

NEW ZEALAND ITINERARY

If I was going to New Zealand and only had one week, here's what I would do.

Mind you, this is who I am:

- A safety minded Intrepid Adventurer looking for every opportunity for amazing sights and experiences.

Background:

New Zealand consists of two islands. There's a bunch of really amazing adventurous outdoors things you can do. So here are a few highlights of my trip. If I could do it over again, here's what I would do if I only had one week.

In General, I'd plan to drive up the west coast of New Zealand's south island.

- Fly into Queenstown in the evening.
- Rent a Car/Campervan
- Find a place to sleep or camp ground to sleep in.
- Get all the maps you need. Go into the store & get all your snacks and such.
- Get a good travel book that can give you side attractions. I like Lonely Planet.
- Get a NZ cell phone or a sim card for your cell phone. It makes it so easy to make phone calls, making on the fly bookings, or instead just call your American cell phone carrier to see if they can cover you (usually expensive).

I'd avoid:

- Christchurch



Day 1 ITINERARY: MILFORD SOUND

\$\$\$: Fly or Helicopter to Milford Sound from Queenstown

\$: Drive out to Milford Sound

Leave early in the morning if you can. Fly and you can condense more into your trip and skip a day or two.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

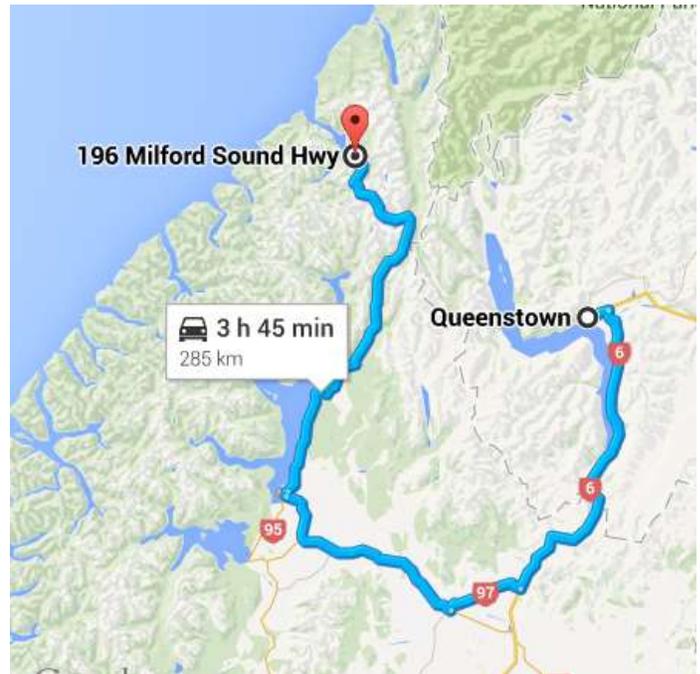
MILFORD TRACK:

- Book early, like 6 months early. The Milford Track is rated as one of the 10 most beautiful trails in the world. You won't regret it, but it does take a big chunk out of your time seeing the rest of the country. It's a 4 day journey
 - More on the specific hike (or tramp as they call it) at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/fiordland/places/fiordland-national-park/things-to-do/tracks/milford-track/>
 - Be sure to check the conditions for the timeframe you're going. If it's in the rainy season, you can literally be wading through 3-4ft deep water in places (I kid you not) or dealing with snow.
 - Online booking: <https://booking.doc.govt.nz/Menu.aspx?sg=MIL>
 - **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to go the day before to pick up the tickets at the town of Te Anau or you'll lose out and miss the trip all together.

MILFORD SOUND:

- Even if you do the Milford Track, you still **MUST** do a boat tour. Either way, be sure to go on one of the smallest boat sizes you can find. Avoid the GIANT boats like the plague. The smaller ferry boats will literally go underneath the waterfalls where the water crashes on the deck of the boat.. SICK! The Gigantic Boats won't do that. They get close enough, but make you jealous of the people in the smaller boats.
- Book a kayaking trip & kayak around.

Afterwards: If you have time and got there early enough or took a flight, you might have time to fit in a trip to jump the nevis high wire. See that on the next page.



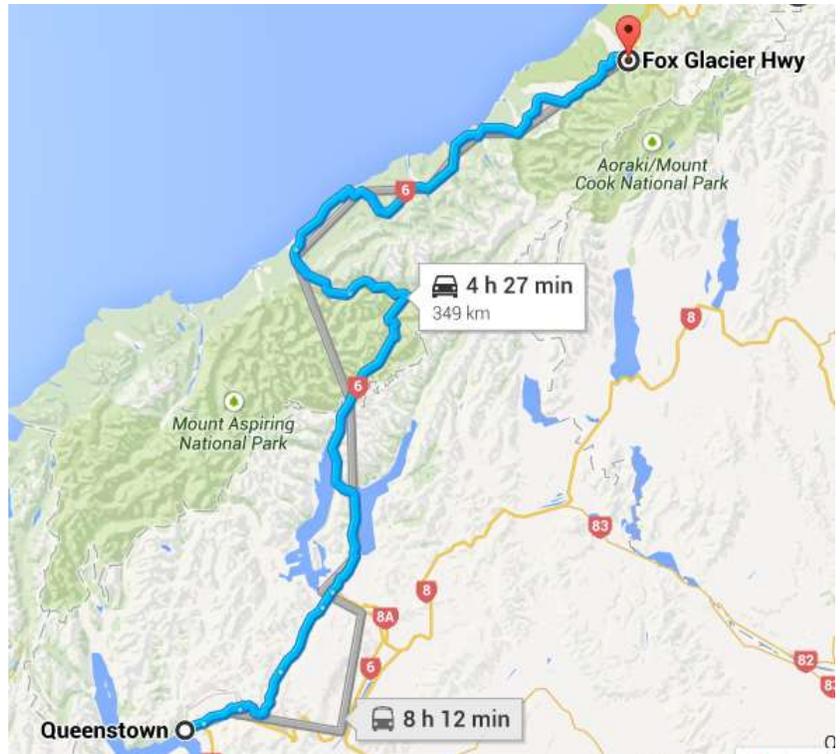
DAY 2: QUEENSTOWN & NEVIS HIGHWIRE

QUEENSTOWN:

- **NEVIS HIGHWIRE: 3rd Highest Bungee Jump in the World** If you're going to Bungee Jump, this is where you go: \$275 (NZD) <http://www.bungy.co.nz/the-nevis/the-nevis-bungy>
- **Spend the day hanging out in & around Queenstown. Look at local attractions like flying in helicopters, local hikes, &/or check out a travel book for the other cool stuff you can do in the area (I like Lonely Planet Guidebooks).**

DRIVE TO FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER: 4 hours approximately

Book a trip ice hiking or better yet, ICE CLIMBING on a glacier. There are kea birds (mountain parrots) that will even be on the ice trying to sneak into your bags and steal your food. 😊



DAY 3: FRANZ JOSEPH GLACIER CLIMB or ICE WALK

ACTIVITY OPTIONS: ICE CLIMB/ICE WALK

There's the option of doing an ice walk or doing ice climbing there. I took a look online and had a difficulty finding an ice climbing outfit that walks out onto the glacier (much cheaper than helicopter option). I did a walk on option when I went there. There must be a vendor that does that. I did find a heli-iceclimb option, listed below.

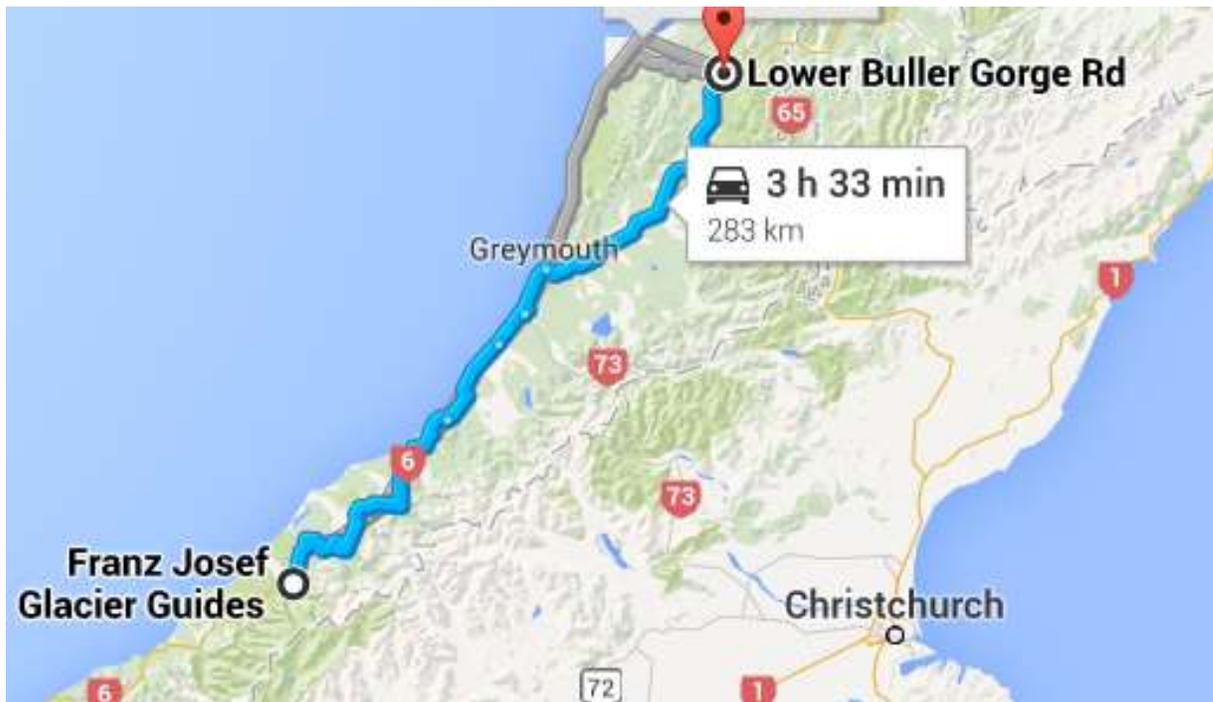
Ice Walk:
<http://www.franzjosefglacier.com/>

Heli Ice Climb (\$499 New Zealand Dollars)
<http://www.franzjosefglacier.com/our-trips/heli-ice-climb/>

If you don't want to climb ice, then definitely do a ICE WALK. Lots of vendors & well worth it. You put crampons (ice spikes) on your shoes and then start traversing up the glacier. It's pretty sick!!

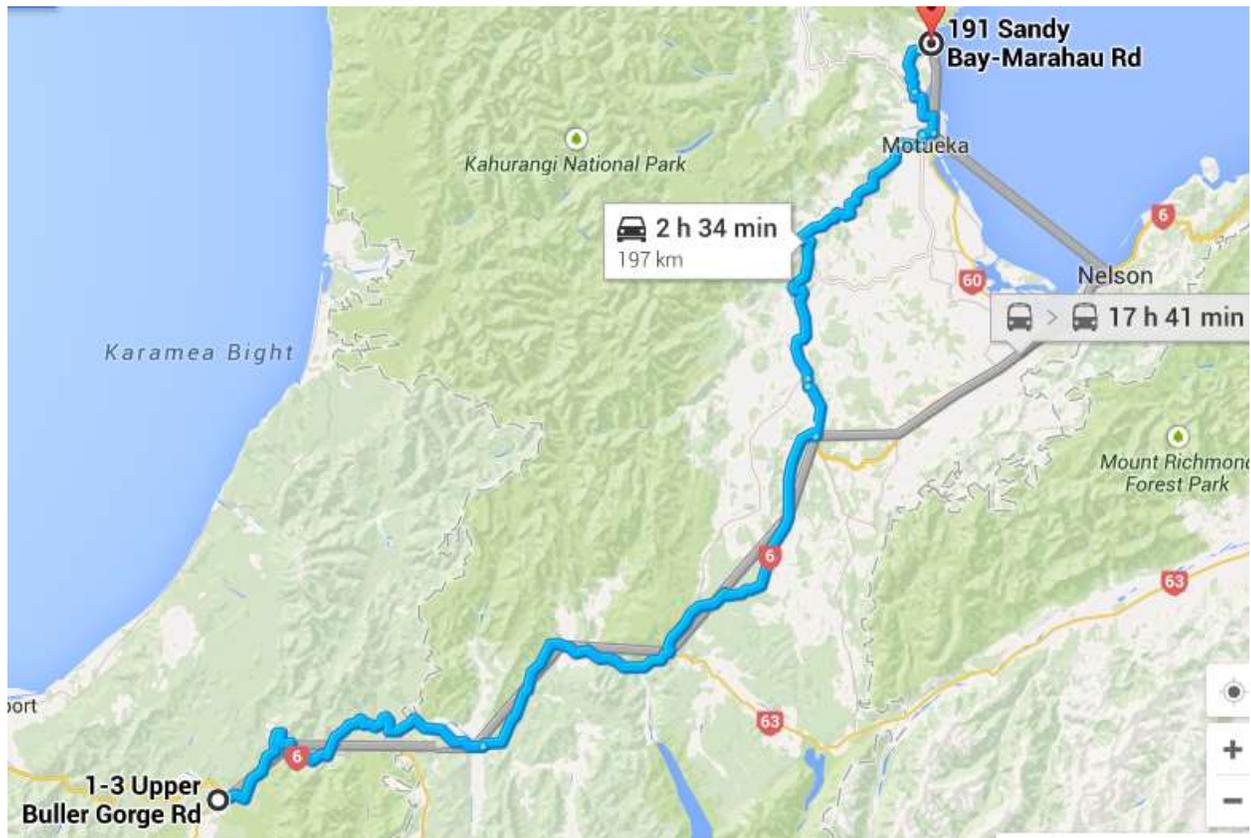
CAMPING: Either camp the night here or drive up the road. If you have a campervan you can literally camp almost anywhere on the side of the road.

DAY 4A: RAFTING THE BULLER RIVER



- Inangahua, New Zealand:
- This is a cool place to do some rafting in New Zealand and it's on the way northbound.
- <http://www.wildriversrafting.co.nz/>

DAY 4B or 5-6: CONTINUE NORTHBOUND TO ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK:



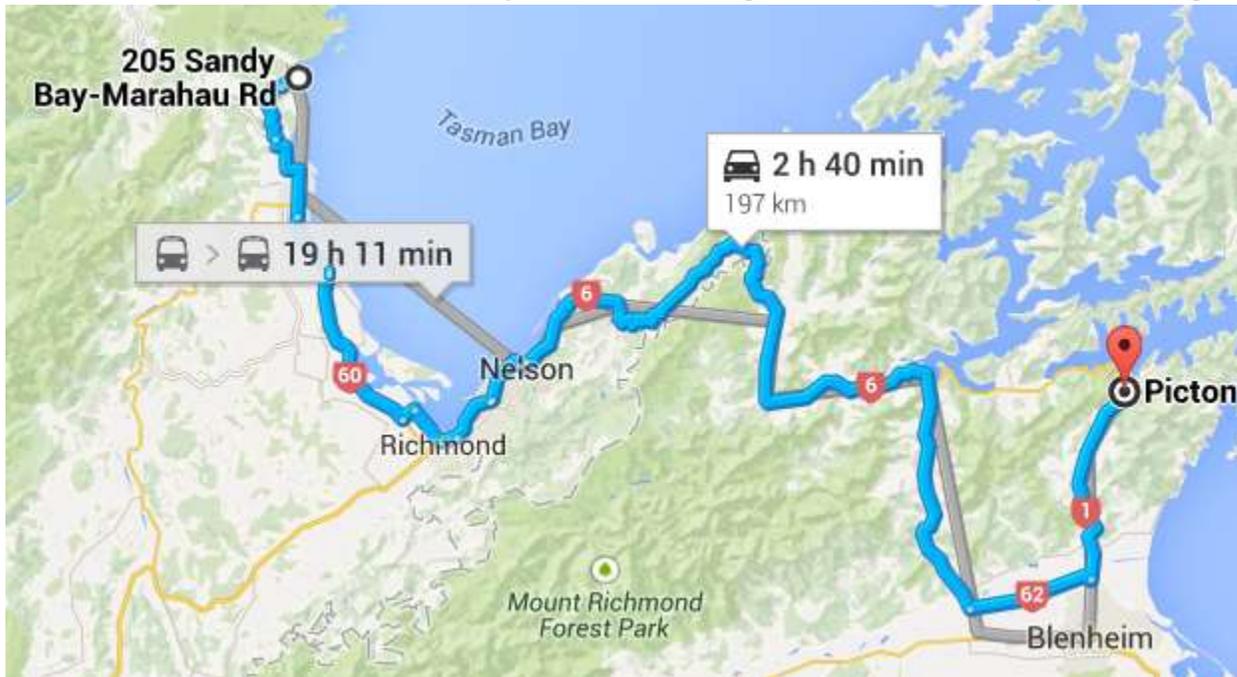
ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- **Kayaking/Hiking/Boating ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK:**
 - Basically Abel Tasman National Park is a hiking trail that follows along the coast across beautiful beaches and through lush fern strewn forests. It's gorgeous.

WHAT TO KNOW:

- The hikes are amazing. I highly recommend at least one day hike or multi-day hike here.
- You have to pre-book spots inside specific government run huts.
- More Information:
 - <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/nelson-tasman/places/abel-tasman-national-park/things-to-do/tracks/abel-tasman-coast-track/>
- Have Mosquito Repellant: not for mosquitos but for sand flies. Little flies that bite you and inject a protein in that makes the bite really uncomfortable for a few days. DEET up & DEET often.
- You have to book the huts online. It's a coastal route with beautiful scenery. Get a map and determine where you'd like to go in between. I recommend at least one beach crossing. See where there are available huts. Also you don't have to start at the very beginning, you can charter a boat to drop you off at a beach anywhere along the journey. So you have lots of options.
- No food options on the trail, so bring your snacks/food with you.

DAY 6-7: Take the Ferry to Wellington & catch your flight home



ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- **Nelson New Zealand is the country's wine region. Grab a bottle. If you find one called Church Road, it's delicious. It was my favorite when I was there.**

WHAT TO KNOW:

- The Ferry terminal from the south island is found in Picton, NZ. You need to book a spot on the Ferry taking you from the south island to the north.
- If you have a campervan (Juicy/Wicked/etc), that is the size of a minivan, don't let them overcharge you on the ferry fees. Book it like it's a car, not an RV.
- Return your car & figure out how to get to the airport for your flight.
- Fly home out of Wellington