

**BRENDAN  
VACATIONS**  
*Taking You Personally*

**AND**

**RON AND VAL ONTELL**

**WELCOME**

**CONTOURS  
AUSSIECON4 TOUR  
NEW ZEALAND EXTENSION**

**AUGUST 2010**

BOOKING #: BV49533

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## **BON VOYAGE**

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Dear Traveler:

Welcome to your Brendan/ConTours vacation. Your itinerary and accommodations have been carefully selected and reviewed to make your vacation a memorable adventure. We hope that you enjoy this special journey as much as we have in putting it together. Please take a few moments to review the enclosed documents, which contain important information about your upcoming trip.

Our overseas representatives are experienced professionals committed to delivering outstanding service to Brendan guests visiting their homelands. On escorted tours, your Tour Director will look after the details, while on independent tours the local hosts are at your disposal throughout your vacation.

Relax and absorb the ambience of the magical settings and fascinating lands that you visit. As you travel, keep in mind that patience, understanding and the flexibility to adapt to a changing environment will enhance your vacation experience.

Traveling brings you to new and exciting experiences in lifestyle, cuisine and traditions. Remember that the customs and ways of other cultures are different from ours and we must respect them while we are guests abroad. In this way, your vacation will be infinitely more pleasant and rewarding.

We wish you an exciting and memorable vacation. Let us hear about it when you return by completing the enclosed passenger survey.

Bon Voyage!

**BRENDAN VACATIONS**

*Val and Ron Ontell*



## **ITINERARY**

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**Saturday, August 28, 2010**

### **ARRIVE CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND**

Welcome to Christchurch, New Zealand! After clearing passport control, please claim your luggage to clear customs. Once through customs, you will be met by our transfer agent, who will accompany the group to the hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure.

**Accommodation: Camelot Cathedral Square**

**Sunday, August 29, 2010**

### **CHRISTCHURCH / DUNEDIN**

Breakfast at the hotel. Your driver-guide will be at the hotel at 8:15 a.m. You will leave the hotel promptly at 8:30 a.m. to travel to Geraldine for the Lord of the Rings tour. We toured here before the stars arrived. Travelling through this mighty landscape, we observed the crew build the movie set, film the movies, and then put the site back the way they found it when finished. Now, let us take you into this amazing area and talk you through the many aspects of the region that appear on the big screen. We can show you the *Misty Mountain*, the valley where *Helms Deep* appears, the hill where *Aragorn* rode his horse when travelling from *Endoras* to *Helms Deep* and most importantly where *Endoras* stood on top of Mt. Sunday. See where *Gandalf* rode from *Endoras* with *Pippin* crossing the river and the mighty armies galloped of to help defend *Minas Tirith* and much more. Let us transport you in air-conditioned comfort on board a special purpose 4x4 vehicle across the crystal clear snow fed braided rivers and deep to *Middle Earth*. Experience being the only ones in this vast expansive valley. With this exclusive access, you will enjoy the peace and tranquility of this alpine wilderness wonderland while taking the time to capture some awesome images with your cameras. A picnic lunch will be served.

Afterward, leave Geraldine for Oamaru to enjoy the Blue Eyed Penguin Colony. As the evening draws in, view the penguins coming ashore toward their nests. You will be seated in an outdoor viewing area, where you will listen to an informative commentary about New Zealand's blue penguins. The birds return home from their day of fishing and make their way onto the beach, up a stony ramp, and cross into the Colony. This happens at different times during the year as daylight/nightlight change. During the summer months, evening viewing is as late as 9:00 p.m. and during the winter, the birds arrive home as early as 5:30 p.m. Arrival numbers vary from summer to winter from up to 180 birds in the summer to under 30 in the winter. **Note:** Evenings in Oamaru can be cool, so warm clothing is advised. For the protection of the birds, there is a no camera/filming policy. Binoculars are permitted.

You will leave Oamaru at approximately 6:00 p.m. to travel to the city of Dunedin. You will reach your hotel at approximately 7:30 p.m.

**Accommodation: Cargills Hotel (B,L)**

**Monday, August 30, 2010**

**DUNEDIN / WANAKA**

Breakfast at the hotel. You leave the hotel at 9:30 a.m. to travel to the Royal Albatross Colony on the tip of the Otago Peninsula. This is the only mainland-breeding colony for any albatross species found in the Southern Hemisphere. The first Tairaroa-reared albatross chick flew in 1938 and this now protected nature reserve has grown into an established colony with a population of around 140 birds. Your guided tour includes the introductory *Attenborough* video, albatross breeding cycle information and Colony viewing from the Richdale Observatory. Then get a glimpse of New Zealand's colonial past with a visit to Fort Tairaroa, underground fortifications beneath the Albatross Colony. Walk through the underground tunnels to the 1886 Armstrong Disappearing Gun that is still in working order. This was established to counter the anticipated threat of invasion from Tsarist Russia.

Next, it's on to Larnach Castle, where there will be time for lunch (own expense) in the café before your guided tour. This is New Zealand's only castle, which was built in 1871 by the merchant baron and politician William Larnach for his beloved first wife Eliza. It took over 200 workmen three years to build the castle shell, and master European craftsmen spent a further 12 years embellishing the interior. Larnach spared no expense on his dream home, which features the finest materials from around the world. Scandalous and tragic stories, spectacular tower views and a garden of international significance complete this enjoyable experience.

You will leave the Otago Peninsula at approximately 2:30 p.m. to travel to Wanaka. You will reach your hotel at approximately 6:30 p.m.

**Accommodation: Edgewater Resort (B)**

**Tuesday, August 31, 2010**

**WANAKA / HOKITIKA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave the hotel at 8:30 a.m. for Fox Glacier. At 8 miles, Fox Glacier is the longest of the awe-inspiring New Zealand West Coast glaciers. At its head, soaring peaks of over 10,000 ft. dominate the vista. These include Aoraki (Mt. Cook) and Mt. Tasman. This mighty moving river of ice falls a little over 8,000 ft. on its journey from the base of the Southern Alps to the West Coast. New Zealand's West Coast glaciers are unique and probably the most accessible glaciers in the world, as they terminate amongst temperate rainforest just 820 ft. above sea level. So special is this mountain environment, that it forms part of the South Westland World Heritage Area. Upon arrival, there is time for a light lunch in one of the local cafes (own expense) before your guided Glacier Walk (1:15 p.m.). This popular walk is a great introduction to the frozen world of Fox Glacier. The friendly guides will lead you onto the ice via a secret track through bush regenerating from previous glacial advances. Your guide will share with you his/her enthusiasm and knowledge of the geology of the area, whilst you walk on the glacier viewing its stunning ice features.

**Note:** Please bring 3 to 4 layers of warm upper body clothing. (Jeans are not recommended on wet days as they become very cold and uncomfortable to wear.) You'll

need sunglasses and sun protection. Your own boots and raincoats may be suitable. **Additional appropriate outer clothing will be provided.**

During winter months, we recommend a warm hat and gloves. You may wish to carry a drink and snacks.

For those guests who purchased the optional **Heli-Hike**, please be advised of the following.

The fly-in, fly-out heli-hike combines the excitement of walking on the Fox Glacier with the thrill of helicopter flights. By flying in you are able to access and explore a part of the glacier where its forces work hardest and often create spectacular ice caves and arches. Equipped with sturdy leather boots and other equipment (provided at the excursion site), you board the helicopter for your first flight over the pinnacles of the lower icefall. Here, the ice is in constant motion. You then circle the upper icefall and Victoria Falls before landing. Your landing site on the ice is a remote and exceptionally beautiful part of the glacier. At this stage, your guide outfits you with crampons, specially designed for these ice conditions and you follow the ice steps cut by your guide as you explore the amazing formations and ice caves which are only seen here. Each departure is a true voyage of exploration. There are so many changing features that the guides always find something new. Ice time is approximately 2.5 hours, weather permitting.

**Note:** This is a natural and ever changing environment. Ice features change constantly and no guarantee can be given that specific features will be seen. Heli-hike trips are weather dependent.

**Please bring:** 3 to 4 layers of warm upper body clothing (jeans are not recommended on wet days, as they become very cold and uncomfortable to wear), sunglasses and sun protection. A daypack is useful and a drink and snacks are nice to have. Your own raincoat may be suitable. For winter trips, bring a warm hat and gloves. **You will be provided with sturdy leather boots and other equipment at the excursion site, including appropriate outer clothing.** You will leave the Fox Glacier at approximately 4:45 – 5:00 p.m. to travel to Hokitika. You will reach your hotel at approximately 6:45 – 7:00 p.m.

**Accommodation: Beachfront Hotel (B)**

**Wednesday, September 01, 2010**

**HOKITIKA / GREYMOUTH / CHRISTCHURCH**

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave the hotel at 8:15 a.m. You drop in the Jade Factory in Hokitika for a brief visit before continuing on to Shantytown. Widely recognized as one of New Zealand's leading culture and heritage attractions, Shantytown has over 30 historic buildings in this recreated 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneer town inspired by the West Coast gold rushes of the 1860s. Its peaceful setting amongst regenerating native forest gives visitors the opportunity to step back in time, experience a range of activities and view fascinating relics from days one by. Shantytown's surrounds and historical theme provide a stunning backdrop for photography enthusiasts. Highlights include riding the steam train, gold panning, and

having an old time portrait taken (own expense) as a memento of your visit. Everybody's Tearooms and the Golden Nugget Saloon provide for your refreshment (own expense).

Then, drive to nearby Greymouth to board the TransAlpine Express for one of the top six train journeys in the world. For a little over four hours, you will ride through the spectacular Southern Alps including famed Arthur's Pass to Christchurch. The scenery on this route is world-class, and it's easy to take great photos from the open-air viewing car. On arrival in Christchurch (approximately 6:05 p.m.), you will transfer to the hotel.

**Accommodation: Camelot Cathedral Square (B)**

**Thursday, September 02, 2010**

**DEPART CHRISTCHURCH**

Breakfast at the hotel. The following visits/activities are included.

**9:00 a.m.: Christchurch Tram Ride:** A unique way to view the heart of Christchurch City, in the South Island of New Zealand. Ride through the city center in the delightful restored vintage trams, while your tram driver gives an informative commentary. The entire trip takes about 25 minutes. (The Tram junction is in Cathedral Square – just a two-minute walk away.)

**9:30 a.m.:** Return to the hotel lobby for your luggage and coach departure. (The luggage should be brought to the lobby before you head off for the Tram Ride.)

**9:45 a.m.:** Leave the hotel for the Gondola.

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m.: Christchurch Gondola:** Welcome Aboard the Christchurch Gondola, the first and only Gondola in Christchurch City. Take a spectacular ride far above the city, as your 4-person cabin lifts you gently up to 1500 ft. above sea level over the 3100-ft. ride. Stunning 360° views extend over Pegasus Bay and the Pacific Ocean to Kaikoura; over Banks Peninsula, Lake Ellesmere and Lyttleton Harbour, and across the Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps. (Leave at 10:45 a.m. for Willowbank Wildlife Reserve.)

**11:30 a.m.: Willowbank Wildlife Reserve:** Willowbank Wildlife Reserve is a unique Christchurch attraction and a journey into New Zealand. It does not pretend nor wish to be a zoo. It accepts the responsibility and guardianship that goes with preserving and promoting wildlife conservation within New Zealand. Nowhere else in New Zealand will you find such a wide range of New Zealand wildlife so close to you. Willowbank provides you with a "Kiwi Guarantee" and is home to New Zealand's largest and most accessible kiwi viewing area. With this unique experience, you will see the natural splendor firsthand and see Kiwis that are not displayed behind glass. (Leave at 12:30 p.m. for Antarctic Centre.)

**12:45 p.m.: Christchurch Antarctic Centre and Hagglund Ride:** Established in 1992, the Antarctic Attraction is located in the heart of a working Antarctic campus at Christchurch International Airport. It is from here that many Antarctic missions are organized. With this in mind the Antarctic Attraction is designed to bring a powerful and

memorable experience of Antarctica to visitors in a fun, exciting, informative and commercially successful way. Climb aboard the amazing Hagglund genuine as-used-in-Antarctica all terrain vehicle, and sit back, hold on and experience travelling across rough terrain in this unique and exciting machine! We aim to simulate the same travelling conditions, as scientists would experience riding in a Hagglund across the ice pack. This 15-minute ride is the only one of its type in the world. It showcases the demanding capabilities of the Hagglund ATV. Upon conclusion (1:45 p.m.), transfer to the Christchurch International Airport for your onward flight. We take with us fond memories, images of the beautiful scenery and the many mementos we found along the way. **(B)**

(B) = Breakfast  
(L) = Lunch

***Thank you for traveling with Brendan.  
We wish you a safe and pleasant journey.***

**ITINERARY AND HOTEL LIST ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED WHILE TOURING ARE PAID DIRECTLY**

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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*Hotel rooms may not be available for check-in before 3:00pm.*

*We suggest that mail be sent only to those places where you will be staying two days or longer. Do not have any packages mailed to you; they seldom arrive both intact and on time.*

*The phone numbers given below sometimes contain the Country Code and Area Code used when dialing the hotel from North America. If in doubt, consult your local directory.*

*While reservations have been made at the hotels listed, we reserve the right to substitute similar quality hotels whenever necessary.*

**ARRIVE:** August 28, 2010

**DEPART:** August 29, 2010

### **CAMELOT CATHEDRAL SQUARE**

66 Cathedral Square

Christchurch, New Zealand

TEL: + 64 (03) 365 2898

FAX: + 64 (03) 379 2388

**ARRIVE:** August 29, 2010

**DEPART:** August 30, 2010

### **CARGILLS HOTEL**

678 George Street

Dunedin, New Zealand

TEL: + 64 (03) 477 7983

FAX: + 64 (03) 477 8098

**ARRIVE:** August 30, 2010

**DEPART:** August 31, 2010

### **EDGEWATER RESORT**

Sargood Drive

Lake Wanaka, New Zealand

TEL: + 64 (03) 443 0011

FAX: + 64 (03) 443 8323

**ARRIVE:** August 31, 2010  
**DEPART:** September 01, 2010

**BEACHFRONT HOTEL**

111 Revel Street  
Hokitika, New Zealand  
TEL: + 64 (03) 755 8344  
FAX: + 64 (03) 755 8258

**ARRIVE:** September 01, 2010  
**DEPART:** September 02, 2010

**CAMELOT CATHEDRAL SQUARE**

66 Cathedral Square  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
TEL: + 64 (03) 365 2898  
FAX: + 64 (03) 379 2388

## **ROOM LIST**

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Ron Ontell (Tour Conductor)  
Val Ontell (Tour Conductor)

Daniel Dern  
Roberta Fox

Tony Lewis  
Suford Lewis

David Brummel  
Emily Egan

Robert MacIntosh  
Mike Nelson

Perriane Lurie  
Linda Robinett

Polly Peterson  
Eric Weber

Sally Woehrle  
Judith Herman

Virginia Youngstrom

## NOTES:

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**Please check any 'Travel Advice' issued by the US State Department at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).**

### PASSPORT AND VISA REMINDER

Most countries require that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of entry. Please note that it is the traveler's responsibility to secure the required documentation prior to departure. Our local travel representatives are unable to assist on arrival if you do not have the correct documentation and without limitation Brendan Vacations and its affiliates are not responsible for any losses, which may be incurred by travelers without the correct documentation.

For assistance with visas we recommend:

Zierer Visa Service (ZVS)  
165 Post Street  
Third Floor San Francisco, CA 94108  
Tel: 866-788-1100 Fax: 415-901-0817

### BAGGAGE INFORMATION

Please note regulations regarding airline baggage allowances are constantly changing. You are advised to check with your airline or travel agent in advance of traveling, to ensure that your baggage conforms to such regulations in force. Brendan cannot accept liability for passengers traveling with baggage exceeding the permitted airline allowances, or the sizes and weights.

### AIRPORT AND AIRLINE SECURITY

It is important that you arrive at the airport at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours in advance for international flights. This will allow you time to check in your baggage and present your passport and ticket; get seat assignments and boarding passes, if you have not already done so; and pass through security procedures to the boarding area. All sharp objects and liquids should be stored inside the luggage you are checking in. Please contact your air carrier for specific policies on checking in liquids. Otherwise, they are likely to be confiscated if they are kept in your hand luggage.

### AIRLINE DELAYS

Airfares, airline regulations and schedules are subject to change without notice. We are unable to reimburse you for any services or parts of a vacation program that are missed due to travel delays beyond our control. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan for your own protection.

### VALUABLES

Do not take anything with you that will create an emotional or financial hardship if lost or stolen. Leave keys, as well as, favorite or expensive jewelry at home. Carry all documents, money, passport, tickets, traveler's checks, drivers' license, photocopy of your hotel contacts, cash and credit cards with you. However, don't put them all in the same place to limit the inconvenience in case they are lost. Do not carry these important items in your suitcase or hand luggage. You may find a money belt (worn inside clothing) useful while traveling. Never leave your hand luggage unattended or out of sight. Remember to make a final check of your hotel room before departure to ensure that you have not left anything behind. There is no guarantee that forgotten items will be returned to you either during or after your trip.

### MEDICAL

Travelers can usually have in their possession a reasonable quantity of clearly labeled prescription medication. For large quantities, bring a doctor's certificate to produce to Customs if necessary. Check with your individual health insurance company for your coverage in foreign countries.