

SENIOR SOFTBALL TOUR 2022

Discover the Magic of New Zealand

March 17 – 29, 2022

Journey Down Under to New Zealand and experience the scenic magic that 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!

DAY 1-3
Tuesday -
Thursday
Mar. 15 - 17

Official Flight: Los Angeles LAX to Auckland Direct.

After arriving, 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 have a short city tour of Auckland while your hotel room is being prepared. 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.

That evening there will be a Welcome Dinner where you will meet your USA teammates. **B, D**

■ **Hotel: Skycity Auckland**

B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

DAY 4
Friday
March 18

Auckland

Cooked breakfast is included at your hotel restaurant.

Softball Practice

This morning a return coach transfer will be provided to the North Harbour Stadium Grounds in Albany for a morning Softball practice session with your new teammates

This afternoon is free at your leisure in Auckland to explore Auckland City. **B**

DAY 5
Saturday
March 19

Auckland / Down Under Tournament Classic

After breakfast in the Hotel, we board our motorcoach to take us to the Down Under Classic tournament against New Zealand North Island teams at North Harbour Softball Complex.



After the games, we'll have a chance to get to know our Hosts at a get-together for the teams. **B**

DAY 6
Sunday
March 20

Auckland / Down Under Tournament Classic

After breakfast in the Hotel, we board out motorcoach to take us to the finals of the Down Under Classic tournament against New Zealand North Island teams at North Harbour Softball Complex.

After the games, there will be a tournament Awards Ceremony. This evening will be free to explore more of Auckland. **B**

DAY 7
Monday
March 21

Auckland – Matamata – Rotorua

After breakfast in the hotel, we take off for a full-day 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. **B, D**

DAY 8
Tuesday
March 22

Rotorua – Auckland – Queenstown

After breakfast, we board our motorcoach and head to the Auckland Airport to catch our flight to the beautiful South Island. The flight is arranged and included by Senior Softball USA.



You will be met upon arrival by Pan Pacific Travel Representatives & your coach drivers for your transfer from Queenstown Airport to your hotel by private coach. Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown 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.

After getting settled in the Hotel, we take a short walk to the Steamer Wharf and board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw for a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Sheep Station. On arrival at Walter Peak, you will be escorted through the beautiful lakeside gardens to the gracious Colonel's Homestead for a carvery buffet dinner served in private room of elegant surroundings of the Colonel's Homestead. Following the meal, guests have the option of a brief farm show or relaxing at the bar before returning onboard the TSS Earnslaw to Queenstown. **B, D**

■ **Hotel: Novotel Queenstown Lakeside**

DAY 9
Wednesday
March 23

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. Next, we'll head to Skyline Base, where we'll take a gondola ride to the Skyline Restaurant for lunch. If you're up for it, you can take a luge and ride it down to the base of the mountain.



This afternoon is free in Queenstown, New Zealand's premier resort destination with an almost overwhelming selection of attractions to choose from. There are over 70 different activities available: including the bungy jumping, horse riding, golf, parapenting, and more gondola and luge rides. **B, L**

DAY 10
Thursday
March 24

Queenstown - Franz Josef Glacier

Today, after our breakfast in the hotel, we journey through the lands that made the South Island famous and inspire breathtaking awe, traveling to the Franz Josef Glacier area.



The best observed and recorded of all the country's many glaciers, Franz 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. Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier makes the most of its alpine location and offers quality accommodation in Franz Josef village.

This evening enjoy a 3-course dinner with teammates and friends in the Hotel. **B, D**

■ ***Hotel: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier***

DAY 11
Friday
March 25

Franz Josef Glacier – Greymouth – Christchurch

After our breakfast in the hotel, we take our private coach for Greymouth, where you'll have time to grab lunch before we board our TransAlpine Train to Christchurch.



The Trans Alpine is rated one of the world's great scenic railway journeys! Today you will travel from Greymouth to Christchurch, 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.

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.

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. **B**

■ ***Hotel: Crowne Plaza Christchurch***

DAY 12
Saturday
March 26

Christchurch / South Island Classic

After our breakfast, we leave the Hotel on our private coach and head to the South Island Classic tournament against South Island teams. After the games, we head back to the hotel to change before meeting the South Island players for a Down Under get-together. It's a perfect chance to get to know more about the folks we are playing and their life in New Zealand. **B**

DAY 13
Sunday
March 27

Christchurch / South Island Classic Finals

After our breakfast, we leave the Hotel on our private coach and head to the South Island Classic tournament finals. After the games, we'll gather with the New Zealand teams for a good-bye and Awards ceremony with our new friends. **B**

DAY 14
Monday
March 28

Christchurch

After our breakfast in the hotel, we'll board our private coach for a half-day City tour of Christchurch. We'll learn about Christchurch's fascinating history from the pioneering days through to modern day times and learn how Christchurch 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 tranquility 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.

This afternoon, you'll be free to explore on your own and do any last-minute shopping.

This evening, we'll take our private coach to the famous Curator's House for cocktails and the Awards/Farewell Dinner. **B, D**

DAY 15
Tuesday
March 29

Christchurch – Auckland - USA.

We fly from Christchurch to Auckland and catch the official flight back to Los Angeles (*crossing back over the International Dateline*) with memories – and friendships – to last a lifetime! (**Note: flights from Christchurch to Auckland and Los Angeles not included in price.**) **B**

Tour Highlights:

- Welcome dinner
- ★★★★★ Hotel Accommodations 12 nights
- Private Coach transportation as listed on itinerary
- 12 Breakfasts, Lunch and Dinners listed on Itinerary
- 2-Day Softball Tournament in Auckland
- USA Uniforms for all players
- Introductory City tour of Auckland
- Hobbiton (*Lord of the Rings*) Movie Set Tour
- Maori traditional Hangi Dinner and Concert
- Flight from Auckland to Queenstown
- Cruise on TSS Earnshaw to Walter Peak
- Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner
- Traditional New Zealand Sheep Farm demonstration
- Skippers Canyon Jet boat ride
- Gondola ride to buffet lunch at the Skyline Restaurant
- Optional Luge ride to bottom of mountain
- Train journey from Greymouth to Christchurch
- 2-Day Softball Tournament in Christchurch
- Half-Day City Tour of Christchurch with local guide
- Farewell/Awards Dinner at the Curator's House, Christchurch
- Transfer to Airport for flights home.

What is not included:

- Round trip airfare to and from the US gateway / New Zealand
- Air Fare from Christchurch to Auckland
- 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*)

Tour Cost:

To secure reservations for this tour we will require a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000.00 per person by December 16, 2021.

Full & Final payment should reach us no later than February 3, 2022.

Tour Rates:

- New Players: \$3,650 / New Non-Players: \$3,600
- Returning Players: \$3,550 / Returning Non-Players: \$3,500

For more information, call Senior Softball-USA, at 916-326-5303 or email Jayme.Hennessy@gmail.com.