

Tentative Itinerary for EMU Alumni and Friends Tour to New Zealand (v.3)

Feb. 24 - March 14, 2023

(Note: travelers must depart U.S. no later than Feb. 22 to arrive early the morning of the 24th)

Optional Activities (w/ links to websites and approximate cost per person)

NOTE: *The Bay of Islands sailing trip is now included in the price of the tour*

1. [Hobbiton set tour](#) (Feb. 28); \$70 USD
 - a. a three hour tour of perfectly maintained sets from the LOTR films.
2. [Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne](#) in Wellington (March 6); \$18 USD admission (NEW)
 - a. A beautiful 40 acre urban ecosanctuary in the middle of the city w/ native birds and plant life
3. [Whale watching](#) in Kaikoura (March 7); \$80-90 USD
 - a. 3-4 hour tour (sperm whales, dolphins, marine birds)
4. **Hiking in the [Matukituki Valley region](#) of Mt. Aspiring National Park** (March 11)
(no additional cost)
 - a. Fairly level valley hike to Mt. Aspiring Hut on the [West Matukituki Track](#) (if the hut is open, there may be an option to stay overnight and return the next morning) or a slightly more strenuous hike up [Rob Roy Track](#) to view a glacier
 - b. Those not wishing to hike will have the day to explore Wanaka or do local hikes.
5. [Milford Sound day trip w/ cruise](#) (March 13); \$140-150 USD
 - a. 12 hour round trip from Queenstown on a large tour bus along one of the most dramatic roads on the planet that includes a 3 hour cruise on the sound (highly recommended!)

Itinerary

Overnight locations in green

- Feb. 24** Participants arrive at Auckland International Airport early morning
Auckland - active day visiting local sites and exploring Auckland
- Feb. 25** Travel from Auckland to [Bay of Islands](#)
Paihia/Russell - Visit [Waitangi Treaty Grounds](#), the town of Russell, and other local historical attractions
- Feb. 26** **Explore Bay of Islands by sailboat w/ [Gungha Sailing](#)**
Paihia/Russell - A six hour sailing adventure on a 65 ft. yacht, relaxing evening along the water
- Feb. 27** **Explore local environment and historic sites** including Tāne Māhuta
Auckland - Travel south to Auckland through the [Waipoua Forest region](#) (largest remaining kauri tree forest), evening in downtown Auckland
- Feb. 28** Travel from Auckland to **Whakatane** (to visit w/ local Maori community)
Whakatane - Optional stop at **Hobbiton** (additional cost) or local hikes/walks

- March 1**
Pahaoa Marae Travel to [Pahaoa Marae](#)
Non-commercial stay at small, coastal marae hosted by our friend Andrea Fox
- Traditional welcoming ceremony, Maori cultural activities and dining
- March 2**
Rotorua Morning spent with Wairuru marae community
- Travel to [Rotorua](#), local activities
- March 3**
Rotorua Full day in **Rotorua** with cultural and natural sightseeing including [Ohinemutu](#)
Village tour and [Te Puia](#) geothermal area
- Evening show and hangi dinner with [Tamaki Tours](#)
- March 4**
Tongariro Travel to [Tongariro National Park](#)
- Local hikes/walks, possible travel to Wellington for a two night stay there
- March 5**
Wellington Travel to [Wellington](#)
- Visit [Te Papa museum](#) (New Zealand's smithsonian)
- March 6**
Wellington **Rest day in Wellington** (enjoy local sites, shopping, cafes, and the harbor)
- optional visit to [Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne](#) , urban ecosanctuary (additional cost)
- visit with **Sarah & Ben Roth Shank**, EMU alumni, on expat life in NZ and restorative justice in NZ history and practices
- March 7**
Kaikoura [Ferry crossing](#) to South Island, travel to [Kaikoura](#)
- local walks to visit seal colony
- optional **Whale watching** tour (additional cost)
- March 8**
Christchurch **Kaikoura** activities
- Afternoon drive to [Christchurch](#)
- March 9**
Mt. Cook Travel from Christchurch to [Mt. Cook Village](#), sightseeing along the way: Twizel, [Church of the Good Shepherd](#) etc. Afternoon walks exploring Mt. Cook area.
- March 10**
Wanaka Morning exploring Mt. Cook area and afternoon travel to Wanaka.
- March 11**
Wanaka [Wanaka](#) local attractions and walks
Optional activities:
1. Tramp up the **Matukituki Valley in Mt. Aspiring National Park** (optional but no additional cost) .
- March 12** Travel to [Queenstown](#)

Queenstown Local Queenstown attractions including a visit to [Arrowtown](#)

March 13 Full day in **Queenstown**

Queenstown Optional [Milford Sound day trip w/ cruise](#) (full day, additional cost)

March 14 **Flight home** (from Queenstown airport)

Queenstown is also a great starting place to extend your stay and visit other areas of NZ