

## **All of New Zealand (Both North and South Islands)**

**February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Cost \$3,195 per person for double occupancy

Single Room (only 2 available) \$4,195

\*\* Most tours of New Zealand are over \$4000 for double occupancy

### **Includes:**

- 4 Star Hotels, All transportation once in New Zealand, guides, entrance fees, and 16 meals
- Airline ticket between Wellington and Queenstown
- Highlights: Tour of Auckland, All Black's Experience, Waitomo Glow Worm Caves, Hobbiton (Lord of the Rings Set), Maori Culture and Hangi Dinner, Agrodome Farm Experience and Show, National Kiwi Hatchery, Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, Cruise on Milford Sound with lunch, Wellington (Capital of New Zealand), Walter Peak Farm (Lunch), Voyage on Queenstown Lake on TSS Earnslaw Steamboat, Queenstown Skyline Gondola, Lake Tekapo, Church of the Good Shepard, Christchurch, The Antarctic Experience, Whale Watching in Kaikoura and more.

**Level of Walking: Moderate**

### **Tentative Itinerary**

**Tuesday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**      Leave the United States

**Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**      Day lost to travel

**Thursday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**      **Arrive in Auckland and transfer to our hotel**

Get comfortable at the The Rydges Hotel and recover from jet lag. The hotel is located in the center of Auckland with plenty of things to see and do. Auckland is the largest City in New Zealand with about 1.5 million people which is about 1/3 of the population of the entire country.

**Friday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>**      **Tour of Auckland**

Today we will enjoy a bus Tour of the beautiful City of Auckland. Some of the sights you will see are the Sky Tower, Parnell Village, the port and the Maritime Museum, Holy Trinity Museum, Takaparawaku also known as Bastion Point, New Market and much more of this beautiful city.

In the afternoon we will enjoy the New Zealand All Blacks Experience. The All Blacks is the national rugby team of New Zealand.

**Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>                      Waitomo Glowworm Caves, Hobbiton, Rotorua**

The Waitomo Glowworm Caves are a must see for any traveler. Hopefully you'll enjoy the world famous boat ride under thousands of magical glowworms and become a part of over 120 years of cultural and natural history. Short stop for lunch as we head to our next stop.

Our second stop of the day will be Hobbiton. You will visit the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit film trilogies and enjoy a fascinating guided tour. During the tour, you will see Hobbit Holes, The Green Dragon Inn, The Mill, double arched bridge and other structures and gardens built for the films.

This evening, we will head for our two-night stay in Rotorua at the Sudima Rotorua Hotel. This is a spa town with a lot of mud baths and pampering.

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>                      Maori Culture and Rotorua**

Rotorua, a town set on its namesake lake on New Zealand's North Island, is renowned for its geothermal activity and Maori culture. Today will be unique:

Our first tour will be of the National Kiwi Hatchery. Take an immersive journey where you'll learn about Kiwi (the bird), their native environment and what makes them truly iconic the world over. Spot Kiwi in a purpose-built nocturnal house and discover the secrets of Kiwi.

Our second tour will be of the Agradome where you will enjoy a world-renowned Farm Show! Meet and learn about 19 different breeds of sheep! Witness live sheep shearing, see talented farm dogs in action, milk a cow, and feed baby lambs!

**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Scenic route to Wellington, travel day**

Wellington is the capital city and second most populous urban area of New Zealand. It is located at the south-western tip of the North Island, between Cook Strait and the Rimutaka Range. It is the major population center of the southern North Island and is the administrative center of the Wellington Region, which also includes the Kapiti Coast and Wairarapa. Wellington is the world's southernmost capital city of a sovereign state. We will be staying in the center of town at the James Cook Chancellor Hotel.

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>                      Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand**

Today we'll start with the Te Papa, the Museum of New Zealand. Te Papa Tongarewa is the national museum and art gallery of New Zealand, located in Wellington. It is branded and commonly known as Te Papa and Our Place; "Te Papa Tongarewa" is broadly translatable as "the place of treasures of this land". We will have an hour and a half tour with a guide.

You'll have the rest of the afternoon to explore on your own. Suggestions: the Cuba Street District or the War Memorial.

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Queenstown, Gondola Ride**

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Queenstown. The Air New Zealand flight will land in Queenstown and we will be transferred to the Sudima Five Mile Hotel, where we will spend the next three nights. Before we go to the hotel we will go on a Skyline Gondola ride so you can see the city from high above. One of the prettiest places in the world.

Once we arrive, unpack and explore Queenstown on your own.

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Milford Sound and Lunch**

Milford Sound was described by Rudyard Kipling as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. Milford Sound was carved by glaciers during the ice ages and is breathtaking in any weather. The fiord's cliffs rise vertically from the dark waters, mountain peaks scrape the sky and waterfalls cascade downwards, some as high as 1000 meters. When it rains in Milford Sound, and it often does, those waterfalls multiply with magnificent effect. Today we will be a long day as we drive to Milford Sound and take in its beauty on a cruise.

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Walter Peak Farm and a voyage on the TSS Earnslaw**

The TSS Earnslaw is an integral part of Queenstown's pioneering history and to this day is a Queenstown icon. She was commissioned by New Zealand Railways to service the communities around Lake Wakatipu. Launched in the same year as the Titanic, the TSS Earnslaw's maiden voyage was on October 18, 1912. Nearly scrapped in 1968, she was rescued and purchased by Real Journeys and put to work once again carrying passengers around the Lake. Since then, the TSS Earnslaw has been painstakingly restored to its original condition – everything you see is pretty much like it was 100 years ago. Today, the TSS Earnslaw is the only coal-fired steamship in operation in the southern hemisphere, making her one of the most unique experiences in the world.

You will get a taste of New Zealand's farming lifestyle at Walter Peak High Country Farm. Situated on picturesque Lake Wakatipu's south-western shores, the farm is the perfect place to spend a relaxing few hours. Our rural host will meet you after you disembark from the TSS Earnslaw and take you for a walking tour of the farmyard. The first stop is the holding pens, where you can help feed the sheep and deer and even get up close to the Scottish Highland Cattle. Then stroll through the lakeside gardens to the charming Colonel's Homestead for a barbeque lunch. You'll return in the afternoon on the TSS Earnslaw to Queenstown.

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> Christchurch, Lake Tekapo and Church of the Good Shepard**

Lake Tekapo is the second-largest of three roughly parallel lakes running north–south along the northern edge of the Mackenzie Basin in the South Island of New Zealand. It covers an area of 32 sq. miles and is at an altitude of 2,300 ft. above sea level.

Situated on the shores of Lake Tekapo is the Church of the Good Shepherd, which in 1935, was the first church built in the Mackenzie Basin. The church at Burke's Pass, St Patrick's, built in 1872, was the first church built by pioneers as a joint community effort, by Anglicans Presbyterian, and Catholic settlers. The church at Lake Tekapo was designed by Christchurch architect R.S.D. Harman, based on sketches by a local artist, Esther Hope. The church is arguably one of the most photographed in New Zealand, and features an altar window that frames stunning views of the lake and mountains.

In Christchurch we will be staying at the Rydges Latimer Christchurch.

**Sunday, March 8 Visit Kaikoura – Whale Watching**

The Hikurangi Trench, just offshore from the town of Kaikoura, draws sperm whales throughout the year and blue whales, pilot whales, humpback whales, right whales, orcas, and dolphins in season. Look for these majestic creatures from a boat with the help of specialist guides on this memorable day trip

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Experience – in Christchurch**

Journey through modern-day Antarctica and experience a taste of this unique and breathtaking continent. Learn about the human impact on the continent, the wildlife and plant systems and Antarctica's effect on the globe.

'Antarctica,' the Snow and Ice Experience, is some really 'cool' fun with icy slides, a 'polar plunge,' ice water challenge, a cave, and an Antarctic storm! Get your adrenaline pumping with an exciting ride on the all-terrain, amphibious Hagglund and experience a magical simulated Antarctic Cruise in the 4D Extreme Theatre!

Step back in time to learn the stories of the Antarctic explorers and their huts. Then, there are also the cute Little Blue Penguins. This place is a full-on, interactive & tactile Antarctic!

Explore Christchurch on your own for the rest of the day.

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Transfer to the airport for our flight back to United States.