

# New Zealand Romance

Whether you're a luxury addict, a thrill seeker or soul searcher, Indagare can help you plan the perfect honeymoon. Here we spotlight a romantic trip to New Zealand, a dreamy destination offering a full slate of activities in a stunning landscape.

New Zealand is one of those rare places where reality surpasses fantasy in the beauty of its nature, the breadth of the experiences it offers and the quality of its super lodges. Here's an itinerary for two weeks.

## Days 1-3: Bay of Islands

Of New Zealand's four million residents, three million live on the North Island, home to the capital, Auckland, and known for gorgeous bays and lakes with some of the world's best fishing. Upon arrival in Auckland, drive to the glorious Bay of Islands, on the country's northernmost tip. Check in at one of the country's best lodges, whose cottages feature cozy fireplaces and private porches overlooking the Pacific. The property offers a world-renowned golf course, as well as sailing, deep-sea fishing, snorkeling and sea kayaking. A guided hike among giant kauri trees in the ancient Puketi rainforest is a highlight of any trip to this region and a wonderful way to overcome jetlag in beautiful surroundings and start your New Zealand adventure.

## Days 4-6: North Island options

The North Island offers many more highlights, so you have a wide range to choose from, depending on the activities you prefer. Passionate golfers and oenophiles shouldn't miss Hawke's

Bay, home to one of Indagare's favorite lodges, situated on a stunning 6,000-acre sheep and cattle farm with sweeping sea views. Each of the 24 spacious suites has a private deck, and the abundance of active adventures available include sailing, paragliding, fly-fishing and hiking. You can explore the surreal landscape, with its undulating hills and distant cliffs plunging down to the ocean by bike or track baby kiwis in the bird sanctuary with a biologist guide.

Fly-fishers, meanwhile, must visit Taupo. Any season will do—in winter, the fish swim up the Waikato River to spawn, while during the summer, they rest in the shallows of Lake Taupo. This area also boasts one of New Zealand's oldest, most acclaimed lodges, set in a pine forest on the banks of the river. The cuisine is lavish, with superb five-course dinners, and guests stay in well-appointed cottages, each with a private terrace leading down to the river.

Incredible food and wine are also a hallmark of Wharekauhau Lodge, located on a working sheep farm on the southern tip of the North Island, near the groovy-cool town of Wellington. Nestled in the Martinborough wine country, the lodge boasts 13 elegant cottages and a stylish main lodge that are all undeniably romantic. This is a good stop for couples who want some light hiking but mainly want to hole up in a

## iconic honeymoons



Clockwise from left: A flock of sheep; Kauri Cliffs; a rushing river; a scenic drive; Abel Tasman National Park; the Annandale; a coastal scene

### THE DETAILS

**Ideal Length:** 10-16 days

**When to Go:** November to March

**Getting There:** Direct flights to New Zealand depart from San Francisco, Los Angeles and Honolulu. The average flight time is 12 hours.

**Hotel Scene:** The term “super lodge” was coined in New Zealand, and Indagare’s favorite hotels there are selected for their incredible locations and excellent food and wine.

**Possible Add-Ons:** Fiji and Bora Bora



beautiful setting with views of Palliser Bay and even all the way to South Island on a clear day. (Note: Wharekauhau, which means ‘place of knowledge,’ is pronounced Foray-ko-ho.)

### Days 7-10: South Island options

Less visited than the North Island, the South Island is home to huge tracts of wilderness as well as Queenstown, one of the country’s most popular destinations. Start in the north and visit the glorious Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand’s smallest and most popular, thanks to the incredible natural splendor, which includes water as blue as that in the Caribbean. The park can be accessed only by boat or helicopter or on

foot. Honeymooners will be based at an exquisitely intimate guesthouse, lovingly run by two locals who eagerly share this beautiful region with their guests.

Couples looking for a more remote hideaway should instead fly to Christchurch and drive to the scenic Banks Peninsula, where they can book a glass-clad villa folded into the 4,000 private acres of this seriously dramatic property. There’s not a lot to do here except to enjoy the pristine, totally private setting, hike and arrange a cruise in the bay. But you earn bragging rights for having stayed in one of the country’s most unusual villa concepts (as well as endless Instagram opportunities).





### Days 11-14: Queenstown/Glenorchy

All New Zealand honeymoons should culminate in the area around Queenstown, which is spectacular. The adventurous can take advantage of the bounty of high-adrenaline activities, including hiking the famous Routeburn Track, bungee jumping, jet boating, snowkiting, heli-skiing and hang gliding. But this region is also known for some of the country's most sumptuous super lodges, so it's a great place to balance exercise with lots of pampering. Wherever you end up staying, you will want to take a Milford Sound helicopter excursion with a glacier landing in the Southern Alps—it's the perfect ending to an unforgettable trip.

### Optional Add-On: The South Pacific

The lengthy journey to New Zealand means that few travelers will be able to combine the island nation with another destination. Those who can, however, should consider a stay in French Polynesia. There's no better place to rest after adventure-filled days than at one of the South Pacific's finest islands. Bora Bora and Tahiti offer sumptuous properties, and a Marlon Brando-owned private island (see page 8) provides a one-of-a-kind, eco-friendly escape.

**Book this trip with a New Zealand expert.** Contact the Indagare Team: [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com) | 212-988-2611