

Land of the Long White Cloud: Ecosystems of New Zealand

2025 Tentative Itinerary (as of 25 Oct 24)

Wednesday 10 September: Auckland

Meet in Auckland City (own arrangements for transfer to hotel)

Māori Cultural Orientation

Weta Workshop

Dinner together

Accommodation @ either [Holiday Inn Express](#) (4 star) or [Lylo](#) (3 ½ star)

Thursday 11 September: Auckland to Hamilton

Breakfast included at Holiday Inn Express

8.30am: Depart for Raglan mid morning

11.00am: Visit [Raglan Surf Break](#)

12.30pm Lunch on own

1.15pm Depart Raglan for Hamilton (1h 30m drive)

2.45pm: [Hamilton Gardens](#)

Optional activity, but highly recommended @ \$20 per person

5.15pm: Check into hotel

Dinner on own

Accommodation at [Heartland Ambassador Hotel Hamilton](#) (3 1/2 star)

Friday 12 September: Hamilton to Rotorua

Breakfast at hotel

9.30am: Depart to Matamata

10.30am: Free time for shopping and then an early lunch at The Shire's Rest

11.50am: Check in for [Hobbiton tour](#)

Experience the real Middle-earth™ at the Hobbiton Movie Set, where, in the heart of the Waikato region, you can step into the lush pastures of the Shire™, as seen in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit film trilogies.

Fall in love with the Alexander family sheep farm, just as acclaimed director Sir Peter Jackson did, as you journey on a short bus ride through the unequivocal beauty of the land, with the mighty Kaimai Ranges towering in the distance. Your guide will escort you on a shared walking tour around the movie set, showcasing the intricate details, pointing out the most famous locations and explaining how movie magic was made here.

3.00pm Depart Matamata for Rotorua

4.30pm Check into hotel

Group Dinner

Accommodation at [Ibis Rotorua](#) (3 star)

Saturday 13 September: Rotorua

Breakfast at hotel

Collect packed lunch

- 7.30am: Depart for site visits all day: Scion Research Center, Te Urewera (Maori-managed protected area), Whirinaki Forest
- 5.00pm: Arrive back to hotel
Dinner on own
- 8.15pm: Depart for [Redwoods night walk](#) (taxi)
Majestic and magical, the Redwoods Treewalk™ experience is truly a walk to remember. Suspended high above the forest floor, encounter 75-metre-tall redwoods as you walk across eco-suspended bridges and platforms intricately designed to honour and accentuate the stunning natural environment. Regarded by many as one of the best tree top walks in New Zealand.
*Earlier than this will be a minimum 30 minute wait so I have recommend to swap around and have dinner prior then the walk.

Accommodation at [Ibis Rotorua](#) (3 star)

Sunday 14 September: Rotorua

Breakfast at hotel

- 9.00am Depart for [Waimangu Volcanic Valley](#)
Discover the Waimangu Volcanic Valley and Lake Rotomahana with the Full Waimangu Experience. You'll enjoy beautiful walking and hiking trails, woven through a natural geothermal ecosystem. Complete the experience with a 45 minute boat cruise around Lake Rotomahana, the final resting place of the Pink & White Terraces.
- 9.30am Walk
- 11.25am Cruise
- 12.50pm Arrive back and have lunch at café
- 1.30pm Depart for hotel
- 2.00pm Free time in Rotorua
- 3.30pm Depart for [Te Puia](#) - an evening of culture, kai and connection!
Begin with a fully guided experience to enrich your visit to the historical geothermal valley.

Explore the amazing landscape of native bush, geysers, and mud pools, and feel the natural power of Pōhutu Geyser- the largest geyser in the Southern Hemisphere! Get up close and personal with one of our national treasures in the Kiwi Conservation Centre. Visit the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute and Āhua Gallery.

After working up an appetite enjoy a mouth-watering hangi buffet followed by an exhilarating cultural performance and then if you want more, head back down into the geothermal wonderland featuring the world famous Pōhutu Geyser.

8.30pm Depart for hotel

Accommodation at [Ibis Rotorua](#) (3 star)

Monday 15 September: Rotorua to Wellington

Breakfast at hotel

9.00am Depart hotel for Rotorua Airport
10.15am: Depart on NZ5233 from Rotorua to Wellington
11.30am Arrive Wellington

[Te Papa](#)

Kua takoto te mānuka. Nurture the foundations of the future. Take a 90-minute journey with an experience guide through Te Papa, our national museum. Discover how te iwi taketake (first peoples of the land) have formed unique tools, foods, and medicines provided by the natural world of Aotearoa New Zealand. The tour will conclude with a shared kai (traditionally-inspired food tasting) and conversation with your hosts. This private tour gives a deeper understanding of Māori cultural practices, materials, and hospitality.

[Zealandia](#)

Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne is unique in Aotearoa: As a world-leading conservation sanctuary Zealandia provides a living laboratory where people can learn about the natural history of New Zealand, the science of conservation, and what we need to know and do to successfully live with nature.

A private tour is arranged for the group

Group Dinner

Accommodation at [Ibis Wellington](#) (3 star)

Tuesday 16 September: Wellington to Christchurch

Breakfast at hotel

9.00am Depart hotel for Wellington Airport
10.35am: Depart on NZ5347 from Wellington to Christchurch
11.40am Arrive Christchurch
12.15pm Lunch at [Spitfire Square](#) (pay own account), plenty of options at just two minutes from the airport, then Willowbank is 10 minutes

Recommend leaders do a supermarket shop at Spitfire Square for breakfast items to use in Hotel Give's kitchens

- 1.30pm [Willowbank Wildlife Reserve](#)
Guided Kiwi Tour from 1.45pm – 2.45pm
The 45 minute tour is a good chance to get up-close and learn about NZ's unique native species and kiwi viewing is guaranteed.
With free time after to explore the reserve
- 3.30pm Depart for city to check into hotel (approx. 20 – 25 minutes)
- 4.15pm At leisure at the [Christchurch Botanic Gardens](#) (open until 6.30pm)
- Group Dinner

Accommodation at [Hotel Give](#) (3 ½ star)

Wednesday 17 September: Christchurch

Breakfast using groceries

- 8.30am Depart for [Bottle Lake Forest Park](#) for a walk through (approx. 20 mins drive)
- 10.30am Depart for University of Canterbury visit (approx. 20 mins drive)
- 11.00am University of Canterbury – Forestry Department visit
Lunch can be on own at one of the [campus outlets](#)
- ?? Depart for hotel (approx. 25 mins drive)

Dinner on own

Accommodation at [Hotel Give](#) (3 ½ star)

Thursday 18 September: Christchurch

Breakfast using groceries

- 9.30am: Depart on public bus to the International Antarctic Centre
- 10.00am: Group Tour of [International Antarctic Centre](#) including:
- an Antarctic storm, this takes place in the Storm Dome ~ filled with real snow and ice chilled to -8°C. Please ensure all members of your group bring a warm jacket with them for their Storm Dome experience.
 - The Penguin Rescue facility. Here you can see our colony of rescued Little Blue penguins - Kororā.
 - Visit the Gallery. This contains interactive Antarctic displays including historical information, many aspects of Antarctic science, and the Husky encounter.
 - a ride in the all-terrain Polar vehicle Hägglund. You will traverse steep mounds, a crevasse, and rough terrain! Note that there is a minimum height requirement of 1.2 m to ride the Hägglund.

- a 4D movie experience. This exclusive movie is enhanced with special effects, such as snow falling, bubbles, seat motion, and the occasional water spray.

12.30pm Depart for the city

Lunch on own

2.00pm [Māori-led Walking Tour](#)

Experience culture in Ōtautahi Christchurch. This 90 minute tailor made walk is a perfect way to discover cultural treasures hidden in plain sight and learn how local Māori are expressed in the rebuild of the City.

We begin our tour with a mihi whakatau (welcome) and karakia (prayer) to ensure visitors are safe on their journey. We share the creation story of Ranganui (sky father) and Papatūānuku (earth mother) and hear our ancestors story of how the hongi brought to life Hineahuone.

Following the footsteps of our tipuna (ancestors) we meander our way along the city laneways and river, sharing Māori and settler stories demonstrating how we are kaitiaki (guardians) for the future.

4.00pm Grocery shopping

Dinner on own

Accommodation at [Hotel Give](#) (3 ½ star)

Friday 19 September: Christchurch to Cass

Breakfast using groceries

9.00am Depart hotel and drive to Cass Field Station

11.00am Arrive at Cass Field Station

Visit Kura Tawhiti Conservation Area

Lunch and dinner using groceries

Evening walk

Dinner using groceries

Overnight at Cass Field Station (booked via UC)

Saturday 20 September: Cass

Breakfast using groceries

Arthurs Pass Exploration

Lunch using groceries

Dinner using groceries

Overnight at Cass Field Station (booked via UC)

Sunday 21 September: Cass to Christchurch

Breakfast using groceries

9.00am Depart Cass for Lyttelton

11.30am Arrive in Lyttelton
Lunch on own

Ecotourism session (to be worked in)

2.00pm Depart Lyttelton for Christchurch

3.00pm Check into hotel

7.00pm Group dinner

Accommodation at [Hotel Give](#) (3 ½ star)

Monday 22 September: Return to US from Christchurch

Package inclusions

Item
<u>Transport</u> Auckland to Raglan to Hamilton Hamilton to Rotorua (via Matamata) Rotorua site visits, Redwood Tree walk Rotorua Waimangu Volcanic Valley, Te Puia Rotorua hotel to airport Wellington airport to hotel to airport Christchurch airport to Willowbank to hotel Christchurch University visit and Bottlelake Forest Christchurch to Cass with sites (2 days)** Cass to Lyttleton to Christchurch hotel ** driver accommodation and meals in Cass and Westport
<u>Accommodation</u> 1 x Auckland 1 x Hamilton 3 x Rotorua 1 x Wellington 11 x twin rooms (2 x beds) 2 x single rooms (1 x bed) 4 x Christchurch Hotel Give for 4 nights (shared bathrooms and kitchen to prepare own breakfast - POA) 2 x single room (1 x single bed) 4 x quad rooms (4 x single beds) 3 x triple rooms (3 x single beds)
Cass/Westport Field Stations (2 nights) - arranged with Canterbury University
<u>Meals</u> 5 x Breakfasts 1 x Lunch 6 x Dinner (food only)
<u>Activities</u> Māori Cultural Orientation (Auckland) Weta Workshop (Auckland) Hobbiton (Hamilton) Redwoods Nightlight Walk (Rotorua) Waimangu Volcanic Valley Tour (Rotorua) Te Puia with Dinner (Rotorua) Te Papa (Wellington) Zealandia (Wellington) Willowbank (Christchurch) International Antarctic Centre (Christchurch) Māori Cultural Walking Tour (Christchurch) Eco Tourism Orientation (Christchurch)

Flights

Rotorua to Wellington (seat and bag)

Wellington to Christchurch (seat and bag)

Miscellaneous

Chilly Bin (cooler) for food purchases to travel to Cass and Westport

Gratuities for coach drivers and group dinners

Contingency (based on NZ\$50 per person)

Package cost

NZ\$4,555 per person (inc GST - 15%)

Or if you wish to upgrade to Holiday Inn Express with Breakfast it is an additional NZ\$25pp

If you wish to upgrade to all rooms at Hotel Give with ensuite is an additional NZ\$330pp

Pricing is Based on 22 students and 2 leaders

Is in NZ\$ and includes GST, currently 15% Is tax inclusive, subject to change due to governmental regulations

Based on specific requirements and availability

Pricing does not include

Flights to, or from New Zealand

Insurance, including travel

Food and beverages not listed

Early arrival, or late check out charges

On-site Event Manager

Additional rooms above what is mentioned.

Additional can be added, subject to availability

Prices and availability are subject to change with any changes to current inclusions and bookings.