



IFTA NEW ZEALAND COMPANION SIGHTSEEING TOUR WEEK 1

Because we know traveling to New Zealand falls under that “trip of a lifetime” category Onward Travel has put together an alternate itinerary to complement the study tours so a partner, friend or relative may travel to New Zealand with an IFTA member. Our companion program is perfect for those who prefer to swap farm visits for sightseeing. This itinerary offers participants a well rounded look at New Zealand with activities focused on arts and culture, local wildlife and food and wine, along with plenty of opportunities to be active and enjoy the country’s spectacular scenery.

ITINERARY

Christchurch

Week 1: Day 2 (February 17)

Christchurch is a lovely historic city nestled among beautiful scenery, the city is surrounded by mountain ranges and Avon River flows through it. Today you’ll experience all of those different sides of Christchurch with a package that includes a ride on the historic tram, a one hour guided visit to the city’s Botanical Gardens, a ride up the gondola outside of town to take in the sweeping views and a “punting boat” trip down the Avon. Week 1 participants will have free time for lunch at the city’s vibrant Saturday market, and week 2 participants will have free time for lunch at the mountaintop cafe at the peak of the gondola ride.

- Week 2 participants will join the study tour for the farewell dinner tonight.

IMAGINE YOURSELF

Learning how to stand up paddleboard at one of New Zealand’s pristine beaches

Tasting wine in the picturesque vineyards of one of the world’s most esteemed regions for wine production

Riding a gondola to the top of a mountain to take in the sweeping views of cliffs, sea and hills that typify New Zealand

Nelson

Week 1: Day 4 (February 19)

Nelson prides itself on being one of the country's most important centers of arts and crafts. Today you'll set out on a walking tour of the city with a knowledgeable local guide who will take you to different galleries and artists' studios where you can see the work firsthand and meet the people behind the thriving creative scene here. Mid-afternoon the group will enjoy a traditional high tea at The Melrose House, the most historic house in the city and a local favorite.

Week 1: Day 5 (February 20)

Nelson lies on New Zealand's coast and boasts a fantastic beach within its city limits, Tahunanui Beach, so it's time for a beach day. This morning everyone will enjoy a stand up paddleboard lesson, a very fun and popular activity here that is enjoyable for all levels of fitness and experience. We'll have some free time at the beach, too, so you can take a nice walk or swim or just relax with a book. Then our group will enjoy lunch together at a beachfront cafe before we visit the nearby Natureland Wildlife Trust. Here at this animal preserve dedicated to environmental preservation and the conservation of endangered species we'll be treated to a private tour with a zoologist during which you'll learn about the wildlife of Down Under and meet many residents of Natureland.

- Tonight the sightseeing tour will join the study tour for the evening's festivities.

Napier

Week 1: Day 8 (February 23)

The sightseeing tour will go along with the study tour to take in the views from Te Mata Peak this morning and then enjoy lunch together. After lunch the sightseeing tour will head back to Napier, stopping at Maraetotara Falls for some photos (and a quick dip for those so inclined).

Week 1: Day 9 (February 24)

Today we set out from Napier to experience one of New Zealand's most famous exports: wine. We'll depart late morning and spend the day touring wineries to taste and learn about the viniculture here and what makes the Hawke's Bay Region such an excellent area for wine production. Today's tour also includes lunch at a winery.

- Tonight the sightseeing tour will join the study tour for the evening's festivities.

Week 1: Day 11 (February 26)

Not too far from Napier is Cape Kidnappers, a very scenic peninsula atop great cliffs that is home to the world's largest gannet colony. A gannet is a seabird that is a member of the booby family and they can only be found here in New Zealand. The 20,000 gannets who live at Cape Kidnappers roost in a living sea of white feathers.... even if you aren't an avian enthusiast it's an amazing sight to behold. We'll bring along a boxed lunch and spend our day on a guided safari to Cape Kidnappers.

- Tonight the sightseeing tour will join the study tour for the post-conference party.

Please note, on the dates that are not listed in this itinerary the participants of both the study tour and the companion sightseeing tour will be experiencing New Zealand together.

There is an additional \$375 fee to take part in the companion sightseeing program. All tours, transportation, activities, tastings and meals as described in this itinerary are included.

