



New Zealand 10-Day Itinerary

Map of New Zealand



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Explore the Beauty of New Zealand

Stunning scenery, rich local culture — there's no country quite as magical as New Zealand. With surreal photo spots at every turn, New Zealand is best explored on a road trip. Imagine driving hours without a skyscraper in sight — just snow-capped mountains, turquoise lakes, and lush forest.

Start your road trip in North Island, home to the Maori, before continuing in adventure-packed South Island. Whether you choose to ramp things up or just chill in the countryside, New Zealand's beauty will take your breath away.

North Island

Day 1

Waitomo

Day 2

Taupo

Day 3

Rotorua

Day 4

Matamata

South Island

Day 5

Queenstown

Day 6

Milford Sound

Day 7

Aoraki Mount
Cook

Day 8

Castle Hill

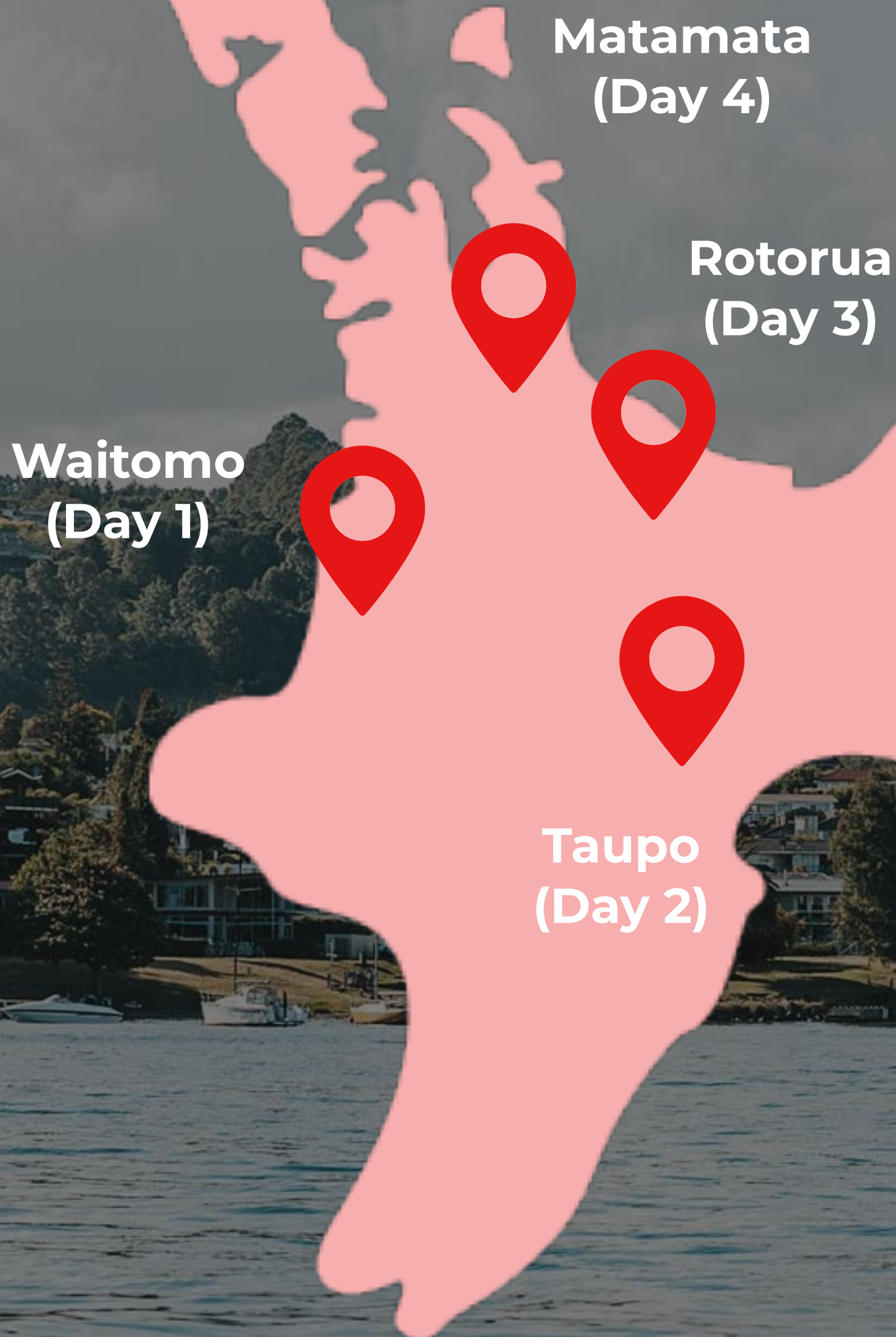
Day 9

Hokitika

Day 10

Fox Glacier

North Island



Enter the home of the Maori, New Zealand's indigenous culture with an unshakeable connection to the land. In North Island, you'll explore an authentic Maori village, and even watch a traditional *Haka* dance up close! North Island also houses another little society — see for yourself at the Hobbiton Movie Set. And of course, you'll be surrounded by fantastic natural landscapes, thermal pools, and ancient geological wonders at every turn.

Waitomo

Day 1

Start your trip with some of New Zealand's most magical sights — glow worms, waterfalls, and breathtaking natural structures.

ACTIVITY 1

Spot Creepy Crawlies at Ruakuri Cave

Waitomo's largest cave hides many treasures — cheeky glow worms and stunning crystal formations. Keep your eyes peeled on an entertaining walking tour or a water rafting adventure.

Cost: ~NZ\$79 for a walking tour and ~NZ\$150 for a water rafting tour

Tour Timings: From 9AM – 4PM based on season

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2



Hike at Marokopa Falls

This 35m waterfall flows all year round, with raw, majestic power. Take a quick hike around the area for closer views!

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

OR

See Ancient Fossils at Mangapohue Natural Bridge Walk

Walk this trail through stunning limestone formations — including a 17m-high natural arch, once part of an ancient cave.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

Taupo

Day 2

Get ready to see nature at its most powerful,
with a visit to Taupo's thermal wonders and
the awesome Huka Falls.

ACTIVITY 1



Get Splashed at Huka Falls

Witness over 200,000L of water gush through per second — a flow rate that creates stunning blue hues.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: Car park is locked from 6:30PM – 8AM in summer and from 5:30PM – 8AM in winter

[More Info](#)

OR

Soak in the Spa Thermal Park

Enjoy a relaxing dip in these natural hot springs.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2

Explore Wal-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

***See collapsed craters and multicoloured pools
at New Zealand's most colourful and diverse
geothermal attraction.***

Cost: ~NZ\$32.50

Opening hours: 9AM – 4PM; last admission at 3PM.

Closed on Wed and Thu

[More Info](#)

Rotorua

Day 3

Hike — or as the locals say, tramp — through a forest filled with giant Redwood trees, then immerse yourself in vibrant Maori culture.

ACTIVITY 1

Hike the Pohaturoa Track at Whakarewarewa Forest

Take this scenic trail through the Redwoods forest, and see panoramic views of Rotorua town and its thermal parks. Starting at the Redwood i-Site visitor centre, the 7.5km track takes around two hours.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 8.30AM – 6PM in summer; 8.30AM – 5PM in winter

[More Info](#)

Have a Cool Scoop at Lady Janes Ice Cream Parlour

This beloved shop has everything from the classics to exclusive, local flavours like kiwi pavlova — all topped with a generous heap of free toppings.

Cost: ~NZ\$5.90

Opening hours: 10AM – 6PM (Sun – Wed); 10AM – 9PM
(Thu – Sat)

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2

Immerse in Culture at the Mitai Maori Village

Maori culture is a huge part of New Zealand's identity — in fact, one in seven New Zealanders have Maori ancestry! At the village, watch traditional performances and feast on a Hangi meal, while learning more about this fascinating culture.

Cost: ~NZ\$123 for the Evening Experience

Tour Timings: Varies

[More Info](#)

Matamata

Day 4

Enter Middle Earth at the Hobbiton Movie Set, where the Lord Of The Rings scenes were filmed!

ACTIVITY 1

Wander around Hobbiton Movie Set

The Shire comes to life in this colourful countryside farm. You don't need to be a fan of the franchise to enjoy the magic of this fantasy land!

Cost: ~NZ\$89 for two hours

Opening Hours: 9:30AM, 10:45AM, 12PM, 1:15PM, and 2:30PM; additional timings may be added based on demand

[More Info](#)

FOOD



Make Merry at the Green Dragon Inn

When in The Shire, do as the locals do! Have a pint and a pie at The Green Dragon Inn, with a wonderfully immersive ambiance and terrific attention to detail.

Cost: Free drink included with tour; ~NZ\$6 for a meat pie

Opening hours: 9AM – 5PM

[More Info](#)

South Island



After a quick flight, the adventure continues in South Island! Here you'll find plenty of amazing natural landscapes. Be sure to buffer in extra travelling time, as you'll want to keep stopping for photos! And it's not just the nature that's breathtaking — take your pick of South Island's crazy activities, from bungee jumping to skydiving from 15,000ft!

Queenstown

Day 5

Start ticking off the bucket list at New Zealand's adventure capital.

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ACTIVITY 1



Bungy, Swing, or Catapult over the Nevis River

Brave New Zealand's tallest bungy, become a high-speed human catapult, or swing upside-down across the Nevis River!

Cost: ~NZ\$275 for the Nevis Bungy, ~NZ\$225 for the Nevis Swing, and ~NZ\$225 for the Nevis Catapult

Opening hours: 9AM – 5PM

[More Info](#)

OR

Skydive Over Queenstown

With jaw-dropping views and a longtime passion for adrenaline, Queenstown is the perfect skydiving destination.

Cost: ~NZ\$275 for a 15,000ft skydive

Activity timings: Varies

[More Info](#)

LUNCH



Eat a Fergburger

Feast on the best burgers in New Zealand (and some say the world)!

Cost: From ~NZ\$12.50

Opening hours: 8AM – 5AM

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2

Enjoy a Scenic Night at Skyline Queenstown

For the best views of Queenstown, take a scenic gondola ride up to the peak and enjoy a fun luge ride at the top!

Cost: ~NZ\$61 for the gondola to the peak and two luge rides

Opening Hours: Varies by season

[More Info](#)

Milford Sound

Day 6

See the South Island's most beautiful
natural attractions.

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ACTIVITY 1

Hike to Lake Marian

Take a hike to Lake Marian, an alpine lake nestled in a gorgeous hanging valley. It's a three-hour hike (return) but it's well worth it!

Cost: Free

Opening Hours: 24hrs. Best hiked on a clear day

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2



Cruise on Milford Sound

Take a scenic cruise through one of the most beautiful places on earth, with plunging cliffs, towering mountains and raging waterfalls.

Cost: ~NZ\$79

Activity Timings: Varies

[More Info](#)

Aoraki Mount Cook Day 7

Continue the road trip to Mount Cook National Park for some world-class hiking.

ACTIVITY 1

Gaze Out at Lake Pukaki

Admire this glistening blue lake with scenic winding roads. The two main viewpoints are just a 12-minute drive apart.

Cost: Free

Activity Timings: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

LUNCH



Enjoy a Fresh Sashimi Picnic at Mt Cook Alpine Salmon

***Fill up on South Island's freshest catch at this
popular seafood store.***

Cost: ~NZ\$38 for a 500g packet

Opening hours: 10AM – 4PM

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2



Tramp through Mount Cook's Hooker Valley Track

Mount Cook's most popular track, with views of snow-capped mountains. The 10km trail takes four to six hours altogether.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

OR

Tramp through Mount Cook's Tasman Glacier Track

With three routes that are all under an hour, this track offers great views of the Tasman Glacier Lake.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

Castle Hill

Day 8

Get adventurous at a natural climbing gym, a chilly cave stream, and a waterfall with an ominous name.

ACTIVITY 1



Rock Climb in Nature at Kura Tawhiti

Filled with limestone formations, Kura Tawhiti is now a world-famous, natural bouldering spot. Rent climbing pads and shoes from the nearby Springfield town, or simply admire the ancient sculptures in this hilly area.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24 hrs

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2



Adventure in the Cave Stream Scenic Reserve

Explore this famous cave (the set of a Narnia movie), and its pretty karst sculptures! Bring a torch and warm clothes, and check the water level before entering.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

[More Info](#)

OR

Admire the Devils Punchbowl Waterfall

Take a one-hour round trip hike to this pretty 131m waterfall. If you're lucky, you'll see a rainbow on your visit!

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs

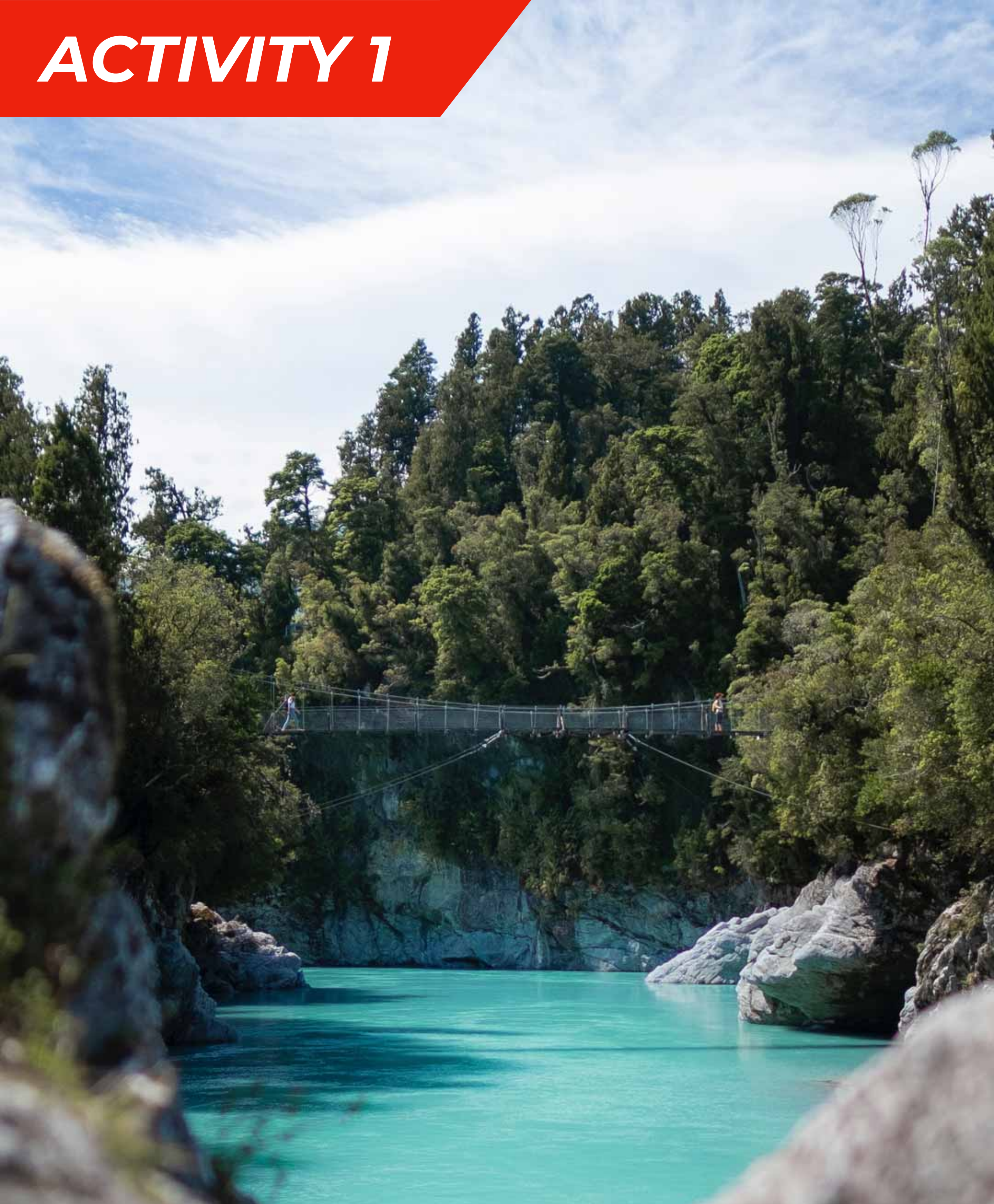
[More Info](#)

Hokitika

Day 9

Experience wet, wonderful nature at
Hokitika Gorge and the Franz Joseph
Glacier Hot Pools.

ACTIVITY 1



See the Turquoise Hokitika Gorge

As long as it's not raining, the Hokitika Gorge is a swirl of vivid green-blue.

Cost: Free

Opening hours: 24hrs; best seen on a clear day

[More Info](#)

ACTIVITY 2

Soak in the Franz Joseph Glacier Hot Pools

*Relax weary muscles in the various outdoor pools,
ranging from 36 to 41°C.*

Cost: ~NZ\$29

Activity timings: 11AM – 9PM (Last entry at 8PM)

[More Info](#)



Fox Glacier

Day 10

End the road trip with an epic helicopter flight to a massive, icy glacier!

ACTIVITY 1



Heli-Hike at Fox Glacier

Fly in a helicopter to the magnificent Fox Glacier, before experiencing a guided walk on the icy floor. As the heli-hike is dependent on good weather, pick the first flight of the day, so your flight can get bumped to a later session if needed.

Cost: ~NZ\$499

Activity Timings: Varies by season

[More Info](#)

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