

INTERNATIONAL
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"INVITING YOU TO TOUR THE WORLD & PLAY SOFTBALL!"

New Zealand Itinerary

MARCH 2007

Sunday 18 Arrive Auckland (D)

On arrival at Auckland International Airport and after completion of customs formalities, you will be met by a Southern World New Zealand representative and transfer to your hotel.

The remainder of your day is free to enjoy Auckland at leisure.

Auckland city, sprawling across the isthmus between the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, is noted for its extensive parks and beautiful gardens. The warm, sunny climate encourages sub-tropical growth of all kinds. Unique to this city is a large number of extinct volcanic cones thrusting sharply upward out of a sea of houses. The highest, Mount Eden, is an ideal point to view this widespread metropolis, out across the Waitemata Harbour to the east and the Manukau Harbour to the west. The beautiful Waitemata Harbour gives Auckland a nautical flavour and is the largest and busiest port in the country. In contrast, the Manukau Harbour, formed during the same geological time as the Waitemata, is an area of mud flats and tidal channels, protected by a difficult bar at its mouth.

Although Auckland lost to Wellington its position as seat of Government in 1865, it is still New Zealand's trade capital and centre of greatest population.

This evening a buffet dinner is included in the Observatory Restaurant in the Sky Tower with magnificent views overlooking Auckland and the surrounds.

Monday 19 Auckland (B)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

This morning depart from your hotel and begin a sightseeing tour of the Queen City, Auckland. Highlights include the bustling downtown and waterfront areas, points of historic interest, a 360 degree panorama of this sprawling city from the summit of Mount Eden, an extinct volcano (subject to access).

Also visit the wonderful Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter. Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter offers an insight into life on the Southern Continent. View a replica of a fated expedition to the South Pole and aboard the specially heated snow cats plunge through a whiteout storm complete with sub-zero temperatures and ice and snow. The resident penguins greet you during your tour.

Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World is one of the largest complexes of its type in the world. The attraction is accessed by moving walkways through an underwater acrylic tunnel, giving the opportunity of viewing a kaleidoscope of more than 1500 multi-coloured fish. Stingrays and sharks are a feature of the display as they glide by.

The remainder of your day is free to enjoy Auckland at leisure.

Whatever your interest, Auckland offers something for everyone; bush walks, sailing, cruising, some of the best beaches in the world, shopping, night life including some of New Zealand's finest restaurants.

Tuesday 20 Auckland to Waitomo to Rotorua (B)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

Leave the city via the southern motorway and cross the Bombay Hills, before descending into the fertile farmlands of the Waikato Plains. Pass the tall twin stacks of the coal burning electric power station at Huntly. Travel through Ngaruawahia, home of the Maori Queen, continuing to the large inland city of Hamilton, the principal centre for perhaps the most productive agricultural and dairying district in New Zealand. Drive through the provincial farming centres of Te Awamutu and Otorohanga, before turning off the main road at Hangatiki to drive the short distance to Waitomo.

Waitomo is a little village set among picturesque green hills and farmlands, but underground lies a labyrinth of limestone cave systems. Visit the subterranean world of the internationally famed glow-worm grotto. Silently glide through the pitch blackness of the glow worm caves, lit with the eerie light of millions of tiny glow worms.

Leave Waitomo and pass through the farming centre of Kihikihi. Leaving the King Country, drive to Arapuni the site of

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one of the numerous dams which have been constructed on the Waikato River. Travel to Putaruru which, although small, is one of the main timber milling centres in this rapidly expanding forestry region. Continuing, pass through the Fitzgerald Glade and cross the heavily forested Mamaku Range to Lake Rotorua and the thermal area.

On arrival in Rotorua you will settle into your accommodations before transferring to the Rotorua Convention Centre for the late afternoon Welcome Cocktail Party. A traditional Maori Welcome and greetings from the Mayor of Rotorua City.

Wednesday 21 1st day of Play

Players, teams and supporters will transfer to Rotorua International Stadium for the Team March Pass and Assembly and will then transfer to their allocated Diamond for the 1st day's play, 3 games. Then transfer back to hotel and enjoy a free evening in Rotorua.

Thursday 22 2nd day of Play

Today we continue play with another 3 games and at the conclusion of play and transferring back to the hotel; you will have the option for a special night out to Rotorua's leading Maori Concert and Hangi experience.

Friday 23 Free time for sightseeing

Today you will have the chance for rest and recreation Rotorua style, with a choice of optional tours that will highlight all that is great about Rotorua-choice will include White Water Rafting, Trout Fishing, Jet Boating, Thermal Wonderland, Gondola or enjoy a bit of quiet relaxation, a game of golf, mud baths, hot pools, shopping or sightseeing.

Saturday 24 3rd day of Play

Transfer to Rotorua International Stadium Softball Complex for the 3rd days play involving all teams in a further 3 games. At the conclusion of the day's play enjoy a happy hour at the hospitality marquee and a participant's barbeque featuring great local produce and a range of meats. Following the BBQ, teams will transfer back to the hotel.

Sunday 25 Final games of tournament

Transfer to the stadium for the finals in which each team will have one game to settle their position on the Vintage Slo-pitch ladder, in their grade. At the conclusion of the day teams will transfer back to the hotel and prepare for an early evening pick-up and trip to the Evening Dinner, Prize-giving and Farewell Function at a special venue to be advised. The evening will feature light finger foods, a three course meal, a host bar offering beer, wine and juices, a prize-giving featuring Carnival Trophies, Fun Awards and Special Prizes followed by Local entertainment. This 5 hour function will be the culmination of a wonderful week of fun, friendship and spirited competition. At the end of the evening, you will transfer back to the hotel.

Monday 26 Rotorua to Queenstown

A transfer will be provided from your accommodation to Rotorua airport to connect with your onward flight.

Fly to Queenstown

On arrival in Queenstown you will be met and transfer to your hotel.

The remainder of your day is free to enjoy Queenstown at leisure.

Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu Queenstown is a year-round alpine resort that caters for all interests. It enjoys a magnificent setting amid steep mountain ranges and pockets of native bush with the jagged peaks of the Remarkables Range rising from the lake. The town is compact enough to travel around on foot and features over 100 restaurants.

The lake was scooped out by glacial action thousands of years ago. A mysterious phenomenon causes the lake to vary several inches in depth every few minutes, giving credence to a Maori legend of an ancient Taniwha (demon) still breathing beneath the surface.

Tuesday 27 Milford Sound Day Trip (BL)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

Depart Queenstown and skirt Lake Wakatipu in the shadow of the rugged Remarkables, before arriving at Lumsden. Drive to Te Anau, gateway of the Fiordland National Park then follow Lake Te Anau to the valley of the Eglinton River. Pass through magnificent beech forests before a gradual descent into the precipitous Hollyford Valley. Climb steadily to the gigantic Cirque and the Homer Tunnel. Pass through the tunnel and down to the Cleddau Canyon where you will catch your first glimpse of Mitre Peak before finally emerging into the open at Milford Sound.

Board the Red Boat, for a cruise around the Milford Sound. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery, with a full commentary on the natural history of the Sound. A camera is a must as photo opportunities abound - Milford Sound not only boasts scenic wonders, such as the awe-inspiring Mitre Peak, it also teams with wildlife - dolphins, seals and penguins - all in their natural habitat.

A buffet lunch is included onboard.

Following the cruise travel via the same route back to Queenstown.

A optional (own expense)

Wednesday 28 Queenstown (BD)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

Today is a free day in Queenstown. Optional activities available in this region include bungy jumping, jet boat rides, lake cruises, white water rafting, golf, shopping and much more.

This evening depart Steamer Wharf for your dinner cruise to Walter Peak on the TSS Earnslaw - a 1912 vintage steamship. During the cruise you may purchase pre-dinner drinks and listen to the pianist playing old favourites. On arrival at Walter Peak you will be escorted through the grounds to the homestead where dinner will be served after which, daylight permitting, you will have the opportunity to visit the farm animals before returning to Queenstown.

Thursday 29 Queenstown to Franz Josef (BD)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

Leaving Queenstown follow the Kawarau Gorge through to Cromwell. A short drive along the Clutha River valley brings you to the picturesque township of Wanaka. Follow the shores of Lakes Hawea and Wanaka to the Makorora River until you cross the divide at the Haast Pass. From here you drive north along the west coast passing through Fox Glacier and then on to Franz Josef.

Time will be available for optional (own expense) scenic flights (subject to weather).

The best observed and recorded of all the country's many glaciers, Franz Josef lies 25 kilometres to the north of Fox and was named after the Austrian emperor by Julius Von Haast, the first European to explore the glaciers here. View the glacier from the lookout point at the end of the Franz Josef Road.

Dinner at hotel

Friday 30 Franz Josef to Greymouth to Christchurch (BD)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

Depart Franz Josef and travel through dense bush with scattered milling and farming settlements. For many miles there are particularly beautiful stretches of road to be seen - note especially the reflections in the lakes. The country begins to open out as Hokitika is approached. From here to Greymouth, pass through farming districts and extensive areas which have been worked over for alluvial gold by panning, sluicing and dredging.

At Greymouth board the transalpine Train to Christchurch

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Set off from Greymouth this afternoon on the transalpine Scenic rail journey. Head east and push through the Otira Tunnel, a pick and shovel effort and a marvellous engineering feat at the turn of the century. The scenery changes from thick rainforest and native bush to high country grasses as you make your way over the main divide. River Valleys, deep gorges and towering viaducts give way to the vast braided rivers fed by the many snowfields. Giant salmon run all the way from the Pacific to these waters to spawn. Continue west descending through the foothills of the Southern Alps and over the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch.

On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel.

Dinner at hotel

Saturday 31 Depart (B)

Cooked breakfast at hotel

This morning discover why Christchurch is known as the 'Garden City' on your sightseeing tour. Enjoy the charm of the award winning gardens, the tranquillity of the historic buildings which blend gracefully with the modern. See Cathedral Square, Mona Vale and the University of Canterbury, the Avon River and Hagley Park. Travel via the Summit Road and enjoy spectacular views all the way to the Sign of the Takahe, a historic roadhouse. There are magnificent views of the Canterbury Plains, Southern Alps and the city of Christchurch.

Later today a transfer will be provided to Christchurch airport to connect with your onward flights back to the US.

For more information please contact:
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International Sports Holidays has the rights to make changes to the above itinerary without prior notification.