



2019  
Best of  
NEW ZEALAND

**ITINERARY**  
**TRIP 3 MAR 8 – MAR 24**

REVISED January 30, 2019

**Friday, MAR 8, 2019**

- 2:00 PM Royal Excursion bus ready for loading at SMC NILES campus. If you leave your car please park in the far southwest corner of the lot. (Car pool & drop off encouraged.)  
2:15 PM Leave for O'Hare airport (no stops en route).  
7:10 PM Leave on Air New Zealand flight 27.

**Sunday, MAR 10, 2019**

- 6:30 AM Land in Auckland. We will clear customs, load our *Bayes Coach Lines* charter bus and make a dining stop and take a tour of Auckland before taking the 3 ½ hour drive to *Hobbiton* for our 1:50 and 2:05 PM walking tours of the *Lord Of The Rings* movie set.  
4:05 PM Leave *Hobbiton* on our bus.  
5:45 PM Arrive at our lodging in Taupo: the Prince Motor Lodge. NOTE: I will be monitoring the weather carefully for conditions on the Alpine Crossing.

**Monday, MAR 11, 2019**

- 10:00 AM Our bus leaves for Huka Falls and all of our hikes. The remainder of the day may be spent shopping and dining in this bustling resort city.

**Tuesday, MAR 12, 2019**

- 6:00 AM Our bus leaves for the Ketetahi trailhead for the Alpine Crossing drop off.  
8:00 AM Our bus leaves for Mangatepopo trailhead for drop off for the hike to the Chateau.  
4:30 PM Leave from Chateau and return to Taupo.

**Wednesday, MAR 13, 2019**

- 9:00 AM [Check out] Our bus leaves for our 4:45 hour drive to Wellington, the charming capital of New Zealand. Our lodging is the Apollo Lodge.  
2:00 PM Our bus leaves for Mt. Victoria Lookout and some of the best urban hikes in the world.

**Thursday, MAR 14, 2019**

- 8:30 AM [Check out] Bus leaves for the airport.  
11:35 AM Air New Zealand flight 5351 leaves for Christchurch.  
12:35 PM Land in Christchurch and take the 1 ½ hour drive to Geraldine for a late lunch. Then we will hike to Emily's Falls in the Peel Forest big tree rain forest before continuing on another 1 ½ hours to Twizel and our lodging: The High Country Lodge.

**Friday, MAR 15, 2019**

- 9:30 AM Our bus leaves for the 65 minute drive to Mt. Cook National Park and our Alpine Lake hikes with floating icebergs. We will rehydrate at the really cool national park lodge before returning to Twizel.

### **Saturday, MAR 16, 2019**

9:00 AM [Check out] Our bus leaves for the 4 ½ hour drive to Te Anau with a lunch stop in Manapouri. Following lunch we will hike on the celebrated Kepler Track featuring several scenic backgrounds from the *Lord of the Rings*. Our lodging is at the Manapouri Lakeview Motor Inn.

6:30 PM Our bus leaves for downtown Te Anau for dinner.

### **Sunday, MAR 17, 2019**

7:30 AM Our bus leaves for the beautiful 2 hour drive to Milford Sound and our cruise. We will have a picnic lunch provided by our tour boat and then stop on return for hikes at the Key Summit and Lake Gunn.

7:00 PM Our bus leaves for dinner in Te Anau.

### **Monday, MAR 18, 2019**

9:00 AM [Check out] Our bus leaves for the 3 hour drive along the pristine Lake Wanaka to Wanaka. We will stop en route for lunch in the historic city of Arrowhead. Following lunch the bus will drop us off on the great Te Araroa Track and everyone will hike along the lake to our hotel in Wanaka: The Mecure Oakridge Resort.

6:30 PM Our bus leaves for dinner in Wanaka.

### **Tuesday, MAR 19, 2019**

9:00 AM Our bus will take us to the trailhead for the iconic Roy's Peak hike just ½ hour away. The rest of the day can be spent shopping and dining in this upscale resort city.

6:30 PM Our bus leaves for dinner in Wanaka.

### **Wednesday, MAR 20, 2019**

9:00 AM [Check out] We leave for a 3 ½ hour drive to Fox Glacier with a cool, short ocean side hike en route. After checking into our lodging at the Bella Vista Hotel we will load the bus and do a beautiful hike at Lake Matheson. Later that evening we will take a very short hike from our motel to a grotto of ferns and rain forest to see the spectacular glow worms on the Minnihaha Track

### **Thursday, MAR 21, 2019**

10:00 AM Our bus will drop us off at Roberts Point Track trailhead for a very exciting hiking adventure. Trekkers wishing milder hikes can hike from our hotel through a rain forest and up to a glacier.

2:00 PM Our bus brings the Robert's Point hikers back to Fox Glacier.

### **Friday, MAR 22, 2019**

9:00 AM [Check out] Our bus leaves for the 6 hour drive to Akaroa.

11:10 AM Early lunch stop in Hokitika.

4:00 PM Optional drop off on scenic road leading down to Akaroa Harbor. Others can take a stroll along the harbor of this charming French village. Our lodging is at The Village Inn. There are several wonderful bistros and cafes within walking distance of our hotel.

### **Saturday, MAR 23, 2019**

9:00 AM Our bus will drop us off at the trailhead for the start of the amazing Purple Peak loop high over Akaroa Harbor. Shorter hikes can also be staged up to a waterfall or to a lighthouse on the harbor.

## Sunday, MAR 24, 2019

10:30 AM [Check out] Sadly load our bus and take the 1 ½ hour drive to Christchurch Airport.

3:00 PM Leave on ANZ flight 554 for Auckland.

4:10PM Land at Auckland and transfer to the International Terminal.

8:10 PM Leave on ANZ flight 26 for Chicago.

5:15 PM Land at O'Hare.

9:00 PM ETA SMC Niles Campus.

**NOTE: This itinerary subject to change. All times are local.**

TIME ZONE: New Zealand is NZDT (+13 GMT and EDT is -5 GMT), total is +18hrs from EDT and 1 day ahead (crosses the IDL).

Calculate from EDT to NZDT: Michigan time, change AM to PM, or PM to AM then add 6hrs. Example: 6PM EDT, change to 6AM plus 6hrs = Noon in New Zealand.

Calculate from NZDT to EDT: NZ time: Subtract 6hrs, change AM to PM, or PM to AM, subtract 1 day. Example: 8AM Thursday in NZ, minus 6 is 2AM, change to 2PM, 1 day earlier = 2PM EST on Wednesday.

ABBREVIATIONS: NZDT = New Zealand Daylight saving Time,

EDT = Eastern Daylight saving Time,

GMT = Greenwich Mean Time (standard world reference)

IDL = International Date Line

