



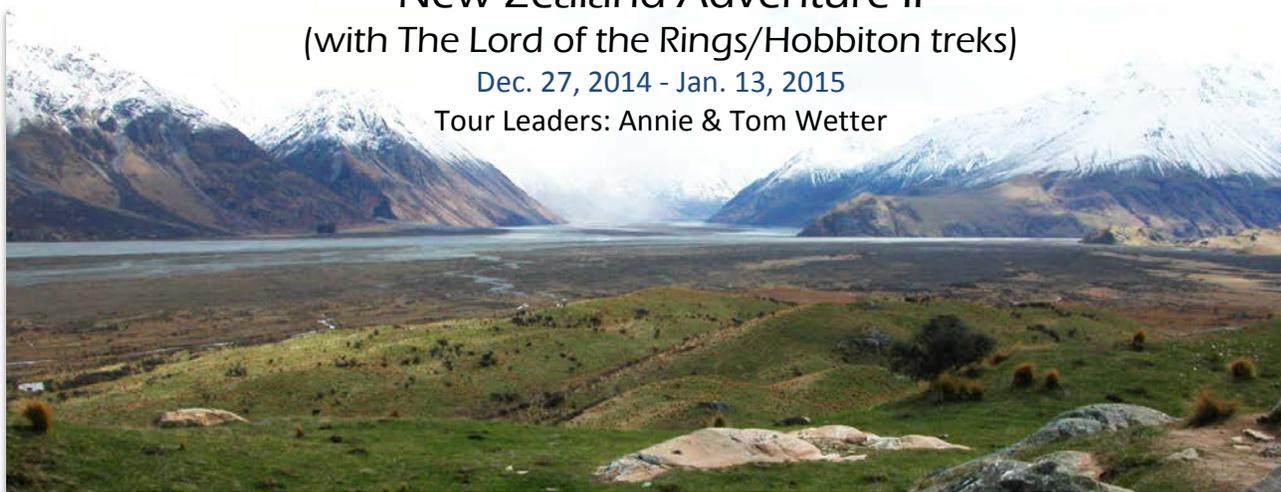
Adventure Tours University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

New Zealand Adventure II

(with The Lord of the Rings/Hobbiton treks)

Dec. 27, 2014 - Jan. 13, 2015

Tour Leaders: Annie & Tom Wetter



standing on Mt. Sunday (Edoras)

Overview

New Zealand is one of the most popular vacation destinations in the World and this tour will capture many of the incredible highlights travelers can experience on North and South Islands. From the waterfalls and underwater observatory in Milford Sound, to the pristine sandy beaches of Abel Tasman, to the mineral blue lakes within volcanic craters of Tongariro Alpine Crossing, to the Auckland Museum & gardens, to the spas and geothermal activity in Rotorua, to the rich Maori culture and foods, to the many wineries of the Marlborough region, there is a lot built into this adventure... The terrain, ecosystems, wildlife, culture, and activities in New Zealand astonish visitors and inspire many to return year after year. This tour will also include an excursion to Mt. Sunday (Edoras) featured in the 2nd *The Lord of the Rings (LOTR)* movie, *The Two Towers*. And from both movie series, a "short" tour of Hobbiton... Whether you want to hike up and around an active volcano or relax on the beach, this trip has a broad spectrum of adventure and wellness activities for almost all abilities! This tour will be great for families too since the leaders are bringing their 12-year-old son along for the journey.

Trip Itinerary

Dec. 27 (Sat.) - 29: Depart from Home

Your adventure takes off with a flight across the Pacific and the International Dateline, skipping a day ahead (if departing from U.S.). Arrive in Auckland, NZ on Dec. 22nd and coach bus transfer from the airport to the hotel. The rest of the day is yours to relax and catch up on sleep if needed. In the evening, gather for a group welcome dinner in the city followed by an orientation with the tour leaders. Overnight in Auckland.

Dec. 30: Auckland → Henderson → Piha

Auckland, the "City of Sails," has a mix of many Polynesian cultures from area Pacific islands. Get the best of Auckland with spectacular views from the top of Mount Eden, a city tour of local gardens, Auckland Domain including Winter Gardens, the Auckland Museum (<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>), and more... Depart Auckland by bus and head west to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park with more than 16,000 hectares of native rainforest and ocean coastline. After checking in at the hotel, you can choose to hike, explore Piha, or even just relax at the hotel. The coach bus will transfer hikers to Karekare and jump on the well-known Hillary Trail to traverse north along rainforest tramping paths,

passed some stunning ocean cliff views, and then drop into Piha Valley. Known as the best surfing beach in NZ, Piha gives you several options to enjoy the village and outdoors. Eve coach bus transfer to the hotel. Overnight near Henderson.

Dec. 31: Henderson → Waipoua Forest Visit → Bay of Islands

Travel north to Waipoua Forest (with 2,300 year old tree named Tane Mahuta) for scenic forest walks. Then, off to the Bay of Islands, a maritime region boasting more than 144 islands, warm bays, a colorful history, and abundant marine life. The rest of the day is yours and you can take a water taxi to Roberton Island for hiking, snorkeling, and warm beaches, explore the Waitangi National Reserve (Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a preeminent historic site), go boating, visit a local vineyard, and more. Celebrate New Year's with spectacular fireworks at midnight over the Bay. Overnight in Paihia.



Jan. 1: Bay of Islands → Auckland

Begin your day with a venture on a scenic dolphin cruise to the exciting Hole in the Rock aboard Fullers Great Sights (<http://youtu.be/S7myv-ZyQBE>). Get up close with common and bottlenose dolphins, whales, and other marine life. Plus, you'll pass Cape Brett Lighthouse, visit Grand Cathedral Cave, and walk historic Urupukapuka Island. Early afternoon, travel back to Auckland for more sights. Overnight in Auckland.

Jan. 2: Auckland → Waitomo Caves → Hobbiton Trek → Rotorua

Depart Auckland early morning to head southwest and explore the Waitomo Caves via inner tube with professional guides (<http://www.waitomo.com/cave-tubing.aspx>). Along this quest you'll be climbing, black water tubing, leaping, and viewing the glow worms hanging from the vaulted limestone galleries above. Later today you'll transport to "Middle Earth" by way of exploring the land of Hobbiton (<http://www.hobbitontours.com/>). Featured in the first movie of *LOTR* trilogy and *The Hobbit*, this homestead movie set still remains for visitors to tour. End the tour with a group lunch at Hobbiton Café or the Green Dragon. Head to Rotorua to relax and/or explore. Overnight in Rotorua.

Jan. 3: Rotorua



A thriving Maori cultural center, Rotorua has it all! You'll first visit Te Puia and be truly amazed by the erupting geysers, bubbling mud pools, and other geothermal wonders. You'll experience The National Carving School and National Weaving School here (where skills of traditional carving, weaving, and dancing are passed on). The rest of the day is free to explore local adventures... and there are many! Possibilities include: local spas, Agrodome, mountain biking, hiking, parasailing, Agroventures, etc... Part of the group will visit a local geothermal hot spot called "Hot and Cold" where two rivers mix to form a unique wading experience. In the eve, the group will visit a recreated Maori village to learn about Maori life before Aotearoa (New Zealand) was colonized (<http://www.maoriculture.co.nz/>). Enjoy this journey back in time with cultural legends, traditional Maori entertainment (Haka dance), and a Hangi meal (lifted from the Earth Oven). Overnight in Rotorua.

Jan. 4: Rotorua → Tongariro National Park

Leave Rotorua very early and arrive in Tongariro National Park. Tongariro Alpine Crossing (TAC) (<http://www.tongarirocrossing.org.nz/>) is a well-known scenic hike in New Zealand's oldest national

park and has become a Dual World Heritage Site. This trek will require a higher fitness level with 6-8 hours of hiking, steep climbs, unpredictable weather, trekking along active volcanos, and navigation from 3,600 ft. up to 6,900 ft. above sea level. For the less adventuresome, other options in the area include: shorter hikes, walking tracks, mountain biking, kayaking, and guided tours. Overnight in Tongariro.



Jan. 5: Tongariro National Park → Wellington

A little R&R may be essential this morning, but other things may interest you.

Later morning, dotted with grazing white sheep, we'll travel through the rolling countryside giving way to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. Take the rest of the day off to relax and spend your time how you wish. You can sightsee and visit the Beehive, the historic St. Paul's Church, and the gov't building - largest wooden building in the Southern Hemisphere. There are many other activities to do... Some of the group will visit the National Museum - Te Papa (<http://www.tepapa.govt.nz>), a fascinating center dedicated to art, history, and the Maori culture. Overnight in Wellington.

Jan. 6: Wellington → Picton → Abel Tasman

Climb aboard a ferry and cruise across Cook Strait to experience what *Wine Spectator* called "the most beautiful ferry ride in the world." Arrive in Picton and stop in Nelson to sample microbrews from Founders Brewery (the first and only Certified Organic and Kosher brewery in NZ) with a history since 1854, located in Nelson (<http://foundersbrewery.co.nz/brewery/index.html>). Hike the trails of Abel Tasman National Park and arrive upon beautiful south island beaches. Overnight in Motueka.

Jan. 7: Abel Tasman/Motueka

You can choose to mountain bike or hike at your leisure in morning. Pack a lunch or head back to Motueka for some local foods. Enjoy more fun with kayaking, biking, and/or hiking the rest of the day. Some may choose to take a scenic local winery tour. Overnight in Motueka.



Jan. 8: Motueka → Christchurch

From Motueka we'll travel southwest to the popular city of Christchurch, the "World's gateway to Antarctica" and home to the host of the US show *The Amazing Race*, Phil Keoghan. The rest of the day's adventures are up to you. You may want to visit the Antarctic Center (<http://www.iceberg.co.nz/>). If gardens and heritage attractions interest you then Christchurch is perfect. Do you like cycling, bird watching, talking to farmers at the market, fishing, kayaking, scenic flights, or golf? Christchurch and the Canterbury Region have them, of course! Really, the opportunities for adventure and wellness are almost endless here. Group dinner and overnight in Christchurch.

Jan. 9: Christchurch → Cave Stream Scenic Reserve → Mt. Sunday (Edoras) → Twizel

Early morning departure from Christchurch. Head West to visit and explore the Cave Stream Scenic Reserve (<http://www.castlehill.net.nz/castlehill/cavestream/cavestream.php>) with a fun and easy spelunking experience. We'll take another journey through "Middle Earth" and experience South Island's Tolkienesque landscape as we explore Mt. Sunday. The view here is breathtaking and featured as the first image on the first page. Travel to Mt. Cook National Park, a landscape where permanent ice fields and glaciers blanket the ragged peaks and it's where New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary honed his mountaineering skills before attempting Everest. Overnight in Twizel.

Jan. 10: Twizel → Queenstown

Enjoy elegant views of mountains, valleys, and glacier lakes while heading south to Queenstown. If desired, the group could stop at Kawarau River suspension bridge to see another *LOTR* filming location (Pillars of the Kings) with optional bungee jumping. Arrive in Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world, and one of New Zealand's most gorgeous spots. The rest of the day is yours to discover Queenstown at your leisure. Set amidst spectacular scenery, Queenstown is not only an adventure epicenter, but offers excellent shops, culture, and dining. Overnight in Queenstown.

Jan. 11: Queenstown → Milford Sound → Queenstown

Your early morning ride will take you through beech forests, into Hollyford Valley's rugged grandeur, and through Homer Tunnel. Embark on a scenic cruise that brings you through the deep fjord, surrounded by sheer mountains rising almost 4,000 feet on either side. The middle of the cruise will stop at the Discovery Center and Underwater Observatory. Return to Queenstown and enjoy the remainder of your evening at leisure. Walk to restaurant for a group farewell dinner. Overnight in Queenstown.

Jan. 12 – 13 (Tues.): Queenstown → Auckland → Auckland → Home

Morning bus transfer to airport. Depart Queenstown to connect in Auckland. Depart Auckland.

COST: \$3,924 (USD)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,400 (USD)

INCLUDED: Cost includes all accommodations (4 star), luxury coach bus transport with Oceania, 2 UWSP Adventure Tours tour leaders (flying out of O'Hare), 5 group dinners, Hobbiton group lunch, Motueka group lunch, Bay of Islands – Dolphin Cruise, Waitomo Caves - Black Labrynth Tour, Hobbiton Tour, Milford Sound scenic cruise and underwater observatory, Interislander Ferry from Wellington to Picton, flight from Queenstown to Auckland on 1/12/15, and Goods and Services Tax (GST) on all inclusions above. Please note, cost includes land only rate, per person, with double occupancy accommodations. Single rooms may be limited. Depending on weather and other NZ variables, some activities or accommodations may change prior to or during the tour. This tour will accommodate most fitness/health levels, however it is suggested that all participants have at least a moderate/fair level of fitness and health. There are many options built into the itinerary to maintain flexibility and ensure a leisurely wellness adventure for everyone aboard.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip flights to Auckland, meals except where specified in itinerary, extra purchases (such as souvenirs and alcoholic beverages), bus driver gratuity, additional activities and admissions/passes, laundry, and travel insurance.

TOUR LEADERS: Annie & Tom Wetter, 715-572-6580, annie.wetter@uwsp.edu, tom.wetter@uwsp.edu

GROUP SIZE: 12 minimum - 24 maximum

CONTACT: Trevor Roark, 715-340-8186, adventure.tours@uwsp.edu

REGISTRATION: print registration, complete, & send along with \$400 (pp) nonrefundable deposit

WEBSITE: www.uwspadventuretours.com