

WORLDCON 2020 POST-CONVENTION NEW ZEALAND TOUR

Day 1 – Mon., 8/3: Wellington – Christchurch

After breakfast on our own, we will be picked-up from our con hotels. Get to know the nation's capital today with a ride on the Wellington Cable Car to Kelburn Lookout, a visit to the Beehive and Te Papa Museum, and a tour of the Weta Workshop. In the evening fly to Christchurch to spend the night.

Day 2 – Tues., 8/4: Christchurch – Greymouth – Franz Joseph

Early start today. Embark on one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world, the TranzAlpine Train. Relax in the comfortable viewing carriages as the train winds its way through Arthur's Pass and enjoy views of towering mountains and ice-fed rivers. Upon arrival in Greymouth get on our coach and take a scenic trip along the rugged West Coast further south towards Franz Josef. If time permits, we may like to stop in Hokitika to visit Shantytown Heritage Park.

Day 3 – Wed., 8/5: Franz Josef

We have a full day to explore Franz Josef, famous for its magnificent glacier and the surrounding rainforest. Enjoy a guided walk through the Glacial Valley to view the glacier's terminal face from a distance and to stroll through the lush rainforest. If you are keen to actually walk on the glacier itself, you can choose to upgrade to a helicopter flight and glacier hike instead. Both of these options include entry to the relaxing and therapeutic Glacier Hot Pools. We will also have the opportunity to carve our own pieces of Pounamu (Greenstone/New Zealand Jade) at a local gallery.

Day 4 – Thurs., 8/6: Franz Josef – Queenstown

This will be a long day but the sights will make it worth it. Drive south along the wild West Coast and venture deep into the epic Haast Pass, characterized by mountains and lush rainforest. To break up the trip we may like to stop at Thundercreek Falls or the Blue Pools for a short walk. Later we can also stop in Arrowtown or Wanaka to explore these charming towns. In the evening we arrive at the jewel of the South Island, Queenstown, where we will ascend Bob's peak aboard the Skyline Gondola and enjoy dinner at the Stratosfare Restaurant overlooking the city.

Day 5 – Fri., 8/7: Queenstown

We will visit a place so beautiful that it is sometimes referred to as the 8th Wonder of the Natural World. Milford Sound awaits you with its towering peaks, cascading waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. Travel from Queenstown to Milford Sound aboard a coach and take in the views of this incredible place. There will be a few short stops to break up the trip before arriving at Milford Sound, where we will board our purpose-built catamaran to cruise around the fiord. After the cruise, hop back onto the bus for the return trip to Queenstown. It's a long day's journey, but so worth it.

Day 6 – Sat., 8/8: Queenstown - Dunedin

We make our way south toward the Otago Peninsula to enjoy all that lovely Dunedin has to offer. First is a tour of Larnach Castle, the only one of its kind in New Zealand. Then enjoy a high tea served in the castle's historic ballroom. Later we will visit Penguin Place, where we will have the chance to encounter rare and endangered yellow-eyed penguins.

Day 7 – Sun., 8/9: Dunedin – Tekapo

Embark on a viewing tour of Dunedin with the Royal Albatross Centre. If time permits, we might also stop at the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum. Then we head up to the Mackenzie Region to stay the night in Tekapo. This is a very special place, as the whole of Mackenzie Country is a protected Dark Sky Reserve. This evening we will have a guided stargazing tour to learn all about the marvelous night sky and later relax and soak in the Tekapo Springs Hot Pools (bring a bathing suit).

Day 8 – Mon., 8/10: Tekapo - Christchurch

We will spend some time by Tekapo's brilliant turquoise blue glacial lake where we will also find the beautiful and iconic Church of the Good Shepherd, so be sure to have your cameras ready to snap a couple of photos. Later we will travel to Christchurch, where your guide will give you a tour of the city to show you the innovation and regeneration that has taken place since the devastating 2011 earthquake. In the afternoon we can explore the lovely Botanic Gardens before turning in for the evening.

Day 9 – Tues., 8/11 – Christchurch

Our guide will take us to the Christchurch Gondola to enjoy 360-degree views of the city. Then head back into town to visit the Antarctic Centre, where we will have the chance to meet penguins and huskies or experience an Antarctic Storm. Later we will visit the Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, and cap off the evening with dinner aboard the Christchurch Tramway Restaurant.

Day 10 – Wed., 8/12: Christchurch – Napier

We take a domestic flight to the North Island where we will spend some time in the lovely Hawke's Bay Region in Napier. Napier had to rebuild after a massive earthquake in the 1930s, and the resulting Art Deco Architecture gives the town a charming, old-world atmosphere. For a bit of indulgence, today we visit the Silky Oak Chocolate Factory for a tour and tasting of their delectable sweets. Since Hawke's Bay is famous for its wines, we will visit a local vineyard to take a tour and taste some of their vintages.

Day 11 – Thurs., 8/13: Napier – Taupo

We say goodbye to the east coast and head inland towards Taupo today, the home of New Zealand's largest lake. On the way we will stop at Craters of the Moon Thermal Park, where we can walk along the well-defined tracks, wreathed in steam. We may also like to stop at Huka Falls to see the thundering waters cascading from the Waikato river. Later, cruise on Lake Taupo to see the incredible Maori Rock Carvings and admire the crystal clear waters of the lake.

Day 12 – Fri., 8/14: Taupo – Rotorua

A short drive from Taupo to Rotorua leads to a visit to the Waimangu Volcanic Valley to experience some of the geothermal elements that make this region so special. Once in Rotorua, learn all about New Zealand's agriculture during the Farm Show and Tour at the Agrodome. Later in the afternoon we go to the Te Puia

Centre for Maori Arts and Culture. There we will be guided through the geothermal valley, see live kiwi birds, learn how traditional Maori crafts were made, and finish the evening with a cultural performance and hangi dinner.

Day 13 – Sat., 8/15: Rotorua – Matamata – Waitomo – Auckland

Set off from Rotorua early to visit the iconic Hobbiton Movie set. Enjoy a tour with a specialist Hobbiton guide who will show us all the details that brought the Shire to life. Afterwards, we head further west through the rolling hills of the Waikato region to check out the world-famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Once we have admired the galaxies of living lights we will drive to Auckland for the night.

Day 14 – Sun., 8/16: Auckland

We have a full day to explore New Zealand's largest city and our guide will take us on an orientation tour to see some of the top sights such as Mount Eden and Parnell Village. Then take a guided tour of the Museum of Transport and Technology. Later we will visit the Auckland Sky Tower to see 360-degree views of the city.

Day 15 – Mon., 8/17: Auckland - Home

Depending on your flight time, you may be able to fit in some last-minute activities or sightseeing. You will then be transferred to the airport in time for your departing international flight.

FOR TOUR FORMS, PLEASE GO TO WWW.ONTELL.ORG/NZ.

INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- 14 nights in superior tourist-class hotels, applicable taxes and service charges.
- 14 breakfasts, one lunch, one high tea, 14 dinners.
- Sightseeing in air-conditioned motor coaches, with local guides where applicable.
- Wellington – Christchurch and Christchurch – Napier domestic flights

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- **AIR FARE between your home and New Zealand**, airport taxes (where applicable), baggage fees.
- All lunches not included in the itinerary.
- Personal items and souvenirs.
- All tips.
- Travel insurance.

RATES

Tour: **\$5165.**

Single Supplement: \$1036

Air fare not included.

CONTACT US

If you are interested in taking our tour or have any questions, please call (858) 292-4363 or email us at val-ron@ontell.org. Please include the following:

- Names of everyone in your party (please indicate any children)
- Address(es)
- Phone number(s)
- Email address(es)

DISCLAIMER

Prices are approximate and could change based the exchange rate and other factors. We will need a minimum of **25** people to run the tour.

ABOUT US

We are fans who have been running tours in connection with Worldcons since 1987, when Ron was the official travel agent for the con (as he was again in 1988). Our past tours have included Britain, Ireland, Australia, and Japan. **If you are interested in our tour or have any questions, please contact us.**

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