

Virginia Tech: A Focus on Animal Agriculture and Sustainability in Australia and New Zealand, 2025

Itinerary Highlights. Program activities are subject to change.

Auckland, New Zealand

Welcome orientation and group dinner

Faculty-led walking tour

Join your faculty on a walking exploration of New Zealand's largest and most populated city. Key stops may include the waterfront, the viaduct, Britomart, Wynyard Quarter, the America's Cup Village and the Auckland Sky Tower.

Auckland to Rotorua

Hobbiton movie set tour and Green Dragon Inn lunch

Enjoy a sumptuous buffet lunch in the Green Dragon Inn, then take a guided tour of the Hobbiton set from the Lord of the Rings film trilogy. Hear about how it operates as one of the world's most famous film sets yet remains a working sheep and beef farm.



Tour a Thoroughbred stud farm

New Zealand's ultimate farm experience

Watch a sheep shearing demonstration, see exotic sheep breeds and the working dogs who keep the sheep in line. Tour the farm and orchards onboard a tractor pulled cart to meet sheep, cattle, deer, llamas, ostrich, pigs, and alpaca.



Dairy Women's Network

Spend time with members, farmers and industry partners from this not-for-profit organization and see how they empower farm businesses to thrive with knowledge and connections. Includes a visit to a local dairy farm.

Te Pā Tū Maori Village

Te Pā Tū is a representation of a pre-European Māori village, owned and staffed by local Māori to present the indigenous culture to tourists. Experience a cultural performance with Māori song and dance and enjoy a traditional Hangi dinner.



Rotorua to Palmerston North

Taupo Beef and Lamb

Spend time with a local couple who are working to achieve a greater return for farmers undertaking good farming practices and looking after the water quality of Lake Taupo.

Palmerston North to Wellington

Massey University's School of Veterinary Science

The school is a world-leader in its field, working with governments, other universities, international and national organizations, and companies to improve animal health and production, and human health.

New Zealand Parliament tour

Visit Parliament and discover the New Zealand Government's buildings and heritage, to see what happens when the House of Representatives sits, and to learn about New Zealand's democratic processes.

Te Papa Tongarewa

Explore New Zealand's national museum to discover more about New Zealand and the south pacific region: art, history, Pacific, Māori, and the natural environment.



Canterbury

Farm visits

An introduction to livestock and dairy farming practices in the region with a chance to talk to local farmers.



High Country Farming

Visit a family run 35,000-acre station running Merino Sheep, Hereford Cattle and Deer.

Wildlife reserve

Experience New Zealand's endangered wildlife, including the kiwi bird, and enjoy a behind the scenes tour.

Sydney, Australia

Explore Sydney with your indigenous guide

Presentation and Mana-Nura walking tour of The Rocks. As you visit sites of interest in the area, you will learn about Aboriginal history and culture as well as contemporary issues facing Aboriginal communities.



Sydney Opera House tour

Enjoy a guided tour of one of the world's most recognizable buildings. You will hear about why it took over 14 years to construct and what makes it one of the busiest performing arts centers in the world.

Taronga Zoo

See native Australian wildlife and learn about the zoo's conservation efforts. Taronga believes that through education they can inspire and create behavior change to support species conservation and habitat preservation.

Townsville and surrounds

Hands on wildlife experience

From snakes to crocodiles and even small spiders, it seems like all of Australia's animals are dangerous. You will get up close and personal with some of these creatures in a safe and secure environment.

Great Barrier Reef excursion

Snorkel on the world's largest living organism, the Great Barrier Reef. Complete a health assessment of the reef. Learn about natural and human-induced impacts on the reef and its inhabitants, and practices adopted by local operators to minimize impact and rehabilitate the reef.



Mungalla Station

Learn about traditional approaches in breeding, raising and working with the Droughtmaster cattle breed. Try your hand at activities such as boomerang throwing as you learn about the Nywaigi Aboriginal Culture.

Billabong Sanctuary

This wildlife park believes their holistic and passionate approach to conservation is the secret behind their success. Learn about many of Australia's iconic animal species through ranger-led talks and interactive activities.



Wambiana Station

Experience a farm-stay at this family-owned cattle station and discover for yourself what it is like to live in the Australian "bush".

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