



ACTIVE



New Zealand Active Adventure

Dates: 29 December 2019 - 14 January 2020
Tour Leaders: Trevor Roark and Becky Zelent



Adventure Tours
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Overview

Kia Ora! When people dream of adventure, many times New Zealand (NZ) pops into their heads. NZ (Land of the Long White Cloud) is known for its outdoor recreation, its wild and vast landscapes, and the beautiful Maori heritage woven into the land and sea. UWSP Adventure Tours has given groups a taste of NZ since 2013. For this tour, we're allowing options for levels based on more adventure or less adventure; something for most everyone's taste! In addition to the essential tour through Hobbiton, active travelers can choose to experience a challenging full day of canyoning (rappelling, pool jumping, zip-lining) Sleeping God Canyon (Atuatumoe) with over a 950-foot total descent. Travelers could also mountain bike the redwoods of Rotorua or Queenstown Bike Park, whitewater raft the Kaituna River (Grade 5), hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (boasting dual World Heritage status), hiking the Abel Tasman National Park coastal track, hiking and exploring Franz Joseph and Fox Glaciers, and experiencing a myriad of other activities around NZ and Queenstown - the adventure capital of the world, with challenging activities remaining optional. In addition to these outdoor adventures, travelers will still appreciate soaking in geothermal pools, city life in Auckland, Wellington, and Queenstown, and taste Maori culture throughout NZ. Tour leaders Trevor Roark and Becky Zelent can't wait to share this active NZ journey!

Itinerary

29-31 December 2019 (Sunday departure) - Flight to New Zealand (NZ)

(Travel Days) Most flights from the U.S. depart on 29 Dec., allowing for the long journey through multiple time zones. Since travelers will be arriving on various flights from around the country, your tour doesn't officially begin until the Day 1 transfer from the airport to the lodging. This allows flexibility for travelers to book the flights they want and even sometimes arrive days ahead of the rest of the group.

Day 1 (31 December) - Arrive in NZ and New Year's

Kia Ora! Welcome to NZ! Arrive in Auckland (Auckland Airport - AKL). For those arriving today, Trevor and Becky, your tour leaders, will meet you at the airport for a bus transfer into central Auckland. Spend the rest of the day exploring the city and beating jet lag. Enjoy a welcome dinner and overview of your NZ tour. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Auckland*



Mt. Eden overlooking central Auckland and Sky Tower (photo by Trevor Roark)

Day 2 - Mt. Eden and Free Day

Start the day with a relaxed hike to Mt. Eden for a 360-degree view of the city. Navigate back to the city center to explore the gardens of the War Museum, walk the streets and plazas of Brito Mart, or visit the wharf for fun, food and drink. The rest of the day is free and up to you. Some might take a ferry to Rangitoto Island Scenic Reserve to hike to the peak and check out the lava caves. We'll meet up later evening to find a spot to ring in the New Year with fireworks from the Sky Tower. *Meals included: B. Overnight in Auckland*



UWSP student Danny Dessent rappelling at Sleeping God Canyon (photo by Russ Hodgson of canyonz)

Day 3 - Full Day Canyoning Adventure/Local Coromandel Hike/Thames/Bike Hauraki Rail Trail (Options)

Option 1: An exciting and challenging day awaits those that choose to take on Sleeping God Canyon, a 930-ft descent of rappelling, zip-lining, pool jumps and scrambles. With a hefty NZ hike to start, steep waterfalls, deep dark pools, immense rock faces and breathtaking views, this ultimate adventure requires a good fitness level. Just as [canyonz](#) states, "Big jumps are optional, rappels are not!" It truly is an unforgettable adventure! Option 2: Hike Rockies Gold Mine Trail, walk the beaches, [bike the Hauraki Rail Trail](#), and/or explore the coastal town of Thames. *Meals included: L, D. Overnight in Thames*



One of 44 Hobbit Holes in Hobbiton (photo by Trevor Roark)

Day 4 - Hobbiton and Rotorua

Middle Earth was meant to be explored and today the group will visit the land of [Hobbiton](#). Hear the tales of Hobbits, see their live vegetable gardens and discover the behind-the-scenes filming secrets only shared by the guides at Hobbiton. Frodo, Bilbo and Samwise would surely love to welcome you to their homes and share a pint at the Green Dragon Inn. Then, enjoy a hikers' lunch and land in Rotorua where you can spend your free afternoon. *Meals included: L. Overnight in Rotorua*



Tutea Falls Rotorua (photo by Chris McLennan)

Day 5 - Rotorua White Water Rafting or Mountain Bike the Redwoods (both optional)

Home to the largest commercially rafted waterfall in the world (21-foot Tutea Falls), the Kaituna River's heart-pounding rapids will bring the thrill of a Grade 5 river alongside world-class guides. Combine this excitement with warm river water and Maori history lining the gorge, the whole adventure will be extraordinary. Travelers can instead mountain bike the towering and peaceful redwoods of Rotorua or even seek out a Maori cultural experience. The afternoon is free with options such as: visiting Te Puia - mud pools and Pohutu Geyser of Whakarewarewa geothermal valley, seeing kiwi up close in captivity, learning about Maori history, carving, weaving, and watching the haka (Maori ceremonial dance). *Meals included: B. Overnight in Rotorua*

Day 6 - Hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (optional) or Explore Wellington



The Emerald Lakes of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (photo by Trevor Roark)

Tongariro Alpine Crossing is given dual World Heritage Site distinction because of its geological and cultural significance. This world-renowned day hike is comfortable for most fairly-fit people and a must for locals and visitors. If mother nature brings inclement weather, the group will bypass Tongariro and head directly to Wellington. *Meals included: D. Overnight near Tongariro National Park or Wellington*

Day 7 - Wellington (Te Whanganui-a-Tara)

Depending on the day before, there will be an early morning transfer, or we'll explore Wellington all day! Join Trevor to challenge your body, mind, and emotions regardless of skill on an aerial course known as Adrenaline Forest (extra). Or choose possible extra adventures: Weta Cave for *The Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit* fans, hike the Makara Track or Mt. Victoria, mountain bike Rangituhi Trail Park, visit Te Papa Museum, plunge into the ocean from the [Wellington Diving Platform](#) and more.

Meals included: none. Overnight in Wellington



Lurtz the Orc at Weta Cave (photo by Trevor Roark)

Day 8 - Kaiteriteri/Marahau/Abel Tasman National Park

Transfer to the ferry terminal to board the Interislander and navigate Cook Strait to Picton. Hop aboard our new charter bus, meet our new driver and start the South Island journey. Arrive later in Kaiteriteri or Marahau to settle in or get outdoors to hike and explore. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Kaiteriteri/Marahau*

Day 9 - Hike Abel Tasman Coastal Track and/or Kayak



Kayaking Tasman Bay (photo by Trevor Roark)

The Abel Tasman Coastal Track isn't a strenuous hike, yet the marine coves, caves, beaches, bright blue bays and forests will surely please avid hikers. Trevor can lead you to some incredible beaches via kayaking and/or hiking. The more adventurous can book an overnight at one of the huts on the track (extra, limited availability). *Meals included: B. Overnight in Kaiteriteri/ Marahau*

Day 10 - Kaiteriteri/Marahau/Greymouth

Hike the area further, explore the shops/galleries/food of Motueka, grab a local wine tour (extra) and head to Greymouth. Weather depending, visit a fur seal colony at Cape Foulwind and grab a group lunch or dinner in Murchison, Westport or Greymouth. *Meals included: L or D. Overnight in Greymouth*



NZ fur seals (photo by Pixabay)

Day 11 - Franz Joseph Glacier/Fox Glacier

Head south on Hwy 6 for impressive views of the Tasman Sea. Arrive at Franz Joseph Glacier, a massive sheet that has receded since 1860 with a flow rate 10 times faster than typical glaciers. Hike tracks there and hop back on the bus to Fox Glacier for more exploring. This 8 mile glacier resides within Westland Tai Poutini National Park and stems from four alpine glaciers. *Meals included: D. Overnight near Fox Glacier*



Fox Glacier (photo by Pixabay)



Mt. biking Queenstown (photo by Pixabay)

Day 12 - Queenstown

Stopover for your chance to bungee jump from Kawarau Bridge (extra) and then head to Queenstown. It's the adventure capital of the world and one can do most anything here: zip-line, mountain bike (rolling trails and/or single track), luge, sky dive, charter fish, disc golf, hike, enjoy the urban life and more. Walk the cityscape and harbor to enjoy this beautiful city nestled on Lake Wakatipu, a unique waterbody known to have its own "tide". Or feel free to join Trevor or Becky on one of their excursions for the day. *Meals included: none. Overnight in Queenstown*

Day 13 - Queenstown

FREE DAY: Lots to do and such little time! Some tend to book an extra tour of the renowned Milford Sound, but it can be pricey and requires additional bus/plane travel. Deciding how to spend the day in/near Queenstown is a challenge with too many choices. [See for yourself](#). *Meals included: none. Overnight in Queenstown*



Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown (photo by Trevor Roark)

Day 14 - Queenstown

Your last chance to dance, as they say. Squeeze in one or two more final adventures or just relax, but don't forget to pick up those local souvenirs for friends and family. Your tour leaders, Trevor and Becky and will share his must-dos with you, too! Gather in the evening for a farewell dinner. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Queenstown*



dinner in Queenstown (photo by Trevor Roark)

Day 15 (14 January 2020) - Flight Home

(Travel Day) We say goodbye to an unforgettable adventure and new friends. Our journey has ended, but you may choose to stay longer in Queenstown or Auckland. Morning transfer to Queenstown Airport (ZQN). Group flight return to Auckland Airport (AKL). *Meals included: B.*

Cost and Details

COST: \$3,869 (total USD)

MY OWN ROOM: \$950 (extra USD)

Meal Key: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

INCLUDED: The cost includes all lodging (2-4 star casual, clean and sometimes rustic) based on double occupancy, all meals listed (B/L/D), all group land transfers with charter coach bus, Interislander ferry tickets, 1-2 tour leaders (depending on group size), group activities (full-day canyoning or Rail to Trail bike hire, Hobbiton tour, 1 mountain bike hire in Rotorua or Queenstown, whitewater raft Rotorua or kayak hire in Marahau, TAC bus transfer, guided hikes of Mt. Eden, the TAC, Abel Tasman, and Franz Joseph/Fox Glaciers (and possibly more), in-country flight (ZQN-AKL), NZ traveler handbook, and traveler orientation.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip airfare, extra activities, meals not listed on itinerary, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, and sundries), local drivers'/guides' tips, laundry services, and travel insurance.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost comprises land-only rate, per person. With weather and other uncontrollable variables, some activities/lodgings/schedules/meals may change prior to or during the tour. This tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels, however it is best to be in fair physical/mental shape. Many activities are optional.

TOUR LEADERS: Trevor Roark & Becky Zelent ([See more about Trevor & Becky on the tour page.](#))

GROUP SIZE: 8-20 **CONTACT:** Trevor Roark (program mgr), 715-340-8186, adventure.tours@uwsp.edu

BOOKING: Book online with a check or via credit card OR print booking form, complete and mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit. **WEBSITE:** uwspadventuretours.com

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