

New Zealand

LAND *of the* LONG WHITE CLOUD

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PRINCIPIA
LIFELONG LEARNING



Engage.
Travel.
Learn.

Principia Lifelong Learning
March 13-29, 2026

Dear Principia Alumni & Friends

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 and trip scholar 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 renowned train ride through the Southern Alps and a stay in the idyllic Marlborough region!

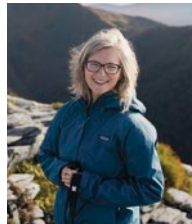
Experience the exciting buzz of urban life while exploring in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown, and broaden your understanding of New Zealand's remarkable Māori culture on unique tours led by members of local Iwi. This active, small-group experience is customized by Principia to include optional services at local Christian Science churches and additional cultural and wildlife experiences and lectures with our Principia trip scholar. This popular program will fill quickly, so guarantee your spot by booking today!

Warmly,

Susie Quitter

Susie Quitter
Principia Lifelong Learning Director
pll@principia.edu

Meet Your Trip Scholar



Mary Jane (Sweeney) Hoff (C'92) has explored New Zealand three times. The first as a student on the 10-week Principia College New Zealand Study Abroad which focused on ecology, conservation, and culture.

In the summer of 2024, she was the Resident Counselor on the Principia College Study Abroad where 16 students focused on Visual Storytelling. In January 2025, Mary Jane assisted in guiding Naturetrek: Birds and Botany, a birds and plants tour of the North and South Islands with participants from the UK and the United States.

Mary Jane's 20+ year career with Principia includes being an Assistant Professor of wildlife in the College Biology department, leading science education at the School, and now managing the College Study Abroad program. In her current role, Mary Jane supports students in their journeys abroad.

Her passions include exploring and sharing nature and making meaningful connections with others. You will often find Mary Jane with binoculars in hand, looking for birds. Mary Jane has also served as a trip scholar on a Principia Lifelong Learning trip to Alaska.

UNESCO World Heritage

Te Wahipounamu,
South West New Zealand





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.
- View historic aircraft in dramatic displays at the world-class **Omakā Aviation Heritage Museum**.
- Savor sweeping vistas of **Queenstown** aboard an aerial gondola.
- Appreciate lovely **Thunder Creek Falls** and the crystal-clear **Blue Pools**.
- Soak up **Cook Strait's picture-perfect scenery** on a celebrated ferry ride.
- Relish up-close encounters with **local wildlife** like adorable kiwi birds.



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 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 lively suburb of Parnell.

Kauri Glen Reserve. See kauri and tānekaha trees from a treetop boardwalk with your guide.

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.

Enrichment: The Wildlife of New Zealand.
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, where you'll enjoy a late lunch with your group.

Omaka Aviation Heritage Museum. Study vintage and rare World War I and II aircraft and artifacts in impressive, large-scale dioramas. Check in to the Carnmore Chateau Marlborough in Blenheim.

Day 8 | Blenheim

Guided Bike Tour. Pedal through the pastoral Marlborough scenery. Stop at a chocolate shop and an art gallery, plus sample local cheeses.

Mail Delivery Boat Cruise. Travel aboard the

Auckland Museum





Whale watching,
Kaikoura

official rural postal delivery boat as it makes stops along beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound.

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! Check in to the Rydges Latimer Christchurch.

Day 10 | Christchurch

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

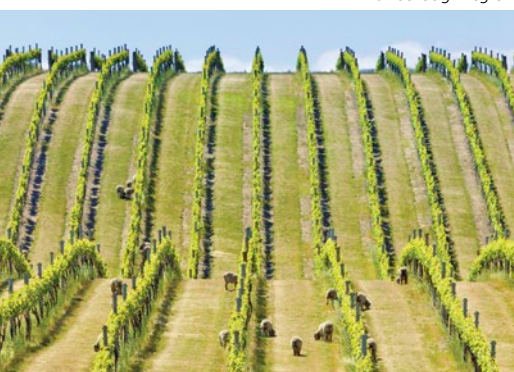
Free Time: Explore more of this vibrant city.

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

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

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, where you'll pause for lunch

Marlborough region



on your own and a visit to a greenstone factory where pounamu jewelry is crafted. Continue to Franz Josef Glacier and check in to the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier.

Day 12 | Franz Josef Glacier

Lake Matheson & Franz Josef Glacier.

Gaze over this mirrorlike lake and then delight in the unspoiled grandeur as you walk to the glacier lookout point. Learn about the glacier's geological features and native flora and fauna.

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

Real Country Farm. Learn about farming in rural New Zealand and watch a sheep dog demonstration at a private sheep station.

Arrowtown. Enjoy leisure time in this charming former gold rush town.

Enrichment: New Zealand's Extreme Sports.

Queenstown & Bob's Peak. On a scenic tour,

TranzAlpine Train





admire Queenstown, a mecca for adventure sports enthusiasts, and ride a gondola up Bob's Peak for stellar views over the town.

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!

🕒 Elective | Wilderness Jet Experience. Take a thrilling jet boat ride in a national park. 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 Rydges Latimer Christchurch.
- **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.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- Attend **church services** at local churches.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **🕒 Elective** 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 13-29, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **March 15-29, 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 **\$8,045**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$7,295**

***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://princi.ahitravel.com/destinations/1965A?schoolId=703>.

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
●●●●●



Rydges Latimer Christchurch | Christchurch
●●●●●



Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier | Franz Josef
●●●●●



Millennium Hotel Queenstown | Queenstown
●●●●●



Book your journey today!

800-323-7373

principia.edu/trips



Principia Lifelong Learning
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Revel in glorious natural splendor and rich Māori culture!

Committed to connecting travelers
to the people, places and cultures
of the world for more than 62 years.



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program information,
discounts and pricing.**

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