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The 10 Wonders of New Zealand nature, solitude and ecological oxymorons (PHOTOS)

Matthew Morichini, The Huffington Post

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The land of the long white cloud or "Aotearoa" for Maori is one of the last paradise on the planet where the spectacular and symbiotic osmosis countless eco-systems is enhanced by a great sense of solitude and distance from the rest of humanity. Within an area just smaller than Italy and with just 4.5 million inhabitants, are represented most of the most evocative landscapes of the world; so everything is close and easy as well as civil, clean and tidy. But as so often looks can be deceiving and the two islands that make up the New Zealand alternate extraordinary beauty with deep scars and fierce contradictions created by humans. That said, the last outpost of the southern hemisphere is one of the places to see at least once in their lifetime and the thirty-hour flight from Italy with Air New Zealand - the airline of the All Blacks - are amply justified by the uniqueness of 'experience once landed.

Our road trip of two weeks and 3,000 km has its opening words in Auckland; international city, projected into the future but not particularly charming with design and architecture (see the De Brett to High Street or the futuristic buildings along the marina) edge. If one be built lava field and set among 53 volcanoes, the best way to admire the unusual morphology of the largest urban center in the country is 328 meters from the Sky Tower and among the points of interest are Waiheke Island The district Brittomart and the Albert Park; home of the University and many historic buildings. Auckland is certainly interesting but not as memorable as the 10 wonders described below and the eclectic sequence of views - including both coasts, the Alps, forests, bucolic valleys, fjords, glaciers, craters and clear rivers a few kilometers away from one ' other - from Rotorua to Queenstown.

5: Huka Lodge and Blanket Bay: Travels in the journey; addresses intimate and sophisticated room with a handful of gifts, from culinary star restaurant, unique positions in the world and in addition the impeccable services. Both are in fact places where perfection is judged as something just enough shelters and award-winning singers, actors, politicians and even the British royal family. When Queen Elizabeth is in New Zealand, the Huka Lodge - Relais & Chateaux the Waikato River populated by swans blacks, a few "strokes" from the spectacular Huka Falls, and surrounded by a nature which contains paintings by Monet - it is a must. Sir Ian McKellen is instead a regular customer of the remote and magnificent Blanket Bay. Built on the banks of the mystical Lake Wakatipu with views of snow-capped peaks and cobalt choppy waters from Antarctic winds, this quiet and beautiful Small Luxury Hotel a few kilometers dal'affascinante Glenorchy is an encouragement to new mental dimension. The building is oriented to the west and is then irradiated with natural light and views through enormous windows are observed poignant and dramatic beauty with mountains that change color depending on the position of the sun. In a word, unforgettable.



Matthew Monchini

As in a picture of Monet_ view from a room dell'Huka Lodge



Huka Lodge and the Waikato River