



Culture, Sustainability & Global Citizenry

8 Day Program in New Zealand

FROM NZ\$ 2,170^{PP}



New Zealand's landscapes have been formed along the Pacific & Australian tectonic plate interface on the Pacific Ring of Fire. Most of the native ecology is only found in New Zealand & the culture is a surprising integration of European & Polynesian. It is the youngest country in the world.

Visiting this place, people will marvel at the natural beauty, the friendliness of the people & the craziness of the adventure. New Zealanders are proud of their small place on earth and actively care for it.

This custom designed tour gives the participants a close up view of how humans can live with & use the natural world as they continually act to preserve it. Furthermore, they can seek to appreciate the role they have as global citizens as they experience & engage with meaningful environmental restoration opportunities.

For students soon to leave New Zealand, this is a wonderful opportunity to bring together understanding of this country & say thank you by giving back! It will provide treasured memories & a deep sense of satisfaction.



Included



All transport



All food



All accommodation



All activities





Day 01 | Auckland to Tauranga

Physical geography of New Zealand: Physical change to landscapes - built by volcanism, eroded by time.

New Zealand is on an actively moving tectonic plate boundary. It is constantly moving, breaking, erupting and eroding. Not only is it the youngest country on earth, it is the fastest changing. As we travel on this tour we recognize the different geography and relate it to the evidence around us. We observe natural processes occurring and get to see that we can read this change. From that we begin to interact with change – for the better.

It is this intelligence that you will take away from New Zealand – how the world works and how you can participate.

Leaving Auckland's volcanic region we will travel through landscapes that have been shaped and rocked by earthquakes and ancient volcanoes. En route we stop at special places.

Take a guided walk into pristine New Zealand as you follow a river trail at Karangahake and discover the power of water and the way nature recovers. Visit Waihi beach and explore the sheltered bay – swim and gather shellfish. Arrive Tauranga accommodation. Take a short walk to ocean beach.

Stay Tauranga beside the Pacific Ocean.



Day 02 | Tauranga

Welcome to New Zealand - Gondwanaland, Maori culture and natural history of New Zealand Introduction to Maori Culture.

How do Maori people and European people interact and share common caring for New Zealand, its people and its environment. What does a bi-cultural model offer us in understanding being a global citizen?

Visit Mount Maunganui beach and climb to the summit of Mount Maunganui! This Maori owned historic reserve is the iconic place for Maori in this region. Learn of early Maori settlement, Maori values and the guiding principles that led them to be guardians of their resources and natural places.

Understanding Natural Systems.

New Zealand's isolation over millions of years has resulted in the development of unique ecosystems populated with unique species. Since humans arrived, these species have been severely depleted because they had no defence against the predation and habitat loss that result from human resource needs.

Our introduction to endangered species is by visiting the home of the Matuku – New Zealand Bittern – a site that we will study and help restore as a key part of this tour. Visit the wetland site that is the home to Matuku, one of New Zealand's most endangered birds and the place that we will be planting in a few days time. Set Trakka Tunnels so that, when we come back, we can identify the types of fauna that are living there and how we manage the reserve to protect our native endangered species.

Visit the adjacent village of Maketu. This is home of the Maori people who rely on the wetland for their food and protect it. The task is too big for them and they need help. We will discuss their role, how Maori world views are driving the conservation efforts in New Zealand and how we can contribute. At Maketu beach, learn of the amazing restoration plans for this whole coastal area. We have learned here that humans can assist in nature restoring itself – and we will do that a number of times on this tour.



Day 03 | Tauranga

How Nature works - how we measure change. Explore a natural system, monitor its quality as we go.

To provide context for the complete tour, we will follow a river to discover the pristine natural environment and to look for patterns that we can make sense of.

We travel into the rainforests at the upper catchment, take a guided walk in temperate rainforest and complete a survey of a fresh water stream to test its water quality.

Visit a pristine water hole and swim in the clear fresh waters.

Follow the river downstream to test water as we go and explore the sequence of habitats along the way.



Day 04 | Tauranga

Physical Processes - Ecology and Impacts. Community conservation initiatives. Learn to Sail on the land.

Visit a sheltered harbor estuary where the river meets the sea – explore this unique and fragile habitat and appreciate its role as the beginning of the food chain for the oceans of the world.

Use a specific species monitoring system to measure the impacts of upstream development on the productivity of the estuary – and the flow of food into the ocean.

Lunch at ocean beach and afternoon of leisure, Blokarting - an exciting ride on a NZ invention!

Restoration activity - Potting native flax seedlings. We will nurture young flax seedlings, allowing them to be grown on for future environmental restoration efforts.



Day 05 | Tauranga

Environmental science in Action. Community conservation initiatives, Rehabilitating natural environments and measuring results.

Visit the Wetland ecological reserve and read the results of the Trakka Tunnels to see which types of fauna are present. Discuss the role of vegetation in the big 3 conservation outcomes - stabilising land, improving water quality and increasing biodiversity.

Plant native trees in a wetland conservation project to achieve these big 3 outcomes as a service learning activity. Complete a native forest restoration morning preparing the ground and planting the exact tree species that would have been here before humans arrived.

Complete a vegetation survey to monitor the change since last year in vegetation, fauna and water quality.

Relate all this through the bi-cultural eyes of New Zealand. How do humans care for this planet?



Day 06 | Tauranga to Rotorua

How to use this pristine environment in a sustainable way - Kiwifruit - Growing the worlds healthiest food!

Visit a New Zealand Kiwifruit orchard. Major physical processes have created a landscape ideal for horticulture, Kiwifruit is one of the major New Zealand success stories and is a dominant industry of this clean, green region. As a result of research by Rutgers University, Kiwifruit was recognized as the food that provided the best match to the daily needs of the human body. This match is based on the 2 factors of an exceptional growing environment and careful plant breeding - naturally and selectively - to increase the food value. We enter the orchard, taste the fruit, get under the vines and learn about how natural reproduction and food science combined with a healthy environment that provides the healthiest food in the world! Also visit Comvita, the famous producer of Manuka Honey. See how this company produces a recognized natural health product that has remarkable healing properties and is accepted in global health systems. Arrive Rotorua in early afternoon. Take the Gondola up to the famous Skyline Skyrides and enjoy the excitement of the Skyline Luge. Time in Rotorua city.



Day 07 | Rotorua

Rotorua - Volcanism, tourism and Maori culture
- How Maori use tourism to strengthen their Culture.

Learn about Rotorua's explosive history, and visit a Maori owned geothermal reserve where you experience geysers, hot springs and boiling mud. This is the centre for Maori culture in New Zealand and the funds from tourism support a National Maori Arts and Crafts university program for Maori students. Each of them will become leaders in these areas of Maori traditional skills to retain the knowledge and cultural values. Enjoy the Maori cultural performance of song, dance and Haka.

Visit an isolated crater lake and learn of the devastating eruption that killed 120 people a century ago. This amazing site is just one of the many wonders of New Zealand.

Enjoy a walk in the rainforest that has grown up since the eruption - "Nature heals itself".

Return to Rotorua city. Evening meal together on last night.



Day 08 | Rotorua to Auckland

Final Day Activity Options (Own Cost)

There are two activity options on the way back to Auckland.

Either

Visit Velocity Valley, the adventure site where you can choose two adventure activities from the options of Swoop, Freefall Extreme, Agrojet and Shweeb. Followed by picnic lunch at the Lakefront.

Or

Travel to the Hobbiton Movie set in the lush Waikato farmland and take a guided tour through the Shire, home to Bilbo Baggins. Appreciate the film production skills that gave us the Hobbits and their amazing adventures. Finish our visit with a beverage in the Green Dragon Inn.

Transfer to Auckland.

Tour Summary

- Day 1 Auckland to Tauranga
Volcanos & Karangahake Gorge walk
- Day 2 Tauranga
Climb Mt Maunganui, visit Maketu & experience amazing coastal restoration
- Day 3: Tauranga
Rainforest & river study
- Day 4 Tauranga
Estuary study followed by blokarting
- Day 5 Tauranga
Wetland ecological reserve tree planting
- Day 6 Tauranga to Rotorua
Comvita, Kiwifruit Country, Skyline Luge
- Day 7 Rotorua
Visit Te Puia geothermal reserve, Lake Tarawera
- Day 8 Rotorua to Auckland
Velocity Valley - Choose from Agrojet, Swoop, Freefall Extreme & Shweeb.
Hobbiton Movie set tour
Airport for flight home

Jill Tompsett

International Schools Programme Manager

jill@kuaka.co.nz
+64 7 578 3828
highschools.kuaka.co.nz

Kuaka New Zealand
PO Box 13166
Tauranga 3141
New Zealand

