



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

New Zealand's
GREAT OUTDOORS

FEBRUARY 6-20, 2024

DEAR W&L ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS,

Isolated from other land masses by the swells of the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, New Zealand is a world unto itself. The island nation boasts unparalleled natural beauty a land of glacial fjords, majestic peaks, geothermal marvels, endemic birds, pristine beaches, and glacial lakes. Walking and hiking throughout New Zealand is one of the best ways to see these spectacular landscapes and explore its vast wilderness areas.

On this long overdue return to one of our favorite destinations, we'll discover the highlights of New Zealand while sampling its very best trails and vistas. We'll begin in Auckland with a scenic sail along Waitemata Harbor before our welcome orientation and dinner at the Grand Millennium Hotel. On the following morning, we're off to Rotorua, the heartland of Maori culture and a geothermal wonderland, where we'll spend two nights. We'll then fly to Christchurch on the South Island and travel through the stunning Canterbury Plains for the turquoise waters and starry skies of Lake Tekapo. We'll then venture into the Southern Alps for Mount Cook National Park, once a playground for such legendary figures as Sir Edmund Hillary, where we'll find New Zealand's highest mountains and Tasman Glacier, her longest glacier.

Here we'll also sample wine from the Gibbston Valley on our way to Queenstown for two days in New Zealand's adventure capital, set against the spectacular Remarkables and majestic Lake Wakatipu. Thereafter, we'll travel to picturesque Lake Te Anau, where we'll spend three days exploring the vast glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park, including Milford Sound, before returning to Queenstown for two more nights.

Here at last is an opportunity to enjoy New Zealand's stunning beauty while sampling its very best trails, including the world-renowned Milford, Routeburn, Kepler, and Hooker Valley tracks. If there was ever a heart-healthy adventure, this is it!

Sincerely,



Robert Fure, Director
The W&L Traveller



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Experience the thrill of sailing** in Auckland's **Waitemata Harbor**
- **Attend a private gathering with Maori elders** at a special powhiri (welcome) ceremony in a Maori village nestled within a native Tawa Forest
- **Walk amongst bubbling thermal mud pools, geysers and hot springs** in Wai-O-Tapu geothermal park near Rotorua.
- See conservation in action at **the most successful kiwi hatchery in the world!**
- **Stargaze from turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo**, home to one of the clearest skies in the world and New Zealand's only UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve
- **Enjoy a guided day hike on the Hooker Valley Track** in Aoraki/ Mt. Cook National Park an alpine paradise where Sir Edmund Hillary trained
- **Marvel at the magnificent peaks and valleys of Fiordland National Park** during day hikes on the world-renowned Milford Track, Routeburn Track and Kepler Track.
- **Embark on a nature cruise in Milford Sound** surrounded by towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls.





ITINERARY

TUESDAY-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6-8

HOME / AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Depart home on an overnight flight to Auckland, located on New Zealand's North Island. Lose one day crossing the international dateline. Conveniently located between two large harbors, consequently, Auckland has the highest number of boats per head of population in the world, hence the nickname – the "City of Sails." Upon arrival, transfer to the Grand Millennium Auckland located in the heart of Auckland. This afternoon, kick off your exploration with an America's Cup Sailing experience in Auckland's Waitemata Harbor. Gather this evening for a welcome orientation and dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: GRAND MILLENNIUM AUCKLAND (D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

AUCKLAND / WAITOMO / ROTORUA

Following an inaugural lecture, embark on a four-hour drive south through the beautiful Waikato farmland to Rotorua, located in the heart of the central volcanic plateau. Stop enroute in Waitomo for a private guided tour of the world-famous glowworm caves. Spend the afternoon sightseeing in Rotorua, a visit to the National Kiwi Hatchery, dedicated to conserving New Zealand's national icon. See kiwi eggs being incubated, the hatching process and newly hatched kiwi chicks, and learn how they have successfully hatched over 2100 kiwi chicks. Dinner and overnight at the hotel on Lake Rotorua. OVERNIGHT: DISTINCTION ROTORUA HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

ROTORUA

Enjoy a private gathering with Maori elders at a special powhiri (welcome) ceremony in a Maori village nestled within a native Tawa forest. Observe Maori weaving, carving, face tattooing, and food preparation activities. Also learn about warrior training and the fearsome haka

posture dance as part of an exhilarating cultural performance. After a traditional hangi lunch, embark on a walk in a nearby geothermal park, where boiling mud pools, geysers, and colorful hot springs provide remarkable evidence of the still-hot magma just beneath the earth's surface. Remainder of the day is at leisure with the opportunity to soak in the Polynesian Spa, located next door to our hotel. OVERNIGHT: DISTINCTION ROTORUA HOTEL (B,L)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

ROTORUA / CHRISTCHURCH / LAKE TEKAPO

Following a morning lecture, drive to the Rotorua Airport for a flight to Christchurch. On arrival, spend the afternoon travelling to the lupine-lined shores of Lake Tekapo. This 3.5-hour journey takes you through the stunning Canterbury Plains pulling you closer to the Southern Alps. The view of Lake Tekapo's turquoise waters as you arrive will take your breath away. Check in to our hotel looking out on to Lake Tekapo and after dinner soak in hot mineral pools while learning about the night skies. Picturesque by day and dazzling by night, Lake Tekapo is part of a UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, making it the perfect spot for stargazing. OVERNIGHT: PEPPERS BLUEWATER RESORT TEKAPO (B,L,D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

AORAKI/MOUNT COOK NATIONAL PARK

Travel the one and a quarter hour drive for a full day in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, home of the highest mountains and the longest glaciers in New Zealand. It is alpine in the purest sense - with skyscraping peaks, glaciers and permanent snow fields. Embark on a guided walk on the Hooker Valley Track, affording incredible views at every turn as you make your way to Hooker Lake and back. Enjoy time in Mt Cook Village to visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Center, a tribute to one of the world's greatest explorers, and showcase of the Aoraki Mount Cook region, its people and its place in the universe. This afternoon (for an



added cost) witness stunning ice formations from a ski plane as you fly over the spectacular Tasman Glacier, New Zealand's largest glacier. Land on the ice and encounter the unique world of this impressive glacier during a guided walk. Return to Lake Tekapo where the evening is at leisure. OVERNIGHT: PEPPERS BLUEWATER RESORT TEKAPO (B,L)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

LAKE TEKAPO / GIBBSTON VALLEY / QUEENSTOWN

Drive to Queenstown today by way of Gibbston Valley, the Land of the Vines, and the most famous wine growing region in New Zealand. Enjoy lunch and private wine tasting at the award-winning Mt Difficulty Winery, named for the peak overlooking the vines. Continue to New Zealand's "Adventure Capital," set against the spectacular Remarkables and majestic Lake Wakatipu and check-in to the Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Hotel ideally situated in the heart of Queenstown. Spend the evening exploring independently and dining at one of the town's many terrific restaurants. OVERNIGHT: NOVOTEL QUEENSTOWN LAKESIDE (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

QUEENSTOWN

Following a morning lecture, cruise across scenic Lake Wakatipu to Mt Nicholas High Country Farm for a behind-the-scenes visit of this 100,000-acre, family-run merino sheep farm. The afternoon is free to further explore the downtown Queenstown scene; visit Kiwi Park, a 5-acre wildlife sanctuary found in town with over 20 species of native New Zealand wildlife; or perhaps ride the Skyline Queenstown Gondola to the top of Bob's Peak for wonderful views over the town. OVERNIGHT: NOVOTEL QUEENSTOWN LAKESIDE (B,L)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15

QUEENSTOWN / TE ANAU

Enjoy a leisurely morning before departing Queenstown after lunch for the scenic drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and through the rolling countryside to Te Anau. There is time for

stops and short walks along the way. Te Anau is a picturesque town nestled on the shores of a lake of the same name. Te Anau is also an ideal base for exploring the UNESCO-listed Fiordland National Park, a remarkable environment of stunning fiords, spectacular waterfalls, snow-capped peaks, and ancient rainforests. Check in to the Distinction Hotel & Villas, our home for the next three nights, and enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant in town. OVERNIGHT: DISTINCTION TE ANAU HOTEL & VILLAS (B,D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

KEPLER TRACK

Discover the remarkable Kepler Track on this full day tour, beginning with a helicopter flight from Te Anau over New Zealand's beautiful landscape. Fly over the hidden lakes and beech forest of Mount Luxmore to arrive at Luxmore Hut, the first hut on the Kepler Track Great Walk. Accompanied by a local nature guide, explore the alpine area and learn about the fauna and flora in the surrounding tussock herb fields. Enjoy a true wilderness tea break, before beginning an easy-going hike on the Kepler Track, descending through native beech forest to the sandy beach of Brod Bay. Cruise back to Te Anau, enjoying great views of your path from the alpine area to the clear waters of Lake Te Anau. OVERNIGHT: DISTINCTION TE ANAU HOTEL & VILLAS (B,L)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

MILFORD TRACK & MILFORD SOUND

Following breakfast, drive along Milford Road, considered one of the most beautiful highways in the world, through impressive alpine scenery to renowned Milford Sound. Take a water taxi to Sandfly Point and embark on a moderate guided walk, including a picnic lunch, along the Arthurs River through lush rainforests. A highlight is reaching Giant Gate, a spectacular waterfall that



is best viewed from the swing bridge spanning the river. In the afternoon board a family-run vessel for a naturalist-led cruise on Milford Sound to view this stunning waterway and search for wildlife. Return to Te Anau in the early evening. OVERNIGHT: DISTINCTION TE ANAU HOTEL & VILLAS (B,L)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18
ROUTE BURN TRACK

Spend the day hiking a section of the Routeburn Track, one of the New Zealand Great Walks. This premier tramping trail links Fiordland National Park with Mt. Aspiring National Park, part of UNESCO World Heritage Site of Te Wahipounamu. Hike at a moderate pace up a gradual incline toward the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps, learning about the regional flora from your informative guide. Travel the road back to Queenstown and check in to the 5-star Hotel St. Moritz Queenstown, boasting a central location with an unbeatable view of the surrounding mountains for an evening at leisure. OVERNIGHT: HOTEL ST. MORITZ QUEENSTOWN (B,L)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
QUEENSTOWN

After breakfast, the day is free to explore Queenstown and surrounding areas on your own. You could golf at Jacks Point or Queenstown Golf Club, kayak on the lake, rent bicycles, go fly fishing, visit Kiwi Park Wildlife Sanctuary, ride the gondola to Bob's Peak, or shop for souvenirs. Gather for a festive farewell dinner to celebrate this epic journey together. OVERNIGHT: HOTEL ST. MORITZ QUEENSTOWN (B,D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
QUEENSTOWN / DEPART NEW ZEALAND

Following breakfast, transfer to Queenstown airport and board connecting flights home. (B)

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES

Per person, sharing	\$8,790
Single supplement	\$2,480
On-tour air	\$280
(Rotorua to Christchurch) economy class per person, subject to change.	

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, transportation, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Airport transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, pilots, and drivers for all group activities • Entrance fees • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • In-country expert guide • Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this program to be moderately active. Much of the touring is done by motorcoach, but some excursions may require standing for long periods of time and/or walks that range from one to three miles, often on uneven terrain where stairs may be unavailable or not have handrails. February is mid-summer in New Zealand, where daytime temperatures usually range from mid 70s F in the south to low 80s F with more humidity in the north. Evenings are somewhat cooler, and some rain is always a possibility, as is snow in the mountains. Participants should be fit and in active good health. As of publication, all participants and tour staff will be required to be fully vaccinated for SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19), plus follow safety/ sanitization protocols set forth by the tour operator, local staff, and host country laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that s/he does not have any physical or other limitation that would create a hazard for her/himself or other travelers.

GROUP SIZE

This exclusive program is limited to a maximum of 32 participants.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • On-tour flight from Rotorua to Christchurch \$280 (subject to change) (economy class) • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. For more information or to reserve your place, please visit wlu.edu/alumni/lifelong-learning/travel-programs or call (540) 458-8723. You may also return the completed reservation form to: The W&L Traveller, Office of Lifelong Learning, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia 24450; or fax the form to W&L Traveller at (540) 458-8478. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Final payment deadline is November 8, 2023. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by The W&L Traveller office. Deposits are fully refundable if written notice of cancellation is received up to six months prior to departure. Inside of six months prior to departure, up until final payment, deposits are refundable less a \$250 per person administration fee. For cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither The W&L Traveller nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

RESPONSIBILITY

The W&L Traveller, Washington and Lee University, and Criterion Travel, its officers and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (hereafter referred to as "the Organizers") act only as agents for the passenger with respect to the travel services on this program, including but not limited to transportation, ship arrangements, food services, etc. The Organizers are not responsible for any injury, loss, accident, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, negligence, acts of God or force majeure, COVID-19 or other illness, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. If delayed past tour dates due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meals costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this program at any time. Passenger certifies not to have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. We reserve the right to change the itinerary, trip features, or accommodations at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, as deemed necessary by program staff. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the program. The Organizers do not accept liability for any airline carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Upon payment of their deposit, tour participants indicate acceptance of the above Terms and Conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

NEW ZEALAND'S GREAT OUTDOORS

FEBRUARY 6-20, 2024

To register via email (preferred method), please send reservations to: lifelong@wlu.edu. Once you have submitted your request, Criterion Travel will call within two business days to confirm your reservation and collect your deposit.

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) CLASS YEAR

NAME #2 AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) CLASS YEAR

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL 1

EMAIL 2

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve_____ place(s) on New Zealand's Great Outdoors.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability)
or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

or ☐ I'd like to know about roomates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 8, 2023, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bed Preference (not guaranteed):
☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I/we have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated therein.

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE



The W&L Traveller
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