

Univerzita Hradec Králové
Pedagogická fakulta
Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Wandering through New Zealand

Putování po Novém Zélandu

Bakalářská práce

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UNIVERZITA HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ
Pedagogická fakulta
Akademický rok: 2014/2015

ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

(PROJEKTU, UMĚLECKÉHO DÍLA, UMĚLECKÉHO VÝKONU)

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Cizí jazyky pro cestovní ruch - anglický jazyk
Název tématu: **Putování po Novém Zélandu**
Zadávající katedra: **Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury**

Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Teoretická část se zaměří na historii, kulturu a místopis Nového Zélandu. Praktickou část bude tvořit návrh itineráře po zvolených místech Nového Zélandu.

Rozsah grafických prací:
Rozsah pracovní zprávy:
Seznam odborné literatury:

Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Michal Pištora**
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Datum zadání bakalářské práce: **29. listopadu 2012**
Termín odevzdání bakalářské práce: **5. června 2015**

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Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto práci vypracovala samostatně pod vedením Mgr. Michala Pištory a v seznamu literatury jsem uvedla všechny použité literární a internetové zdroje.

V Hradci Králové dne 30. 5. 2015

.....
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Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že bakalářská práce je uložena v souladu s rektorským výnosem č. 1/2013
(Řád pro nakládání se školními a některými jinými autorskými díly na UHK).

Datum:.....

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Poděkování

Tímto bych chtěla poděkovat vedoucímu mé bakalářské práce Mgr. Michalu Pištorovi za odborné vedení práce, vstřícnost při konzultacích, dobré rady a věcné připomínky.

Abstrakt

ŠEBESTOVÁ, Michaela. *Putování po Novém Zélandu*. Hradec Králové, 2015, 76 str. Bakalářská práce. Univerzita Hradec Králové, Pedagogická fakulta. Vedoucí práce: Michal Pištora

Bakalářská práce je tematicky zaměřena na Nový Zéland, jako turistickou destinaci. Zahrnuje všeobecné geografické údaje o Novém Zélandu, popisuje některé významné historické události jako například objevitelské plavby či vznik nezávislosti. Autorka se dále zabývá kulturou a mytologií domorodého obyvatelstva či nabízí přehled několika kulturně-turistických cílů Nového Zélandu.

Praktická část je tvořena formou poznávacího sedmnácti-denního zájezdu pro skupinu deseti nadšenců. Itinerář obsahuje nezbytné informace o navštívených destinacích nebo časový harmonogram, který je přehledně zpracován v tabulkách pro jednotlivé dny. Kromě toho poskytuje údaje o dopravě, ubytování, stravě a veškerých výdajích.

Klíčová slova: geografie, Maorská kultura, destinace, itinerář, výdaje

Abstract

ŠEBESTOVÁ, Michaela. *Wandering through New Zealand*. Hradec Králové, 2015. 76 pp. Bachelor Degree Thesis. University of Hradec Králové. Faculty of Education. Leader of the Bachelor Degree Thesis: Michal Pištora

The bachelor's thesis is thematically focused on New Zealand as a tourist destination. It contains general geographical information about New Zealand, describes several important historical events such as discovery cruises or the formation of independence. The author also deals with culture and mythology of indigenous inhabitants. Furthermore, the thesis offers an overview of some attractive and cultural places for tourists in the North and South Islands.

The practical part consists of a seventeen-day sightseeing excursion for a group of ten enthusiasts. The itinerary gives a detailed description of the destinations and a time schedule which is clearly compiled in tables for each day. Information about transportation, accommodation, food and expenses are mentioned as well.

Keywords: geography, Maori culture, destination, itinerary, expenditure

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1 Introduction

Currently, the appearance of New Zealand is a consequence of relatively recent settlement. New Zealand is a land with British roots and traditions where indigenous Polynesian and newly arrived Asian culture intermingle. There are not many places on Earth that attract travellers so much in terms of both man-made enticements and splendours of the natural realm as New Zealand. It is abounding in plenty of superlatives ranging from unspoiled native nature, unique natural phenomena or endless sandy beaches to various bays flooded by crystal clear water. Furthermore, a resurgent Maori culture is one of other reasons which encouraged me to choose *Aotearoa* as a topic of my bachelor's thesis.

The major aims of the thesis are to present a general summary about New Zealand as a country which has been developing in isolation for many millions of years and to plan an excursion for a group of tourists through both the North and South Islands.

This bachelor's thesis consists of a theoretical part and a practical part. The theoretical part has four larger subchapters. The first part is devoted to geographical information, climate conditions and New Zealand's highlights such as the highest snow-capped peaks of both islands, the largest lakes or the longest rivers. Besides geographical facts, atypical fauna and flora are mentioned as well. The next chapter deals briefly with several historical events, for instance, the thesis maps colonization period or independence. The third subchapter details Maori culture and mythological stories about the creation of the world. The largest chapter of the theoretical part gives a detailed description of ten chosen destinations of the two major islands. All destinations are either unique natural secrets, hidden travel gems that cannot be seen anywhere else or places with an interesting historical background. Most of them are then contained in the practical part of the thesis and these which are not covered in the theoretical part are properly described in an itinerary.

Finally, the practical part includes a detailed itinerary for a seventeen-day long trip through New Zealand, mainly across the South Island, accompanied by a one-day stay in the capital city and a one-day excursion to the largest city of New Zealand – Auckland. The tailor-made itinerary was created for ten people who are really

passionate and excited about sports. The tour starts on March 9, 2015 and the returning date is on March 25, 2015. All prices were calculated in November, 2014 as well as timetables of busses, planes or trains. The time schedules for each day and detailed maps can be found in the practical part too. Maps were created with the server google.maps.com.

Both paraphrases and citations are noted in brackets in a shortened way in the text. The full citations are given at the very end of the thesis. The chapter Bibliography is further divided into printed, electronic, video and picture sources. Printed and electronic sources are in alphabetical order.

Both English and Czech sources were used. The Czech sources were translated into English by the author herself.

2 General information and geography

New Zealand, called in the Maori language Aotearoa, lies in the southwestern part of the Pacific Ocean as well as to the south-east of Australia. Both countries are separated by the Tasman Sea. New Zealand consists of two large islands – the North Island and the South Island, separated by Cook Strait. The islands are surrounded by some smaller islands and a few far-flung islands such as the volcanic Stewart Island, Chatham Islands or Waiheke Island situated in the Hauraki Gulf in the North Island. Waiheke Island is either the most populated island after the North and South Islands. The land was formed more than a hundred millions of years ago and represents one of the most unique landscapes in the world. A table below includes basic facts about the country:

Capital city:	Wellington
Population:	4,471,100 (estimated June 2013)
Total area:	271,000 sq km
Official languages:	English, Maori, New Zealand Sign English
Head of State:	HM Queen Elizabeth II
Governor-General:	Sir Jerry Mateparae

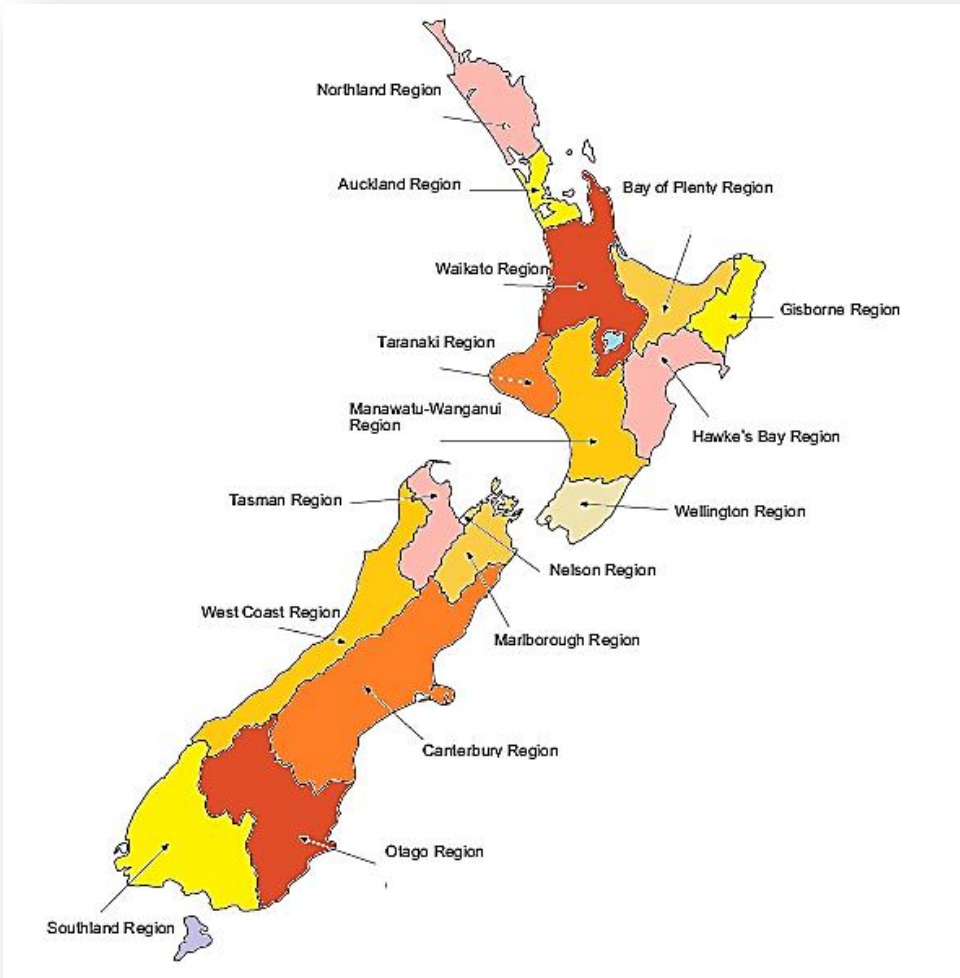
Table 1: Basic facts about New Zealand

Although the islands are separated by Cook Strait, which is only about 23 kilometres wide, each of them has a quite different landscape. The North Island has rolling hills with a number of narrow areas, containing also the largest lake of New Zealand – Lake Taupo in the Waikato region. Furthermore, four active volcanoes (including Mt Ruapehu - the highest point in the North Island), many geysers and hot springs are located there. Whereas the South Island is mainly formed by the Southern Alps along the west coast with the highest peak of New Zealand – Mount Cook (3,754 m), glaciers and rainforests. Plains and farmlands then dominate in the east from the Southern Alps.

Williams, Niven and Turner (2000, p. 23) write in their book: “*A notable feature of New Zealand’s geography is the great number of rivers. There is a lot of rainfall in New Zealand and all that rain has to go somewhere. The Waikato River in the North Island is New Zealand’s longest river (425km). Also in the North Island, the Whanganui River is the country’s longest navigable river, which has always made it an important waterway. New Zealand also has many beautiful lakes; Lake Taupo is the largest, Waikaremoana and Wanaka are two of the most beautiful and Lake Hauroro the deepest (462m).*”

The climate is very varied in New Zealand. The islands lying in the north fall into a subtropical zone, whilst the southern islands are located in a subantarctic zone. Two main streams – warm tropical and cold Antarctic meet in the middle of the islands. It brings many rainfalls which come and leave very quickly. The West Coast of the South Island is the wettest part of New Zealand. Knowing that the country is located in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are opposite of those in the Czech Republic. January and February are the warmest months with an average temperature around 16°C, whereas July and August are the coolest months with only 8°C on average. (Natural Environment - Climate: 2013, [online])

New Zealand is divided into sixteen regions which are represented on a map on the next page. Each region abounds in various natural treasures ranging from ancient rainforests, volcanoes and glaciers to picturesque beaches, endless plains, vineyards and a lot of other astonishing places with exotic plants and animal species. In view of the fact that New Zealand has developed in complete isolation from other continents, the flora and fauna of both islands is rather unique. The islands were once covered by a primeval forest where many species of flightless mammals lived. Unfortunately, they were an easy catch for the Maori people and today the only flightless bird *kiwi* with a typical long beak remains from these unusual species. Furthermore, there are other threatened species such as the biggest parrot in the world *kakapo* or the heaviest insect *weta*. In addition, barely any snakes live on these islands. Moreover, only one poisonous spider *katipo* has its home in New Zealand. The area is naturally known for the presence of whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, many species of penguins and exotic ferns. (Turner, 2010, p. 52)



Picture 1: Regions of New Zealand

3 Short history

New Zealand's colourful history started to be written about 85 million years ago. Besides the supercontinent of Laurasia, there was one more southern continent called Gondwana. Gondwana progressively began to separate and new continents were formed, including New Zealand. The third chapter focuses on the discovery of New Zealand in detail. There are questions which are answered such as who reached this land in the Pacific Ocean, or nationalities which are equally as important as the natives in discovering the land. Assuredly, a lot of wars between the native Maori people and the Europeans flared up. They fought for territories and their rights. Although New Zealand has a quite short history, it is rich and fascinating, considered to be a unique mix of two cultures - Maori and European.

3.1 The natives and the colonization period

The colonization period was surprisingly quite short and there is no evidence of when New Zealand was exactly discovered and who the indigenous people were. In this subchapter, the thesis gives an idea of how it is described in two sources: *A Concise History of New Zealand* by P. Smith (2005, pp. 7-12, 21-29) and in a special electronic edition of Bridge Magazine (New Zealand 'The Land of the Long White Cloud', 2014, [online]) by B. Hill.

“Anthropologists surmise that the first navigators from eastern Polynesia settled New Zealand only relatively recently. There are three competing hypotheses about the time of settlement: that New Zealand has been peopled for about 2000 years; that the first people arrived between 800 and 1000 AD; and that the Polynesians reached New Zealand late, between 1200 and 1400 AD. Current understanding is that the Polynesian ancestors of the Maori landed between 1250 and 1300 AD. Archeologists argue that there is no evidence of human habitation before about 1250. Subsequently New Zealand Polynesians migrated to the Chatham Islands in the fourteen or fifteenth century.”
(Smith, 2005, pp. 6-7)

The first settlers arrived in their canoes from Hawaiki. It is believed that Hawaiki was an island or a group of islands in Polynesia. On the other hand, it is arguable whether the Maori were truly the first inhabitants of New Zealand, because there is a proof of existence of the Moriori people, another Polynesian tribe which settled and lived in the

Chatham Islands too. Unfortunately, they were later conquered by Maori warriors. By the end of the fourteenth century, Maori settled across most of the country, even though the North Island gained more popularity for its warmer climate.

Aotearoa was for a long time unknown to Europeans and no European had seen the world's largest ocean in the fifteenth century. The first Europeans laid their eyes on New Zealand on December 13, 1642. Abel Janszoon Tasman and his crew from the Netherlands caught sight of the west coast of the South Island in their ships the Heemskerck and Zeehaen. The crew anchored in Golden Bay, which he later named Murderers' Bay.

Subsequently, James Cook landed on New Zealand's beaches in October 1769. He was a British explorer, a great navigator and a captain in the Royal Navy of the British Armed Forces. In 1766, Cook was engaged by the Royal Society to travel to the Pacific Ocean to observe it. He set out on his first voyage of discovery from England to Australia and New Zealand on August 26, 1768 on a ship named Endeavour. He sailed together with a crew of about a hundred men including for example the famous botanist Joseph Banks and his retinue. They spent nearly a year exploring the coastline of New Zealand and drawing Cook's famous chart for Britain.

Later on, Jean Francois de La Pérouse, another explorer from France, took over the discovery of New Zealand. He sailed on a major Pacific voyage from France in 1785. However, two of his ships disappeared and it led to the next expedition of a French explorer D'Entrecasteaux. He searched for the lost expedition in the 1790s without any results. As mentioned in P. Smith et al. (2005, pp. 7-12), it is often overlooked that another French explorer, Jean-Francois-Marie de Surville, came to New Zealand waters at the same time as the famous Cook expedition. Surville followed Tasman's charts and sighted the coastline of the Northland region on December 1769. Both Cook's and Surville's ships sailed in bad weather conditions without the knowledge of each other. European settlement continued in the 1790s, mostly by unofficial whale and seal hunters. These hunters were probably the first white inhabitants of New Zealand, later called "Pakeha" in the Maori language. The first missionary station was founded there in 1814, located in Rangihoua Bay, later moved to Kerikeri, on the northwest shore of the Bay of Islands. A cleric Samuel Marsden, who strove against corrupting the Maori way of life, is considered to be a founder of this station.

3.2 Independence

Signing of the Treaty of Waitangi is undoubtedly the turning point in New Zealand's history. There are many sources about this founding document. For instance, *New Zealand* as stated by C. Bain et al. (2006, pp. 32-50) and *New Zealand* by P. Hinze et al. (1992, pp. 16-32). Both sources contain similar pieces of information and complement each other.

This act was signed on February 6, 1840. The Treaty of Waitangi proclaimed that New Zealand became a British colony. Firstly, forty-six Maori chiefs signed under this document, which promised Maori the same rights as the British people and protection from other nations. On the other hand, Maori had to give sovereignty to the British Monarchy. Afterwards, problems with disagreement of how the treaty should be interpreted came. However, a lot of Maori thought it was not a favourable deal and several wars started during the 1860s and the 1870s. Winners of these ten-year long wars were the Europeans who were helped by British soldiers and a period of peace has stayed in effect since that time. The treaty was subsequently signed by over five hundreds Maori chiefs. Waitangi Day is recognized as a national holiday and inhabitants of New Zealand commemorate this occasion. The capital city was a small town in the Bay of Islands – Russel. Later on the seat of the governor moved to Auckland in the year 1841. Nevertheless, at present we can find the seat of the government in Wellington as mentioned by Hinze (1992, pp. 23-24):

“New Zealand retained its status as a crown colony until, in the year 1852, it was granted restricted powers of self-government by the British Parliament. The islands were divided into six provinces, with a parliament elected in each of them. A National Assembly was planned and two years later, on May 24, 1854, it met for the first time. Two years after that, a cabinet under the leadership of Prime Minister Henry Sewell took over control of the executive government, which had been entirely in the hands of the governor until that time. The parliament continued to meet in Auckland until 1865, when the seat of the central government and of the parliament was transferred to New Zealand's new capital city of Wellington. The six provinces lost their political powers a short time later and their governments were dissolved in 1876.”

After that, there were many attempts to gain independence. November 26, 1907, New Zealand was proclaimed the Dominion of New Zealand within the British Empire. In

practice, this dominion status meant only a change of the name and lasted till 1945. In spite of this fact, many New Zealanders celebrate this day as a public holiday. (Dominion Status, 2014, [online])

Between the 1850s and the early 1880s, the economy grew very quickly. Many reasons caused a flourishing economy such as exports of wool, discovery of gold and mining. In spite of that, New Zealand got into an economic depression in the 1880s. The situation improved as soon as the liberals took power and helped to revitalize New Zealand's economy. Under the liberal government, Aotearoa started to become a strong welfare state. Unfortunately, a very similar situation came about a hundred years later again. While Great Britain entered to the European Community, New Zealand lost one of its major export markets for agricultural goods, which caused a stock market crash. (Bain, 2006, p. 36)

Nowadays, the beginning of the 21st century is considered to be a period with a lot of positives. New Zealand is best known for its vineyards, literature, agricultural production, shooting successful movies, nature and the ethnically mixed population. Predominantly, tourism creates the highest incomes to the local economy today.

4 Maori culture and mythology

The following chapter deals with the culture of indigenous people and their mythology. It is obvious that New Zealand is often called ‘the Land of Maori’. They settled mainly in the town of Rotorua and its surroundings, located in the area of the North Island. The town holds the function of the capital city of Maori. Initially, a question of the creation of the universe and New Zealand is discussed, later the chapter continues with a story of the mythical navigator Kupe. The last part concerns with main features and traditions of Maori people that are known all around the world.

The Story of the Creation

The way how humankind was created according to Maori legends is based on a general belief that there was Te Kore – meaning the Nothingness, then the Dawn arose and the primal Maori parents also came in the very beginning of the world. They called Ranginue, the Sky Father, and Papatuanuku, the Earth Mother and had a lot of children who were held in their embrace in the middle of darkness. However, the children wanted to bring light to Earth, so they decided that their parents needed to be separated. Each of them tried very hard to divide them, nevertheless, they failed except for Tane-mahuta, a god of the forests. He succeeded and light filled the world. However, there was another problem. All gods were male, so Tane-mahuta created a woman of soil and gave her the breath of life. (Maori Creation Traditions: 2014, [online])

Then Came Aotearoa

According to Williams, Niven and Turner (2000, pp. 108-109), a long time after the creation of the world, there was a demigod Maui, who lived in Hawaiki and who appears in all myths of the Pacific Ocean, including New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Hawaii.

One of these myths says that once Maui went to the sea together with his five brothers to go fishing. They sailed further and further, while Maui pulled out his magic fish-hook and drop it over a side of their canoe. In a short time he caught an immense fish. He struggled to catch the fish and ultimately he pulled it up to the surface. Nowadays, the shape of that fish symbolizes New Zealand. The North Island, called *Te Ika a Maui* (Fish of Maui) by ancient Maori, makes up the body of the fish. Wellington Harbour

represents the fish's mouth, Lake Taupo is its heart and the Northland peninsula is the fish's tail. The South Island is known as *Te Waka a Maui* (The Canoe of Maui). Maui stood in this canoe when he caught the fish.

The coming of Kupe

One of the Maori legends from about 800 AD tells a story about the navigator Kupe and his wife. They tried to escape from their home in Hawaiki to New Zealand, because of a murderous man. They sailed peacefully in a small boat and after a long time, his wife caught sight of a land lying beneath a cloud. They named this land Aotearoa, which means "The Land of the Long White Cloud". Sailing through Cook Strait, they encountered a monstrous octopus. Kupe attacked its head and killed it in that moment. Afterwards they decided to return to Hawaiki to tell people about their experience. Kupe was asked to give them instructions about how to get there. Although he knew that he would never come back, he told them the directions. An imposing bronze statue was created in memory of Kupe and his wife, originally designed in 1939 by Christchurch sculptor William Trethewey for the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition. Presently, the statue decorates the Wellington Railway Station. (Kupe statue: 2011, [online])

Maori culture

The major features of Maori culture and society formed around 1500 AD. They refer to themselves in their tribes (*iwi*), which are named after their ancestors. This dynamic culture made its own boundaries, defence or concepts of land ownership. Flowering of unique art, especially carving, tattoos, clothes, songs, dances and public buildings such as a marae came with the development of society. (Smith, 2005, pp. 18-19)

As Williams, Niven and Turner (2000, pp. 113–118) say, "marae" is an open area in front of the carved houses which were used as meeting or eating houses. Nowadays, this term describes the whole complex of these constructions, although many Maori try to re-establish these famous public buildings. Marae symbolizes a place of kinship, friendship, love and spirituality; it is a place where life and death merge. This place is sacred to the Maori people and welcoming rituals to visitors are held there. Welcoming speeches are mainly given by a woman in front of the house and they are accompanied by a special song. It is considered to be the best way to understand Maori culture. Many

sources claim that Maori have no written history. Their history is kept in long stylized songs which has developed into something extraordinary and make Maori culture unique. Songs, called in Maori *waiata*, are mostly about action and acts of heroism. Together with a rhythmical dance (*haka*), which is full of vigour and wildness, make a remarkable experience.

In addition to that, woodcarving (*whakairo*) is a typical feature of Maori culture as well. Their human figures are distinguished by bigger heads, mouths and eyes. These figurines together with symbolic paintings decorate all maraes. Maori not only carve into wood, but also in bones, stones or seashells, of which they make their characteristic jewellery.



Te Awhina Marae

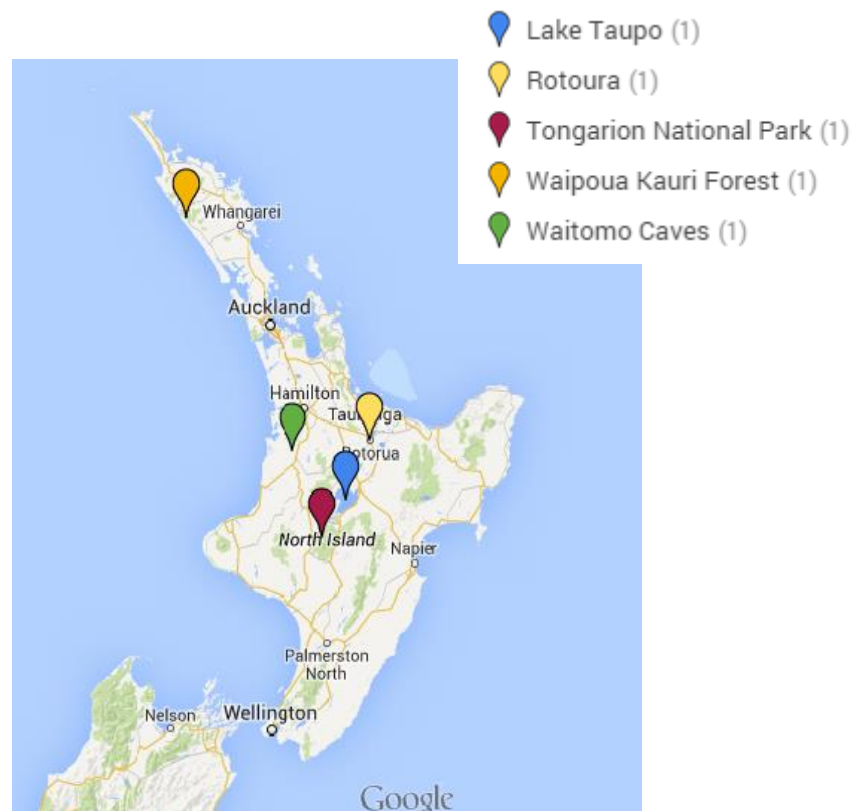
Picture 2: Te Awhina Marae

5 Scenic and cultural highlights

The following chapter provides basic geographic information about both the North and South Islands. Furthermore, it describes selected destinations in New Zealand. They represent noteworthy spots of beauty, historical towns and picturesque sights. Moreover, there is extended information on weather, fauna and flora on the South Island in view of the fact that the practical part concerns primarily with the South Island.

5.1 Across the North Island

Regions:	Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Wellington
Population:	around 3,422,000
Largest city:	Auckland (population about 1,400,000)
Highest peak:	Mont Ruapehu (2,797 m)
Largest lake:	Lake Taupo (616 sq km)
National parks:	Te Urewera NP, Tongariro NP, Whanganui NP, Egmont NP
UNESCO Sites:	Tongariro National Park



Map 2: Destinations which are described below

Waipoua Kauri Forest

The Waipoua Forest is located on the west coast of the subtropical Northland region and forms, together with neighboring forests Waima and Mataraua, the largest area of the ancient forest in the Northland. The Waipoua valley was occupied by Maori a long time ago. They found kauri trees useful very early and started to use them for carving statues, constructing their maraes or boat buildings. Latex from those trees served to light a fire or as a pigment for making tattoos. The situation changed with arrival of the Europeans who recognized the advantages of kauri trunks very quickly. Massive mining started at the end of the 18th century when sailors and fishermen used trunks for ship poles and other equipment. The consequences were devastating. The European settlers destroyed more than a half of the native forest after forty years. Pressure from the public progressively increased. It caused an area of 9,105 hectares was proclaimed as the Waipoua Sanctuary in 1952. The area of the forest has increased with time since the kauri forest came under the protection of the Department of Conservation.



Picture 3: Tane Mahuta tree

These forests are a paradise for the mighty kauri trees. They are nearly 50 metres high and are estimated to be more than a thousand years old. It is a place where you can see the largest kauri tree named Tane Mahuta, meaning ‘The Lord of the Forest’. It is about

2,000 years old, rises over 50 metres and is one of the biggest attractions in the Northland. Beside other things, more than six hundred species of plants (including about a hundred endangered and a hundred and twenty five species that you cannot see anywhere else) grow in these forests. Moreover, nature abounds in threatened and diverse wildlife such as kiwi, kauri snails, bats and many other native birds.

A lot of easy accessible walking tracks run through the forest. For example, the Four Sisters Track leads to four most impressive kauri trees, the Ricker Walk Track runs through the vast forest to a beautiful lookout on the Waipoua River. (Ombler, 2005, pp. 21-22; Waipoua Forest, [online])

Waitomo Caves

Waitomo village and its labyrinth of caves are situated to the south of Auckland in the Waikato region. The name Waitomo comes from Maori where *Wai* means water and *tomo* is a hole. You can participate in some above-ground activities. For instance, you can visit a kiwi nocturnal house or you can go to the Waitomo Museum of Caves where you will learn something about underground treasures. In case you want to explore something more exhilarating, there is a local cave system which offers tourists once-in-a-lifetime adventures. These caves attract visitors with their subterranean wonders such as glow-worms, waterfalls, stalagmites or stalactites that create extraordinary formations.

The labyrinth was formed millions of years ago during the time when New Zealand was under the sea surface. While the land rose from the sea, a constant action of water and oxide on a limestone rock started. It caused the formation of these caves. Currently, geologists know about three hundred caves of all sizes in Waitomo.

There are plenty of other options of how to explore these caves. Many guided tours provide the chance to explore the easily accessible caves, rafting through the cave system, climbing in caves or you can just go there to listen to choirs or a singer and enjoy the amazing acoustics. The Waitomo Glowworm Cave is the most famous one in the world, named after thousands of native glowworms which make a unique underground atmosphere. (Waitomo Underground Adventure: 2013, [online]; Glowworm Tour, [online])

The Great Lake Taupo Region

The town of Taupo and the largest lake in New Zealand – Lake Taupo can be found in the Great Lake Taupo Region. They are situated in the centre of the North Island and both are popular all-season destinations for tourists. The centre of the town lies on the shore of the lake with a population of about 20,000 inhabitants. The Erupt Lake Art Festival is held there annually in May, featuring over a thousand artists who present their art, play a theatre or sing. The Taupo Motorsport Park is another annual event, a truck racing one, which mainly attracts men. On the other hand, Taupo is well-known for adrenaline activities and its natural beauty.

Lake Taupo was formed by a volcanic eruption many years ago. It is surrounded by scenic beaches, rock bays and holds the distinction of the largest freshwater lake in the southern hemisphere. This attractive area was settled by Maori in the 14th century. The lake is regarded as a great trout fishing area renowned all over the world because of its challenging weather conditions. The climate is rather temperate with frequent rainfalls. This volcanic, geothermal region provides a lot of activities for outdoor enthusiasts ranging from jet boating, white-water rafting, sky diving to many scenic walking tracks.

There are plenty of other scenic highlights in Taupo's neighbourhood too. The town of Turangi lies on the southern shore of the lake. You can see many hot mineral springs. Furthermore, the Tongariro National Park stretches almost to the southern tip of the island as well as the Pureora Conservation Park located on the western side of the lake where you can see many rare bird species. The mighty Huka Falls are situated only about five kilometres to the north of the lake. This natural attraction is among the most visited and most photographed places in New Zealand. The Waikato River flows through a rock face and drops eleven metres down to a valley. Naturally, you can set out on a walking track around Huka Falls that will provide you a number of picturesque views of the waterfall. (Great Lake Taupo History: 2014, [online]; Lake Taupo Area, [online])

Tongariro National Park

As it has already been said, the Tongariro National Park is located close to Lake Taupo and became the first of New Zealand's national parks in 1887, fourth in the world and

was proclaimed as the first mixed natural and cultural World Heritage Site in 1993. The reservation was created by a volcanic eruption over two million years ago and some of those volcanoes are still active. Currently, there are many craters in this complex, however, only three active volcanoes Tongariro, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe with many emerald lakes make up the heart of the reservation. The whole area of the park is a land with a lot of diversity. It abounds in snowfields, geothermal hot springs and active craters. Because of unfavourable environmental conditions, the land around the volcanoes is infertile for plants to grow. In contrast, there are native mammals, many bird species or interesting insect to see. A different situation is for example in the mountain beech forest under these summits where the area is rich in both fauna and flora.

Mt Ruapehu is the highest point in the North Island and its history dates to the ice age. Crater Lake is another very attractive natural beauty near to Mt Ruapehu's summit which changes its colour from deep green to pale blue and dark grey. The temperature and colour of water depends on volcanic activity. Mt Ruapehu is also a popular place for winter sports such as snowboarding, skiing, hiking and mountain climbing. Many ski resorts provide alpine lifts and a wide range of accommodation. The village of Whakapapa forms the main entrance to the park on the western side. It is a place where many walking tracks around the park begin. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing, the Northern Circuit or the six day long Mountain Track are the most well-known. There are also several historic buildings in the village such as Chateau hotel or Fergusson's Cottage complex, which were built in the early 1920s.

The Tongariro forest stretches to the south from the national park and it has been under protection since the 1980s. Furthermore, there are many indigenous, threatened wildlife and plant species such as a large selection of orchids, sundews or mistletoes. It is an area where you can find one of the kiwi sanctuaries in New Zealand. The most challenging and well-known biking track on the North Island – the 42 Traverse runs through the forest. (Tongariro National Park, [online])

Rotorua

Lake Rotorua and the town of the same-name are located on the northeast coast of the Bay of Plenty region. This area is regarded as one of the New Zealand's premier tourist

attractions on the North Island. It is mostly known for its geysers, steam clouds, hot springs, pure lakes, tramping and fishing.

Geothermal energy arises in this locality where two of Earth's tectonic plates collide with each other. The thermal activity and geysers lure many tourists from all over the world. The whole area of Rotorua lies on a shell of lava that was used to bury deceased people into the mud. (Nová cestománie: 2005, DVD)

Furthermore, this place enables visitors to familiarize themselves with the Maori heritage. There are many Maori villages such as Mitai or the Tamaki Maori village where you can explore the indigenous cultural experience. Visitors can take part in Maori rituals in a marae or taste a traditional hangi meal; vegetable, fish or chicken are cooked under the ground. The whole process can take more than three hours but the delight gained from a meal is priceless.

There are several thermal reserves in the Rotorua area, charming tourists with gurgling geysers and smouldering cliffs. The Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve is the vastest one, located in the southern part of Rotorua. Plenty of tourists visit this place because of the healing power of around five hundred springs. The Wai-o-tapu Thermal Wonderland is equally popular. 'Lady Knox' - a special geyser is the biggest attraction. If you pour soap powder into the midpoint of the geyser, it will start to spout up to twenty one meters high.

Not to mention the fact that Rotorua is the region of outdoor activities such as the Zorbing (rolling down a hill in a large inflatable ball) and Shweeb (a human-powered monorail racetrack). Those who prefer to learn a little bit more about Rotorua's social history and art can visit the renowned Rotorua museum with innovative exhibitions. (Bain, 2006, pp. 329-333; Rotorua: An Introduction: 2014, [online])



Picture 4: Lady Knox geyser

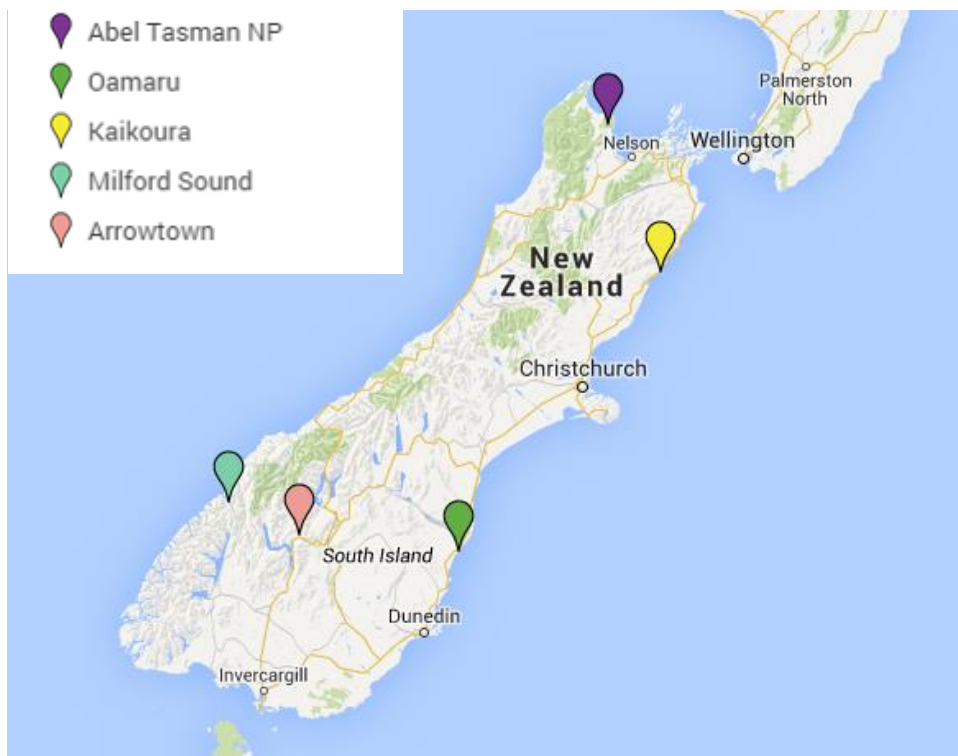
5.2 Across the South Island

As it has already been noted in the chapter *General information and geography*, New Zealand's climate is very complex with mild temperatures, frequent rainfalls and many hours of sunshine throughout most of the country. The varied climate is due to two main features. First, New Zealand lies in the Pacific Ocean, so there is a strong maritime influence similar to the British Isles. Second, mountain ranges extending along the South Island create a natural barrier for the prevailing west winds. This causes the South Island to have a very different climate. While the western part is considered to be the wettest area of New Zealand, the area to the east of the mountains is the driest part. However, heavy rainfall is evenly spread throughout the year. More rain falls over the northern and central part of New Zealand in winter, whereas for much of the southern part, winter has the least amount of rainfall. Snow is more common inland of both main islands. Snow-capped mountain ranges on the South Island and in the central part of the North Island provide great skiing opportunities in winter. Moreover, New Zealand has more than 2,000 hours of sunshine yearly. The sunniest areas in the South Island are in the Nelson and Marlborough regions. Because of the small amount of air pollution, UV rays are very strong in comparison to other countries. (Overview of New Zealand climate: 2013, [online])

The biodiversity of New Zealand is one of the most unique on Earth. About 80% of trees, ferns and flowering plants are endemic to New Zealand. The land is covered with kauri and kohekohe forests or rainforests. However, the beech forest remains the largest indigenous forest type. Flora of the Southern Alps is caused by the altitude and it is more diverse than vegetation found in lowland forests. The woody plant genera like *Hebe*, *Dracophyllum*, and *Coprosma* are great examples. The Mount Cook lily is one of the most well-known alpine plants as well. Even though the name implies that it is a lily, its green leaves classify it as a giant buttercup. Moreover, all bats, amphibians, reptiles are endemic. Tuatara – a reptile with links to the dinosaurs was around almost 200 million years ago. It can live about 100 years and can be found only in Marlborough Sounds or Stephens Island (the northernmost tip of Marlborough Sounds). Furthermore, many birds grew to unusual sizes, because they did not need to fly. The well-known wingless bird is New Zealand's moa – the largest being three meters tall. Unfortunately, they became extinct around four hundred years ago. (New Zealand plants and animals, [online])

The South Island

Regions:	Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago, Southland
Population:	around 1,048,200
Largest city:	Christchurch (360,000)
Highest peak:	Mount Cook (3,754 m)
Largest lake:	Lake Te Anau (344 sq km)
National parks:	Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, Nelson Lakes, Westland Tai Poutini, Mount Aspiring, Fiordland, Paparoa, Arthur's Pass, Aoraki/Mount Cook, Rakiura National Park – Stewart Island
UNESCO Sites:	Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (1990)



Map 3: Destinations of the South Island which are described below

Abel Tasman National Park

This subchapter derives mostly from a website (Abel Tasman National Park, [online]). The Abel Tasman National Park was founded in 1942. It is located at the northern end of the South Island in the Nelson region and holds the status of the smallest national park in New Zealand. This coastal national park is often characterized by golden sandy beaches, granite cliffs, rounded bays and lagoons surrounded by the magnificently blue water of Tasman Bay. The area is covered by native bushes where many species of indigenous animals and plants live.

As Ombler (2005, pp. 97-100) says, Maori inhabitants have lived along the Abel Tasman coast hundreds of years and protected the area. Nevertheless, nature started to change with arrival of European settlers in the 1850s. Settlers started to log these forests, mined granite and tried to cultivate this land. Fortunately, they discovered that the granite land was not so fertile soil and stopped ruining the forests for a while. Later, many people started to occupy this remarkable coast in the early 20th century. Perrine Moncrieff, a woman who led a campaign for founding the Abel Tasman National Park, is the major figure associated with establishing the national park bearing the name of the famous Dutch navigator.

The northern coast is undoubtedly the most impressive part of the reserve. It abounds in many varieties of geological features such as islands, boulders, rocks, cliffs accompanied by glittering golden sand which was created by small particles of granite minerals. The Canaan Down scenic reserve is another interesting place to visit. Visitors can enjoy immense limestone rocky towns or Harwood Hole - its depth reaches 176 metres.

Plenty of walking tracks run through the Abel Tasman National Park - across the inland or along the coast. The Coast track is the most popular and lasts about 3-5 days with distance about 55 kilometres. If you want more adventure, hire a kayak or catch a water taxi and take a ride along the coast. It is a fantastic way to encounter Tasman's wildlife. Mountain biking or hunting deer, wild pigs and goats are only some of other amazing activities you can partake in. Takaka and Motueka are the nearest towns where you can explore the treasures of Maori culture.

Oamaru

The gorgeous town of Oamaru in the Waitaki district definitely belongs to the 'Must Visit List' in New Zealand. The Oamaru harbour town is located in the middle of the east coast. The town is the most prominent for its white stone buildings in the Victorian style and Blue penguins.

A settlement in the town started in the 1850s. Oamaru is called 'White stone city' because its buildings are built from local limestone and is a significant historical city, unique in New Zealand. The use of soft limestone meant that buildings could be easily carved. Most of the houses are now decorated by carved window frames or gargoyles. (Oamaru, Whitestone City – Roadside Stories, 2013, [online])

Naturally, penguin colonies are the most charming attraction in Oamaru. The town is home to the smallest penguin species which are called blue penguins. The organization of Oamaru Little Blue Penguin Colony was founded in the early 1990s because of the small group of penguins that started nestling in the surroundings of the harbour. The Penguin Colony Office provides day-long tours which are led by a knowledgeable guide who knows the penguins' favourite places. Penguins entice more than 75,000 tourists to the town yearly from all over the world which has a positive impact on local economy. (Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony – History, 2014, [online])

Heading to the south, there are located remarkable natural phenomena - the Moeraki Boulders. It is a group of large spherical stones that are about two metres high and weigh several tonnes. They stand out from the sea, along beaches and even from cliffs. According to scientists, the boulders were created more than 65 million years ago. If you are lucky, you will meet there a sea lion which will lie somewhere beside the rocks. (Waitaki – Moeraki Boulders, [online])

Kaikoura

Whilst it is a relatively small historical town on the eastern coast of the South Island, Kaikoura lures visitors in to watch whales or swim with dolphins. The sea is home to many marine species which tourists can taste in every restaurant in the town, including local specialities such as cods, oysters, scallops and crayfish. Plenty of restaurants offer visitors the opportunity to catch their own fish and to help a cook with the preparation

of their meal. The Kaikoura peninsula and an adjoining coast are also places where the grandest creatures on the earth – the Sperm Whale live all year round. It is one of the reasons why people from around the world come to Kaikoura, to catch a sight of this sea giant. The first whale station was established by Robert Fyffe about 1845. He is considered to be the first European settler on this peninsula; however, James Cook was the first explorer who mistakenly thought that the Kaikoura peninsula was an island. Despite this fact, Robert Fyffe is mostly known for his house standing nearby the whale station. Fyffe's house, the oldest building in the town, was actually built on whale bone foundations and today serves as a museum. Opposite Fyffe's house there is located the Kaikoura's Marine Reserve – Rahui, where fishing is strictly prohibited and tourists can enjoy undersea life. There are many breathtaking activities which attract visitors in Kaikoura. For instance, whale watching boats leave from the harbour many times per day as well as guided tours which enable you to meet local dolphins. Every tour ensures you an extraordinary experience. You can see a wide range of marine species or seabirds, but no one can guarantee that you will meet whales or dolphins. Of course, the biggest disadvantage of both activities is their price (a four-hour long ride costs about \$180 NZD). A bird watching tour along the coast gives you a possibility to see a colony of albatross and price is around \$110 NZD. (About Kaikoura, 2014, [online])

Hanmer Spring is a town situated in a picturesque basin only a two-hour long ride heading to the centre of the South Island. It is New Zealand's major alpine spa destination. Its location is just unique. You can relax in one of the thermal pools, look at mountain peaks and hills surrounding this thermal reserve at the same time. Accommodation in the Hanmer Springs village is ranged from very luxury hotels to budget camping sites. (Hanmer Springs, 2005-2013, [online])

Milford Sound

Milford Sound, one of the natural wonders, lies at the southern end of the South Island in the Fiordland region. Milford Sound is the most accessible fiord in New Zealand, situated in the Fiordland National Park which forms a part of the Te Wahipounamu reservation, listed in the UNESCO World Heritage.

Fiordland National Park was established in 1952 and abounds in spectacular mirror lakes, valleys, rainforests, waterfalls and fiords. There are fourteen fiords and five large

lakes, surrounded by steep mountains and rainforests. Although, the majority of the territory is inaccessible, there are plenty of tracks such as the Kepler Track or the Hump Ridge Track that lead through this breathtaking scenery. However, the Milford Track is the best known and runs from Lake Te Anau to the glacier fiord Milford Sound. (Ombler, 2005, p. 145; Corrigan, 2008, p. 192)

Weather in this area is very changeable, so be prepared for rain, snow and strong winds at any time. The average temperatures in summer are around 18°C and in winter time only 1-9°C. Captain Cook and his crew were the first visitors of Fiordland. Cook's maps and a description of the area serve as proof. The national park is rich in fauna and flora as well. Some threatened native animals such as *Tahake*, flightless birds which are monitored by the Department of Conservation, live in these forests. Furthermore, underwater life is also very unique in Fiordland's water. There is the largest colony of black coral trees which can be around 200 years old. (Fiordland National Park; Fauna & Flora, [online])



Picture 5: Fiordland - Mitre Peak

As it has been already been mentioned, Milford Sound is the best known fiord which runs to the Tasman Sea. Tourist centres offer two hour long cruises with a well-informed guide who point out the highlights of the area. The scenery is really astonishing, especially a grand overview of the stunning mountain – Mitre Peak (1,692 m). It provides the most photographed feature in Milford Sound. The depth of the fiord can reach as much as 400 meters. (About Milford Sound, 2013, [online])

Arrowtown

This small town was founded in 1862 and it became famous because of the real gems found in the Arrow River. Arrowtown is located in the Lakes District, nearby a

cosmopolitan metropolis of Queenstown. It is a very picturesque town abounding in spectacular scenery and a lot of historic buildings.

The history of the town reaches back to the early 17th century, when three Maori tribes occupied this area. Then the first Europeans established their settlement, founded farms and started to discover, what hides in the Arrow River. A shearer named Reed was the first man who found gold at the bottom of the river. Although, he and few other men tried to keep it in secret, a big boom came later anyway. The town started to flourish and a new goldfield was opened on the West Coast. Subsequently the Otago Government decided to invite the Chinese people, who have been living there till today, as labour force to help with mining. As soon as the natural resources ran out, the economy of the town dropped rapidly, so inhabitants started farming again. Nowadays, the town is a popular tourist destination which offers a wide range of activities and cultural sites that are properly described in the itinerary.

Annually, the Autumn Festival is held there, running for thirty years. Visitors can enjoy a street parade, typical old red trucks, an art exhibition or live concerts. If you want to know more about this mining town, you can visit the local Lakes District Museum situated on Buckingham Street which forms the main road in the town. Going to Dorothy Browns Cinema is another opportunity how to spend free time. The cinema attracts you with its unique decoration in a Chinese style. You can also explore several walking tracks which will take you through the native bush or just across the town. You will pass historical buildings restored in a western style and complete the unique atmosphere of the town. (Arrowtown's Rich History, 2014, [online]; Autumn Festival, 2014 [online])



Picture 6: Arrowtown

6 Wandering through New Zealand

Your journey will get you to the heart of New Zealand. You will predominantly travel through the South Island with two short stops in the capital city and in Auckland. An itinerary contains all necessary tools to enjoy your adventure such as in-depth information about a wide range of outdoor activities, budget and places visited.

The trip will last for seventeen days (March 9, 2015 – March 25, 2015) including a three-day long ride to New Zealand and a two-day long way back to the Czech Republic. The journey is intended for hard-adventured young people between 18 – 35 years who like extreme sports such as rafting, climbing, diving or mountain biking and who love adventures connected with travelling in a small group of people. The target customers should also be health-conscious individuals with higher income who are not beginners in sports and activities which are mentioned above. The group should consist of ten people including a representative who will travel with them. It is impossible to make a larger group because many adventure centres demand only even-numbered small groups of enthusiasts. The reason is very simple, for example kayaks are designed only for two people.

Accommodation is booked in hostels and backpackers network having a satisfactory reputation in New Zealand and offer hundreds of places to stay. They are classified as clean, comfortable places and for a favourable price. Backpackers have only dormitory rooms with essential equipment and shared bathrooms. The possibility of hiring bed linen is the biggest advantage of all hostels where you will stay, so you do not have to carry sleeping bags. Both types of accommodation offer breakfast which is not always included in the price. If they are paid, prices range from \$ 4 to 7 NZ. If you need more information about hotels bookings or activities which are contained in the itinerary, you will find them on the official websites written in the bibliography at the end of the thesis.

The price of the trip does not include meals during the day. So be prepared that you have to take extra money for food. There are many local pubs, bistros or restaurants where you can have lunch which costs \$ 10-20 NZ on average. There is also a possibility of cooking your own meals (mostly dinners) in hostels where you will be accommodated. The national currency is the New Zealand Dollar. It is divided into 100 cents. An exchange rate is 1NZ\$ = 17,6 Kč (November, 2014). Basic food costs on

average are the same as in the Czech Republic. On the contrary, high-quality meat is sometimes three times more expensive than in Europe.

You are advised to take out travel insurance. Do not underestimate it and make sure you negotiate at least a basic insurance package arranged for example by Česká Pojišťovna. The price ranges from 1,700 to 2,000 Kč. (Česká Pojišťovna, 2014 [online]) Moreover, you do not need a visa, if your trip lasts only 17 days.

What to bring with you:

- Valid passport
- Comfortable shoes, multi-purpose travel clothing
- Sunglasses of high quality, headwear
- Basic toiletries

The following chapter provides necessary information about the trip, an approximate schedule of each day, detailed description of sights accompanied by trails for each day which were created on google.maps.com. Timetables for busses were planned according to the website www.intercity.co.nz. You can check prices, departure places or availability there.



Map 4: Wandering through the South Island

6.1 Itinerary

DAY 1–3: 9th – 11st March

Your journey to these rugged islands will start in Prague at Vaclav Havel Airport at least two hours before departure – at 2 p.m. After check-in, you will receive a boarding card. Keep in mind, that the check-in gate will be closed 40 minutes before departure. If everything goes according to schedule, travelling to New Zealand will take around 38 hours. After arriving at the terminal station, an English speaking representative will be waiting for you. He will ensure transport by Airport Flyer Bus (a bus service which runs every 20 minutes from Wellington’s airport to the centre) to the YHA City Backpackers hostel where you will stay overnight. You will get off at Courtenay Place – Paramount, only a few steps from your hostel. A program for the rest of the day will be up to you.

Departure: Mon, March 9, 2015					
Prague – Wellington – 3 stops , 38 h 0m					
Day	Departure Airport/Day/Time		Arrival Airport/Day/Time		Time
1 - 3	PRG V. Havel	Mon 03/09/2015 3.50 p.m.	Dubai International	Tue 03/10/2015 12.55 a.m.	6h 5m
	Layover Dubai International				9h 30m
	Dubai	Tue 03/10/2015 10.25 a.m.	Brisbane International	Wed 03/11/2015 6.40 a.m.	14h 15m
	Layover Brisbane International				1h 45m
	Brisbane International	Wed 03/11/2015 8.25 a.m.	Auckland, NZ	Wed 03/11/2015 2.35 p.m.	3h 10m
	Layover Auckland International				2h 10m
	Auckland, NZ	Wed 03/11/2015 4.45 p.m.	Wellington	Wed 03/11/2015 5.50 p.m.	1h 5m

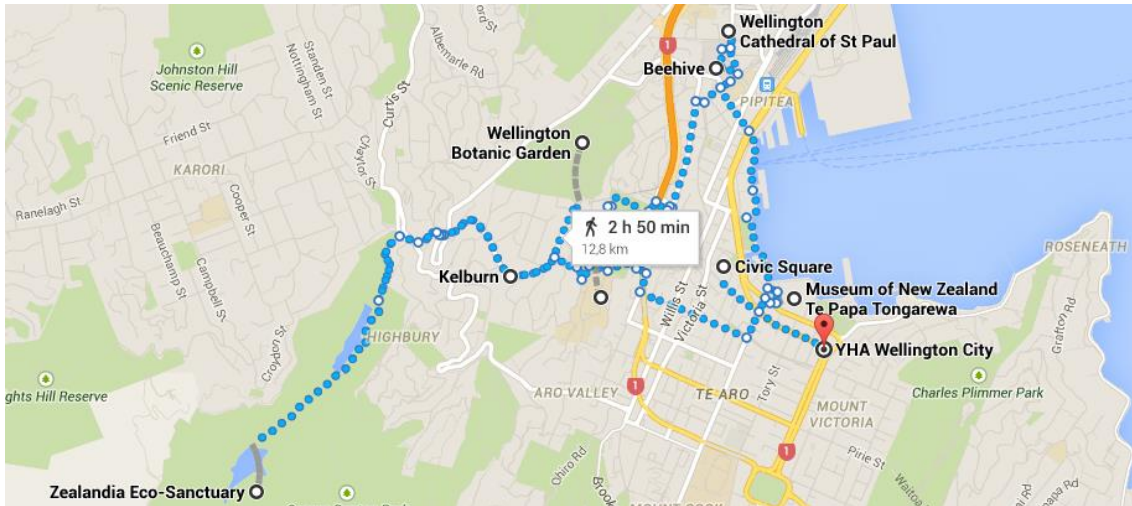
Day 1-3: Expenses	
Flight ticket	NZ\$ 1445
Flyer Bus	NZ\$ 5.50
YHA City Hostel	NZ\$ 29
Expenses Total	NZ\$ 1479,5

Table 1: Itinerary of the flight to New Zealand and expenses

DAY 4: 12nd March (Thursday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
4	Wellington	Civic Square	---	10.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 20
		Museum of NZ	10.15 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	500 m		Free
		Old Government complex	11.15 a.m.	12.00 a.m.	1,6 km	2,1 km	
		St Paul's Cathedral	1.15 p.m.	1.00 p.m.	300 m	2,4 km	
	Cable Car stops	Victorian University	2.15 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	1,9 km	4,3 km	
		Museum of Cable Car	3.10 p.m.	4.00 p.m.	100 m	4,4 km	Free
		Botanic Garden	4.10 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	200 m	4,6 km	
		Kelburn Lookout	4.45 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	700 m	5,3 km	
		Zealandia	5.30 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	2,5 km	7,8 km	NZ\$ 7.5
	Accommodation	YHA City Hostel	7.45 p.m.	---	5 km	12,8 km	NZ\$ 19
	Expenses						NZ\$ 46.5

Table 2: Itinerary of the day 4



Map 5: Trail through Wellington

The best way how to discover the capital city is on foot. Fortunately, there are many tourist information centres which deal with guided tours through Wellington. You will make use of this opportunity and discover the city with an enthusiastic guide who will accompany you for three hours. He will give you detailed information about history, culture and sights in the city. Of course, you will not be deprived of local stories about Wellington's past, present and important people. A walk through the city starts at 10 o'clock in Civic Square, heading to a symbolic entry to the waterfront – Queens Wharf. A highly interactive museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa will be the next stop after enjoying a sandy beach. The museum belongs to the largest ones in the world and was opened in 1998. At over six floors, the museum presents their national treasures such as nature, history, arts and Maori culture. (Museum of New Zealand, [online])

Thereafter you will set out back to Lambton Quay, also known as 'Beach Street' which forms the heart of the central business district. Further on, you will get to the Old Government Complex that consists of the three largest all-wooden buildings in the world. Williams, Niven and Turner (2000, p. 426) mentioned that the Beehive is the modernist one and it is considered to be the architectural symbol of the land, designed by British architect Sir Basil Spence. The Old Parliament House is in the neoclassical style and the oldest neogothic Parliamentary Library stand next to the Beehive. The Old St Paul's Cathedral in the English Gothic style will be your last stop. It is situated only a few steps from the government complex. A guided tour through the city finishes in front of the cathedral and you can go for lunch in a restaurant.



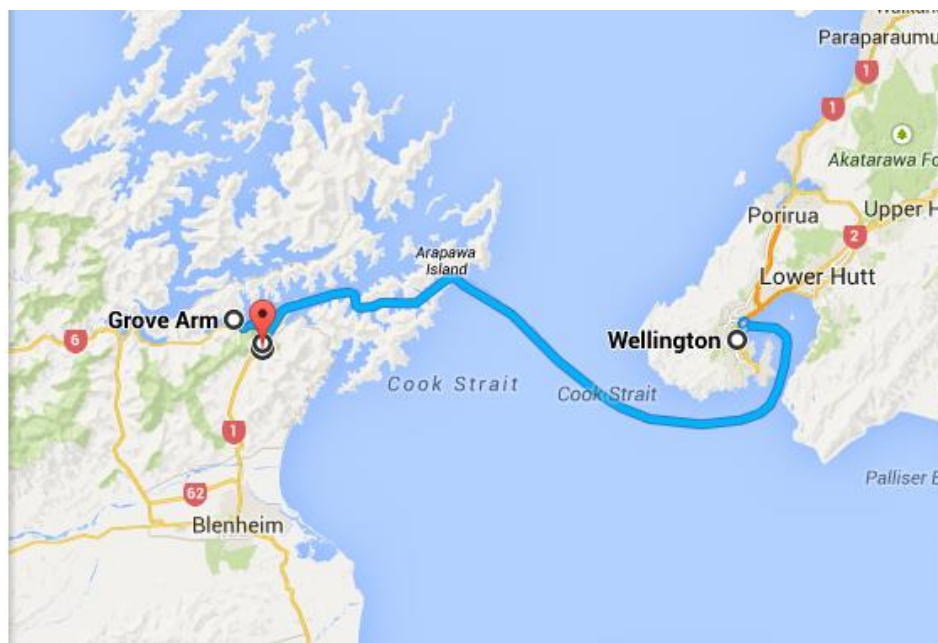
Picture 7: The Beehive, New Zealand's parliament building

After refreshment, go back to Lambton Quay, buy an uphill ticket and board Wellington Cable Car. There are many stops such as the University of Victoria, the Museum of Cable Car or Wellington Botanic Garden which will amaze you by a unique landscape and many species of flowers. Then get back to Kelburn Terminus, which is the top stop, located in Kelburn Lookout. It is a place offering the most impressive view of Wellington. (Wellington's Top Stops, [online]) Later another Cable Bus will effortlessly transport you to Zealandia: The Karori Sanctuary Experience. It is a large sanctuary valley where you can discover a story of natural history in a fascinating exhibition. You will finish the fourth day of your trip again in the YHA Wellington City Backpackers.

DAY 5: 13rd March (Friday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
5	Wellington	Harbour	---	8.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 75
	Picton	Harbour	11.30 a.m.	1.00 a.m.	102 km		
		Edwin Fox Museum	---	---	500 m	102,5 km	NZ\$ 4
	Marl. Sound - kayaking	Queen Ch. Sound	---	12.15 a.m.	5,5 km	108 km	NZ\$ 95
		Grove Arm	2.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	5 km	113 km	
		Picton	4.00 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	10 km	123 km	
	Accommodation	Tombstone Backpackers	5.00 p.m.	---	1 km	124 km	NZ\$ 30
	Expenses						NZ\$ 204

Table 3: Itinerary of the day 5



Map 6: Wellington – Picton

After breakfast, you will take a ferry from Wellington Harbour to Picton, a small seaside town in the middle of the gorgeous nature of Marlborough Sounds. The ferry leaves at 8.30 a.m. Travelling by ferry across Cook Strait takes about three and half hours. You will spend about one-third of the cruise in Wellington Harbour, the next one-third by crossing Cook Strait and the last third you will be passing fabulous Queen Charlotte Sound. (Ferry from the North Island to the South Island, [online]) As soon as the ferry lands in Picton, you will start your closer inspection of the city. First of all, recharge your batteries in one of the renowned restaurants on the waterfront.

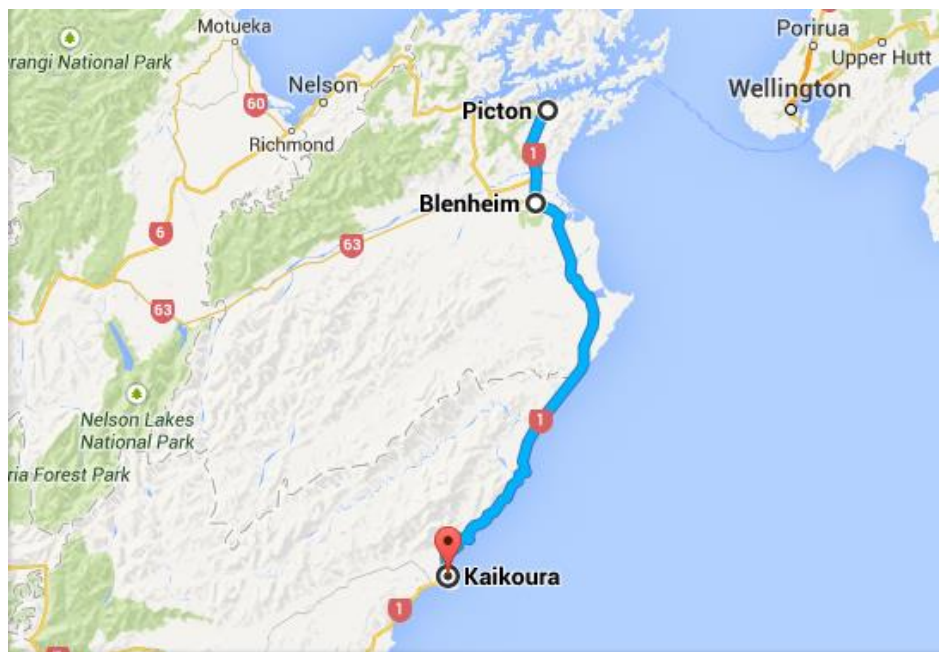
On the way through the town, you will pass 'Edwin Fox', a ship built from special teak wood in Bengal during the 1850s. The ship was used to transport soldiers to the Crimean War and immigrants to New Zealand. (History of the Edwin Fox, 2012, [online]) If you have a spare time after your kayaking experience, you can visit the museum which displays many maritime exhibits and local crafts.

Shortly after midday, get to Marlborough Sound Adventure Company (Sea Kayak Rental, 2014 [online]) and rent a sea kayak for half a day. There are over 1500 kilometres of a coastline, formed by inlets and bays, to explore. Firstly, you will have a safety briefing and later on you can start paddling together with your guide through Queens Charlotte Sound and enjoy a picturesque area surrounded by bush-covered shorelines and sandy beaches. You will paddle into the Grove Arm area, which is a very scenic bay west of Picton and provides excellent photo opportunities. You will go along many delightful beaches and many quaint seaside holiday houses. It is also a great place for diving. Visibility is often from three to five metres. The late afternoon is free to relax or visit Edwin Fox Museum as was mentioned above. Then you will spend a night in the Tombstone Backpackers at the heart of Picton. (Tombstone, 2014 [online])

DAY 6: 14th March (Saturday)

Day	Destination	Sites/Activities	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
6	Picton		---	8.00 a.m.	29 km		NZ\$ 12
	Blenheim	Vineyards	8.30 a.m.	12.00 a.m.	26 km	51 km	NZ\$ 25
	Kaikoura		2.30 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	125 km	176 km	NZ\$ 35
		Walking track	3.00 p.m.	5.30 p.m.	8 km	184 km	NZ\$ 79
	Accommod.	Dolphin Lodge	8.00 p.m.	---	1 km	185 km	NZ\$ 25
	Expenses						

Table 4: Itinerary of the day 6



Map 7: Picton – Blenheim - Kaikoura

The sixth day of your journey will start with an early breakfast and a drive to Kaikoura. However, your first stop will be in the largest wine-growing district in New Zealand - in Blenheim. A bus will take you to Blenheim, the largest city in the Marlborough region, only 29 kilometres from Picton. You can take a short drive across the Wairau Plains bordered by vineyards and wineries with more than thirty wine cellar doors. The most

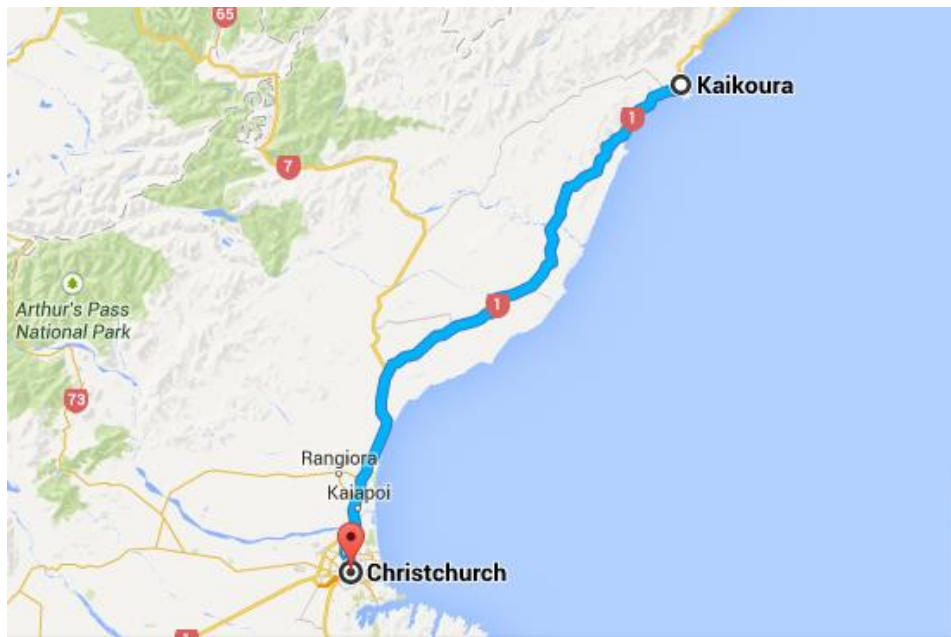
famous Marlborough Food & Wine Festival in New Zealand is held at Montana's Brancott Estate yearly in February and persuades many tourists from all over the world to visit it. Later on you can rent bicycles for a couple of hours and set out for a short wine tour around Blenheim. (Bike Hire, 2013 [online]) You will visit some cellars supplemented by a degustation of wine. You should know that this region is best known for growing Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir. (Area Guide - Blenheim, [online]) After returning your bicycles in Blenheim, you can catch a bus to Kaikoura.

Kaikoura is a small coastal town, mostly known for its crayfish. The word Kaikoura means 'To Eat Crayfish'. Many tourists visit this town because of its uniquely close access to dolphins, seals and whales. Kaikoura Seafest takes place there every year in October. (Walking & Biking Kaikoura, 2014 [online]) You have many options how to spend the rest of the afternoon. You can walk through the peninsula on one of the Kaikoura peninsula walkways: either along the seashore or above the cliff top. Both tours take two and half hours and will fascinate you by excellent views of seals and red-billed seagull colonies. Another option is just relaxing and discovering the town. Later in the evening, you should have dinner in one of the renowned restaurants which offer infinite numbers of seafood specialities. A well-equipped little hostel Dolphin Lodge will be your home for the night. (Dolphin Lodge Backpackers 2014, [online])

DAY 7: 15th March (Sunday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
7	Kaikoura	Whale watching/	9.00 a.m.	12.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 145
		Swimming with dolphins	9.00 a.m.	12.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 170
		City tour	12.00 a.m.	3.00 p.m.	3 km		
	Christchurch		3.30 p.m.	6.30 p.m.	180 km	183 km	NZ\$ 69
	Accomm.	YHA Christchurch					NZ\$ 17
	Expenses						

Table 5: Itinerary of the day 7



Map 8: Kaikoura - Christchurch

Today's morning in Kaikoura is free to choose from two optional activities. You can participate in a three-hour cruise on the sea in a search of whales and other wildlife on a boat which is equipped with a special machine. The machine can pick up the sounds of whales below the surface. Another option - you can swim with dolphins provided by the Dolphin Encounter Centre. This tour to the sea also takes around three hours, so you can split up into two groups and each can enjoy one of those amazing activities. (Dolphin Encounter Centre, [online])

Later in the day, you can meet in the town centre and have lunch. Thereafter, a journey by train with the KiwiRail – New Zealand's national scenic rail operator follows. The KiwiRail provides long journeys across both islands giving tourists a unique scenic experience. Your train departs at 3.28 p.m. and arrives to Christchurch at 6.21 p.m. The Coastal Pacific journey really gives you a close up view of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding nature. (Coastal Pacific: 2014, [online])

Unfortunately, the journey by train will take up you the whole afternoon, so a program for the rest of the day is up to you. For example, you can taste delicious cocktails right on a beach, watch a sunset or go for a walk through the night city. Anyway, do not worry you will visit Christchurch once again at the end of your trip.

Cathedral Square with its prominent building - Christchurch Cathedral dominates the heart of this town. It is open till 8 p.m. so there is a great opportunity to climb 133 steps to the viewing balconies 30 metres up. (The ChristChurch Cathedral, [online]) Your accommodation is booked in the YHA Christchurch backpacker close to the city centre. (YHA Christchurch, 2014 [online])

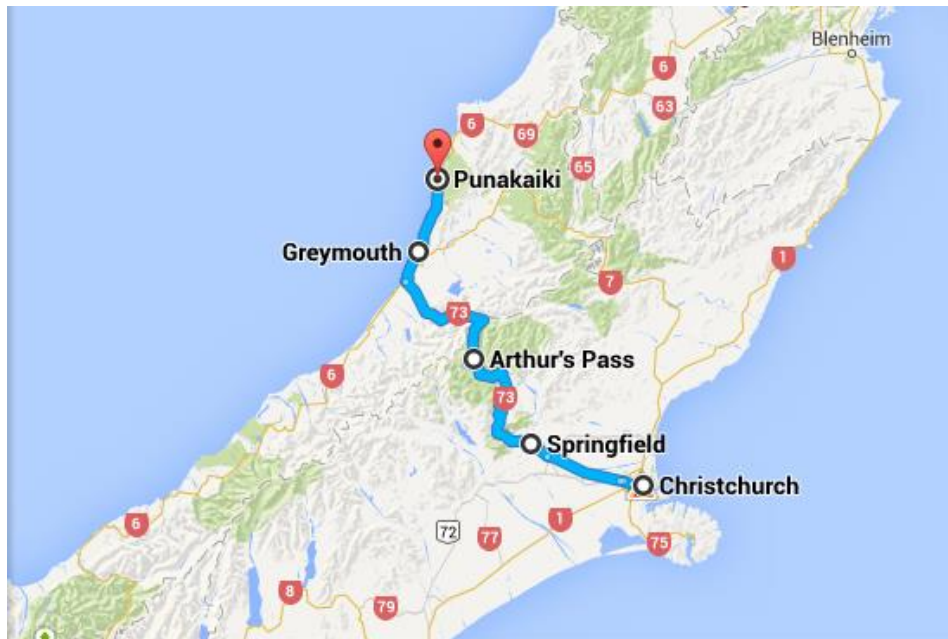


Picture 8: Christchurch Cathedral

DAY 8: 16th March (Monday)

Day	Destination	Sites/Activities	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
8	Christchurch	TranzAlpine	---	8.15 a.m.			NZ\$ 169
		Springfield	9.15 a.m.	9.20 a.m.	63 km		
		Arthur's Pass	11.00 a.m.	11.10 a.m.	82 km	145 km	
		Greymouth	12.45 a.m.	2.00 p.m.	78 km	223 km	
	Parapoa NP	Punakaiki	2.45 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	45	268 km	
	Horse trek	Pancake Rocks	4.00 p.m.	---			NZ\$ 160
		Blowholes	5.30 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	15 km	283 km	
	Greymouth	Duke Backpackers	7.30 p.m.	---			NZ\$ 25
		Expenses					NZ\$ 354

Table 6: Itinerary of the day 8



Map 9: Christchurch – Arthur's Pass - Greymouth

You will spend the next day of your journey in a train again, even though this time you will travel through the TranzAlpine road which departs at 8.15 a.m. and you will get off in the terminal station in Greymouth at 12.45 p.m. The train goes through the Canterbury Plains, the snowy valleys of Arthur's Pass and ends in a small picturesque town Greymouth. It will be 223 kilometres long rail offering a gorgeous view of scenic nature across the land. (Tranzalpine, 2014 [online])

You will have lunch during your ride in order to save more time for exploring Greymouth and its surroundings. Later, catch a bus to the Punakaiki resort, a small service centre in Papaora National Park. It is located to the north of Greymouth and your bus leaves at 2 o'clock. The ride takes you about forty minutes. The centre offers visitors guided horse treks through the magnificent Punakaiki Valley and the Punakaiki beaches which will enthrall you with the scenic views of the panorama up to Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Both of them belong to the most astonishing places in this area. They were formed from limestone thanks to weather and water they fossilized into rocks around 30 million years ago. (Punakaiki Pancake Rocks & Blowholes, [online]) Your guided horse trek starts between 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. It depends, of course, on weather conditions and the month. It is necessary to go through an elementary horse riding tuition with an experienced guide. The trek runs approximately 2.5 hours including tasty refreshment in the local centre. (Punakaiki Horse Treks, 2014, [online])



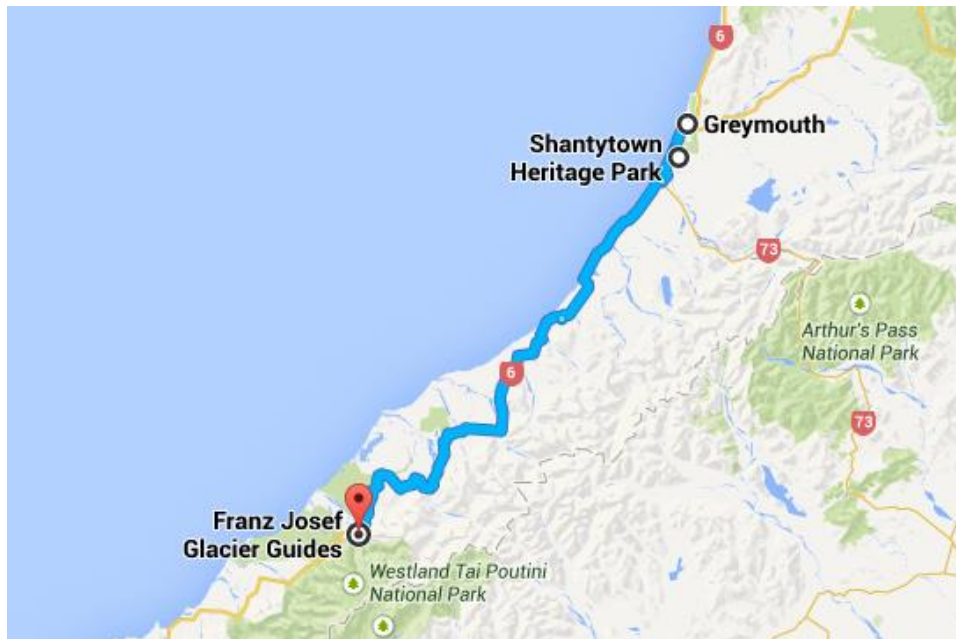
Picture 9: Punakaiki Pancake Rocks

Then you will travel back to Greymouth to spend a night in the Duke Backpackers (2014, [online]) on Guinness Street. It is actually pub accommodation where you will pay \$25 NZ bar bill and your bed is free. During the rest of the evening you can go for a walk and watch the sunset from the Point Elisabeth Walkway or catch a live band at Franks Café.

DAY 9: 17th March (Tuesday)

Day	Destination	Sites/Activities	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
9	Greymouth		---	8.00 a.m.	10 km		NZ\$ 6
	Shantytown	Heritage Park	8.30 a.m.	10.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 35
	Franz Josef village		1.30 p.m.	---	169 km	179 km	NZ\$ 29
		Valley walk	---	2.15 p.m.	10 km	189 km	NZ\$ 75
	Accomod.	Montrose Back.	6.00 p.m.	---			NZ\$ 25
	Expenses						

Table 7: Itinerary of the day 9



Map 10: Greymouth – Shantytown – Franz Josef

With a new day, a new adventure awaits you. After breakfast, you will take a bus towards Westland National Park, although your first stop will be in the small village of Shantytown. Shantytown is considered to be a Heritage Park since 1972. Entering this village is like taking a step back to the past. Learn about the history of the village which is connected to the gold rush on the West Coast since the 1880s and about the time when Shantytown was an important gold mining centre. Furthermore, enjoy activities associated with this mining era such as taking a ride on a steam locomotive, panning for your own gold or getting retro old-time pictures. The prices are around \$31 - \$40 NZ, depending on activity which you will choose. (Shantytown Heritage Park, 2010, [online])

Before midday, you will continue on your journey by bus to Westland National Park located to the south of Shantytown where you can find two well-known glaciers on the South Island – Franz Josef Glacier and Fox Glacier. Because time is short, seeing one glacier will be enough. A bus will transport you to the Franz Josef village where you will go to the Franz Josef Glacier Guides office. They offer many guided tours through the valley, ice climbing or discovering glaciers by helicopter. You will participate in a guided walking tour which will take you up alongside the Waiho River and its landscape. The tour will take around three hours and an educated guide will tell you more about history of the glacier and its legends. (Glacier Valley Walk, 2014, [online])



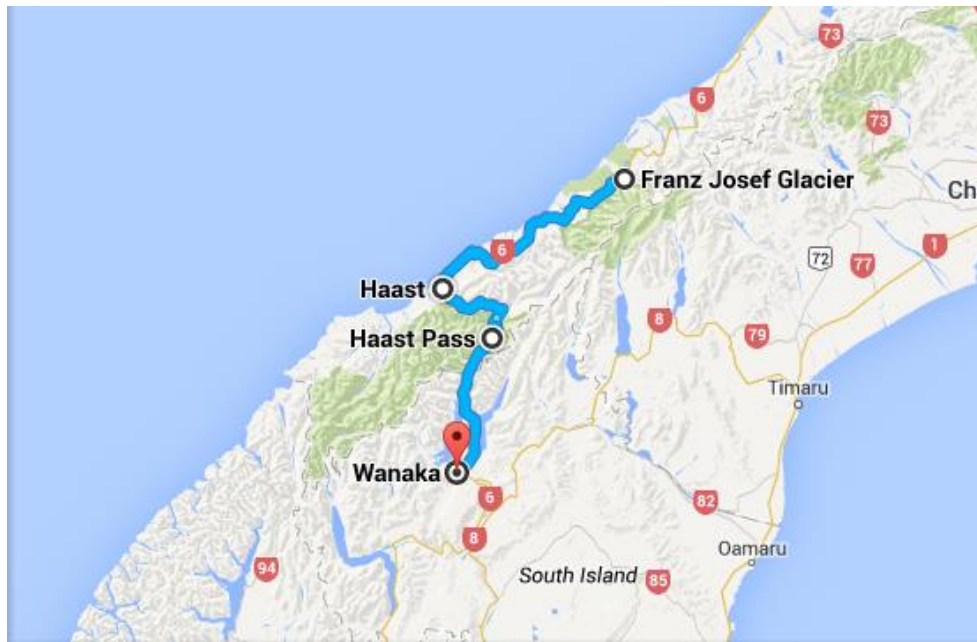
Picture 10: Franz Josef Glacier Valley Walk

After returning to the village, you will be accommodated in the Montrose Backpackers (Montrose, [online]), which is nestled at the heart of the village near the shops and restaurants. Tip: Spend the evening in the busy hub of the village.

DAY 10: 18th March (Wednesday)

Day	Destination	Sites/Activities	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
10	Franz Josef		---	8.00 a.m.	145 km		NZ\$ 59
	Haast	Jet-boating	10.00 a.m.	11.00 a.m.			
		Haast	12.30 a.m.	1.00 p.m.			NZ\$ 99
	Lake Wanaka	Through Haast Pass	5.30 p.m.	---	140 km	285 km	NZ\$ 65
	Wanaka	Matterhorn Backpackers	6.30 p.m.	---	1 km	286 km	NZ\$ 16
	Expenses						

Table 8: Itinerary of the day 10



Map 11: Franz Josef – Haast - Wanaka

Today you will continue in your trip to the Haast region which stretches to the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. The small community of Haast lies on the coast where the river of the same name empties into the Tasman Sea. There are many options what to do, for example canoeing, fishing or diving. A journey by bus takes you approximately two hours. Then, you can explore the Haast Valley on a jet-boat. The Haast River Safari Association caters to tourists the so-called Roaring Billy Tour with a picnic lunch. The tour takes about 1.5 hour which perfectly fits into your schedule. A boat drives out at 11 o'clock from Haast and continues to the Mt Aspiring National Park. You will feast your eyes on a view of the scenic nature, waterfalls, including Roaring Billy Waterfall, and rock formations. (Discover the Haast, 2013, [online])

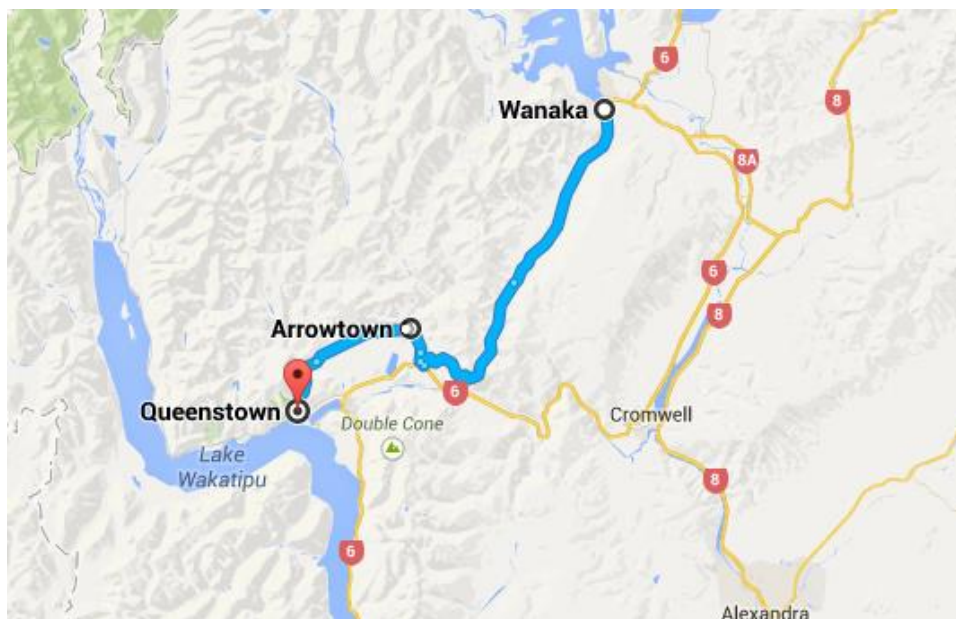
Later, heading to the south from Haast, there will be another stop – Lake Wanaka. You will go by the roadway Haast Pass which will draw your attention to a beautiful vista of a thickly forested area and other natural beauties in the Wanaka region. However, travelling takes you about four hours because you have to manage more than 140 kilometres. The town of Wanaka lies on the south point of Lake Wanaka and it is a popular tourist destination for its aerial activities. Besides what has already been mentioned, the Wanaka region is well-known for its sun-kissed vineyards and the Transport and Toy Museum. The museum collection comprises of aircrafts such as Russian Antonov, the Flying Flea, motorbikes and old British cars. (Toy Museum Collection, [online]) An evening program will be up to you, even though you should

gather your strength for the next busy day. Accommodation is booked in the backpackers Matterhorn (2014, [online]).

DAY 11: 19th March (Thursday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
11	Wanaka		---	7.45 a.m.	56 km		NZ\$ 35
	Arrowtown		8.45 a.m.	10.15 a.m.	21 km	77 km	NZ\$ 15
	Queenstown		10.45 a.m.	---			
		Heli Bike Tour	11.30 a.m.	12.30 a.m.	18 km	86,5 km	NZ\$ 399
		Queenstown	6.00 p.m.	---			
	Accomm.	Nomads Backpackers	6.15 p.m.	---	200 m	86,7 km	NZ\$ 29
		Expenses					

Table 9: Itinerary of the day 11



Map 12: Wanaka – Queenstown

After leaving Wanaka you will get to Arrowtown by bus. As it has already been remarked in the theoretical part, Arrowtown lies in the centre of the scenic Southern Lake area and represents one of the former mining towns in New Zealand. You will have enough time to discover this small town whose residents prepare many diverse activities such as gold panning, golf, walking trails through surroundings, exploring a local gallery or visiting Arrowtown's museum which familiarizes you with an early Chinese settlement and a sudden surge of gold rush.

Shortly after 10 o'clock, get on a bus to Queenstown, one of the most spectacular spots in the world. The ride takes about a half an hour. The town lies on the edge of Lake Wakatipu and it is surrounded by the Southern Alps. Queenstown is most renowned for its inspirational range of outdoor activities such as skiing, snowboarding, bungee jumping, jet-boating, river surfing, rafting, paragliding or mountain biking. These activities are the reason why around two million enthusiasts are drawn to Queenstown every year. Then go to any local restaurant to try ethnic specialties or some international standard.

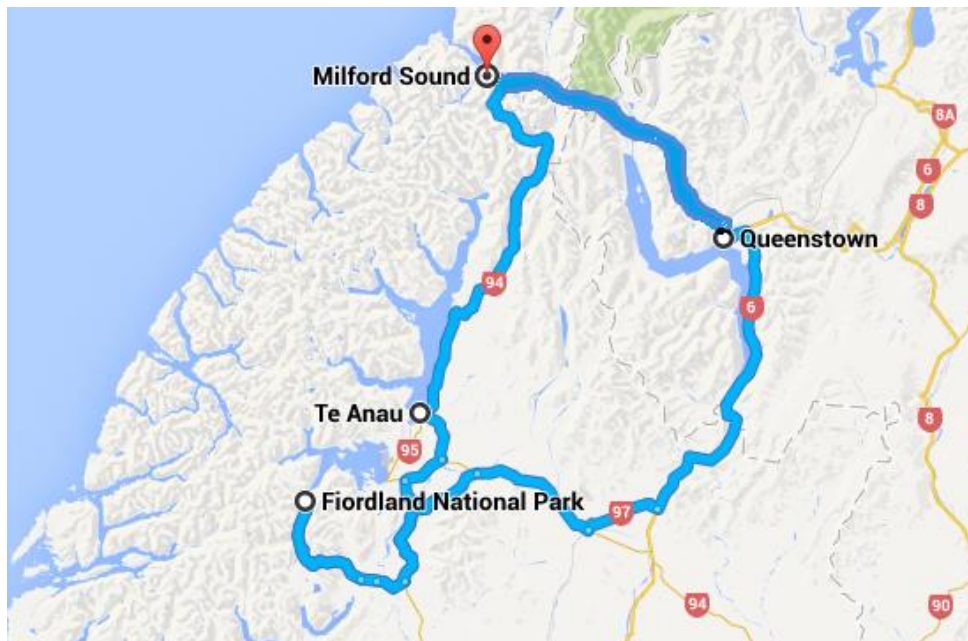
Spend the second part of the day on a bike which you can rent in the city shop Vertigo Bikes for half a day. Unfortunately, it will not be a typical cycling tour across surroundings. You will go, together with a trained guide, for an original Heli Bike tour. As writes the server (Remarkables Heli Bike, [online]), a helicopter takes you over the Remarkables mountain range to one of the heli bike drops-off, near to Ben Cruachan – the highest elevation point around here. After a panoramic flight by helicopter with bikes, you will get off and set out for a bike trip. Your trail will be a great mixture of landscape. You will start in the mountains passing an original gold miner road from the 1860s to meandering down to the Gibson Valley. The total distance is eighteen kilometres with 1500 metres of a vertical descent.

Returning to the city is planned around 6 p.m. Nightlife in Queenstown is really varied and many bars have the licenses to remain open until 4 a.m. The Nomads Queenstown Backpackers Hostel provides both appropriate and modern accommodation for favourable prices. (Nomads, 2014 [online]) This hostel was awarded in 2010 and 2011 the best accommodation for backpackers in New Zealand.

DAY 12: 20th March (Friday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
12	Queenstown	Fiordland NP	---	7.00 a.m.	230 km		NZ\$ 169
		Te Anau	---	---	70 km	300 km	
		Mirror Lakes	---	---	30 km	330 km	
		Ellington Valley	---	---	20 km	350 km	
	Milford Sound	Cruising trip	---	---	115 km	465 km	
	Queenstown	Skyline Gondola	7.30 p.m.	---	50 km	515 km	
		Nomads Back.					NZ\$ 29
	Expenses						

Table 10: Itinerary of the day 12



Map 13: Sightseeing tour by plane

Queenstown will be a starting point for the next day. The most exclusive way, how to explore the Southland region and its famous fiord Milford Sound, is by plane. It will be a one day trip beginning in Queenstown at 7.00 a.m. and ending at the same place at

7.40 p.m. You will travel with the Awesome NZ Travel Centre which offers a collection of New Zealand's experiences to complete your holiday.

Leaving Queenstown, you will follow an ancient path of Maori who searched for greenstone in the Milford Sound area. You will enjoy a bird's eye view of the Fiordland National Park and your guide will tell you stories about the reserve, Maori history, and will show you the most panoramic views for taking a picture. You will also have a break for refreshment in the Te Anau reserve where you will be amazed by an ancient alpine forest, many breathtaking waterfalls and the notable Mirror Lakes. Then go for a short track through the Ellington Valley and the dramatic Upper Hollyford Valley. Pass the 1.2 long Homer Tunnel which crosses an impassable mountain range heading to Milford Sound. There you will get on a boat and eat your free delicious box lunch which is included in the package.



Picture 11: Fiordland National Park: Milford Sound

Cruising along Milford Sound will give you the most remarkable views of the unique landscape, including a view of Mitre Peak, glacier-scarred rock walls and many enthralling waterfalls. If you are lucky, you will see dolphins, penguins or seals. At the end of your cruise, you can look forward to a returning flight to Queensland. (Milford Sound Tour, 2012, [online]) Then catch a Skyline Gondola which takes you up a hill where there is a beautiful vista of the city at night. Today you will stay overnight in the same place as yesterday which means the Nomads Backpackers Hostel.

DAY 13: 21st March (Saturday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
13	Queenstown		---	7.45 a.m.	282 km		NZ\$ 49
	Dunedin	Baldwin Street	12.45 a.m.	1.00 p.m.	500 m	282,5 km	
		Otago Museum	---	---	1 km	283,5 km	
		Railway Station	1.30 p.m.	---	500 m	284 km	
		Cycling trek	3.00 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	15 km	299 km	NZ\$ 35
	Accomm.	Leviathan Hostel			1 km	300 km	NZ\$ 15
	Expenses						NZ\$ 99

Table 11: Itinerary of the day 13



Map 14: Queenstown - Dunedin

The next morning, you will travel nearly three hours by bus from Queenstown to Dunedin on the Otago Peninsula, the second largest city in the South Island and the oldest city in New Zealand as well. Dunedin has a uniquely shaped city centre which is an eight-sided octagon.

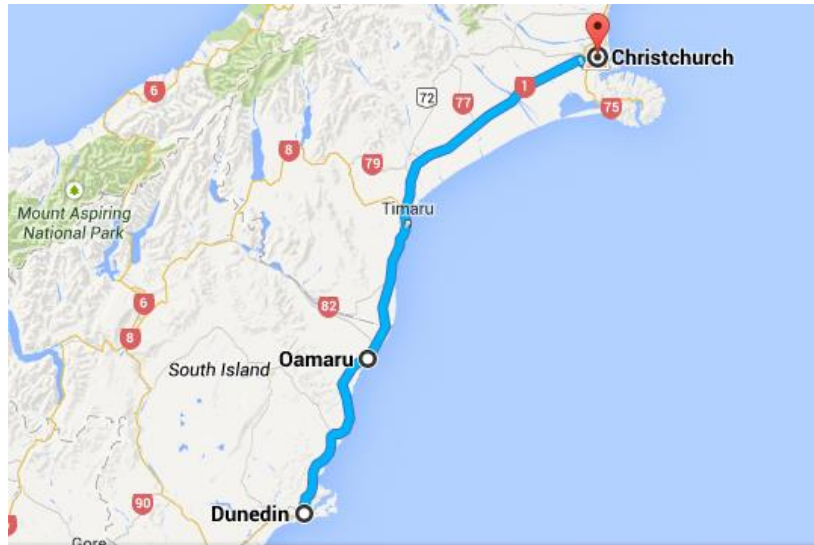
Firstly, you will go to explore the city centre and its prominent buildings. The steepest street in the world is situated in the Dunedin's Northeast Valley. It is called Baldwin Street and is listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Furthermore, there are many museums such as the Otago Museum with a large marine collection, the Otago Settlers Museum focuses on Maori culture and history or the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The Dunedin's Old Railway Station is also certainly worth seeing. It is regarded as the prettiest railway station in all of New Zealand and it was built in the Victorian style, designed by George Troup. (Dunedin Railway Station, 2014, [online]) After a short sightseeing tour, it will be time for a late lunch in a restaurant.

The program for the afternoon will start with exploring Dunedin's surroundings on a bike saddle. You will cycle through the Otago Peninsula. The track does not have a difficult steep climb, so it will be mainly a relaxing ride. The track goes through a beautiful scenic landscape, small towns or along the beaches. Your accommodation is booked in the central Leviathan Hostel (2014, [online]). Dunedin is a fascinating historical city which allures visitors who like to go on night walks.

DAY 14: 22nd March (Sunday)

Day	Destination	Sites	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
14	Dunedin		---	7.45 a.m.	112 km		NZ\$ 29
	Oamaru	Penguin Colony	9.25 a.m.	10.00 a.m.			NZ\$ 16
		Public Gardens	11.00 a.m.	1.20 p.m.			
	Christchurch	Bus Stop	5.00 p.m.	---	249 km	361 km	NZ\$ 33
		Cathedral Square	5.20 p.m.	5.30 p.m.			NZ\$ 15
		War Memorial	6.00 p.m.	6.15 p.m.			
		Canterbury Museum	6.45 p.m.	7.30 p.m.	3 km	364 km	NZ\$ 2
	Accomm.	YHA Christchurch	8.00 p.m.	---	1 km	365 km	NZ\$ 17
		Expenses					

Table 12: Itinerary of the day 14



Map 15: Flight from Dunedin to Christchurch

A morning bus trip gets you to Oamaru, a picturesque town known for its white buildings in the Victorian style and for Blue penguin colonies. It was also a home-town to famous New Zealand author Janet Frame (author of the well-known autobiographical novel ‘An Angel at my Table’) for fourteen years who sets the plot of her novels in Oamaru. (Turner, 2010, pp. 244-245)

A guided tour following penguin footprints starts at 10 a.m. The tour runs around an hour and later on will be enough time for exploring the Oamaru Public Gardens. The gardens have been there since the Victorian era (1876) and entice visitors to take a romantic walk through various paths to see fountains, lawns and countless plant species. (Oamaru Public Garden, [online]) After a small stroll, have lunch in a restaurant in the town centre. Moreover, you have to catch a bus to Christchurch – a remarkable city lying on the east coast, which leaves at 1.20 p.m.

Christchurch is considered to be the main international gateway to the South Island and you will have an opportunity to visit and discover this coastal town in detail. Leaving the bus station, you will go to Cathedral Square and join to a guided walk around the city which runs two hours and starts in the square at 5.30 p.m. Your first stop will be in the gothic Christchurch Cathedral which was designed by the prominent British architect Sir George Scott. Moreover, you will see the Godley Statue to commemorate the founder of Christchurch – John Godley at Christchurch Square. Passing the Citizen’s War Memorial you will get to see an interesting Former Chief Post Office in a

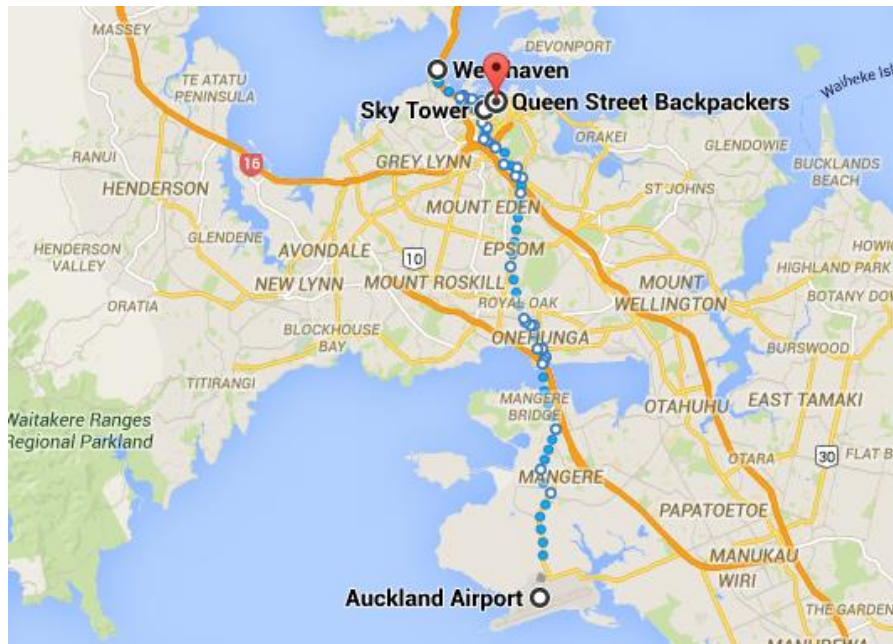
prevailing gothic style. This building was originally supposed to be built to house government departments. However, nowadays it is a seat of the I-SITE Visitor Centre. Crossing the Avon River, go through the Bridge of Remembrance which was built in honour to the victims of World War I. Your excursion around the city will finish at the Canterbury Museum that definitely worth seeing. It is regarded as one of the best regional museums around the world. It displays early colonist exhibits, natural history of Chatham Islands, as well as a Maori gallery and much more. (City Heritage Walks, [online])

Staying overnight again in the YHA Christchurch backpackers, that will be the plan for the rest of the day.

DAY 15: 23rd March (Monday)

Day	Destination	Sites/Activities	Schedule		Distance		Expenses
			Arrival	Departure	Individ.	Total	
15	Christchurch		---	8.00 a.m.	745 km	---	NZ\$ 209
	Auckland	City Centre	9.20 a.m.	---	20 km	765 km	NZ\$ 4
		SkyWalk/	1.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	3 km	768 km	NZ\$ 125
		SkyJump	1.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	---	---	NZ\$ 195
		Kitesurfing	3.00 p.m.	6.00 p.m.	3 km	771 km	NZ\$ 50
	Accomm.	Queen St. Backpackers	---	---	3 km	774 km	NZ\$ 30
	Expenses						

Table 13: Itinerary of the day 15



Map 16: Sightseeing tour across Auckland

The last day of your trip will end up in the metropolis of New Zealand – Auckland – a city that stretches on fifty extinct volcanoes. After breakfast you will have to say good bye to the magnificent city of Christchurch and get to Auckland by plane. (Air New Zealand, 2014 [online]) The flight takes you one hour and twenty minutes. It means that you will have plenty of time for enjoying Auckland - its fantastic food, amazing outdoor activities or world-class shopping.

Use public transport to move to the city centre and stay there for the rest of the morning. Sky Tower - the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere will be your first great experience in Auckland. Firstly, have lunch in one of its upper situated restaurants. Moreover, there are two other options of what to do in this tower. The SkyWalk is the first one. If you are not afraid of walking the ring around the tower on 1.2 metres wide platform at height of 192 metres, let's do it. In contrast, there is the SkyJump. You can just leap off the Sky Tower at 85 km/h. If you cannot choose which one you will undertake, there is a great option to participate in both for an amazing price \$290 NZ. It is up to you. (Skywalk, [online])

After this amazing adrenaline rush, go to the harbour to set out for another and unfortunately the last water adventure, kite-surfing in the local pristine water. Take a lesson provided by the Blue Adventures Centre. Lessons are available for whole group and a qualified instructor will teach you basic techniques, in the safest way possible. He will take you through the safe wind conditions for kiting, teach you to set up, control the kite and also fly. It will be a new awesome experience which you should not miss! (Kitesurfing Lessons, 2014, [online])



Picture 12: Sky Tower

Lastly, you will spend the end of the day and also the last night in New Zealand according to everyone's interest. You can enjoy the busy city or relax in one of the gorgeous beaches. The Auckland QueenStreet Backpackers will provide you with accommodation. (QueenStreet, 2014 [online])

Day 16-17: 24th – 25th March

Departure: Tue, March 24, 2015					
Auckland – Prague – 2 stops , 34h 35m					
Day	Departure Airport/Day/Time		Arrival Airport/Day/Time		Time
16,17	Auckland, NZ	Tue 03/24/2015 2.00 p.m.	Sydney, Kingsford Smith	Tue 03/24/2015 3.35 p.m.	3h 35m
	Layover Sydney – Kingsford Smith				6h 10m
	Sydney, AU	Tue 03/24/2015 9.45 p.m.	Dubai Int.	Wed 03/25/2015 5.15 a.m.	14h 30m
	Layover Dubai International				3h 40m
	Dubai	Wed 03/25/2015 8.55 a.m.	PRG V. Havel	Wed 03/25/2015 12.35 a.m.	6h 40m
	Total Price				NZ\$ 1868

Table 14: Itinerary of the flight to Prague

Your tour through New Zealand is at its end. You will have enough free time to buy souvenirs and enjoy the very last moments in Auckland. Your flight departs at 2 o'clock sharp and a representative will ensure transport to the airport 2 hours before departure. The return flight will last around 35 hours, including two stops (Sydney and Dubai) in contrast to the flight to New Zealand. Expected arrival in Prague is between 12.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

6.2 Calculation

The table below describes the cost of each day of your trip, including transportation, sights and accommodation:

Expenses	
Day 1-3	NZ\$ 1479.5
Day 4	NZ\$ 46.5
Day 5	NZ\$ 204
Day 6	NZ\$ 176
Day 7	NZ\$ 401
Day 8	NZ\$ 354
Day 9	NZ\$ 170

Day 10	NZ\$ 239
Day 11	NZ\$ 478
Day 12	NZ\$ 198
Day 13	NZ\$ 99
Day 14	NZ\$ 112
Day 15	NZ\$ 613
Day 16-17	NZ\$ 1868
Expenses total	NZ\$ 6438

Money for food is not included in the total price. It is recommended that you should take some extra money - at least 50 NZ\$ per day (around 750 NZ\$ all together). However, it is only an estimated amount and everyone should consider his or her personal expenses. During the flights to New Zealand and back to the Czech Republic, food will be arranged on the plane. The second table below calculates all costs for the trip. Final price is about 130,000 Czech crowns per person.

Total expenses of days	NZ\$ 6,438
Food	NZ\$ 750
Insurance	NZ\$ 114
Extra spending	NZ\$ 85
Total	NZ\$ 7,387 = 130,012 Kc

7 Conclusion

Firstly, it is important to go over the aims of this bachelor's thesis. The main aim of the theoretical part was to provide information about general geographical facts including information about New Zealand's geographical highlights such as the largest lakes, the longest rivers or the highest peaks of both main islands. Furthermore, the following subchapter not only deals with some historical facts including the formation of the Gondwana landmass, first settlement, arrival of Europeans but also with signing of the founding document, which proclaimed New Zealand as a British colony. The next chapter is devoted to the mythological explanation of the origin of the world and rich Maori culture. The largest section focuses on a detailed description of ten popular tourist destinations that attract thousands of travellers from around the world with its gorgeous vistas and lush panoramas. In most cases it is about exploring the sublime wildernesses such as the Tongariro National Park, the Kauri tree forests, remarkable Milford Sound or the Rotorua area. In addition, the town of Oamaru, mostly known for blue penguins' appearance, and Arrowtown – an area with gold deposits, are mentioned as well.

Moreover, planning a tour across New Zealand represented another aim of the thesis. An itinerary is compiled for nine active enthusiasts who love travelling and long walking or cycling treks with backpacks on their backs and who are not afraid of heights and bothersome insects. It is not a self-guided tour but a highly experienced English-speaking guide will lead the whole journey.

A seventeen-day long trip predominantly takes place across the South Island with two stops in the North Island – in Wellington and Auckland. The starting point of the trip is in Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand. Then the tour continues to the South Island via Cook Strait further to possibly the world's most scenically diverse inland. Kayaking in Marlborough Sound, savouring Blenheim's wine, exploring the Punakaiki Pancake Rocks on a horse saddle, undertaking a heli-bike tour in Queenstown and diving with dolphins are only a short list of such alluring activities that this itinerary offers. Most of the places described in the theoretical part are then contained in the itinerary. The sights that are not mentioned in the theoretical part are described in-depth in the practical part. Furthermore, the itinerary also contains details about accommodation facilities, the duration of the single trails and time schedules

accompanied by clearly arranged maps for each day. The expected costs of transport, accommodation and activities are noted in the tables as well.

The trip was designed in the most realizable way. The objective can be considered successfully accomplished. The daily schedules were planned according to real timetables of public transport, opening hours of sights and tourist attraction centres. The prices were calculated in November 2014, so some differences can occur during the actual trip.

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