

A wide-angle photograph of a lake, likely Lake Matheson in New Zealand. The lake is in the foreground, with its surface showing ripples and reflections. In the middle ground, a dense forest of tall, green coniferous trees lines the shore. The background is dominated by a range of mountains, with several peaks covered in white snow. The sky is clear and blue.

Your travel guide to
New Zealand

New Zealand **Sky**



‘Kia ora!’

Welcome to your guide to New Zealand

Ready to book the trip of a lifetime to New Zealand? With so much to see and do, it's natural to feel overwhelmed. But don't worry – we're here to help you every step of the way, making the process simple, stress-free, and tailored to your dream holiday.



What you'll find in this guide:

- **Expert guidance:** Our award-winning team has been dedicated to creating bespoke experiences in New Zealand for 20 years.
- **Different ways to travel:** From exploring the islands by car, motorhome, or on an escorted tour, we'll talk you through all the options to find your travel style.
- **Advice on when and where to go:** We'll recommend the best regions and best times to visit based on different interests.
- **Tips for your journey:** We'll help you choose your stopovers, turning them into memorable parts of your journey.



“Our 23-day self-drive tour in New Zealand was perfectly organised, with seamless bookings and great communication. We'll definitely use New Zealand Sky again for future trips.”



Lake Tekapo

The best times to visit New Zealand

Spring

Sept - Nov
Average daytime temp: 10° - 20°C

Summer

Dec - Feb
Average daytime temp: 20° - 30°C

Autumn

Mar - May
Average daytime temp: 15° - 25°C

Winter

Jun - Aug
Average daytime temp: 12° - 16°C

New Zealand's climate is diverse, from the subtropical north to the cooler, mountainous south. The country experiences four distinct seasons, with mild temperatures overall.

You can travel to New Zealand year-round, but we'd recommend visiting during the

summer or the shoulder seasons for the best experience.

No matter when you go, we recommend at least two weeks, but three weeks is ideal for a truly memorable trip. We also advise booking your trip at least 12 months in advance, to get the best availability.

Summer

(December to February)

- Enjoy the warm weather, perfect for outdoor activities
- Great for beach trips, swimming, and water sports like kayaking and surfing
- This is peak festival season, with arts events and various food and wine festivals
- Ideal for trekking in New Zealand's national parks
- It's busy and popular, so be prepared to book accommodation and activities well in advance

Shoulder Season

(March to May and September to November)

- Expect milder temperatures, which varies depending on the region
- It's less crowded, so you can enjoy popular destinations without the masses
- The weather is still good for outdoor activities, with fewer people on the trails
- An excellent time to spot wildlife like seals, dolphins and migrating birds
- Experience the changing landscapes, from vibrant autumn foliage to the lush spring greenery
- Enjoy lower rates for flights and accommodation



Top destinations in New Zealand



Our top recommendations for you



Cathedral Cove

The North Island is best known for its amazing geothermal activity, Māori culture, and stunning beaches.

Auckland Auckland is great for city lovers and is surrounded by beautiful nature – be sure to take in the views from the iconic Sky Tower and hop on a ferry to Waiheke Island for its wineries and artisan food scene.

If you like to immerse yourself in the culture and natural beauty of a destination, **Rotorua** is the heart of Māori heritage and geothermal activity. Witness mud pools, geysers and cultural performances at Te Puia, and enjoy wine and food tasting in **Hawke's Bay**. Don't miss the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a key site in New Zealand's history.

For those who love getting out on the water, why not cruise the **Bay of Islands**, known for its clear waters and 140 subtropical islands and ideal for dolphin watching and boating. Another great option is **Lake Taupo**, New Zealand's largest lake with excellent water activities and the gorgeous Huka Falls.



The South Island is home to the purest natural beauty you'll ever see, and the ideal spot for an outdoorsy road trip..

If you're a thrill-seeker, **Queenstown** is the adventure capital of New Zealand, with bungee jumping, skydiving and white-water rafting on the roster. Meanwhile, **Mount Cook** is home to New Zealand's highest peak, ideal for hiking, scenic flights and glaciers, whilst **Abel Tasman National Park** offers one of New Zealand's Great Walks.

Dunedin, with its Scottish roots, boasts stunning coastlines, historic architecture and vibrant wildlife. **Milford Sound** is another highlight. Known as the eighth wonder of the world, the fjords, waterfalls

and wildlife are awe-inspiring. We recommend taking a boat cruise to take in its grandeur. The **Tasman Glacier** is also stunning, with some of the world's best stargazing.

For city dwellers, **Christchurch** earns its nickname 'Garden City of the Plains' for its public gardens and lovely parks, while foodies will love **Marlborough** for its famous wines and fabulous cuisine. Then for those who prefer a more relaxed adventure, the **TranzAlpine Scenic Railway** offers lush views while crossing the Southern Alps.



Getting around New Zealand



Wellington Bay & Harbour

Getting around New Zealand is easy and stress-free, making it the perfect destination for exploration. We recommend four fantastic options for your trip—here's our advice to help you make the most of it!



Mount Cook

Self-drive by car

A self-drive tour gives you the opportunity to explore New Zealand at your own pace. When booking, we can personalise your itinerary to you, giving you suggestions on where to go and which activities to book.

We recommend hiring a car if you're looking for value for money and an easier drive. They drive on the left-hand side just like us, making it easy to navigate, and we can organise your accommodation for you.

Self-drive by motorhome

We recommend a motorhome tour for more seasoned drivers, or those with plenty of time to explore at a slower pace and spend more nights in each destination.

Plus, with us, you're never alone. Our 24/7 support team in New Zealand is just a call away if you need help or have questions.



Maui River, Castlepoint



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound

Escorted tours

If you'd prefer not to drive, our escorted tours are a fantastic option. You'll travel in comfort with a group of like-minded people, and a knowledgeable guide will ensure you don't miss any highlights.

Many of our customers say they've made lifelong friends on these trips, as it's a great opportunity to meet people while exploring New Zealand. Perfect for solo travellers or couples looking to make new connections, our tours offer a wonderful way to enjoy the country with others.



Bay of Islands



Queenstown

Small group escorted tours

For a more intimate experience, consider our small group escorted tours. With only 10-18 people per group, you'll enjoy a personalised journey, visiting not only popular attractions but also some lesser-known gems. This smaller group size provides more flexibility, creating a truly special adventure.

Planning your journey to New Zealand



Queenstown

We're not keen on the word: stopovers. In our opinion, the long journey to New Zealand is part of the holiday experience, not just a step along the way.

Taking a break in another destination can turn that long flight into a series of exciting mini adventures, helping you recharge and avoid fatigue. On your way to New Zealand, you can stop off in vibrant destinations like Dubai, Singapore, Sydney, or San Francisco. A two-night stay in one of these places can make all the difference, allowing you to start your holiday early and arrive feeling refreshed.

The same goes for the journey home—after an activity-packed trip, why not unwind with a peaceful beach stay in the South Pacific? A relaxing few days

could be just what you need to extend your holiday vibes before heading back.

We know New Zealand is one of the furthest destinations to reach, but many of our customers who've upgraded their flights say it's well worth it. While they wouldn't usually choose it, the ability to lie down and enjoy premium services made the journey much more restful, leaving them recharged and ready to enjoy the adventure ahead—or the downtime on the way back.



Sydney



Fiji



Dubai



San Francisco



Why book with us?



We have 20 years of experience curating unforgettable New Zealand holidays.



Every trip is customised to fit your preferences, ensuring you get the most out of your time in New Zealand.



We work with a trusted local partner who will be there for you around the clock, ensuring peace of mind no matter where you are.



You can fly from regional airports across the UK and Ireland for added convenience.

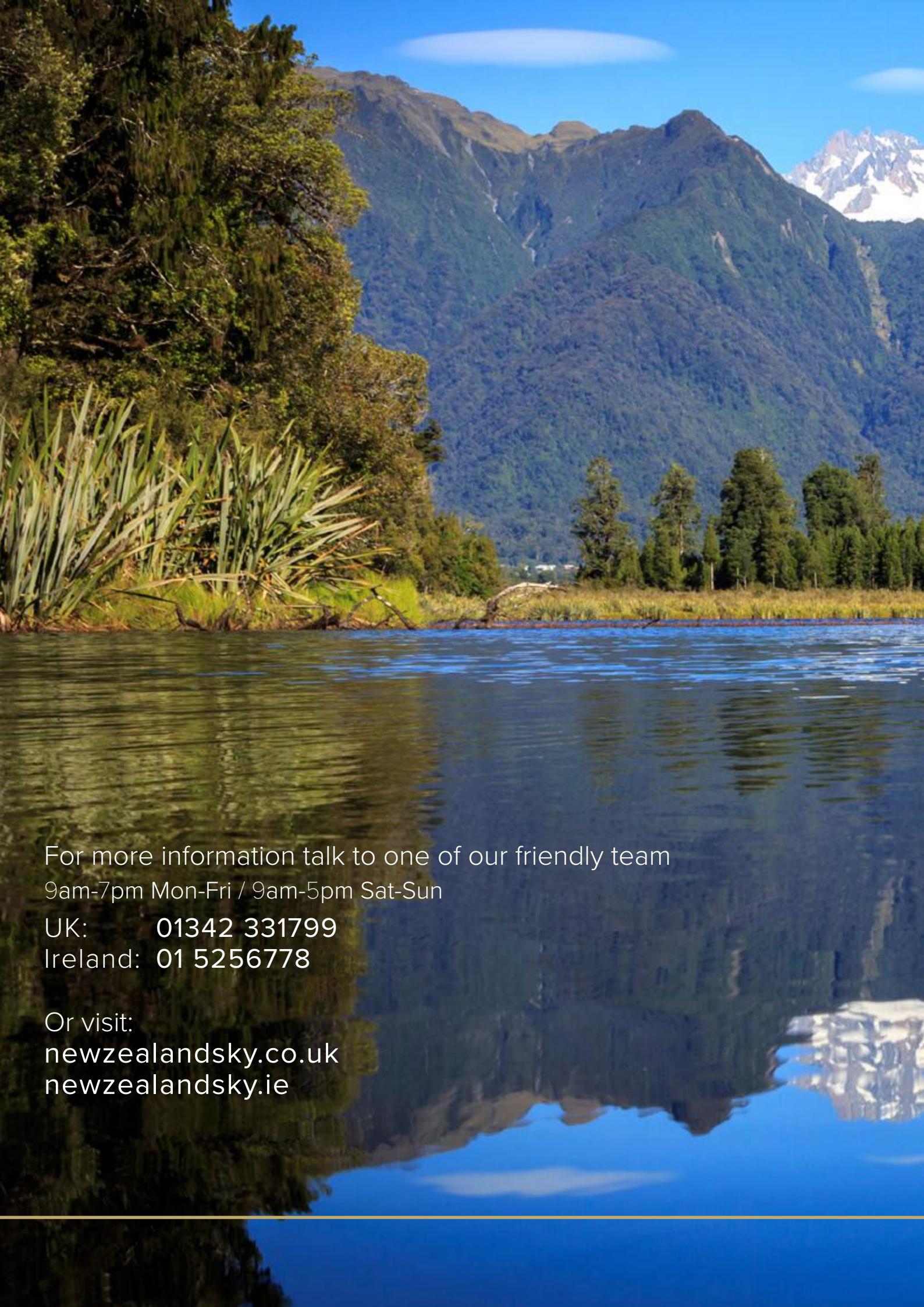


Your money is safe with us. We are fully licensed with ATOL in the UK and IAA in Ireland, ensuring the highest level of service and security.

“Our holiday was amazing, thanks to Brendan’s expert advice and support. We didn’t know where to start, but with his help, we crafted the perfect tailor-made itinerary. Everything ran smoothly, making for an unforgettable trip!“



Lake Pukaki & Mount Cook



For more information talk to one of our friendly team

9am-7pm Mon-Fri / 9am-5pm Sat-Sun

UK: 01342 331799

Ireland: 01 5256778

Or visit:

newzealandsky.co.uk

newzealandsky.ie