

'PYO' NEW ZEALAND PLAN YOUR OWN HOLIDAY



Milford Sound

- **Practical advice for couples, individuals or groups**
- **Book and advise best tracks and walks**
- **Arrange activities, short tours, guides**
- **Flights, ferries, trains, public transport, car hire, motor-homes, campers**
- **Accommodation: our 'best choices' to suit all budgets**
- **Transparent 'good value' pricing**

High Places in New Zealand

In 1999 'High Places' directors Bob and Mary Lancaster moved to New Zealand and opened an office in Nelson at the top of the South Island. Ringed by mountains, Nelson, with its sunny climate, vineyards and orchards, potters, painters and golden beaches is stylish and relaxed. Don't miss coming to Nelson - It's a great place!

Why New Zealand?

Its small size and low population, its stability and safety, combined with an incredible variety of landscape, mountains and wilderness to epitomise, possibly more than any other country in the

world, the 'small is beautiful' concept. New Zealand is such a friendly and relaxed country in which to travel.

If you want to travel with a group we think that our popular day walking tour, 'New Zealand Contrasts' which hikes in **seven National Parks** is the best on offer. We have found however that a growing number of people wish to make their own plans, choose their own dates and travel independently. That is why we started **'PYO' NEW ZEALAND**.

'PYO' PLAN YOUR OWN, NEW ZEALAND

Working from our High Places NZ Office in Nelson, we are keen to advise and make travel arrangements for your independent visit to New Zealand.

Our 'outdoors' expertise ranging from mountaineering, hiking, kayaking and biking to whale-watching and alpine climbing makes our advisory service very much 'hands-on' and practical.

What we can do

- Convert your own rough plans into a working itinerary
- Suggest and design itineraries
- Book walking tracks
- Book other tours e.g. 5 day mountain bike, 2 day sea kayak trip, 7 day alpine course
- Make reservations for accommodation, activities, flights, travel, campervan and car hire

Do consider starting your trip here in Nelson - it is such an attractive part of New Zealand, as well as officially being NZ's sunniest region with over 2500 hours annually. (London 1400 hours, Sydney 2200 hours) and much quieter and friendlier than Auckland or Christchurch. This gives us a chance to meet up with you for a few hours, book some attractive accommodation, put your minds at rest and then send you on your way. There are connecting flights to Nelson from both Auckland and Christchurch. Walking the nearby Abel Tasman Track or Queen Charlotte Walkway is a good start to any visit. But coming to Nelson first is not essential and can be your choice.



Estuary crossing on Abel Tasman

Style

By and large, the enquiries we receive are from independent-minded people who are happy, once over in New Zealand, to make many of the day-to-day decisions themselves. We advise and design the itinerary, handle the key arrangements and reservations and if you arrive in Nelson we meet you and have a briefing.

We are always happy to have a phone or skype call early in the process. It often helps us to form a better picture of the type of holiday you want.

Our first aim is to produce a 'framework' plan of your visit, usually with a couple of optional itineraries and an approximate price. This is without any obligation on your part.

Distances in New Zealand

New Zealand tends to be bigger than you think! To drive the whole length of the South Island takes 18 hours plus! The North Island is a similar area to England and Wales. Although the roads are usually in good shape, there are no motorways and it is easy to be over-ambitious in planning. Our advice on times, distances and designing a realistic itinerary can be invaluable.

When to come to New Zealand

The summer season stretches from November to April inclusive, with December, January and February tending to be the busiest months for overseas visitors. During the NZ summer school holidays from Christmas to late January, New Zealanders, who nearly all holiday in their own country, could add to congestion in popular areas and on the trails. In the deep south i.e. Fiordland, April sees the change towards winter with snow in the mountains but the remainder of the country can still be enjoying late summer.

New Zealand tracks

Experiencing multi-day 'tramping trails' into the mountains and bush will often be the highlight of any active 'outdoors' visit to New Zealand. For fit, well-equipped walkers, willing to carry all their gear and food between the network of well-maintained huts, setting out for 2-5 days is a tremendous adventure. The trails range from easy strolls to major expeditions and there are plenty to suit every level. We can advise on all aspects of NZ tracks and walks as well as making bookings for the 'Great walks':- Routeburn, Milford, Kepler, Heaphy, and Abel Tasman Tracks.

Watch out though because some of the popular tracks have become increasingly busy in recent years particularly among overseas visitors in the key summer months December - February. At present only a few tracks have to be booked in advance but the list will surely grow. Consider visiting New Zealand in the shoulder months of November, March and early April.



Hut on Routeburn Track

Pacific Island stopover

Our favourite is the Cook Islands, with very much a New Zealand style, NZ\$ currency, relaxed living etc. The main island, Rarotonga, is a classic Pacific island, 35kms circumference, with palm fringed beaches, coral lagoons and a rugged mountainous interior. If you are interested, see our Pacific Islands Extension details, check out your International flight options then contact our NZ office for accommodation options. Flying from USA and Europe there are also good stopover options to most other Island groups including Fiji, Hawaii, Tahiti and Tonga.

Key information to help us plan your holiday

It speeds up the process and reduces time if your enquiry also contains a summary of key information about yourself and your plans. Do let us know as much of the following as possible:-

- **How many of you?** Travelling alone/couple/group of friends/family
- **How long do you propose to stay?**
- **Have you booked your flights?**
- **What do you want to do?** Are there key places and activities are on your list?
- **How do you intend to travel?**
- **What style of accommodation?** En suite facilities essential/preferred/not important?
- **What walking and independent travel experience?**
- **What age are you?** Optional - can sometimes (but not always) help us to pitch the itinerary better.

OUR PRICE

For all customised itineraries you will pay the normal retail price for each item of your trip e.g. car hire, track bookings, accommodations. Our invoice will clearly show this breakdown. On top of this we make a reasonable charge for our planning time, admin costs and expenses. Based in New Zealand and working in NZ\$ our prices for car hire, campervan hire, domestic flights, some accommodations etc tend to be appreciably less than those advertised by overseas based agencies.



Multi-day walking in the Southern Alps

What our clients say:

"The holiday you helped us arrange was beyond all we could have imagined..."

Rosalind O'Melia PYO, Feb 09

"Really good holiday thoroughly enjoyed it. All the connections between the different itineraries worked well and it was good that you could arrange the 'extra' items in Wellington and Coromandel. We will recommend High Places to our friends."

Sue Ayers, PYO, Jan 09

"The holiday you organised was great and exactly what I hoped for. Walking - definitely world class. Hospitality everywhere friendly and comfortable, sometimes blissful..."

Bet Tickner, PYO, Dec 08

GUIDELINE COSTS

The following should give you some idea of costs in New Zealand – these are approximate and may vary up or down. Exchange rate based on £1 = NZ\$2.58, €1 = NZ\$2.32, US\$1 = NZ\$1.72.

Accommodation (based on twin share, pp=per person)

- Backpackers/budget (share facilities): NZ\$30pp for bunk room shared with others – single/double rooms with or without ensuite are often available, cost more.
- Chalet/motel: NZ\$110-160 double/twin room
- Guesthouse outside main cities B/B: NZ\$110-150 double/twin room
- City guesthouse B/B: NZ\$140-190 double/twin room
- City hotel B/B: NZ\$160-260 double/twin room

Transport

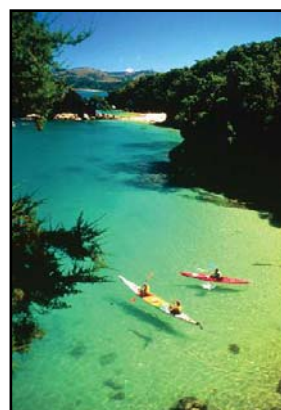
- Rail/buses: Auckland-Wellington train flexi fare NZ\$130pp
- Car Hire: high season, saloon, NZ\$75-95 daily
- Campervan: high season, suitable for 2 persons! NZ\$160-285 daily
- North/South Island ferry: NZ\$65pp single journey passenger only
- Domestic flights: good prices if booked more than 6 weeks ahead. Christchurch-Rotorua NZ\$200 single

Activities

- 2 day Sea Kayaking trip with overnight camp/food: NZ\$350
- Queenstown rafting trip: NZ\$170
- Dolphin Swim Kaikoura: NZ\$165
- 7 day Alpine Course: NZ\$2250

Tramping/Hiking

- Milford Track hut fee: NZ\$45 per person per night.
- Standard hut: NZ\$15 per person per night.



Abel Tasman

HOW TO BOOK AND PAY

From the UK

- Contact the NZ office to start the planning process.
- Once an itinerary has been agreed, fill in a PYO booking form, and pay a 20% deposit + the cost of any items payable in advance e.g. air tickets, track bookings etc.
- Payments may be made in NZ\$ by credit card or bank transfer direct to our New Zealand office or in Sterling (cheque or credit/debit card) to High Places UK.
- High Places in Sheffield UK will issue a receipt for sterling payments - all other information will be in electronic mode to/from High Places NZ office.
- Final balance will be due on receipt of invoice at 6 weeks prior to departure.

Elsewhere

- A similar procedure but deal with High Places NZ direct for all admin and payments. Final payment will usually be by credit card or electronic bank transfer.

If you want any further information please do not hesitate to contact us

HIGH PLACES NEW ZEALAND

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