

# **NEW ZEALAND, AOTEAROA**

**June 9 – 24, 2010**

**Tour Price: \$4495.00 PER PERSON\***

**Based on travel from Honolulu for two persons sharing a double room**

## **Tour Highlights:**

- Christchurch's International Antarctic Centre and the Canterbury Museum and Arts Centre
- The South Island's Fox Glacier
- A visit to Puzzling World(something unusual, but very interesting)
- Queenstown with shopping, dinner atop Bob's Peak and a visit to Arrowtown
- The Milford Sound Cruise including a box lunch as well
- The tour of Dunedin including a tour of Cadbury World and Olveston House plus the Haggis Ceremony
- A chance to see Mt. Cook, the tallest peak in all of New Zealand
- Tour of Wellington, Capital City of New Zealand
- Rotorua shows us its Kiwi Birds, a closer look at the Maori Culture with their "luau", the Hangi
- The unique glow worms of Waitomo and the shearing of Angora Rabbits
- A tour of Auckland including the Auckland Museum
- A chance to sample some delicious New Zealand ice cream
- The opportunity to see animals from sheep to red deer, alpacas to llamas, kiwis to emus, and wild rabbits to possums

## **Tour Includes(subject to change):**

- Airfare:** From Honolulu to Christchurch to Wellington to Rotorua and return from Auckland to Honolulu.
- Accommodations:** Shared Accommodations including taxes with private bath/shower facilities in New Zealand and one night in Honolulu.
- Transportation:** All ground transportation from the airport to the hotels and to the included sights and excursions as required.
- Meals:** Thirteen Breakfasts, 1 Box Lunch, Twelve Dinners and 1 Hangi are provided.
- Tour Escort:** An escort from Hilo accompanies the group throughout the tour.

## **Tour Presented By:**

**Tours By Charlie (TAR-5420)**

**110 Kinoole Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720**

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**09 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 1**

**WEDNESDAY**

**HILO / HONOLULU /**

**AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

An evening flight will take us from **Hilo** to **Honolulu** to meet our flight to **Auckland, New Zealand**. After we arrive in Honolulu, we will catch the Wiki Wiki bus to go to Air New Zealand to check in for our flight to Auckland. Because our flight crosses the International Dateline, we will arrive in Auckland on Friday.

**11 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 3**

**FRIDAY**

**AUCKLAND / CHRISTCHURCH**

Our arrival in **Auckland** is just a stopover to transfer to our flight to **Christchurch**. We will arrive by late morning. Once we arrive and complete customs and immigration formalities, our bus will take us to our hotel, the **Chateau on the Park** (or similar). The remainder of the day is free to relax and recover from jetlag.

**Dinner** will be served tonight at the hotel.

**12 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 4**

**SATURDAY**

**CHRISTCHURCH**

Enjoy **Breakfast** at the hotel this morning. A tour of the city will reveal why it is known as the “Garden City”. Its award winning gardens and the tranquility of the historic buildings all blend gracefully with the modern. We will see Cathedral Square, Mona Vale, Deans Bush, Canterbury’s first European settlement, the University of Canterbury, the Avon River and Hagley Park. We will also visit the **Canterbury Museum and Arts Centre**. See a moa in a minute or spend time exploring New Zealand’s rich cultural and natural heritage. Canterbury Museum is in the heart of Christchurch City, within strolling distance of the Botanic Gardens.

From here we will go to visit the **International Antarctic Centre**. The unique relationship with **Antarctica** was established almost a century ago when the great explorers like **Scott** and **Shackleton** used **Christchurch** and the port of Lyttelton as their last stop before heading South. The International Antarctic Centre is a working campus of organizations whose business is centered on Antarctica. It is the home of the United States Antarctic Program which is run by the National Science Foundation whose logistical support is provided by the US Air National Guard Detachment 13 and Raytheon Technical Services International Company.

The aim of this attraction is to recreate the atmosphere of Antarctica and provide visitors with an interactive, fun and exciting experience of the “Great White South”. You’ll have a chance to experience the four dramatic seasons which make up a year in Antarctica. Feel the chill of winter and watch daylight return as the Antarctic summer approaches after four months of darkness. With the aid of interactive technology, you can find out about the people who live and work there today. Try on the polar survival clothes they wear, explore Scott Base, the home of Antarctica New Zealand, and view the penguin capers video. You can even experience Antarctic conditions first-hand; even though the day may be hot. Slide down a snow slope, explore a snow cave, feel icy wind-chills or just enjoy the feel of being in Antarctica. Look inside a polar tent, climb aboard the snow mobile, or have a photo taken in front of a unique Antarctic scene.

Learn about the Antarctic Treaty, transportation to and from Antarctica, the ozone layer plus the wildlife and their natural habitat. **Dinner** is included at the hotel.

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13 JUNE 2010

DAY 5

SUNDAY

CHRISTCHURCH – ARTHUR'S  
PASS – HOKITIKA - FRANZ  
JOSEF

We're headed southwest today, but, before we leave, do have your **breakfast** first. This is our first day to see what makes up this land called New Zealand. The sheep are seen as are the red deer and bee hives. There is lumber in the yards and coal in the freight cars as we ride aboard the **Tranzalpine Express** for a journey across the Canterbury Plains. At **Arthur's Pass**, we will reboard our coach and continue to the west coast with the rainforests surrounding us. We just might catch our first glimpse of New Zealand's mountain parrot, the **Kea**. This highly social and inquisitive bird, is known for its mischievous behavior and raucous cries. When we reach the coast, we turn southward and stop in **Hokitika** where we visit a **Greenstone(jade) Factory** and can also shop at a **Glass Factory, Gold Shop and Wood Craft Shop** nearby. We will continue onward through open country and into areas of bush as we past scattered milling, farming and dairy areas to the township of **Franz Josef** where our hotel, **Fox Glacier Hotel**(or similar), and **dinner** await us.

14 JUNE 2010

DAY 6

MONDAY

FRANZ JOSEF – CROMWELL  
- QUEENSTOWN

**Breakfast** is served at the hotel this morning. Before our journey continues southward, we will stop for a look at **Fox Glacier**. You should notice that **hapuu** or tree ferns, like those found in Hawaii, also grow here and can be seen throughout this area. We will cross the Cook River Bridge and travel through forests of red and white pine to Bruce Bay, an old goldmining settlement. As we travel on, we will pass tranquil Lakes Paringa and Moeraki, the haunt of the White Heron, to the township of Haast. From here, we drive along the Haast Pass Highway and see Mount Brewster and the Brewster Glacier. When we stop for lunch, you can continue to try the delicious **New Zealand Ice Cream!**

At **Wanaka**, we will visit **Puzzling World** with its eccentric shaped buildings and puzzling rooms. A visit to the toilet is a must! Then, at **Cromwell**, we will make a stop at a fruitstand for some fresh and dried fruits. You can also have ice cream with fresh fruit mixed into it. Here in Cromwell, you'll see cherry orchards, and vineyards with signs selling asparagus and strawberries, among other vegetables and fruits. Gold was also found in this area so old gold miners' huts can still be seen on the hillside.

Our hotel in **Queenstown** is the Copthorne **Lakefront Hotel**(or similar). **Dinner** is provided.

15 JUNE 2010

DAY 7

TUESDAY

QUEENSTOWN –  
ARROWTOWN - SHOPPING

After **breakfast**, we make a brief stop atop **Coronet Peak**, a ski resort in the winter, for a panoramic view of the area before we visit historic **Arrowtown** where gold was once mined. Here you can visit the **museum** and browse in the various shops in the town. Of course, this affords yet another opportunity to have more ice cream! Before we return to Queenstown, we will stop for a visit and tour at the **AJ Hacket Bungy Jump Centre** at the Kawarau Bridge. This is just one of two jump sites in Queenstown, but the only one which you jump from a bridge and can get wet in the river below. Anyone brave enough to try bungy jumping may do so (strictly at your own expense and at your own risk – last year, four brave souls jumped).

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15 JUNE 2010

DAY 7

TUESDAY

QUEENSTOWN –  
ARROWTOWN - SHOPPING

The afternoon is free for more some leisurely shopping and some lunch (on own). For lunch, you will find a variety of food including Japanese, Chinese, Indian and other ethnic food restaurants. Tonight we will ride a gondola up to **Bob's Peak**. From the top, Lake Wakatipu can be seen below with the Cecil and Walter Peaks in the distance. While we are here, a **Buffet Dinner** is included at the **Skyline Chalet Restaurant**.

16 JUNE 2010

DAY 8

WEDNESDAY

QUEENSTOWN – MILFORD  
SOUND – TE ANAU

We have a busy day ahead of us so be sure to have your **Breakfast** before we leave the hotel. Our destination is **Milford Sound** and to get there we travel through the **Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys** to the **Homer Tunnel**. The friendly **Kea** birds may be seen in this area as well. There may be a surprise for us at the Tunnel so we will have to wait and see. On the other side of the tunnel, the surrounding peaks can be covered with a multitude of waterfalls of all sizes. They are a sight to behold. We will be cruising **Milford Sound** where we see the cascading **Bowen and Stirling Falls** and the sparkling **Pembroke Glacier and Mitre Peak**. At **Seal Point**, fur seals may be seen. If we are lucky, we may see penguins and dolphins too. A **box lunch** is provided for the cruise. After the cruise, we will go to the most southerly town of our trip, **Te Anau**, to our hotel, **Te Anau Hotel and Villas** (or similar). This hotel has a swimming pool if anyone cares to use it! **Dinner** awaits us here.

17 JUNE 2010

DAY 9

THURSDAY

TE ANAU – DUNEDIN

Here's another busy day for all so be sure to have your **Breakfast** before we leave for **Dunedin**. As we leave the area, **Red Deer** farms can be seen here too, but it was here where such farms were first started. Europe is the marketplace for the meat. We will turn northeastward as we travel through more farmland before reaching Lumsden, then travel the Waimea Plains to **Gore** and on to **Balclutha** where we cross the Clutha River, once famous for its alluvial gold. By now, you will have noticed that it is not unusual to find public toilet facilities available and well maintained in each little town along our journey. That's something that we don't have in Hawaii!

From here we continue due north to **Milton**, cross the Taieri River as we reach **Dunedin**. We are greeted in the city by a collection of classic Victorian and Edwardian buildings including cathedrals, the University of Otago, Dunedin Railway Station and the court house. If there is time, we will stop at the Octagon in the heart of the city and have a bit of a walk around the area.

In Dunedin, we will start with a guided tour of **Oveston House**. (Cameras are not allowed inside the house unfortunately.) It was built between 1904 and 1906 and is a Jacobean style house of double brick, faced with Moeraki gravel and Oamaru stone, Inside we will find gleaming antique furniture, paintings, silverware, ivory and crystal as we tour the house. There's a 1906 Steinway grand piano to be found in the home and, in a garage outside, a 1922 Fiat 510 Tourer limousine, has been fully restored and is now on display.

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17 JUNE 2010

DAY 9

THURSDAY

TE ANAU – DUNEDIN

Next is a stop at **Cadbury World**, a chocolate themed attraction and one of just three that Cadbury has around the world. It is an experience that will delight your tastebuds, but, sorry no cameras are allowed here too. Included here are the factory tour, retail outlet and visitor center (last year's group received at least 5 chocolate bars). Tonight we will enjoy the traditional **Haggis ceremony**. It's a rousing ceremony of bagpipes, Highland dancing, the haggis, a wee bottle of whiskey, Robbie Burn's famous "address to the Haggis" and the participation of the audience.

Dinner will be served at our hotel, the **Dunedin City Hotel** (or similar).

18 JUNE 2010

DAY 10

FRIDAY

DUNEDIN – MT COOK - TWIZEL

Even though this is an easy day, have **breakfast** before we leave. As we head north, we will stop to visit the **Palmerston Monarch Butterfly and Bird haven**. Here you can see the various stages of the butterfly's development. The many parrots to be found here may even bring a smile or two to your face. Not far from here, we will make a brief stop to view the unique **Moeraki Boulders**. The question that everyone has in mind is how and where did these boulders come from. A walk along the beach affords everyone a closer look at these boulders. On we go to **Oamaru** which is known for its predominantly white stone buildings. Oamaru stone is a white granular limestone that is found in this area. There may be another surprise for us at Waianakarua. Will we get to see it? From here we will turn westward and inland as we follow the Waitaki River past Lake Benmore and head to the town of **Omarama**. Remember that lunch is your opportunity to have yet another ice cream cone! Ahead is **Twizel**, our home for the night, which is just south of **Mount Cook**, New Zealand's highest peak. As we continue to get closer to the mountain, we will stop at Peter's Lookout for our first sight. Mount Cook Village and the Hermitage Hotel are the closest we will be able to get to the mountain. We will have some time here to take a walk about if you wish.

Our hotel in **Twizel** is the **Mackenzie Country Inn** (or similar) where **dinner** will be served.

19 JUNE 2010

DAY 11

SATURDAY

TWIZEL – LAKE TEKAPO –  
CHRISTCHURCH

**Breakfast** is the first order of the day as we leave to return to **Christchurch**. Our first stop is at **Lake Tekapo** where we will see the **Church of the Good Shepherd and the bronze statue of a sheepdog** nearby. We will drive along Mt Cook Salmon Farm Road where we will pass a salmon farm. Rabbits and hares can be seen here too. Beyond the plains of the **Mackenzie Country** the road rises over **Burke's Pass** before descending to the sheep country around **Fairlie and Geraldine**. Wheat, barley, tomatoes and more vineyards are grown in this area. Still more sheep and red deer are seen along with llamas, alpacas and emus. We will also stop to do a bit of **shopping** before going on to Christchurch.

We return to the **Chateau on the Park Christchurch** for the night. **Dinner** awaits our arrival at our hotel.

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20 JUNE 2010

DAY 12

SUNDAY

CHRISTCHURCH – WELLINGTON  
- ROTORUA

**Breakfast** will be served at the hotel. We will fly first to **Wellington, New Zealand's capital city** this morning. Upon our arrival, our first stop is to the top of **Mount Victoria** for a panoramic view of the city center, nearby suburbs, the harbor and Cook Strait. We will visit the **Botanic Gardens** to see the Begonia House and the Rose Gardens. We will drive by the **Town Hall, the Beehive and Parliament Buildings, the National Library, Wellington Cathedral, and Queens wharf**. A stop will be made at old **St. Paul's Church** as well.

At the end of the tour, we will return to the airport for our flight onward to **Rotorua**. Our North Island driver will meet us and take us to your hotel, the **Mellennium Rotorua** (or similar) where **dinner** awaits us tonight.

21 JUNE 2010

DAY 13

MONDAY

ROTORUA

Start your day with a good **Breakfast**. Our morning will start with a visit to **Whakarewarewa Maori Village and Arts and Crafts Institute**. Here we will learn a bit more about the Maori Culture as well as see a thermal area where geysers, hot springs, boiling mud and bathing pools can be seen. Next is the **Rotorua Agrodome** where we learn more about the different breeds of sheep, the wool industry, sheep shearing, a chance to milk a cow and lamb feeding. The **Rainbow Springs** will show us **rainbow, brown, tiger, and North American brook trout** as well as the **Captain Cooker**, a species of wild pig, and live **kiwi birds** in a special habitat.

You'll have time in the afternoon to do some shopping or relax in a thermal pool nearby. Don't forget we will have the **Maori Hangi Dinner and Show** tonight at our hotel.

22 JUNE 2010

DAY 14

TUESDAY

ROTORUA – WAITOMO –  
AUCKLAND

Have your **Breakfast** as we prepare to leave this morning and head north. We will cross over the bush-clad Mamaku Range through the Fitzgerald Glade to an area of planted pine forests with **Putaruru** as its most notable centre and timber milling industry. Next are the provincial farming centres of **Kihikihi and Otorohanga** situated in the richest dairy region of New Zealand. **Waitomo and the Waitomo Glow Worm Grotto** is our first stop today, a most unique sight. We will have a guided tour of the Waitomo limestone cave and a boat ride through the darkness where the numerous insects glow reflecting off the water deep underground. A nearby restaurant gives us a chance to see the plant that bears **kiwi fruit** before we continue still further northward and pass through **Hamilton**.

The road runs north through **Ngaruawahia**, home to the **Maori Queen and Huntly**, one of New Zealand's most important coalmining centres. We continue on through the rolling farmlands of the dairy district of **Waikato**, its horse-breeding ranches and Auckland's vineyards where wine is produced. In **Auckland**, we will go directly to our hotel the **Copthorne Harbour City Auckland**(or similar). **Dinner** brings our day to an end.

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**23 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 15**

**WEDNESDAY**

**AUCKLAND**

**Breakfast** starts our day off right for this day of sightseeing. Included today on our tour of the Queen City is a drive through downtown and waterfront areas and a stop atop **Mt. Eden** for a panoramic view of this sprawling city. We will descend through the graceful Domain to Auckland's **War Memorial Museum** which houses the world's finest collection of Maori artifacts. We will also visit quaint Parnell Village and some of the affluent residential suburbs.

As this is our last night in New Zealand, we will have our farewell dinner at the **Harbourside Seafood Bar & Grill** (or similar).

**24 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 16**

**THURSDAY**

**AUCKLAND / HONOLULU**

Time to return to **Hawaii** and to enjoy our last **breakfast** in **New Zealand**. Before we depart Auckland, a \$20.00 New Zealand tax must be paid so keep that amount of money aside for payment at the airport. Since we cross the International Dateline one more time and thus move back in time, we will arrive in Honolulu in the evening on **June 23, 2010, Wednesday**.

After we arrive and clear immigration and customs, we will go to our hotel at the airport for the night, the **Honolulu Airport Hotel** (or similar). It will be too late to return to Hilo.

**24 JUNE 2010**

**DAY 16**

**THURSDAY**

**HONOLULU / HILO**

With our departure for Hilo this morning, our tour to **New Zealand** comes to an end. We hope that you will have enjoyed your tour and returned with many happy memories and souvenirs!!! Hopefully, you will have even learned a thing or two, confirmed some of the things you may have already known about New Zealand, and gained a greater appreciation of the differences between New Zealand and Hawaii.