Arizona State University OLLI Chapter, in New Zealand
Dec 4* – Dec 17, 2027

Depart US on Dec 2 and cross the international date line

Itinerary Highlights (please note activities are subject to change)

Day 1 – 5 Welcome to Auckland!

Arrive in New Zealand - Kia ora!



Orientation and welcome dinner
Your first stop in New Zealand will be Tamaki Makaurau | Auckland, fondly nicknamed 'The City of Sails' for its waterside location and the locals' general love of the sea. Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and is a melting pot of South Pacific, Asian and European cultures, with a strong indigenous Māori heritage.

Guest Speaker: Māori introduction
Learn about Māori culture and language to provide a foundation for your time in New Zealand.



Ferry and visit to Tiritiri Matangi Island
Tiritiri Matangi is a small, lush island located in the Hauraki Gulf of New Zealand, renowned for its biodiversity and conservation efforts. Once heavily deforested, the island is now a thriving wildlife sanctuary and safe haven for rare and endangered native species, including the kakariki/red-crowned parakeets, the big, blue takahē, kōkako, tīeke/saddleback, hihi/stitchbird, and kororā/little penguin, along with nocturnal residents, the kiwi, ruru/morepork, and ancient reptile, the tuatara.

Maritime Museum & sailing on the harbor
The museum houses one of the nation's most important heritage collections, which covers the breadth of NZ's relationship with the sea, from the Great Pacific Migration a thousand years ago to the cutting edge of modern technology and design used in America's Cup and modern yachting.

Bethells Beach wetlands & service-learning



New Zealand agriculture visit & youth program
Experience a sheep shearing and working dog show and interactive animal encounters at Sheep World. Wander through the native bush eco-trail and hand-feed some friendly farm animals. This experience is also owned and operated by a youth charity helping young people work in the region towards an agricultural career in the region.

Day 6 – 7 Rotorua

Hobbiton tour and lunch at the Green Dragon Inn
Enjoy a tour of the famous Hobbiton film set from the Lord of the Rings film trilogy. The set is still a working sheep and beef farm and offers spectacular views across to the Kaimai Ranges. Your visit will conclude with a feast at the 'Green Dragon Inn'



Māori cultural evening experience and dinner
Surrounded by Rotorua's geothermal landscape, enjoy a traditional Māori seafood and hāngi dinner. Afterward, experience the exhilarating pōwhiri (ceremonial welcome) into a beautifully carved meeting house and be immersed in waiata (song), mōteatea (chants), and haka (dance/performance).



Visit a local Māori marae
Your guided journey through the ancestral landscapes of the Ngāti Manawa tribe will encompass the stories, history and significance of the land. Your Māori hosts will share their culture and create opportunities to connect and enjoy morning tea with the local kaumatua (elders). Learn about rongoā (natural medicine and healing) and mārakai (community gardening) with a focus on food sovereignty and security.

Day 8 – Napier

Huka Falls
View one of New Zealand's most spectacular and powerful waterfalls just north of Lake Taupō, where the Waikato River enters a shallow ravine of hard volcanic rock.

Mission Estate Winery visit & tasting
The Mission is New Zealand's oldest winery. The Cellar Door is housed in the Grande Maison, an elegantly restored seminary building nested in the Taradale hills, offering visitors sweeping views of the vineyards and coast beyond. Enjoy a wine tasting and learn about the rich history of the vineyard.



Art Deco Architecture walking tour
Start at the Art Deco Centre for a viewing of the 1931 Earthquake film where you will hear of the devastation of the city, the stories of the people and the rebuild, which culminated in Napier being the best example of an Art Deco city anywhere in the world. Then embark on a guided walk with an Art Deco Trust guide.

Day 9 – 13 Wellington

Free day to explore Wellington

New Zealand Parliament tour
Visit Parliament to discover their buildings and heritage, to see what happens when the House sits, and to learn about New Zealand's democratic processes. This university-level education tour provides an overview of the role of Parliament and the separation of power in New Zealand.



Food rescue service learning
Kaibosh is New Zealand's first dedicated food rescue charity. They link the food industry with community groups that support people in need, ensuring that quality surplus food reaches those who are struggling, rather than being needlessly discarded.
Hear from volunteers before you undertake your service activity.

Sustainability trust
Paddle a traditionally carved waka (canoe) alongside expert Māori guides while learning the rich cultural stories, tikanga, and traditions behind this early form of transport. From a warm cultural welcome to hands-on paddling, chants, and storytelling on the water, this immersive journey blends adventure, teamwork, and connection to the environment – creating a truly memorable and authentic Māori experience.

Program wrap-up and farewell dinner

Day 14 Depart for USA

Safe travels! Mā te wā ("good-bye for now).

For more information, registration and payment, please visit:

www.auip.com/universities/asuollinz

Contact AUIP

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