



New Zealand Horticulture Study Tour Hosted by Mike Hogan February 27 - March 10, 2025

**Leave USA for Auckland, NZ (February 27th, Thursday)*

Day 1 - (March 1, Saturday) Arrival in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, to meet your guide. Take a panoramic tour of Auckland's renowned bays and stretch your legs at the extinct volcano of Mount Eden. **optional - view Auckland gardens depending on arrival times.* In the afternoon, explore the waterfront area after checking into your hotel. Later in the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

(Overnight Auckland)

(D)

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/auckland/m-social-auckland/> or similar



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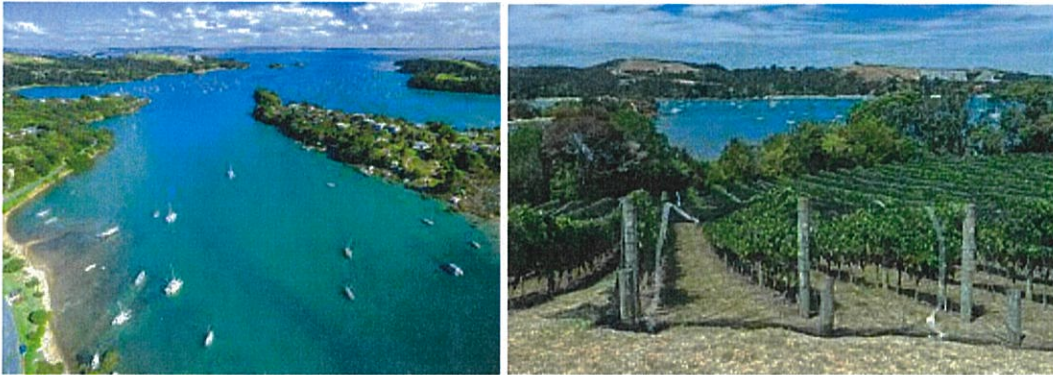
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Day 2 - (March 2, Sunday) After breakfast, take a 45 minute harbor cruise to Waiheke island with its beautiful beaches, forested walks, wineries and charming bays. Visit one of the island's unique coastal gardens and enjoy wine tasting and lunch at a leading vineyard. After lunch take time for a stroll or swim at the beach before returning to Auckland where you will have some free time for dinner on your own.

(Overnight Auckland)

(B,L)

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/auckland/m-social-auckland/> or similar

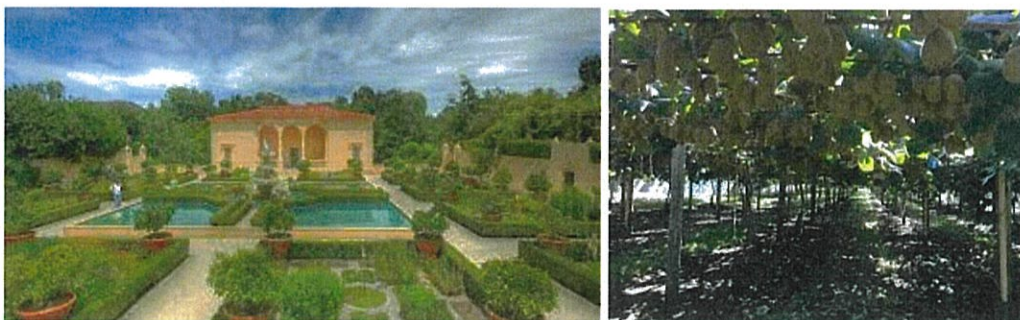


Day 3 - (March 3, Monday) Depart Auckland and travel south to the productive region of Waikato. Visit the renowned Hamilton Gardens, where the emphasis is on the different styles of garden design. After a lunch break in the pretty riverside town of Cambridge, visit an organic kiwifruit orchard and learn about one of New Zealand's signature horticultural products. Continue to lakeside Rotorua, an active geothermal region and home of native Maori culture. Dinner at your hotel tonight.

(Overnight Rotorua)

(B,D)

<https://www.rydges.com/accommodation/new-zealand/rotorua/> or similar



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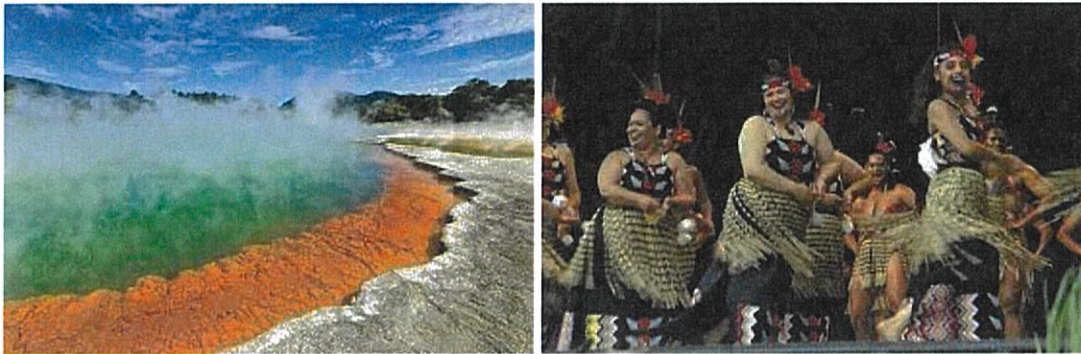
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Day 4 - (March 4, Tuesday) Depart in the morning after breakfast to visit the colorful Wai-O-Tapu geothermal wonderland. Nearby, take a forest walk and learn about New Zealand's unique native flora and fauna. Later this afternoon, visit Te Puia Whakarewarewa to meet members of the local Maori tribe and see steaming geysers and boiling mud pools, as well as a chance to spot New Zealand's rare Kiwi bird. Receive a formal welcome onto the Marae - the focal point of the village and gain insight into Maori customs, handicrafts and the Haka - the warrior challenge made famous by the All Blacks rugby team. For dinner, enjoy a delicious buffet including traditionally cooked 'Hangi' food.

(Overnight Rotorua)

(B,D)

<https://www.rydges.com/accommodation/new-zealand/rotorua/> or similar



Day 5 - (March 5, Wednesday) This morning depart Rotorua, flying to Christchurch, the 'Garden City,' in the South Island. On arrival, take an orientation tour through the rejuvenated heart of the city with time for lunch in the vibrant riverside precinct. In the afternoon, take a 50 minute guided tour of Christchurch Botanic Gardens (walking and trolley options). These expansive 51 acre gardens showcase both native New Zealand plants and a diverse array of introduced species. Also visit the graceful gardens of the nearby Mona Vale homestead. Enjoy dinner at your park side hotel tonight.

(Overnight Christchurch)

(B,D)

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/6592/index.en.shtml> or similar



Day 6 - (March 6, Thursday) Spend this day with an early visit to Ohinetahi Garden before traveling to the picturesque Banks Peninsula region and the charming French settlement of Akaroa. On arrival, visit the intriguing gardens at the Giant's House with time for lunch. The Giant's House was built in 1880 and is a unique combination of mosaics and terraced gardens. This afternoon, take a harbor cruise, spotting the rare Hector's dolphins (smallest in the world), pelagic birdlife, penguins, seals and other marine life inhabiting the area. Return to Christchurch for a free evening.

(Overnight Christchurch)

(B,L)

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/6592/index.en.shtml> or similar



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Day 7 - (F) March 7, Friday After breakfast, depart across the Canterbury Plains showcasing a patchwork of farming enterprises. Visit a historic farm garden and enjoy morning tea with the owners in their gracious homestead. Carry on south via the austere beauty of the Mackenzie Basin to the aqua-blue lake of Tekapo. Break for lunch in the lakeside townships. Continue alongside Lake Pukaki to an alpine settlement at the base of New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki Mount Cook (12,218 feet) and surrounding mountains. Time for a stroll or perhaps a visit to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center, one of the world's greatest explorers, before a buffet dinner at the Hermitage Lodge tonight.

(Overnight Mount Cook Village)

(B,D)

<https://www.hermitage.co.nz/stay/> or similar



Day 8 - (S) March 8, Saturday After an opportunity for hiking or flightseeing (weather permitting), depart and travel over Lindis Pass into the lush fruit orchards, vineyards and fine-wool sheep farms of Central Otago. Visit a 7,000 acre high country station farming wool and meat producing sheep, beef cattle and deer. New Zealand has around 2,800 deer farms with a national farmed herd of over 1 million head producing venison meat and deer velvet, the mature antler highly valued in Asia and can be used to improve athletic performance. Enjoy lunch on the shores of picturesque Lake Wanaka, making a stop at the Lavender Farm. Later, arrive in beautiful Queenstown, one of New Zealand's leading travel destinations. A free evening to enjoy this lively lakeside town.

(Overnight Queenstown)

(B,L)

<https://novotelqueenstownlakeside.com-newzealand.com/en/> or similar

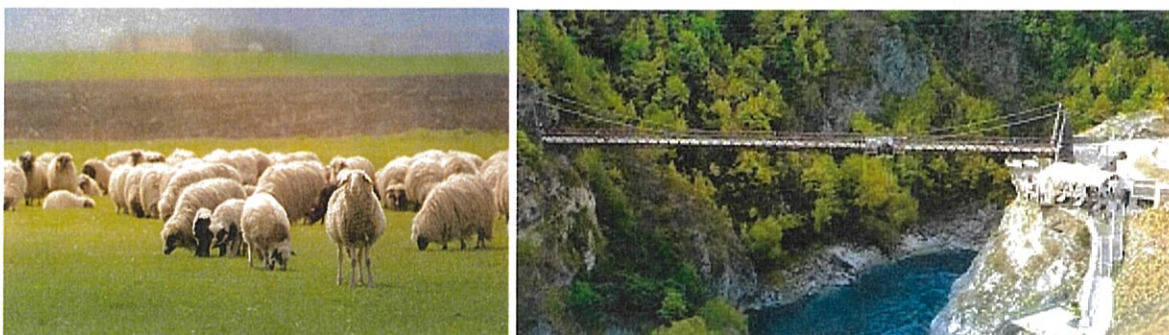


Day 9 - (March 9, Sunday) Visit the expansive and varied Chanticleer Garden (or similar) as well as the charming historic gold mining settlement of Arrowtown. Break for lunch and spend time exploring this delightful village. Return via Kawarau Bridge, where the world's first commercial bungy jumping site was born. After lunch on your own, take a cruise on the steamship *TSS Earnslaw* to Walter Peak High Country Farm. Explore the beautiful gardens, see the shepherd working their dogs with the merino sheep and enjoy a delicious farewell dinner. Return to Queenstown for your final night in New Zealand.

(Overnight Queenstown)

(B,D)

<https://novotelqueenstownlakeside.com-newzealand.com/en/> or similar



Day 10 - (March 10, Monday) Have breakfast at the hotel before departing for Queenstown Airport and your return flight back home to the U.S.

(B)

"This itinerary is subject to change without prior approval. Please note that if a last minute cancellation occurs, a replacement technical visit will be arranged."

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Per person based on double occupancy (20 minimum travelers) - \$4,975
Single room supplement - \$975

<https://form.jotform.com/240765714314152>

Payment Schedule:

June 15, 2024 - Registration deadline

June 30, 2024 - \$1,000 non refundable deposit

November 1, 2024 - Final payment due

***3% transaction fee for all credit cards**

Included:

Accommodations

Bus Transportation

Guide

Tours/Technical Visits

Entrance fees that are included are noted in the above itinerary

Meals as indicated on the itinerary

B= Breakfast

L= Lunch

D= Dinner

Not Included:

International Airfare

Domestic Airfares in New Zealand

Gratuities for guide & driver

Cost of valid U.S. passport or other documents necessary for international travel

Alcoholic beverages

Travel insurance coverage (highly recommended)

Airline seat upgrades

Excess baggage fees

Souvenirs

Leisure activities on free days

Hotel charges for incidentals, including telephone calls, pay per view movies, mini bars, and snack trays, personal laundry, room service, and hotel penalties for smoking in hotel rooms.

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