



CLASSIC



Photo by Dennis Yockers

New Zealand Cultural / Ecological Adventure

Dates: 28 December 2018 - 14 January 2019

Tour Leader(s): Dennis & Marcia Yockers



Adventure Tours
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Overview

New Zealand is a magical place (Aotearoa – Land of the Long White Cloud). On most travelers' bucket list, the island country sits within the Pacific Ring of Fire and is well-known for its diverse and welcoming culture, majestic landscapes, and native wildlife. This journey will explore cultural, ecological, and popular highlights such as the glaciers of the Southern Alps, Maori culture, food, and dance, hiking & kayaking the coast of Abel Tasman National Park, Sperm Whales in the Kaikoura Marine Mgt. Area, urban centers and their museums, food, gardens, and arts, Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit filming locations, the karst topography of Paparoa National Park, fur seals of Cape Foulwind, Mt. Cook (Aoraki), and much more... Tour Leaders Dennis & Marcia Yockers can't wait to return to NZ to share some of their favorite destinations and experiences with travelers. As they say in New Zealand, "Kia Ora!" or "Good health to you!"

Itinerary

28-30 December 2018 (Friday) – Flight to New Zealand

(Travel Days) Most flights from the U.S. depart on 28 of Dec. allowing for the long journey through many time zones. Since travelers will be arriving on various flights, your tour doesn't officially begin until the Day 1 transfer from the airport to the hotel. This allows much flexibility for travelers to book the flights they want and even sometimes arrive days ahead of the group.

Day 1 – 30 December 2018 – Arriving in New Zealand

Arrive in Auckland (Auckland Airport - AKL). For those arriving today, your Tour Leaders will meet you at the airport for a coach transfer to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day strolling, stretching your legs, and beating jet lag. Enjoy a welcome dinner and overview of your NZ travels.
Meals included: D. Overnight in Auckland



LOTR welcome dwarf at AKL & Sky Tower in Auckland
(pics by Trevor Roark)

Day 2 – Mt. Eden & New Year's

Start the day with a hike to Mt. Eden for a 360-degree view of the City. Navigate back near the City Centre to explore the gardens of the War Museum, walk the streets and plazas of Brito Mart, visit the wharf for fun, food, and drink, or explore more. These extras are up to you, the rest of this day is free. Meet up later evening to find a spot to ring in the New Year with fireworks from the Sky Tower. *Meals included: B. Overnight in Auckland*



Christchurch Botanic Gardens (pic by Trevor Roark)

Day 3 – Christchurch

Morning transfer to AKL for a short flight to Christchurch. The day is yours and extras may include the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Antarctic Center, riding the Christchurch Tram, & more. *Meals included: none. Overnight in Christchurch*



Sperm Whale (pic provided by Whale Watch Kaikoura)

Day 4 – Kaikoura Whale Watching

Today's primary experience (Whale Watch Kaikoura) - Sperm Whales, seals (Kekeno), albatrosses, Shearwaters, & Dusky dolphins in their natural habitat. Off the coast of Kaikoura, a unique ocean setting exists in the Kaikoura Marine Management Area - the 3 km deep Kaikoura Canyon meets up with the coast creating a rare sea current system sustaining a very rich volume of

marine life. This encourages Sperm Whales to venture close to shore year-round, one of the few places on the planet for this to happen. Return to Christchurch late afternoon. *Meals included: B. Overnight in Christchurch*

Day 5 – Christchurch & Ko Tane - The Maori Experience

There truly is a lot to do in Christchurch and you'll get most of the day to explore the city and its surroundings on your own. You may choose to experience the Quake City earthquake museum to understand more on the Ring of Fire and the recent Christchurch earthquakes. Jump aboard the Tram to Cathedral Square, High Street, or more city centre destinations. Ride the gondola (Punting on Avon) for a relaxing and historical perspective of Christchurch. In the eve, the group will converge upon Ko Tane to experience the haka & hangi (the traditional Maori dance and meal from the earth). *Meals included: B & D. Overnight in Christchurch*

Day 6 – Mt. Cook (Aoraki)

Venture to the footholds of Mt. Cook, New Zealand's largest peak. This National Park shares its history with famous mountain climbers including Sir Edmund Hillary. Your Tour Leaders will lead a day hike along Hooker Valley Track - massive footbridges, roaring rapids of glacial meltwater, and rugged landscapes make this a tour highlight. *Meals included: B & D. Overnight in Mt. Cook Village*



Mt. Cook shows its peak (pic by Trevor Roark)

Day 7 – Mt. Cook / Queenstown

Given that weather sometimes modifies the best plans, you'll get another chance to hike the tracks of Mt. Cook National Park. Jump back on the coach for a transfer to the adventure capital of the world, Queenstown. Enjoy a short walk around the City with your Tour Leaders. Some possible extras for the day include: ride the gondola to Bob's Peak, hike, mt. bike, or luge w/ Skyline Queenstown, visit Queenstown Gardens, board the restored steamship for a cruise, seek out numerous shops, museums, street life, and restaurants, visit Kiwi Birdlife Park, fish Lake Wakatipu, hike The Remarkables, and much more. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Queenstown*

Day 8 – Queenstown

The day is yours to explore. Most travelers desire to visit Milford Sound while in this region due to its world-renowned landscapes and unique ecosystem. Intermittent towering waterfalls take over this fjord (it's actually not a sound) and the leached tannins in the freshwater remain as a top layer to the saltwater throughout,



Lake Wakatipu from the Queenstown Trail (pic by Trevor Roark)

Glacier, stretching 8 miles long and plunging 8,500 ft in depth from the Southern Alps. Surface melting develops into frigid rivers giving way to the Tasman Sea. See its recession along the Fox Glacier Valley Walk. Head NE less than 10 miles and you'll come upon Franz Joseph Glacier and it's known to have cyclical retreats and advances, with an overall recession since 1860. Yet, its flow rate is about 10 times more than typical glaciers. Later, find the Terrace Walk for a chance to see glow-worms hanging from fallen trees. *Meals included: B & D. Overnight near Franz Joseph Glacier*

creating a unique marine ecosystem below. It's a highly recommended excursion, however we don't include this in the tour since it's a long travel day, it's pricey, and there's more flexibility without it. With many things to do in and around Queenstown, the day won't disappoint. *Meals included: B. Overnight in Queenstown*

Day 9 – Fox / Franz Joseph Glaciers

Over 90 ft of snowfall each year sustain 4 alpine glaciers which feed the massive Fox



Southern Alps of NZ (pic by Dennis Yockers)

Day 10 – Punakaiki & Paparoa National Park

Head North to Punakaiki - Pancake Rocks and the Punakaiki Marine Reserve. After experiencing these interesting limestone formations, check into your lodging and plan your day's tramping. Choose between many tracks through the temperate & sub-tropical rainforests of Paparoa National Park - some of which have caves, rivers, footbridges, gorges, or other limestone karst topography. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Punakaiki*

Day 11 – Westport / Cape Foulwind / Nelson

Sitting on the mouth of the Buller River is Westport, a small town known for gold & coal mining, but fishing takes precedence today. Stop at nearby Cape Foulwind to get up close to a large fur seal colony. Native to Australia & New Zealand, these seals can weigh as much as 350 lbs and are known as Kekeno in the Maori language. Further navigation to the NE will land the group in Nelson. *Meals included: B & D. Overnight in Nelson*



hiking along the Abel Tasman Coastal Track (pic by Trevor Roark)

Day 12 – Nelson & Abel Tasman National Park

We love the land of Nelson! This area gives way to many adventures including explorations of the Abel Tasman National Park and its coastline. Choose to hike the coastal track and listen for the sound of cicadas, see some endemic birds, and if the sun is prominent, take in the expansive blue water of the Tasman and Golden Bays. Hire a kayak (extra) and skirt the coastal beaches, islands, and coves. Some adventurers might even try both or relax on the beach and swim at Kaiteriteri's beautiful beach. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Nelson*

Day 13 – Nelson & Abel Tasman National Park

As a hot spot for kiwis (local NZ folks), you'll easily understand why Nelson & Abel Tasman NP are part of the tour. Otherwise, if the weather is poor, venture through Nelson to peruse shops, art galleries, and the Nelson Provincial Museum, find a winery tour (extra), visit historic Christ Church, or hire a bicycle to cruise around (extra)... *Meals included: B. Overnight in Nelson*



view of Wellington from Mt. Victoria (pic by Annie Wetter)

Day 14 – Ferry to Wellington

After a morning transfer, board the Interislander to cruise through Cook Strait to Wellington (Te Whanganui-a-Tara). Wellington is the capital of NZ and rests on the southern tip of the North Island. Wellington Harbour supports much of its commerce, recreation, and beauty. Your Tour Leaders will make some suggestions on how to spend your free time. *Meals included:* none. *Overnight in Wellington*

Day 15 – Wellington

The last day is here! Sightsee the city or break away from the group. Some extras: Weta Cave for LOTR/The Hobbit fans, Te Papa Museum, Wellington Cable Car/walk to Kelbourn Lookout - Cable Car Museum, Space Place, and Wellington Botanic Garden, Mt. Victoria, Old St. Paul's, or Zealandia. Enjoy a farewell dinner to reminisce about the adventures you had with new friends. *Meals included:* B & D. *Overnight in Wellington*

Day 16 – 14 January 2019 (Monday) – Flight Home

(Travel Day) A morning transfer to Wellington Int'l Airport (WLG) will have you saying goodbye to new friends, a wonderful culture, and profound experiences. *Meals included:* B.

Cost & Details

COST: \$4,449 (total USD)

MY OWN ROOM: \$1,240 (extra USD)

Meals: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

INCLUDED: The cost includes all accommodations (2-4 star casual, clean, en suite bathrooms) based on double occupancy, all group land transfers with coach bus, 1-2 Tour Leaders (depending on group size), group activities listed, and in-country flight (AKL-CHC). Also included are the traveler handbook and traveler orientation.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip airfare, extra activities/sites, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, snacks, and lodging sundries), local drivers' and guides' tips, laundry services, and travel insurance.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost comprises land only rate, per person, with double occupancy accommodations.

Depending on weather and other variables, some activities/accommodations/schedules/meals may change prior to or during the tour. Eligible age for this tour is 8 years and older. This tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels, however it is preferred travelers be in fair physical/mental shape.

TOUR LEADERS: Dennis & Marcia Yockers - Dennis is Professor Emeritus in Natural Resources/Environmental Education (UWSP) and an experienced Tour Leader with tours and programs to Costa Rica, New Zealand, and Australia. He's also an accomplished nature photographer and birder. Marcia is a professional organizer for 'Can the Clutter', an experienced Tour Leader, loves to travel, and can't wait to return to New Zealand with a group!

GROUP SIZE: 12-20 **CONTACT:** Trevor Roark (Program Mgr.), 715-340-8186, adventure.tours@uwsp.edu

BOOKING: Register online with a check or via credit card OR print registration, complete, & mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit. **WEBSITE:** www.uwspadventuretours.com

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