



Tour:

NEW ZEALAND: KIWI NATION

Destination:

Auckland, Pakiri Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island, Rotorua, Waitomo, Tongariro National Park & Wellington

Specialization:

Science, Geography, History & Culture

Itinerary:

12-days / 11-nights total trip

NEW ZEALAND - KIWI NATION, NORTH ISLAND					
Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon		Evening
1	<---->	Overnight Travel			
2	<----	Overnight Travel			
3	D	Arrive New Zealand, clear customs and transfer to Hotel; Hotel Check-In	Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting	Auckland Sightseeing - Mount Eden Volcano, Auckland Harbor & Sky Tower	Dinner
4	B, L, D	Day Excursion - Goat Island & Marine Reserve - Biodiversity Management Presentation			Dinner
5	B, L, D	Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife - Forest Ecology & Biodiversity - Research Mission			Dinner
6	B, L, D	Karangahake Gorge - Geology, Mining, Ecology & Technology		Waihi Beach - Dune Ecology Service Mission with Planting	Dinner
7	B, L, D	Taupo Volcano Zone & Waimangu Valley Zipline Adventure	Tamaki Maori Village - Cultural Experiences & Tribal Dinner		
8	B, L, D	Whakarewarewa Volcano & Geothermal Review	Hot Spring Chemical Analysis	Cable Car up Mount Ngongotaha with Gondola & Luge	Dinner
9	B, L, D	Waitomo Caves with Glow Worm Visit	Ruakuri Rainforest Cave Walk	Waitomo Discovery Center & 'Fragile Environments' Presentation	Dinner
10	B, L, D	Tongariro National Park (Lord of the Rings) - Hike & Altitudinal Zonation Study	Whitewater Rafting Experience - Class III		Dinner
11	B, L, D	Drive to Wellington	Te Papa National Museum	Zealandia Experience & Farewell Dinner	
12	B	Transfer to Airport, depart New Zealand for Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Overnight flight; meals in flight

No services; in flight.

Day 2

Overnight flight; meals in flight

No services; in flight.



Day 3

Meals in flight; dinner in destination

Arrive Auckland, transfer to your hotel and get settled. Later, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting and get some Auckland exploring in!

New Zealand... Widely held to be one of the most breathtaking countries on the planet, New Zealand is a phenomenal travel destination! The rugged mountains and remote valleys that thrust the destination into the world's spotlight through the **Lord of the Rings** trilogy tell only part of the story – you'll also find beaches, fjords, lakes and generous swathes of forest, not to mention age-old Māori culture, forward-looking cities and, famously, a world-class array of outdoor activities. What's not to love?

--World Travel Guide

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city with nearly a third of the country's population. It's a sprawling low-rise conurbation in a fantastic coastal location, the narrowest part of the upper North Island. No place is more than a few miles from the sea and the beach, and it's full of greenery because the small volcanoes scattered throughout the urban area are mostly recreational reserves.

- ✓ Visit Mount Eden Volcano
- ✓ Sky Tower - take in breath-taking panoramic views of Auckland at night
- ✓ Free time to explore, shop and fall in love with Auckland!



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Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning New Zealand! Today we'll have a day excursion to Goat Island for Marine Biology and Ecology. Later in the evening we'll return to our hotel for dinner.

- ✓ Drive Goat Island
- ✓ Goat Island Marine Reserve - Explore the intertidal zone and collect data.
- ✓ Enjoy a glass-bottom boat ride in the reserve.
- ✓ Visit the Discovery Center with activities including touch tanks and whelk behavior investigation.
- ✓ Presentation from local scientists on biodiversity management.



Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Auckland! Today we'll have a day excursion to Tiritiri Matangi Island with a focus on wildlife diversity and management. Later in the evening we'll return to our hotel for dinner.

- ✓ Ferry ride to Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife. (New Zealand has pioneered the use of off-shore islands, easily made pest free as havens for species at risk. Especially for birds that are flightless or don't fly well!)
- ✓ Guided walk to spot the island's animal residents and understand forest ecology in New Zealand.
- ✓ Discussion of NZ biodiversity and the challenges of managing populations with small gene pools.
- ✓ Monitoring of bird behavior or data collection to compare structure of primary and secondary forests.



Tiritiri Matangi
Open Sanctuary

Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Hello New Zealand! Today our focus is on mining - mineral formation and extraction - along with a natural ecosystem change study including climate shifts, species movement and ecological succession. We will overnight this evening in Rotorua.



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- ✓ Head south today through the Karangahake Gorge. Hike the 'Windows Walk' through the rainforest and into disused mining tunnels, offering fabulous views of the gorge through windows originally cut to dump waste rock into the river. This interpreted walking circuit also brings alive the technology and context of gold-mining in the 1800s.
- ✓ Continue to Waihi, stopping at the opencast mine lookout to compare 21st and 19th centuries goldmining technologies and damage mitigation.
- ✓ At Waihi Beach, examine the dune system, first from Mount Pio, a vantage point providing a view of the whole beach, then by carrying out a transect and measuring long-shore drift.
- ✓ **Service project** with local Coast Care (regional council initiative) to rehabilitate seriously eroded parts of the dunes by planting native dune grasses.



Day 7

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Ride and shine Rotorua! Today we'll visit the Taupo Volcanic Zone. This zone, running from the north-east coast to the center of the North Island, is where New Zealand's most active volcanoes are found because it overlies the subduction zone where the Pacific tectonic plate is being forced beneath the Australian plate. The Māori people who still live in this area were originally drawn here by the benefits of the hot springs and mud pools. In the evening, we'll return to Rotorua.

- ✓ Zipline through ancient rainforest for adventure and conservation. This company has a highly successful project, partly funded by your activity fees, to rid the area of pest animals and return birdsong to the forest.
- ✓ Tamaki Māori Village: experience a traditional welcome, see and participate in demonstrations of traditional skills, enjoy a cultural performance and finally a hangi (ground oven-cooked) meal.



Day 8

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Hello New Zealand! Today focuses on tectonic processes, tourism and the incredible Māori culture!



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- ✓ Te Puia - Includes an introduction to volcanic and geothermal activity in New Zealand and its biggest geysers. Enjoy the spectacle of Pohutu exploding 30m in the air and the mesmerizing sight of bubbling hot mud and springs.
- ✓ Learn about Māori Culture with New Zealand's most acclaimed school of traditional Māori carving.
- ✓ Perform a chemical analysis (qualitative or quantitative) of hot spring water.
- ✓ Gondola and Luge: Gondola Cable Car ride up Mount Ngongotaha with stunning views of the lake and features of Rotorua caldera. Ride back down on a concrete track (one luge ride included).



Day 9

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine! Today we'll visit Waitomo Caves & Village. In the evening, we'll overnight at the Ruapehu Hotel in National Park Village. Waitomo Caves are noted for their stunning stalactite and stalagmite displays and for their glow-worms (the fungus gnat *Arachnocampa luminosa*). The word Waitomo comes from the Māori language 'wai' meaning water and 'tomo' meaning a sinkhole. These caves are believed to be over two million years old and have been the center of increasingly popular commercial caving tourism since 1900.

- ✓ Drive to Waitomo to visit the famous glow worm caves.
- ✓ Ruakuri Walk: a short rainforest walk in the collapsed caves.
- ✓ Waitomo Discovery Center with a special presentation on "Human Activity in Fragile Environments."



Day 10

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning! Today we head into Tongariro National Park for a great day of fun and exploration! We'll again overnight in the National Park Village.

- ✓ Take a 2-hour hike (Silica Rapids) on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu Volcano, the highest mountain in the North Island and the setting of many **Lord of the Rings** "Mordor" scenes.
- ✓ Carry out an altitudinal zonation study (600 m to 1600 m -2000' to 5500').



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- ✓ Explore spatial variation: plant diversity in relation to eruption history and climate in the park
- ✓ Go Whitewater rafting! Grade III, 60 rapids, 3-hour experience; perfect for beginners and the experienced.



Day 11

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine New Zealand! Today we'll drive south to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand and a 4-hour transfer. Wellington is located in the center of the country and is famous for being windy. The city is often buffeted by strong gusts that are funneled through Cook Strait. Hemmed in by hills, Wellington city sits on a beautiful harbor. Houses cling to the slopes as there is not much flat land. The rugged Rimutaka and Tararua mountain ranges loom beyond the harbor. Wellington is a thriving urban center with many galleries, museums, theatres and festivals. Cafés, restaurants, bars, shops, cinemas and apartments keep the inner city lively. After a great day of exploring, we'll overnight here.

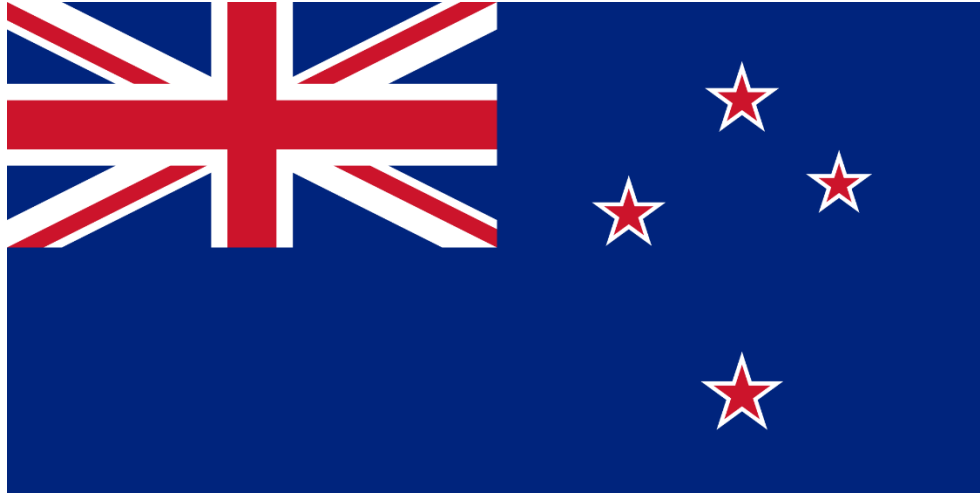
- ✓ Visit Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.
- ✓ Take an educational and extended Twilight tour around New Zealand's unique predator-free sanctuary, **ZEALANDIA**.
- ✓ Venture further and deeper into the valley to discover the riches of New Zealand's flora and fauna at its very best. With your personal guide, learn about the history, sights and sounds of the valley and its secrets!



Day 12

Breakfast included, dependent upon departure time

Good morning Wellington! It's time to pack up and head home. Following breakfast and depending on flight and/or travel times we'll have the morning free then will start to say goodbye to New Zealand taking memories with us that will last forever!



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Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip international flights
9-nights' accommodation in New Zealand
Airport transfers & group transportation to activities
Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with dinner on your night of arrival and ending with breakfast on your day of departure
Mount Eden Volcano excursion
Auckland Harbor + Sky Tower visit
Goat Island Marine Reserve + Intertidal Zone data collection + Glass-bottom Boat Ride + Biodiversity Management Master Class
Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife with Guided Walk & Biodiversity Discussion + Research Project
Windows Walk Rainforest Hike + Goldmining Technology review
Dune Research & Service Project with Coast Care
Rainforest Ziplining
Tamaki Māori Village – skills demonstrations, cultural performance & hangi (meal), traditional Māori Carving visit
Te Puia visit with Volcanic & Geothermal Review
Spring Water Chemical Analysis Project
Mount Ngongotaha - Gondola up & Luge back
Waitomo Caves & Village visit + Discovery Center
Ruakuri Rainforest Walk
Tongariro National Park & Silica Rapids Hike on Mount Ruapehu
Volcano + Altitudinal Zonation & Spatial Variation Study
3-hour White Water Rafting experience (Grade III)
Te Papa National Museum visit
Zealandia – Twilight Tour with Personal Guide
Wellington City experience
Personal Tour Ambassador
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
Baggage handling - each student should be able to carry/load their suitcase
Snacks or beverages between included meals
Transfers to/from home airport
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment options not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation, purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – Ambassador, local guide(s), driver(s), hotel services
Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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