

New Zealand

LAND *of the* LONG WHITE CLOUD

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

March 6-22, 2026



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni and Friends,

If you've always dreamed of journeying to New Zealand someday, now is the moment to make it happen! Join us for this incredible, 14-night adventure featuring the best of New Zealand across the North and South Islands. The star attraction, of course, will be its enchanting natural beauty, and our travel experts have carefully curated excursions that showcase it. You'll cruise through splendid Doubtful Sound in dazzling Fiordland National Park, take in an impressive glacier and search for whales in the waters off Kaikoura. Look forward to more gorgeous scenery on a train ride through the Southern Alps and a stay in the vineyard-lined valleys of the Marlborough wine region!

In addition, you'll experience the exciting buzz of urban life while exploring in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown, and broaden your understanding of New Zealand's remarkable Māori culture on unique tours led by members of local Iwi, or tribes. This well-balanced program also features illuminating lectures, first-class hotels and a professional Travel Director who manages all the on-site details.

With so many terrific features and a limit of only 28 travelers, this popular program will fill quickly, so guarantee your spot by booking today!

All the best,

Debbie Vargo

Director, Alumni Tours

The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

ADV-AlumniTours@osu.edu

Visit our website at **www.go.osu.edu/travel**

Questions? Please call **800-323-7373**.

UNESCO World Heritage

Te Wahipounamu,
South West New Zealand



Fur seals, Doubtful Sound



*Hiking near
Thunder Creek Falls*



Discovery begins here



Be captivated by New Zealand's extraordinary beauty and the warm hospitality of Kiwis, as New Zealanders are affectionately known, on this exhilarating, 14-night journey! Bask in soul-stirring panoramas in the great outdoors; the values, traditions and legends of the Māori people; and the dynamism of New Zealand's great cities and towns. It's a marvelous cultural immersion in this stunning island nation that will reward you with indelible memories!



*Top: Doubtful Sound | Above: Auckland
Cover: Doubtful Sound
Mail panel: Christchurch | Maori carving
Right: Kiwi, Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary*

Inspiring Moments



- Cruise through **brehtaking Doubtful Sound** within pristine Fiordland National Park, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Breathe in the crisp air on a hike to admire the blue-tinted **Franz Josef Glacier**.
- Take in the majestic Southern Alps from the famous **TranzAlpine train**.
- Delve into **Māori legends and treasures** on fascinating cultural walking tours.
- Taste fine wines grown in New Zealand's acclaimed **Marlborough wine region**.
- Savor sweeping vistas of **Queenstown** aboard an aerial gondola.
- Appreciate lovely **Thunder Creek Falls** and the crystal-clear **Blue Pools** nestled within lush beech forests.
- Soak up **Cook Strait's picture-perfect scenery** on a celebrated ferry ride.
- Relish up-close encounters with **local wildlife** like adorable kiwi birds.



Wellington

Days 1 & 2 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Auckland, New Zealand. 🌐 Cross the international date line.

Day 3 | Auckland, New Zealand

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to the Grand Millennium Auckland, and join your group later for lunch.

Auckland. Stroll with your guide in the vibrant downtown area and learn about Kiwi customs, the city's Māori heritage and the European colonization of New Zealand.

Enrichment: Legend of Tamaki Makaurau.

Meet for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Auckland

Auckland Museum: Curator's Tour. Gain insights about New Zealand's natural history and view exquisite Māori taonga, or treasures. Enjoy lunch in the charming suburb of Parnell.

Free Time: The rest of the day is yours to plan.

Day 5 | Auckland | Wellington

Transfer to Auckland's domestic airport and fly to Wellington with lunch upon arrival. Check in to the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor and unwind this afternoon during leisure time.

Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary. Follow your guide at dusk through this urban conservation area in search of rare and endangered native wildlife like the spotted Kiwi, the national bird.

Day 6 | Wellington

Wellington Highlights. See the capital city's top sites, including the Parliament buildings, on a scenic/walking tour, and visit Old St. Paul's Church, a Gothic Revival wooden church.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Hidden Māori Treasures Walking Tour.** Local tribal members reveal the Māori heritage along Wellington's waterfront. Hear legends and view archaeological remains. Dine tonight with your group at a restaurant.

Day 7 | Wellington | Ferry to South Island | Picton | Blenheim

Check out and ferry to the South Island through picturesque Cook's Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. Arrive in Picton and head to Blenheim.

Marlborough Wine Region. New Zealand's largest winegrowing region first grabbed the world's attention in the 1980s with its aromatic Sauvignon Blanc. Try some of its exceptional varietals and savor lunch at a winery.

Check in to the Carnmore Chateau Marlborough in Blenheim.

Day 8 | Blenheim

Free Time: Make your own plans today or join one of the two optional activities.

🚲 **Elective | Guided Wine Tour by Bike.** Pedal through Marlborough's pastoral scenery on a leisurely ride to local wineries. (Active)

Auckland Museum





Whale watching,
Kaikoura

 **Elective | Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum.** Study vintage World War I and II aircraft in dramatic, detailed dioramas.


Day 9 | Kaikoura | Christchurch

Check out today and travel to Kaikoura.

Whale Watching Cruise. Look out for the amazing marine mammals that live in the waters near Kaikoura, including giant sperm whales, orcas, fur seals and dusky dolphins! Afterward, travel to Christchurch and check in to the Distinction Christchurch Hotel.

Day 10 | Christchurch

Christchurch Tour & Botanic Gardens. Get to know the South Island's largest city on a scenic tour and stroll through the leafy Botanic Gardens, founded in 1863.

 **AHI Connects | Walking Māori Cultural Tour.** Delve into ancestral creation stories, important traditions and local treasures in Ōtautahi, the Māori name for Christchurch.

Free Time: Explore more on your own.

Day 11 | TranzAlpine Train | Arthur's Pass | Hokitika | Franz Josef

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the Christchurch Railway Station.

Marlborough region



TranzAlpine Train Ride. Glide across the Canterbury Plains and through gorges and valleys in the heart of the Southern Alps on this wonderful rail experience that ends within the mountains of Arthur's Pass National Park. Drive to Hokitika. After lunch on your own, continue to Franz Josef Glacier and check in to the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier.

Day 12 | Franz Josef Glacier

Franz Josef Glacier. Delight in the unspoiled grandeur that surrounds you on a walk to the glacier lookout point. Your guide will share details about the glacier's geological features, the rain forest, and native plants and wildlife.

Day 13 | Queenstown

Check out today and depart for Queenstown.

Scenic Transfer to Queenstown. Take in spectacular landscapes of steep mountains, lush forests and secluded lakes, and stop to see Thunder Creek Falls and the Blue Pools. Check in to the Millennium Hotel Queenstown.

Day 14 | Queenstown | Arrowtown

Queenstown & Arrowtown. Admire the landmarks of Queenstown, a mecca for adventure sports enthusiasts, on a scenic

TranzAlpine Train





tour and explore Arrowtown, a former gold rush town. Later, ride a gondola up Bob's Peak for stellar views over Queenstown.

Enrichment: Extreme Sports in New Zealand.

Day 15 | Doubtful Sound | Queenstown

Doubtful Sound Tour. A truly memorable day awaits in awe-inspiring Fiordland National Park! Cruise across Lake Manapouri framed by the Cathedral Mountains, see the dense rain forest, and journey through the striking stillness of the magnificent Doubtful Sound fiord on a three-hour catamaran cruise.

Day 16 | Queenstown

Free Time: Craft your own agenda today! Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 17 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer ➡ to the airport for the return flight ✈ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.
✈ Flights and ➡ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.
🕒 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven and slippery surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and trains
- climbing in/out of excursion boats
- walking up steep inclines/declines and up and down stairs

Included Features



- Accommodations** (with baggage handling)
- **2 nights** in Auckland, New Zealand, at the first-class Grand Millennium Auckland.
 - **2 nights** in Wellington at the first-class James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor.
 - **2 nights** in Blenheim at the first-class Carnmore Chateau Marlborough.
 - **2 nights** in Christchurch at the first-class Distinction Christchurch Hotel.
 - **2 nights** in Franz Josef at the first-class Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier.
 - **4 nights** in Queenstown at the first-class Millennium Hotel Queenstown.
- Transfers** (with baggage handling)
- All transfers in the Land Program: flight, ferry, train and deluxe motor coaches.
- Extensive Meal Program**
- 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Receptions & Dinners; wine with dinner.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
 - **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
 - **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
 - 🕒 **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
 - 🌍 **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
 - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
 - A personal VOX headset to hear your guide clearly.
 - Tipping of guides and drivers.
 - 🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Arrowtown





Gondola ride, Queenstown



Franz Josef Glacier



Māori woman

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **March 6-22, 2026**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **March 8-22, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$7,745**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$6,995**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$2,495 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ohst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1965A?schoollid=124>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

Accommodations



Grand Millennium Auckland | Auckland
●●●●●



James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor | Wellington
●●●●●



Carnmore Chateau Marlborough | Blenheim
●●●●●



Distinction Christchurch Hotel | Christchurch
●●●●●



Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier | Franz Josef



Millennium Hotel Queenstown | Queenstown



Book your journey today!

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Revel in glorious natural splendor and rich Māori culture!

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