwood floors, crackling fireplaces and elegant gardens overflowing with fragrant roses and rhododendrons. Its Alexander Lawrence restaurant offers an intimate dining experience, with a creative menu featuring the finest New Zealand fare with a French twist. Complimentary Internet facilities are available in the library. 110 Papanui Road; Phone: 64-(0)3-355-1028; www.charlotte-jane.co.nz; Rates: From \$280, including breakfast; 12 rooms

ELM TREE HOUSE

Listed with the prestigious New Zealand Historic Places Trust, this 1920s colonial-style home enjoys a prime setting in the exclusive Merivale district near the heart of the city, Hagley Park and Christchurch Gardens. Boasting a colorful history as the architectural creation of the England Brothers and home of a Canterbury Member of Parliament, this inviting inn is now run by Karen and Allan Scott, two world travelers who shower guests with their gracious hospitality. 236 Papanui Road; Phone: 64-(0)3-355-9731; www.elmtreehouse.co.nz; Rates: From \$230 (with breakfast included); 6 rooms

QUEENSTOWN

MILLBROOK

Located just outside Queenstown, this prestigious golf resort has earned acclaim for its spectacular championship course, "ranked among the nation's top five by seasoned players." Nestled among the manicured fairways are individual private villas designed with elegant country flair and superb views. If being pampered appeals to you, indulge in a luxurious treatment at the state-of-the-art spa or unwind by the pool and soak up the breathtaking vistas. If you're looking for more activity, enjoy a bike ride, a set of tennis or a sightseeing excursion to one of the area's nearby attractions, including the famous Milford Sound. Malaghans Road, Arrowtown; Phone: 64-(0)3-441-7000; www.millbrook.co.nz; Rates: From \$275; 150 rooms

NUGGET POINT RESORT

You would never know you were less than 10 minutes from central Queenstown in this spectacular setting accented by the majestic Coronet Peak, pristine Shotover River and marvelous forests and streams. Days here can be filled with a variety of activities, and adventure-seekers, inspired by the resort's helipad, can even discover the surrounding glaciers, Milford Sound and remote fishing spots by air. Spend your evenings indulging in exceptional cuisine at Birches restaurant. 146 Arthur's Point Road; Phone: 64-(0)3-441-0288; www.nuggetpoint.co.nz; Rates: From \$285; 35 rooms

BROWN'S BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Brown's is located in downtown Queenstown, just 10 minutes from the Queenstown airport and an easy 3-minute stroll down the hill to the center of town. Your hosts, Nigel Brown (a former Kiwi Ski Team member) and his wife Bridget, infuse this elegant

European-style B&B with character and charm and are delighted to share their knowledge of the surrounding area with their guests. Warm terra-cotta tiles line the hallways leading to warm-hued oversized guest rooms, each appointed with a king-sized bed, large tiled bathroom and a private balcony with views overlooking Queenstown and stunning Lake Wakatipu. 26 Isle Street; Phone 64-(0)3-441-2050; www.brownshotel.co.nz; Rates: From \$200; 10 rooms

AUCKLAND

HYATT REGENCY AUCKLAND

Perched on a hill with expansive views of Auckland's parks and Waitemata Harbor, the Hyatt Regency offers delightful rooms and a broad range of amenities. Dining options include Arundels Garden Bar, where you can eat outside, and the more casual Café. Corner of Princess Street and Waterloo Quadrant; Phone: 64-(0)9-355-1234; www.auckland.hyatt.com; Rates: From \$160; 385 rooms and suites

STAMFORD PLAZA

With a sophisticated and cosmopolitan feel in the heart of the "City of Sails," this recently refurbished five-star hotel is just steps from Waitemata Harbor, tempting boutiques and enticing cafés. In addition to tastefully decorated rooms enhanced by sumptuous damask fabrics and tailored furniture, Stamford Plaza offers fine dining and cocktails at Kabuki Teppanyaki Restaurant and the new Knight's on Albert restaurant and bar. 22 Lower Albert Street; Phone: 64-(0)9-309-8888; www.stamford.com.au/spak; Rates: From \$130; 282 rooms

PEACE AND PLENTY INN

Nestled on a prime waterfront spot in the quaint seaside village of Devonport, just a quick ferry ride from downtown Auckland, this restored Victorian home offers some of the loveliest accommodations in the area. Rooms are individually styled with stained-glass windows, claw-foot tubs, cast-iron fireplaces, kauri French doors and brass beds. Each room features feather duvets and pillows, freshly cut floral bouquets, rich chocolates and complimentary port and tea. Exploring Devonport is a highlight for many guests, whether they're meandering down tree-lined streets, admiring the historic homes, strolling the white-sand beaches, visiting museums or enjoying the enchanting harbor and city views. Wireless broadband Internet access is available. 6 Flagstaff Terrace; Phone: 64-(0)9-445-2925; www.peaceandplenty.co.nz; Rates: From \$210; 6 rooms

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.