

IFTA NEW ZEALAND STUDY TOUR & CONFERENCE

week 1 : february 16-27, 2018



ONWARD TRAVEL 
EST 2014

JOIN IFTA ON A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME STUDY TOUR TO NEW ZEALAND

Agriculture is the main industry in NZ and we'll visit three important growing regions in different microclimates, on both the North and South Islands, plus enjoy world-class scenery. We'll learn from experts in the Southern Hemisphere and have unforgettable experiences along the way.

New Zealand is home to a population just shy of 4.5 million people, but active export-focused agriculture. This year (2017) is poised to be New Zealand's largest apple crop to date. In four years New Zealand's apple industry grew from producing 16 million cartons in 2012 to 19.5 million cartons in 2016 and an expected 21.5 million cartons this year worth \$800 million NZD. New Zealand is making progress to meet the government's export goal of 1 billion NZD by 2020.

To compete with other Southern Hemisphere exporters like Chile and South Africa, New Zealand competes with growing premium produce to sell at premium prices. New Zealand is known for taking risks developing and marketing new varieties. Gala and Braeburn were developed in New Zealand decades ago but the country remains on the cutting edge with development of many club varieties such as Dazzle™, JAZZ™, Envy™, Rockit®, Smitten®, and Koru®.

The developing Middle Eastern and Asian markets have created significant opportunities, with sales to Asia making up 40% of total pipfruit exports. Since deregulation the Middle East and Asian markets have grown from 10 to 50 per cent of New Zealand's trade. Kiwifruit remains the largest fresh fruit export but the apple industry is dynamic and advanced on these two islands between the Pacific and Tasmanian Seas. We'll complement the learning with unforgettable experiences: whale watching, wine tasting, sea kayaking, and more!

Bring a spouse or friend along for the adventure to participate with Companion Sightseeing. Extend your time in New Zealand with a five-night tour extension on the South Island. Learn about the South Pacific apple industry while connecting with your peers from across the country and indeed the world.

MEET YOUR HOSTS



Karen Lewis
Education Host

A Washington State University Extension

regional tree fruit specialist, Karen brings her expertise to the Study Tour. She is committed to helping growers get the most from their orchards and looks forward to offering an in-depth experience from rootstock to pack out.



Rod Farrow
Education Host

Incoming IFTA President and owner of Lamont Fruit Farm and Fish Creek Orchards, both in Western New York. Rod is married to a Kiwi and is excited to connect IFTA membership with the dynamic NZ fruit tree industry.

Your hosts have all traveled to New Zealand multiple times and they bring extensive first hand experience of the apple industry there. They look forward to welcoming you to NZ for this unique educational opportunity!

Molly Crist
Hospitality Lead

Molly met her husband Joel of Crist Bros. Orchards while studying Hotel Admin. at Cornell. She now operates her business, Onward Travel, on the family orchard in NY's Hudson Valley and is working to ensure a seamless & fun NZ experience.





IFTA is offering two Study Tours to New Zealand.

Week 1 travels south to north and Week 2 travels north to south. The tour programming is identical and both groups overlap for the IFTA Conference in Napier on February 26, 2018.

WEEK 1: February 16 - 27, 2018
Christchurch — Nelson — Napier

WEEK 2: February 25 - March 8, 2018
Napier — Christchurch — Nelson

DESTINATIONS

Napier/Hawke's Bay

5 Nights

Hawke's Bay is a region on the east coast of the North Island. The area is known for 1930's Art Deco architecture, beautiful beaches, and agriculture including vineyards and orchards. Hawke's Bay is home to a world-famous wine region and a temperate climate. We'll be based in Napier, a sunny city on the Pacific Ocean with a population of approximately 59,000 that is known as the Art Deco capital of the world.

Nelson-Tasman

4 Nights

The Nelson-Tasman region is an agricultural hotspot: kiwis, hops, pears, berries, and apples abound. The northern tip of the South Island is also home to natural wonders, most notably Abel Tasman National Park. The region is bordered by mountains and sea, with the artsy town of Nelson being the economic and cultural capital. Nelson has 50,000 residents and we'll be based in the center of this very walkable city.

Christchurch

2 Nights

Christchurch is said to be the most English city outside of the UK. It is New Zealand's third largest city after Auckland and Wellington. After devastating earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, the city is still rebuilding but is lively with many parks, restaurants, and the famous Botanic Gardens. Christchurch is a convenient gateway to Timaru's honeycrisp growing region.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY week 1

Depart the USA on Wednesday, February 14. Cross the International Dateline and arrive in New Zealand Friday morning.

Arrival in Christchurch

DAY 1: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16

Arrive at Christchurch International Airport and be transferred to your accommodation in the buzzing city center, adjacent to Cathedral Square. Spend the rest of your first day in the South Pacific as you like, maybe you'll stave off jetlag with a visit to the famous Botanical Gardens or one of the local city walks along the river or through the nature preserve, routes will be shared upon arrival. We'll convene early evening for a welcome dinner at Novotel Hotel. Meet fellow travelers and toast the educational and exciting tour ahead.

Meals Dinner

Timaru Orchard Tours

DAY 2: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17

Today we'll drive two hours south of Christchurch to visit New Zealand's honeycrisp producing region around Timaru. Honeycrisp New Zealand revitalized this apple growing region in Timaru. The maritime climate and the use of netting makes for nearly perfect growing conditions for high yields and good color honeycrisp.

Enjoy a free evening in Christchurch upon return. Restaurant recommendations provided.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

To Nelson via Kaikoura

DAY 3: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18

We'll depart early this morning for Kaikoura, a town that lies between mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The underwater geography results in the area around Kaikoura being rich in sea life including whales, dolphins, seals, and albatross. Choose your own adventure today: swim with dolphins, take a whale watching cruise, or embark on a guided nature hike to see seal colonies, birds and incredible vistas. After a very memorable day, we'll complete our drive to Nelson where we'll enjoy a group dinner and settle in at the centrally located Rutherford Hotel.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Nelson Orchard Tours

DAY 4: MONDAY FEBRUARY 19

Over the course of the next two days we'll focus on all areas of tree fruit production. We will have in-field discussions focused on nursery plant material, orchard establishment, 2D and 3D tree architectures and maturity / harvest management. Emphasis on modern varieties, precision orchard management and integration of technology including orchard mechanization. Return to Nelson early evening and explore the town or enjoy a dip in the hotel's pool.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Nelson Orchard Tours

DAY 5: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20

Continue learning in the field, all with an emphasis on early and sustained high yields of quality fruit. Premium fruit and high quality is the focus. Nursery and packing house stops are being considered. Local growers will join us for a festive evening. New Zealand is home to a vibrant craft beverage industry so cider makers, a winemaker, and a brewer will join us to pour their excellent libations and talk about their craft. Food trucks, live music, and a picturesque location will round out a great evening.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Abel Tasman Nat'l Park

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21

We're mixing business with pleasure so today we're off to one of the most beautiful places in New Zealand. Abel Tasman National Park is a long, skinny, coastal paradise with beautiful beaches, rock formations, and a hiking trail. Choose your own adventure today: sail on a private luxury catamaran, sea kayak along the coastline, or enjoy a guided nature hike and beach time. Spend the evening in Nelson as you please.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY week 1

Nelson to Napier

DAY 7: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22

After a leisurely morning, we're off to nearby Nelson Airport for a flight to Napier, located on the North Island. Hawke's Bay is home to most of New Zealand's apple production and will be our base for the remainder of the Study Tour. Get settled at your new accommodation and if you'd like, join a guided Art Deco themed walking tour of Napier, considered the world capital of Art Deco. We'll reconvene for dinner tonight.

Meals Dinner

Hawke's Bay Orchard Tours

DAY 8: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

We'll spend the next few days in the apple epi-center of New Zealand. First, we'll drive to a beautiful lookout: Te Mata Peak, and take in 360 degree views to get the lay of the land. We will have a mix of orchard visits and research updates. We hope to schedule a stop at the NZ Plant and Food Research to learn about ongoing tree fruit research... We will learn about the Australia/New Zealand new variety breeding and commercialization program run by Prevar.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Hawke's Bay Orchard Tours

DAY 9: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24

We'll spend a full day visiting orchards today. Modern orchard systems, new varieties and integration of technologies including plant material, netting and reflective cloth will be observed and discussed. Fruit maturity and harvest management will be addressed in the field. We will also visit a kiwi fruit farm.

Late afternoon we'll find ourselves exploring a different side of NZ's agriculture: wine. We'll have a reception with fabulous food and wine and one of Hawke's Bay's most scenic vineyards. Enjoy the local acclaimed red wines and the good company.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Napier Leisure Day

DAY 10: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

After a full week, today is set aside to enjoy your local surroundings however you please. Enjoy a completely free day or take part in an optional excursion. Optional activities include a chauffeured wine tour, white water rafting the Mohaka River, a self-guided cycling outing, or a bird watching safari to experience the Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve. Excursion pricing varies; see the registration form for details. You may wish to visit the shops in town, the popular OceanSpa pool complex, or the aquarium.

Meals Breakfast

IFTA Conference

DAY 11: MONDAY FEBRUARY 26

Both Study Tours overlap today to enjoy a stimulating day featuring top researchers and horticulturists from the South Pacific and around the world. Orchard Innovation in New Zealand and Australia will be highlighted at the conference.

We'll be based at the beautiful Napier Conference Center for the full day program. Finish the day with the full IFTA contingency and local growers at the Masonic Hotel for a festive cocktail party, complete with a Maori dance performance.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Farewell!

DAY 12: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27

Flights depart late afternoon so enjoy a leisurely morning before a short transfer to the airport. Head home with wonderful memories and educational insight.

Meals Breakfast

TRIP ESSENTIALS

TRIP LENGTH	12 days, 11 nights
TOUR DATES & PRICE	<p>Week 1: February 16–27, 2018</p> <p>\$3,375 Per Person, Double Occupancy</p> <p>\$4,590 Per Person, Single Occupancy</p> <p>A friend or spouse may participate in the Companion Sightseeing Program for the Double Occupancy rate plus a \$375 supplement.</p> <p>Contact Onward Travel if you are interested in a room upgrade. For those traveling in small groups or families, a limited number of suites with King bed and two twins are available.</p>
LODGING	<p>Napier 5 Nights The group will be split between three 4-star hotels. Two are located in the city center and one is located a ten minute walk away on the beach.</p> <p>Nelson 3 Nights Rutherford Hotel features an outdoor pool, bike hire, two restaurants, bar and cafe. Centrally located 4-star hotel with well-appointed rooms and a harbor view.</p> <p>Christchurch 2 Nights The group will be divided between Ibis Hotel & Novotel Hotel, both located in the walkable downtown, near Cathedral Square.</p>
THE FINE PRINT	<p>Detailed Terms & Conditions are provided on the registration form.</p> <p>Payment may be made by check payable to Onward Travel or by credit card. Credit card payments require a 3% fee.</p> <p>\$1,200 deposit per person is due upon registration, balance is due by November 1, 2017. If you cancel after July 1, 2017, Onward Travel retains \$500. Additional payments will be returned to you. If you cancel after December 1, 2017, 50% of total Trip Fee returned to you. If you cancel less than 30 days prior to travel; you are not eligible for a refund and Onward Travel shall retain the entire amount paid. Note the trip is transferrable and we will do our best to assist in extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to New Zealand. The passport should be valid for six months beyond the date of travel.</p>

Trip price includes the following:

- A full educational program developed by IFTA in partnership with cooperative extension and Kiwis.
- One-day conference event in Napier.
- One way Air New Zealand domestic flight between the South and North Islands.
- Airport transfers and ground transportation by luxury coach to/from all scheduled activities.
- Eleven nights accommodations in comfortable en suite rooms; choice of two-bed room or king bed.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, eight lunches, and six dinners. Memorable social events and libations provided.
- Activities and outings as detailed in the itinerary. Napier Leisure Day activities have an additional cost, see registration form for details.
- Personal service from Onward Travel and a pre-trip guide to make the most of your free time.

Registration begins March 20, 2017!

Visit www.IFTATravel.com to complete the registration form and submit payment. Get in touch if you prefer snail mail registration.

AIR TRAVEL

You may book your flight directly with Onward Travel. Group flight discounts and itineraries have been arranged with Air New Zealand from major hubs in the USA including Seattle, Detroit, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York City. Ticketing begins the second week of March 2017 and at that time a fully confirmed flight itinerary will be supplied. Onward Travel is able to arrange airfare for those extending their stay in New Zealand or departing from airports other than those listed above. View airfare details and pricing at www.IFTATravel.com.

Don't miss out... secure your spot today!
The registration deposit is fully refundable until July 1.

SOUTH ISLAND EXTENSION

Extend your time in New Zealand and experience more with a 5-night tour extension. Onward Travel has arranged a fantastic small group travel experience in New Zealand, February 11—16 OR March 8—13, that you may add on to your Study Tour.

The tour extension features the South Island, from Queenstown to Christchurch. Visit Milford Sound by boat, gaze at majestic Mt. Cook, soak in a wood-fired hot tub under the stars, enjoy a day hike on one of NZ's Great Walks, taste wine in Central Otago, and enjoy a memorable vacation with fellow IFTA Members to round out your time "Down Under."

COMPANION SIGHTSEEING

Because we know traveling to New Zealand falls under that "trip of a lifetime" category we've put together an alternate itinerary to complement the study tours, perfect for spouses or friends who want to swap farm visits for sightseeing. Enjoy daytrips with other people that spend their lives with fruit tree growers. Taste wine, visit charming towns and a wildlife preserve, enjoy adventure activities like stand up paddle boarding and cycling, take in New Zealand's breathtaking scenery from hilltops and gondolas, and more.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. View the "Trip Insurance" tab at www.IFTATravel.com for more information.

Register online at www.IFTATravel.com



Get in touch!

The travel experts at Onward Travel are happy to answer any questions and offer assistance. Please feel free to contact us!

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About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a boutique travel planning company that carefully crafts itineraries to create an authentic, engaging trip that exposes the destination and roots travelers to the place. Onward was founded by two sisters, inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that has offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades. One of the sisters, Molly Crist, is married to Joel Crist of Crist Bros Orchards in Walden, NY, so they bring a unique understanding of the fruit tree business as well as an expertise in meaningful, detail-based and hospitable group travel to this study tour, and IFTA is delighted to partner with them. You can learn more about Onward Travel at www.onwardtravel.co.