



AIRSCAPADE NEW ZEALAND

Love at First Flight



14 days around New Zealand at 3000 feet !

TASMAN
SEA
NEW
ZEALAND



Antipodes Islands



AIRSCAPADE

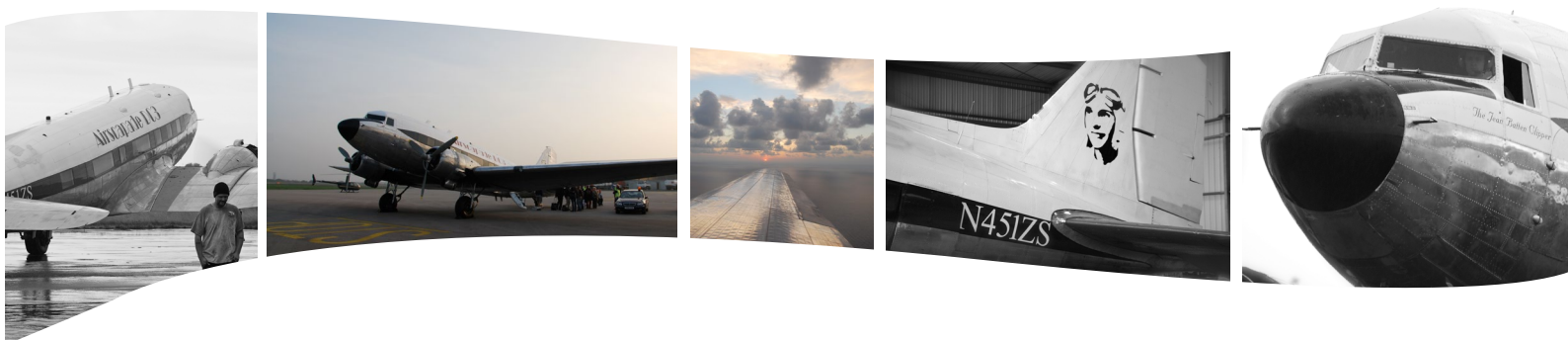
NEW ZEALAND

Love at First Flight

Step back half a century and relive the glorious age of pioneer aviation while surrounded by some of the world's most stunning scenery.

An Air Cruise around Antipodean Paradise in the Matriarch of the Skies

Relax and enjoy the flight in the morning over some of the most stunning scenery in the world, get out and feel it under your feet in the afternoon, that is the Airscapade concept, while adding fine dining and top notch charming accommodation to complete the package.. And for further flexibility, those unable to partake of the whole 14 day tour can choose the number of legs, on a per day basis, (if space available)



ALOFT

This tour is not for people who want to get around NZ quickly in a private jet. No, the DC3 is a majestic old girl, legend of the skies and this tour is for those who appreciate her as such, flying at low altitudes, taking advantage of the panoramic windows and enjoying the vibrant throb of the radial engines.

VISITING

A variety of natural wonders, cultural insights and contact with historic aviation sites in New Zealand – all carefully chosen to fit into a relaxed timetable with regular 2 night stays.

EATING

All included, we have breakfast provided by the hotel, a light lunch either on board or upon arrival, and then fine dining evening meals either at our hotel or a nearby restaurant.

SLEEPING

We have selected some of the finest accommodation in NZ, but where possible, in keeping with the style and period of the DC3. Always with ensuite facilities we have chosen smaller rather than large hotels.

TRANSFERS

All included, and we have decided to have a minibus travel in parallel with the plane in case of weather that would make the journey unsafe or unpleasant, thus preventing disruption to the schedule.



1
Auckland

Arrival in the economic capital. Visit of the waterfront, the city centre, the historic district of Parnell and an overview from Mt Eden. As time permits, a visit to the Motat Museum of Transport and Technology will enable enthusiasts to see some great old planes including the only remaining Short Solent IV.



3
Rotorua

Visits here include geo-thermal sites: Whakarewarewa and its geysers, and Waitapu with its rainbow of colours, the Agrodome (sheep show!), the mighty Huka Falls and NZ's largest lake, Taupo. A Maori traditional dinner (hangi) and concert to top off the day.



5
Blenheim

0.5h

A picturesque flight out of Wellington, across Cook Strait, and the Marlborough Sounds to Blenheim. Not only is this one of the top wine growing areas but it has the Omapa Aviation Heritage Centre, a superb WW1 museum.



7
Dunedin

2h

A mixture of glacial and rainwater lakes provides contrasting colours, against a relatively dry landscape on the eastern side of the mountain ranges. The hydro-electric activity is omnipresent, between canals and dams, before reaching the east coast, overflying the Moeraki Boulders and Oamaru.



Dunedin is a university town with a Scottish touch.

An afternoon excursion on the historic Taieri Gorge railway is a pleasant way to relax.

2
Rotorua

1h

Rotorua is the heart of both the Maori community and the wild geothermal activity as well as the hometown of Jean Batten, the first person to fly from England to New Zealand in 1936.



4
Wellington

2h

Flying over the 15 lakes of the Rotorua region, the 3 volcanoes of the centre provide an impressive backdrop on the route to the capital. The Southward Car Museum is followed by a visit of the capitals highlights – the beehive parliament, the cable car and Mt Victoria for a great view.



6
Cook Twizel

2h

Onwards to the centre of the island with the highest peak, Mt Cook and the chain of mountains known as the Southern Alps. Discovery of the visitor centre and a walk in the national park to the Tasman Glacier or Kea Point.



8
Visit

1.5h

A morning visit of the Otago Peninsula (royal albatrosses) and the Larnach Castle before heading out to the airport and westwards. A short stop at the lovely



collection of historic aircraft at Mandeville before continuing on to Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park, the largest in the country and of course the famous fiords.

10
Wanaka

1h

Over the southern lakes to Wanaka, home of the famous biennial Warbirds over Wanaka and a great aviation museum. Nestled between the lake, mountains and river, Wanaka is a most picturesque stopover. An alternative option is to remain with the minibus and stop off at historic Queenstown, with its spectacular lake and views.



Park. A trip up the coast by water taxi and a partial return on foot on the famous track – with a picnic on the beach and a bit of well earned relaxation for all.

12
Nelson

1h

A morning minibus trip up the coast to the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki – remarkable geological rock formations with blowholes, before flying north to Nelson. In addition to its arts and crafts, and fine restaurants, Nelson is home to an unusual museum of wearable art. Continuation by minibus to Kaiteriteri at the foot of the Abel Tasman Park.



9
Te Anau

Day dedicated to the discovery of the remote fiords, carved out millenia ago as the glaciers made their way down to the sea. The minibus enables stops for walks in the primaeval rainforest with a 2h cruise on the fiord. Upon return, a visit to the wildlife park to see the ultra rare Takahē, flightless bird of the region. In the evening, trip across the lake of Te Anau to the glowworm caves.



14
Auckland

3h

After a leisurely breakfast, return to Auckland, overflying Taranaki and its centre, Mt Egmont. A gentle longer flight to enjoy the last moments in the DC3. A bit of free time in Auckland to do last minute shopping or the last postcards.

11
Hokitika

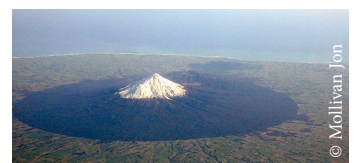
1.5h

The flightpath crosses the Southern Alps to the rugged wild west coast and heads north above the twin glaciers Fox and Franz Josef (cloud permitting) and the gold mines of Ross to touch down at Hokitika, capital of greenstone.



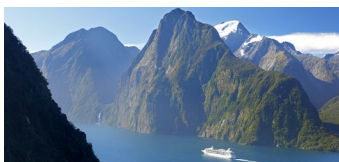
13
Nelson

A day out in the jewel of the coastal Abel Tasman National



© Mollivan Jon

15
Departure





THE DC3

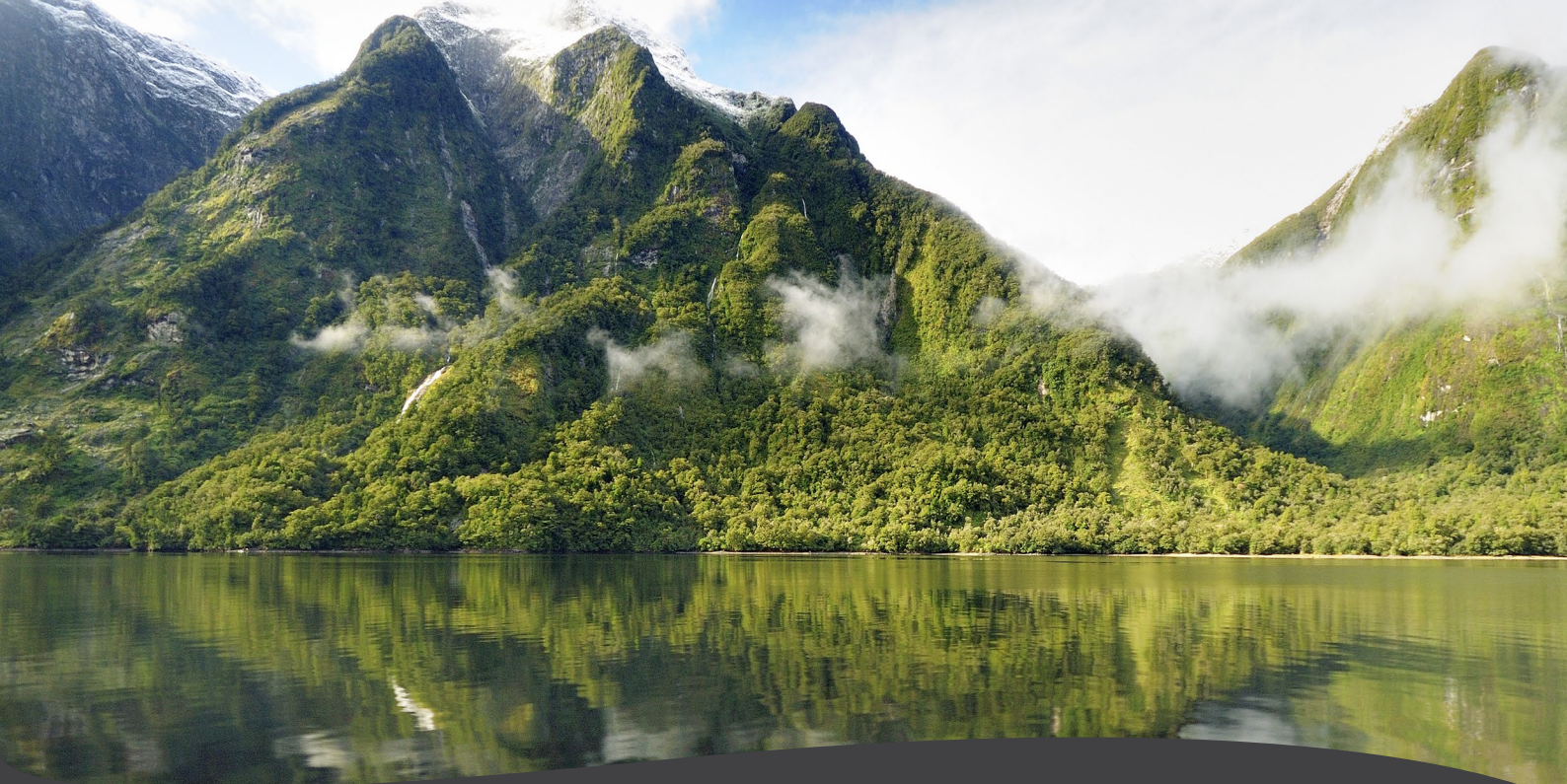
The Douglas DC-3 revolutionized air transport in the 30s and 40s.

Its lasting impact on the airline industry and World War II makes it one of the most significant transport aircraft ever made. It was the culmination of a request from TWA to compete with, United Airlines' Boeing 247. The resulting design, the 1933 **DC-1**, was promising and led to the **DC-2** in 1934. While the DC-2 was a success, there was still room for improvement. The **DC-3** was the result of a marathon telephone call from American Airlines CEO C. R. Smith to Donald.

Douglas, during which Smith persuaded a reluctant Douglas to design a sleeper aircraft based on the DC-2. The new aircraft was engineered by chief engineer Arthur E. Raymond over the next 2 years, and the prototype DST (Douglas Sleeper Transport) first flew on December 17, 1935. A version with 21 seats instead of the sleeping berths was also designed and given the designation DC-3.

Production of DC-3s ceased in 1942, while military versions were produced until the end of the war in 1945. Total production of the DC-3 was 16,079. There are probably more than 200 remaining in commercial service today although many of these have been modified for freight operations with turboprop engines and an extended fuselage. **Very few still provide passenger service.**





Whereas every effort will be made to maintain the programme as described, as with all old planes, participants should be aware that both weather and technical issues can give an element of adventure to an air cruise. A minibus will follow the route as an alternative in case of unavoidable air delays and will also be an option for those wanting to do some of the route by land from time to time. There may also be minor alterations to the route and programme in order to take advantage of weather, special events and other opportunities that arise.

DATES, PRICE

Consult the insert / website for the current dates and prices – fuel being a large component of this air cruise there can be changes during a season. However once a deposit is received, the price is guaranteed. To make a reservation a deposit of 25% is required, with the balance being due no later than 30 days before Day 1.

CANCELLATION FEES

It is recommended that each participant take out a travel insurance policy to cover both cancellation fees and possible medical costs.

CONTACT DETAILS

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