

MUSEUM OF THE RED RIVER
13 Day Tour of
New Zealand
September 21 – October 2, 2018

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Fri., Sept. 21 - Houston/ En Route

Depart from Houston for your flight to Auckland, New Zealand.

DAY 2: Sat., Sept. 22 - En Route

DAY 3: Sun., Sept 23 - Auckland

Kia-Ora! Welcome to New Zealand! Upon your arrival at Auckland International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. En route to the hotel enjoy an Auckland City Tour.

Auckland - Home to a population of more than one million people, Auckland represents the largest urban city in New Zealand and is recognized as having the largest concentration of Polynesian people in the world. As an evolving modern city, Auckland has undergone a renaissance with an ever-changing skyline, a pulsating waterfront, and a new infusion of restaurants and bars. It has become a mecca for nightlife, buzzing with an atmosphere of fun and excitement. With a quality of life ranked amongst the highest in the world, Auckland's blend of the Hauraki Gulf, rain forest, and modern city environment creates an incomparable lifestyle. Auckland's temperate climate bodes well for outdoor dining and a myriad of water-based activities



Half-day Sightseeing Tour of Auckland

During your tour you will see the Viaduct Harbor and enjoy a view of the Harbor Bridge. You will also see Parnell Village, Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay, and the scenic look out point from the Sir Michael Joseph Savage Memorial.

The rest of the day is at leisure to relax or start exploring Auckland on your own.

DAY 4: Mon., Sept. 24 - Auckland

B

AM: Visit the Toi o Tamaki Auckland Art Gallery

After breakfast at the hotel you will visit the Toi o Tamaki Auckland Art Gallery. Enjoy an overview by the gallery staff. The Auckland Art Gallery is a cultural leader in Aotearoa New Zealand. Visitors will have the opportunity to expand their cultural horizons through remarkable collections. With multiple exhibition spaces spreading across three levels, the Auckland Art Gallery is the largest and most inspiring visual arts experience in the country.



Visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum

Your next stop is the Auckland War Memorial Museum and the Maori Gallery. The Auckland War Memorial Museum is New Zealand's first museum, telling the story of Aotearoa, its place in the Pacific and its people. It has pre-eminent Maori and Pacific collections, significant natural history resources, as well as decorative arts and pictorial collections.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

DAY 5: Tues., Sept. 25 – Auckland/Waitomo/Rotorua

B,L,D

AM: Waitomo Caves Tour

This morning you will depart Auckland and travel to Rotorua. En route you will travel south across the Bombay Hills to Waitomo, where you will explore the famous Waitomo Caves, formed 30 million years ago in limestone. Start at the upper entrance to see the impressive Cathedral. The highlight of your tour is an unrivalled boat trip through the spectacular Glowworm Grotto. Marvel at Mother Nature's light display as you glide silently through the starry wonderland of the Glowworm Grotto.

Lunch: Enjoy a New Zealand BBQ lunch at Roselands Farm Restaurant. Continue to the thermal wonderland of Rotorua.

Rotorua - Rotorua is an exciting city with an immense portrayal of history, tradition, and culture. Surrounded by the unmistakable smell of bubbling sulphuric, Rotorua has a multi-cultural population of approximately 70,000 people; some 35% are Maori. There are 16 lakes in the vicinity of Rotorua, many of which are fishable lakes packed with rainbow and brown trout. The lakes, all formed from the craters of extinct volcanoes, are a popular attraction for many water-based activities.

PM: Tour of Te Puia

Visit the New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where masters and students share their art and their stories about the carving and weaving schools. Step into an ancient valley where geysers, mud pools, and boiling waters still play after 40,000 years at Whakarewarewa Thermal Valley.



Dinner: This evening enjoy Te Po, a traditional Hangi dinner and Maori cultural performance at Te Puia.

DAY 6: Wed., Sept 26 - Rotorua / Lake Taupo / Wellington

B

AM: Visit Te Wairoa Buried Village

After breakfast at the hotel you will visit Te Wairoa Buried Village. Nobody would have believed on June 10, 1886 that the serenity enjoyed by the inhabitants of Te Wairoa would be shattered by an outpouring of the Earth's fury. Te Wairoa Village, in a valley above Lake Tarawera, was established by a Christian Missionary in 1848. It was abandoned during the land wars of the 1860's then repopulated a few years later as the staging post to the fantastic Pink and White Terraces. You will visit the museum, the excavated village walk, and the waterfall trail.



From Rotorua the Thermal Explorer Highway takes you south to Taupo with its great fresh water lake and snow-capped mountains. Just about everywhere you look in the Lake Taupo region, you will see a volcano. The most serene is Lake Taupo itself, created by an eruption so big the sun went hazy in China. Lake Taupo is the largest fresh water lake in Australasia with water so clean a few zillion trout call it home. The lake is 616 square kilometers, that's about the same size as Singapore! Water activities take place in the lake all year round, including water-skiing, parasailing, jet skiing, fishing, cruising, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, and landing in it by float-plane! There are 47 rivers and streams feeding into Lake Taupo, and just one outlet, the Waikato River, New Zealand's longest river.



PM: Your journey continues as you travel through the central North Island to Wellington.



Wellington - Wellington is the world's most southern capital and the only capital in the "Roaring Forties" latitudes. The City Center is only 2 kilometers in diameter. You can walk from one side to the other in 20 minutes. Perched on the edge of a spectacular harbor, encircled by green, towering hills, Wellington is a stunning and compact city. Vibrant, exciting, and cultured, the nation's capital combines the stimulation and sophistication of a big city with the quiriness of a charming village. Here you will find a unique blend of

national treasures, arts and culture, gastronomic delights, shopping, and scenic beauty, making Wellington the ultimate urban destination in New Zealand.

Upon arrival in Wellington you will enjoy a panoramic tour.

DAY 7: Thurs., Sept. 27 – Wellington/Picton/Blenheim

B

AM: Visit the Te Papa Museum

After breakfast at the hotel you will visit the Te Papa Museum. Enjoy a guided tour of the highlights of the museum and some free time to explore the museum at leisure.



PM: In the afternoon you will be transferred to the Interislander ferry terminal for your ferry to Picton. Upon your arrival you will be transferred to your hotel in Blenheim. En route you will enjoy a short panoramic tour.

***Blenheim** - Blenheim is situated in the Marlborough region of New Zealand on the northeast corner of the South Island, due west of Wellington City. For centuries it has offered safe harbor to travelers sailing to the spectacular South Island. First the Maori traders and war parties and then explorers like Captain James Cook and Dumont d'Urville. Blenheim's attractions include its wine industry, the Marlborough Sounds, gourmet foods, and adventure activities.*

DAY 8: Fri., Sept 28 – Blenheim / Kaikoura / Christchurch

B

AM: This morning you will travel to Christchurch via the scenic Kaikoura coastline. Christchurch is often referred to as the “Garden City” and the most English town outside of England. Christchurch is New Zealand's second-largest city and the gateway to the South Island. Bordered by hills and the Pacific Ocean, it is situated on the edge of the Canterbury Plains that stretch to the Southern Alps.

PM: Visit the Christchurch Art Gallery

Upon your arrival in Christchurch you will visit the Christchurch Art Gallery.

DAY 9: Sat., Sept 29 - Christchurch / Queenstown

B

AM: Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd

After breakfast at the hotel you will travel across the patchwork of the Canterbury Plains through the farming townships of Geraldine and Fairlie and over Burke’s Pass to glacier fed Lake Tekapo. Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and view the sheep dog statue on the lakefront.

Continue to the Lake Pukaki outlook point for Mt. Cook Aoraki then through the Lindis Pass and gold rich Kawarau Gorge to Queenstown.



Queenstown – *Queenstown has captured hearts since the first Maori came in search of pounamu (greenstone or jade) and to hunt the giant Moa bird, and that same magic remains today. Now an established international four-season resort, it is unsurpassed for the diverse number of experiences on offer, its exceptional quality, and its friendly, accommodating people. Adventurers, golfers, walkers, filmmakers, leisure lovers, fishing anglers, artists, wine enthusiasts, Hollywood stars, and even US Presidents, they are all drawn to, and fall in love with, the resort and the intense alpine energy.*

DAY 10: Sun., Sept. 30 - Queenstown

B,D

AM: This morning you will visit the historic gold mining township of Arrowtown and view the AJ Hackett Bungy Jump Bridge over the Kawarau River before proceeding to the Gibbston Valley Winery for a tour of the winery including the cave cellar with 3 tastings. The winery is world renowned for crafting award-winning Central Otago Pinot Noirs. It is also home to New Zealand's largest wine cave.

PM: The afternoon is at leisure for shopping and relaxing in this stunning lakeside resort.

Dinner: This evening enjoy a scenic cruise from Queenstown Bay, across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm on the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw for a dining experience that is unlike any other. After you disembark you will be escorted through the lakeside gardens to the Colonel's Homestead and seated for dinner. Relax in the unique ambience in front of a roaring open fire and soak in the views from this stunning lakeside setting while the chefs prepare a gourmet BBQ on the outdoor grill. Enjoy a selection of succulent New Zealand meat and seafood accompanied by delectable seasonal salads, tasty desserts, and local cheeses. A locally influenced wine list and other beverages are available to purchase at the bar.



After dinner, you will join an entertaining farm experience that provides insight into life in the New Zealand high country including a sheep shearing demonstration.

DAY 11: Mon., Oct. 1 - Queenstown/Dunedin

B

AM: After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Queenstown and travel to Dunedin via the Kawarau Gorge to Cromwell with a stop at Mrs Jones Fruit stall en route. View the Clyde Dam and continue through Alexandra and Roxburgh to Dunedin.

Dunedin - Known, as the Edinburgh of New Zealand, this is the country's city of the south, wearing its Scottish heritage with pride. It is surrounded by dramatic hills and is at the foot of a long, picturesque harbor. Dunedin is regarded as New Zealand's architectural heritage capital. The foundations of this rich architectural heritage were built on the gold rushes of the 1860s. Marvel at the grandeur of the historic Victorian and Edwardian buildings that can still be seen at every turn.

PM: Panoramic Tour of Dunedin

Upon your arrival in Dunedin you will enjoy a city sightseeing tour that includes the Octagon, Otago University, Baldwin Street, which is often called "The steepest street in the world," and the beautiful Dunedin Railway Station.

Visit the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

The Toitū Otago Settlers Museum is a museum of social history dedicated to telling the story of the people of Dunedin including the indigenous Māori, the early Chinese, and the following waves of migrant groups and their technological innovation, art, fashion, domestic life and transport. Explore the unique culture and heritage of the Southern lands and learn about the Māori of Te Waipounamu, the South Island, and view artifacts from around New Zealand.

DAY 12: Tues., Oct. 2 – Dunedin / Houston

B

AM: This morning you will depart Dunedin and travel along the eastern coast to Christchurch. En route you will see the Moeraki Boulders, Oamaru, and Timaru.

Upon arrival in Christchurch you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home to Houston. Your tour ends, and you return home with memories of interesting places and joyful times shared with a group of wonderful people.

B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=Dinner

* Refunds for unused land arrangements * Gratuities to bus drivers, guides, tour escort, and hotel and restaurant staff * Any departure taxes that must be paid locally

Important Note about COST: We negotiate group rates with all our suppliers such as airlines, hotels, and ground operators. All unused space is automatically released back to the supplier about 60 days prior to departure and the group rate becomes null and void. Should additional space be required at a later date, it is subject to availability as well as a price increase as determined by the airline, hotels, etc.