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Tour:

Destination:

Specialization:

Itinerary:

New Zealand - A North Island STEM Tour

Auckland, Pakiri Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island, Rotorua, Waitomo, Tongariro National Park, Wellington & Nelson
Ecology, Marine Biology, Animal Science, Geology, Volcanology, History & Culture
10-days / 9-nights in New Zealand + Air Travel

New Zealand STEM Studies				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Overnight Travel			
2	Overnight Travel			
3	Arrive New Zealand, clear customs and transfer to Hotel	Check-in & Health & Safety Meeting	Auckland Sightseeing - Mount Eden Volcano, Auckland Harbor & Sky Tower	Dinner
4	Day Excursion - Goat Island - Marine Biodiversity Presentation			Dinner
5	Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife - Research Mission			Dinner
6	Karangahake Gorge - Geology, Mining & Ecology		Waihi Beach - Dune Ecology Research + Service Mission with Planting	Dinner
7	Taupo Volcano Zone - Ziplining	Tamaki Maori Village - Cultural Experiences & Tribal Dinner		
8	Volcano & Geothermal Review	Hot Spring Chemical Analysis	Cable Car up Mount Ngongotaha - Gondola & Luge	Dinner
9	Waitomo Caves with Glow Worm Visit	Ruakuri Rainforest Cave Walk	Waitomo Discovery Center & 'Fragile Environments' Presentation	Dinner
10	Mt Ruapehu Volcano Hike with Altitude Zonation Study		White Water Rafting (Grade III)	Dinner
11	Transfer to Wellington	Te Papa National Museum	Zealandia Eco Sanctuary	Dinner
12	Free time in Wellington	Transfer to Airport, depart for home on an Overnight Flight		
13	Arrive Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an "example" of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Overnight flight; meals in flight

No services; in flight.

Day 2

Overnight flight; meals in flight

No services; in flight.



Day 3

Meals in flight; dinner in destination

Arrive Auckland, transfer to your hotel and get settled. Later, we'll have our Visions Welcome & Safety Meeting and get some Auckland exploring in!

New Zealand... Widely held to be one of the most breathtaking countries on the planet, New Zealand is a phenomenal travel destination! The rugged mountains and remote valleys that thrust the destination into the world's spotlight through the **Lord of the Rings** trilogy tell only part of the story – you'll also find beaches, fjords, lakes and generous swathes of forest, not to mention age-old Maori culture, forward-looking cities and, famously, a world-class array of outdoor activities. What's not to love?
--World Travel Guide

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city with nearly a third of the country's population. It's a sprawling low-rise conurbation in a fantastic coastal location, the narrowest part of the upper North Island. No place is more than a few miles from the sea and the beach, and it's full of greenery because the small volcanoes scattered throughout the urban area are mostly recreational reserves.

- ✓ Visit Mount Eden Volcano
- ✓ Experience the thrill of jet boating on Auckland Harbor
- ✓ Free time to shop
- ✓ Sky Tower - take in breath-taking panoramic views of Auckland at night



Day 4

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we'll have a day excursion to Goat Island for marine Biology and Ecology. Later in the evening we'll return to our hotel for dinner.

- ✓ Drive Goat Island
- ✓ Goat Island Marine Reserve - Explore the intertidal zone and collect data
- ✓ Enjoy a glass-bottom boat ride in the Reserve
- ✓ Visit the Discovery Center with activities including touch tanks and whelk behavior investigation
- ✓ Presentation from local marine scientists on marine biodiversity management



Day 5

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we'll have a day excursion to Tiritiri Matangi Island with a focus on wildlife diversity and management. Later in the evening we'll return to our hotel for dinner.

- ✓ Ferry ride to Tiritiri Matangi Island Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife. (New Zealand has pioneered the use of off-shore islands; easily made pest free as havens for species at risk Especially for birds that are flightless or don't fly well)
- ✓ Guided walk to spot the island's animal residents and understand forest ecology in New Zealand
- ✓ Discussion of NZ biodiversity and the challenges of managing populations with small gene pools
- ✓ Monitoring of bird behavior OR data collection to compare structure of primary and secondary forests



Tiritiri Matangi
Open Sanctuary

Day 6

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today our focus is on Mining with mineral formation and extraction along with Natural Ecosystem Change study including climate shifts, species movement and ecological succession. We will overnight this event in Rotorua.

- ✓ Head south today through the Karangahake Gorge. Hike the 'Windows Walk' through the rainforest and into disused mining tunnels, offering fabulous views of the gorge through windows originally cut to dump waste rock into the river. This interpreted walking circuit also brings alive the technology and context of gold-mining in the 1800s

- ✓ Continue to Waihi, stopping at the opencast mine lookout to compare 21st and 19th centuries goldmining technologies and damage mitigation
- ✓ At Waihi Beach, examine the dune system, first from Mount Pio, a vantage point providing a view of the whole beach, then by carrying out a transect and measuring long-shore drift
- ✓ Spend an hour helping local **Coast Care** (regional council initiative) rehabilitate seriously eroded parts of the dunes by planting native dune grasses



Day 7

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we'll visit the Taupo Volcanic Zone. This zone, running from the north-east coast to the center of the North Island, is where New Zealand's most active volcanoes are found because it overlies the subduction zone where the Pacific tectonic plate is being forced beneath the Australian plate. The Maori people who still live in this area were originally drawn here by the benefits of the hot springs and mud pools. In the evening, we'll return to Rotorua.

- ✓ Zip-line through ancient rainforest for adventure and conservation. This company has a very successful project, partly funded by your activity fees to rid the area of pest animals and return birdsong to the forest
- ✓ Tamaki Maori Village: experience a traditional welcome, see and participate in demonstrations of traditional skills, enjoy a cultural performance and finally a hangi (ground oven- cooked) meal



Day 8

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today focuses on tectonic processes, tourism and the incredible Maori culture!

- ✓ Te Puia - Includes an introduction to volcanic and geothermal activity in New Zealand and its biggest geysers. Enjoy the spectacle of Pohutu exploding 30m in the air and the mesmerizing sight of bubbling hot mud and springs
- ✓ Learn about Maori Culture with New Zealand's most acclaimed school of traditional Maori carving
- ✓ Perform a chemical analysis (qualitative or quantitative) of hot spring water
- ✓ Gondola and Luge: cable car ride up Mount Ngongotaha with stunning views of the lake and features of Rotorua caldera. Ride back down on a concrete track (one luge ride included)



Day 9

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we'll visit Waitomo Caves & Village. In the evening, we'll overnight at the Ruapehu Hotel in National Park Village. Waitomo Caves Village and cave system are major tourist attractions. The caves are noted for their stunning stalactite and stalagmite displays, and for their glow-worms (the fungus gnat *Arachnocampa luminosa*). The word Waitomo comes from the Māori language 'wai' meaning water and 'tomo' meaning a sinkhole. These Caves are believed to be over two million years old and have been the center of increasingly popular commercial caving tourism since 1900.

- ✓ Drive to Waitomo to visit the famous glow worm caves
- ✓ Ruakuri Walk: a short rainforest walk in the collapsed caves
- ✓ Waitomo Discovery Center with a special presentation on human activity in fragile environments



Day 10

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we head into Tongariro National Park for a great day of fun and exploration! We'll again overnight in the National Park Village.

- ✓ Take a 2-hour hike (Silica Rapids) on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu Volcano, the highest mountain in the North Island and the setting of many **Lord of the Rings** "Mordor" scenes
- ✓ Carry out an altitudinal zonation study (600 m to 1600 m -2000' to 5500')
- ✓ Explore spatial variation: plant diversity in relation to eruption history and climate in the park
- ✓ Go Whitewater rafting! Grade 3, 60 rapids, 3-hour experience; perfect for beginners and the experienced



Day 11

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today we'll drive south to Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand and a 4-hour transfer. Wellington is located in the center of the country and is famous for being windy. The city is often buffeted by strong gusts that are funneled through Cook Strait. Hemmed in by hills, Wellington city sits on a beautiful harbor. Houses cling to the slopes as there is not much flat land. The rugged Rimutaka and Tararua mountain ranges loom beyond the harbor. Wellington is a thriving urban center with many galleries, museums, theatres and festivals. Cafés, restaurants, bars, shops, cinemas and apartments keep the inner city lively. After a great day of exploring, we'll overnight here.

- ✓ Visit Te Papa New Zealand's national museum
- ✓ Take an educational and extended Twilight tour around New Zealand's unique predator-free sanctuary, **ZEALANDIA**
- ✓ Venture further and deeper into the valley to discover the riches of New Zealand's flora and fauna at its very best. With your personal guide, learn about the history, sights and sounds of the valley and its secrets!



Day 12

Breakfast included; lunch on own, dinner in flight

It's time to pack up and head home! Following breakfast and depending on flight and/or travel times we'll have the morning free then will start to say goodbye to New Zealand taking memories with us that will last forever!

Day 13

Meals in flight

Arrive home!

NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip international flights
9-nights' accommodation in New Zealand
Airport transfers & group transportation to activities
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on your
night of arrival and ending with breakfast on
your day of departure
All inclusions as shown in the above itinerary
Dedicated Tour Ambassador
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Lunches; available for \$12 (New Zealand) per day upon
request and pre-booking
Snacks or beverages between included meals
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Transfers to/from home airport
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in
Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items,
recreation charges, purchases billed to room,
Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid/ bellman services,
Visions Ambassador, local guides

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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