

American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Standard Tour #3 (11 nights/14 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Auckland, New Zealand

Day 2

In Transit

In transit

Day 3

Auckland

(D)

Arrive in Auckland

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a sightseeing tour of Auckland with its spectacular views of sparkling waters and the Harbour Bridge which shows you why Auckland is known as the City of Sails

Afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant

Venture up Auckland's Sky Tower, which is the tallest man-made structure in New Zealand and offers breathtaking views (weather permitting)

Return to your hotel for overnight

The Auckland region is an antipasto of environments laid out on a huge platter to make one amazing city, boasting three harbours, two mountain ranges, 48 volcanic cones and more than 50 islands. Auckland's population has just reached 1.5 million, making it by far the largest city in New Zealand, with one third of the country's entire population

Day 4

Auckland

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning masterclass

Lunch on own

Time at leisure to venture to the nearby quaint seaside township of Devonport, or explore the many Museums and Art Galleries, enjoy a Harbour Cruise on the Pride of Auckland yacht or partake in some retail therapy

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Auckland / Hamilton / Rotorua

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Travel south to Hamilton, New Zealand's richest dairy farming area. Time is available in Hamilton to explore the local shops/mall

Lunch on own

Onwards to Rotorua! Our journey meanders through fertile countryside, up over the forested Mamaku Ranges and into the Rotorua basin, an area of natural beauty and rich in cultural heritage

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Evening dinner and overnight



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Rotorua is New Zealand's most dynamic thermal area, home to spurting geysers, steaming hot springs and exploding mud pools. The Maori revered this place, naming one of the most spectacular springs Wai-O-Tapu (Sacred Waters). There is nowhere else like Rotorua where you can experience the Maori culture and enjoy the scenery

Day 6**Rotorua****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

First we head up the Skyline Gondola to a high point on Mt Ngongotaha for a fun filled ride on a three-wheel cart known as the "Luge". Self-drive down over one mile of mountain side on concrete track with tunnels, spirals and awesome views over the city and lake

Lunch on own

Afternoon visit to Hell's Gate; for a Mud Bath and Sulphur Spa experience which features the geothermal mud baths that replicate the historic mud baths of 150 years ago and still uses the silky smooth geothermal grey mud from the geothermal park; and the sulphur spas that use the sulphur water from the "Hurutini" pool

Tonight we enjoy a step into the past and partake in a traditional Maori 'Hangi' (feast) and concert; this includes traditional song and dance followed by a 'Haka' (war dance) and viewing the Glow Worms



Day 7**Rotorua / Taupo / Wellington****(B,D)**

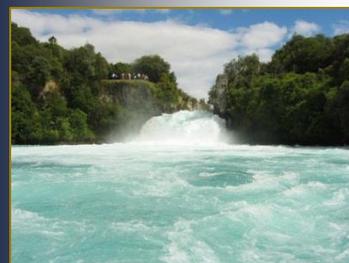
Breakfast at the hotel

En route to Taupo we stop at the Waiotapu Mud Pools and Aratiatia Dam to view the flood gates opening. On our descent into Taupo we stop to see the mighty Huka Falls with optional jet boat rides available (at an additional cost)

Lunch on own

Continuing south, we journey alongside New Zealand's largest freshwater lake, Lake Taupo before entering New Zealand's oldest national park, Tongariro with its World Heritage status. This is a place of extremes and surprises, from a desert-like plateau to active volcanoes - Tongariro has it all. New Zealand's world renowned film Director, Sir Peter Jackson, chose Tongariro as a major filming site for the shooting of the *Lord of the Rings*

Then it is off to Wellington for dinner and overnight



Wellington is compact, cultured, full of character and rich in political history. It is set between a magnificent harbour and rolling green hills. It is also a compact city where funky shops, exciting galleries and great restaurants are within easy walking distance



Day 8**Wellington****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning tour through Wellington where we will visit key points of interest including Parliament Buildings, Mount Victoria and the Botanical Gardens and ride the Cable Car. We will also pay a visit to Te Papa, the National Museum

Late morning masterclass

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 9**Wellington / Christchurch****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart the capital city and begin the journey to Christchurch in the South Island. We board the ferry this morning at the bottom of the North Island and depart on one of the most scenic ferry rides in the world, to arrive in Picton at the very top of the South Island. We board a luxury coach again and travel via the coastal highway on a route between the base of the dramatic Kaikoura mountain range and the crashing surf of the Pacific Ocean, in some places only a road width apart

Lunch on own

Evening dinner and overnight

Christchurch is undergoing a transformation of its city area following an earthquake in February 2011. Here you will find a mixture of scenes which reflect the challenges of the locals in recent times with a broken city to the present day. Progress has been made both materially and spiritually in Christchurch to a point where the vibrancy, color and character are returning to this place, affectionately known as "The Garden City"

**Day 10****Christchurch****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning orientation tour to get to know the city, which has undergone major reconstruction following the devastating earthquake in February of 2011

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 11****Christchurch / Queenstown****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Travel south into the high mountain country to Lake Tekapo. Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd with its wonderful stained glass windows framing the majesty of the mountains

Lunch on own

Pass Lake Pukaki and on to view Mount Cook

Then it is off to Queenstown, one of the most picturesque settings in the world

This evening we proceed up the Skyline Gondola to enjoy Luge rides

Evening dinner overlooking the world famous views of Queenstown with its surrounding mountains and Lake Wakatipu

Looking like a small town, but displaying the energy of a small city, Queenstown offers a mountain of outdoor activities. The town sits on the shore of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu among dramatic ranges. Enjoy the town's atmospheric restaurants and laid-back cafes

**Day 12****Queenstown****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Day at leisure for optional activities in the "Adventure Capital of the World" (at an additional cost). You can opt for a thrilling jet boat ride down a canyon, or have your breath taken away by the views from the Skyline Gondola. For those with a daredevil approach to life there's the world's first Bungee jump site, or many more adrenalin pumping activities. Maybe a lazy day fishing for Trout or Salmon or just relax in a café between shopping sprees.



Head out across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station aboard the 'TSS Earnslaw' for morning or afternoon tea on a working sheep station. Named after Mount Earnslaw at the head of Lake Wakatipu, the TSS Earnslaw is thought to be the last coal-fired steamship still operating in the southern hemisphere

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 13 **Queenstown / Dunedin** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Dunedin

Lunch on own

On arrival in Dunedin we take the opportunity to stretch our legs by visiting the steepest Street in the World, Baldwin Street. For those fit enough you may like to try and run up it or just enjoy the leisurely walk to the summit

Evening dinner and overnight

Dunedin is the "Edinburgh of the South". It is a city that captivates and enchants, a city in which to linger and explore

Day 14 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Depending on your flight times there may be an opportunity for a little retail therapy to search for that little memento to take home for family and friends.

Additionally we could visit the Weta workshops, the special effects creators for the LOTR and Hobbit movies en-route to the Airport

Transfer to Wellington airport for return flight

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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