

Discover the Magic of New Zealand

March 16-28, 2023

Christchurch – Auckland, NZ

Journey Down Under to New Zealand and experience the scenic magic captured the imagination of millions in the “Lord of the Rings,” which was filmed on New Zealand’s South Island. Ride a jet boat, enjoy a Maori feast, take a gondola to the top of a towering mountain, visit a traditional New Zealand sheep farm.

And there is much, much more to see and experience on both the North and South Islands – including playing softball against some talented New Zealand teams! This will be the trip of a lifetime!



Thursday March 16 (B, D)

After arriving in Christchurch, and completing of Customs & Immigration requirements and picking up your luggage, you will pass through auto opening doors into the airport arrivals area and meet our Pan Pacific representative.

After boarding your private coach, you will be taken to your hotel (normal check-in is 2pm). That evening, you will be transferred to the Curators house for a 3 course Welcome Dinner where you will meet your USA teammates at 7pm and 1 hour of canapes and drinks before the dinner.

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Christchurch

CODE FOR INCLUDED MEALS: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Friday, March 17 (B)

Christchurch

Cooked breakfast is included at your hotel.

Softball Practice

This morning a return coach transfer will be provided for a morning of softball practice sessions, about 3-4 hours, with your new teammates.



This afternoon is free at your leisure to explore Christchurch.

Christchurch has a fascinating history from the pioneering days through to modern day times and is recovering from the devastating earthquake which has now become a major event in New Zealand's history.

Discover why Christchurch is known as the 'Garden City' on your sightseeing tour today. Enjoy the charm of the award-winning gardens, the tranquillity of the historic buildings which blend gracefully with the modern.

Christchurch has been the gateway to Antarctica since Scott's famous expeditions at the beginning of the century. Since the 1950's both the New Zealand and United States Antarctic Programs have been based in the city, with other nations, such as Italy, passing through on their way south.



Dinner arrangements are your own to plan.

Saturday, March 18 (B)

Christchurch / Lord of the Rings Classic Tournament

After breakfast in the Hotel, we board our motorcoach to take us to the softball fields for a full day tournament against New Zealand teams.

After the games you will have a chance to get to know our Hosts at a get-together for the teams.

Sunday, March 19 (B)

Christchurch / Tournament

After breakfast in the Hotel, we board our motorcoach to take us to the finals of the Lord of the Rings Classic tournament against New Zealand teams.

After the games, there will be a tournament Awards Ceremony. This evening will be free to explore more of Christchurch; dinner arrangements are your own to plan.

Monday, March 20 (B, D)

Christchurch – Tranz Alpine Train to Greymouth – Coach to Franz Josef or Fox Glacier

After breakfast in the hotel, we take our private coach to the railway station and board our Tranz Alpine Train to Greymouth and transfer to Hokitika. Upon arrival, you'll have time to grab lunch before proceeding to Franz Josef.

The Tranz Alpine is a rated one of the world's great scenic railway journeys! Today you will travel from Christchurch to Greymouth, from one coast of New Zealand to the other. 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.



Photo courtesy of Tripadvisor.com

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 Greymouth.

All train carriages include both one way seating and tabled seating allowing you to experience the amazing views while enjoying the company of other passengers on-board. An open-air viewing rail carriage allows you to get even closer to the stunning scenery and provides many opportunities to photograph your favourite spots.

Upon arriving, we board our private coach for a short trip to our hotel.

Hotel: Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier

Tuesday, March 21 (B)

Franz Josef – Haast Pass – Queenstown

After breakfast at the hotel, we will travel from Franz Josef through the rainforest of South Westland to Haast Pass with sightseeing stops en route such as Thundercreek Falls. Lunch will be your own arrangements before we continue on past Lake Hawea and Cromwell to Queenstown.

In Queenstown, you will be taken to the hotel for check-in and the night is yours. Our hotel is very close to all shops and restaurants for your pleasure and planning ease.

Hotel: Novotel Queenstown Lakeside

Wednesday, March 22 (B, L, D)

Queenstown

After breakfast at our hotel restaurant, we'll head to Skippers Canyon Jet, an icon of Queenstown offering one of the most thrilling jetboat rides in the world. From the moment the accelerator first hits the floor, your adrenaline starts working overtime. Speed through river canyons as you experience the special manoeuvring of this vessel. The rock faces blur in your peripheral vision, the water sprays into myriads of white crystals with every turn, and your knuckles turn white as you grip the safety rail for comfort and reassurance. Skippers Canyon Jet will drop us back off at the hotel for a short walk to lunch at Winnies Gourmet Pizza Bar.



Next, we'll head to Skyline Base, where we'll take a gondola ride and 3 luge rides per person. After that, we go back to the hotel to relax and prepare for dinner. For dinner, you'll make your own way to Steamer Wharf for dinner on the TSS Earnslaw and cruise to Walter Peak.

After the dinner cruise, you'll make your own way back to the hotel.

Hotel: Novotel Queenstown Lakeside

Thursday, March 23 (B)

Queenstown - Fly to Auckland with Tournament

After breakfast at the hotel, we will check-out and transfer to the airport to fly to Auckland. Upon arrival, we will check in at the hotel. Later that afternoon, we will head to the softball fields for the New Zealand- USA Slowpitch Softball Classic tournament.

After the tournament, you'll have a chance to get to know our Host Teams at a get-together at the fields.

Hotel: Skycity Auckland

Friday, March 24 (B)

Auckland

After our breakfast in the hotel, the morning and lunch is at your own leisure and arrangements to explore Auckland.

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. 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.

In the early afternoon, we will take the coach to the softball fields for the finals of the New Zealand – USA Slowpitch Softball Classic tournament. The evening is for your leisure and plans.

Hotel: Skycity Auckland

Saturday, March 25 (B)

Auckland Sightseeing

After our breakfast, a local guide arrives at the hotel to take us on a tour of Parnell Village, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Harbour Bridge and panoramic views of Mission Bay!

Upon returning to the hotel, the afternoon and evening are all yours.

Hotel: Skycity Auckland

Sunday, March 26 (B, D)

Auckland – Matamata – Rotorua

After breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we take off for a tour, including the Hobbiton village made famous in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, a Maori Village hangi feast and concert. The tour of Hobbiton brings you to the site of the movie magic that made Lord of the Rings so popular.

Later in the day, we travel to Rotorua to check into our hotel and rest up for a full evening of Maori Culture.

The cultural display, performed by a talented local cast, consists of the formal welcome (powhiri), traditional dances and Maori weaponry display, as well as the arrival of the warriors by ancient canoe (waka). This is followed by a traditionally cooked Maori feast (hangi); an impressive, delicious spread consisting of chicken, lamb, kumara and potato cooked in an underground oven, accompanied by fresh salads and breads.



Hotel: Novotel Rotorua Lakeside

Monday, March 27 (B, D)

Rotorua – Auckland

After breakfast the hotel, we will sightsee in Rotorua, including lakefront area and Government Gardens. Lunch will be your own plans.

We will then take the coach back to Auckland and check into the hotel. Later, we will be coached to the Harbourside Restaurant for drinks and canapes before the Farewell dinner. After dinner, we'll be coached back to the hotel.

Hotel: Skycity Auckland

Tuesday March 28 (B)

Auckland - USA.

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the Auckland airport as a group to fly back to the US with memories – and friendships – to last a lifetime!

Tour Highlights

- Welcome dinner
- 4-Star Hotel Accommodations 12 nights
- Private Coach transportation as listed on itinerary
- Breakfasts, Lunch and Dinners listed on Itinerary
- Flight from Queenstown to Auckland as listed.
- 2-Day Softball Tournament in Christchurch
- USA Uniforms for all players
- Introductory City tour of Auckland/Christchurch
- Hobbiton (Lord of the Rings) Movie Set Tour
- Maori traditional Hangi Dinner and Concert
- Cruise on TSS Earnshaw to Walter Peak
- Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner
- Skippers Canyon Jet boat ride
- Gondola ride

- Optional Luge ride to bottom of mountain
- Train journey from Christchurch to Greymouth
- 2-Day Softball Tournament in Auckland
- Half-Day City Tour of Auckland with local guide
- Farewell/Awards Dinner
- Transfer to Airport for flights home.

What is not included:

- ✓ Round trip airfare to and from the US gateway / New Zealand
- ✓ All items of a personal nature: i.e., telephone calls, laundry, pay TV, hotel mini bars, etc.
- ✓ All meals not specified in the Itinerary
- ✓ All entrances to museums, art galleries, etc. not specified in the itinerary.
- ✓ All private excursions not specified in the itinerary.
- ✓ Any public transport, taxi, local bus, rail or flights not specified in the itinerary.
- ✓ Luggage handling at the airport.
- ✓ Luggage handling at the hotels
- ✓ Travel Insurance (Medical & Travel delays and lost baggage)
- ✓ Tipping
- ✓ Hotel Tourist taxes
- ✓ Currency Exchange supplement (if required)
- ✓ Any required COVID tests to enter or leave New Zealand. (None are required as of July 16, 2022)

For more information, call Senior Softball-USA, at 916-326-5303 or email nic@seniorsoftball.com.