

## NEW ZEALAND 2023 | ITINERARY

### Land of the Long White Cloud: Ecosystems of New Zealand

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *This itinerary is just a tool and is subject to change in times and activities. Please monitor the WhatsApp group and pay attention to communication from program leaders for the most up-to-date details!*

#### DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – AUCKLAND TO ROTORUA

**8:30am** Meet by McDonald's at International Arrivals.

9:00am Depart Auckland Airport to Matamata (approx. 2 hour drive)  
Lunch on own and independent exploration in **MATAMATA**

12:40pm Board coach for Hobbiton.

1:10pm Arrive for **HOBBITON TOUR** (1:30pm – 3:30pm)  
*Bring suitable clothes and sensible footwear for outdoor tour; umbrellas are provided if raining.*

3:45pm Depart for Ibis Rotorua.

4:45pm Arrive and check in at Ibis Rotorua.

5:00pm Dinner on own. Evening at leisure.  
Evening at leisure.

**ACCOMMODATION: IBIS ROTORUA**

#### DAY 2 | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – ROTORUA

6:00am Ibis breakfast buffet opens. Breakfast at leisure.  
*Provide name and room number upon arrival at restaurant.*

7:30am Meet in lobby to depart for site visits.  
*Bring hiking boots, water bottles, sunblock, sunhat, sunglasses, and a warm layer.*

**SCION RESEARCH CENTER  
KAINGAROA FOREST  
WHIRINAKI FOREST**

12:00pm Lunch break in the field (boxed lunches).  
Depart Whirinaki Forest.

3:00pm Arrive back to Ibis Rotorua.  
Meet in the lobby and depart for dinner.  
Dinner at **CBK ROTORUA**

6:00pm Redwoods Nightlight Treewalk (6pm-9pm; 40minute walk)

**ACCOMMODATION: IBIS ROTORUA**

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**DAY 3 | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – ROTORUA**

6:00am Ibis breakfast buffet opens. Breakfast at leisure.

9:30am Meet in lobby to depart for site visits.  
*Download the app before arrival at Waimangu.  
Bring suitable clothes and sensible footwear for outdoor walking and boat tour.*

**WAIMANGU VOLCANIC VALLEY**

Choose pack lunch items from cabinet.

1:45pm Self-guided walk to lake.  
Lunch break (picnic area on walk - Warbrick Terraces)

3:40pm **BOAT CRUISE**

4:50pm Arrive back to Visitor Centre.  
*Bathroom break/shop visit.*

5:00pm Depart Waimangu for Ibis Rotorua.

Dinner on own. Evening at leisure.

**ACCOMMODATION: IBIS ROTORUA**

**DAY 4 | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 – ROTORUA**

6:00am Ibis breakfast buffet opens. Breakfast at leisure.

7:45am Meet in lobby to depart for site visits. (approx. 2.5 hour drive)  
*Bring hiking boots, water bottles, sunblock, sunhat, sunglasses, and a warm layer.*

10:30am **TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK**  
Arrive at Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre  
Trekking in Tongariro National Park  
Lunch break (packed lunches)

4:00pm Video screening in Visitor Centre following hike  
Depart Tongariro National Park for Ibis Rotorua.

6:00pm **Dinner at PIG & WHISTLE**  
Evening at leisure.

**ACCOMMODATION: IBIS ROTORUA**

**DAY 5 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – ROTORUA TO CHRISTCHURCH**

6:00am Ibis breakfast buffet opens. Breakfast at leisure.  
*Provide name and room number upon arrival at restaurant.*

10:00am Bring bags to reception; check in-room safe for valuables.  
*Ensure that your luggage is loaded onto the shuttles.*

10:40am Board shuttles for departure to Rotorua Airport.

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- 11:00am Arrive at airport and check-in for Air New Zealand flight  
12:00pm Depart Rotorua  
1:55pm Arrive at Christchurch Airport, collect luggage  
2:30pm Load onto coach. *Ensure that your luggage is loaded onto coach.*
- 3:00pm Arrive and check in to Hotel Give.
- TBD Walk to **BOTANIC GARDENS** (across the road from Hotel Give).  
*Refer to Walking Guide and Botanic Gardens map.*
- 7:30pm Dinner on own around Christchurch Central City. Evening at leisure.

**ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL GIVE**

**DAY 6 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – CHRISTCHURCH**

- Breakfast on own (groceries provided) (6:30am – 9:00am).
- 9:20am Depart Hotel Give for University of Canterbury School of Forestry.
- UC SCHOOL OF FORESTRY VISIT** (10:00am – 12:30pm)
- 12:45pm Lunch at **WILLOWBANK**, 2 course set menu  
Willowbank Wildlife Reserve
- 2:45pm Guided tour (45min.)  
Free time to explore the park
- 5:00pm Return to Hotel Give
- 7:00pm Dinner at **KAISER BREW GARDEN**  
Evening at leisure.

**ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL GIVE**

**DAY 7 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – CHRISTCHURCH TO CASS**

- 10:00am Breakfast on own (groceries provided) (6:30am – 9:00am).  
Bring bags and meet at reception to load luggage onto coach.
- Walking tour or Waka on Avon activity
- Lunch on own and grocery shopping for Cass Field Station at the mall (1:00pm – 2:30pm).
- Board coach and depart for Cass Field Station.  
Arrive at Cass by 5pm.  
Settle in and cook dinner. Evening walk.

**ACCOMMODATION: CASS FIELD STATION**

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**DAY 8 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – CASS**

Cook breakfast & prepare pack lunches.

**FIELD ACTIVITIES AT CASS:**

*Bring hiking boots, water bottles, sunblock, sunhat, sunglasses, and a warm layer.*

- Climb mountain – see native forests and other vegetation.
- Examine landscape and measure tree biodiversity and other aspects of forest structure and composition.

**ACCOMMODATION: WESTPORT FIELD STATION**

**DAY 9 | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – CASS TO WESTPORT**

Cook breakfast & prepare field lunches.

Cleaning party (everyone)

8:00am Depart Cass for West Coast. Board coach and depart for Westport via Arthurs Pass (approx. 3.5 hours drive)

**DRIVE + HIKE ABOUT AT ARTHURS PASS & KUMARA**

Arrive Westport Field Station. Settle in and cook dinner.

**ACCOMMODATION: WESTPORT FIELD STATION**

**DAY 10 | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 – WESTPORT**

Cook breakfast & prepare field lunches.

8:00am Coach departs for Paparoa National Park (1.5 hour drive)  
*Bring hiking boots, water bottles, sunblock, sunhat, sunglasses, and a warm layer.*

**PAPAROA NATIONAL PARK**

Lunch break (packed lunches)

Return to Westport. Cook dinner. Evening discussion.

**ACCOMMODATION: WESTPORT FIELD STATION**

**DAY 11 | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 – WESTPORT TO CHRISTCHURCH**

Cook breakfast & prepare pack lunches.

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Cleaning party (everyone)

Pack up and bring bags to meeting area. Load luggage and board coach.

Depart Westport for Christchurch via Lewis Pass.

LONG driving day (approx.. 4.5 hours) with stops for short hikes.

Arrive and check in at Hotel Give.

Meet in reception to walk to dinner (6 min walk).

7:15pm Dinner at **ORIGINAL SIN** and Evening Celebration of Land of the Long White Cloud.

7:30pm Dinner concludes at 9:45pm.

**ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL GIVE**

**DAY 12 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – DEPARTURE FROM CHRISTCHURCH**

Breakfast foods provided (distribute night before)

10:00am Check-out of rooms. Luggage can be stored.

Departure (own arrangements)