



Readers' choice:
6 ultimate escapes

Voted by readers as the best destinations in six categories, these diverse itineraries—from Anguilla to New Zealand—offer once-in-a-lifetime adventures.

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New Zealand

EXOTIC VACATION

Traveling to New Zealand might mean a nearly day-long flight, but upon arrival, you're never far from variegated rain forest, glacial mountains, geothermal geysers, breathtaking fjords, or crystal-clear rivers and lakes brimming with giant trout. When you're ready to unwind, toast with pinot noir or sauvignon blanc from one of New Zealand's 600 wineries, or soak up indigenous Maori culture (the tribe has inhabited the island for at least 700 years).

Best way to begin: Auckland—New Zealand's largest city at 1.4 million—is accentuated by 50 dormant volcanoes, surrounded by 50 islands, and snug between two harbors. Known as the City of

Sails, Auckland boasts more boats per capita than anywhere in the world. Take to the water with award-winning **Explore NZ** and its **America's Cup Sailing Experience** in Waitemata Harbour. Crew on sleek racing machines—no experience necessary—or let someone else do the work as you pass must-see city scenes, including the Sky Tower, Mount Eden, Mission Bay, and the Harbour Bridge.

Best outdoor experience: Sea kayaking awaits in the South Island's **Abel Tasman National Park** and its turquoise Tasman Bay. A guided tour with **Abel Tasman Kayaks** invites a chance to observe the island's seal population. The nearby Abel Tasman Track is one of New Zealand's nine famous "great walks." Hike a few hours or conquer the entire 24 miles in five days with local expert guides, **Wilson's**. You'll pass protected estuaries, lagoons, and golden beaches. —Stephanie Stephens

Contact info

Explore NZ's America's Cup Sailing Experience
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Abel Tasman Kayaks
011-64-3527-8022
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Wilson's
011-64-3528-2027
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The Moeraki Boulders (below), on the south island, are approximately 60 million years old.

WHAT YOU SAID:

“It's easy to be active in such a beautiful place: Hiking, fishing, and boating are just a few possibilities.”

—Rebecca Wallace, Camarillo, Calif.

