Presents...

Agricultural & Sightseeing Tour of New Zealand

Departing February 24th - March 16th 2019
Welcome to New Zealand!

There are just 4.5 million New Zealanders, scattered across 270,534 sq km: bigger than the UK with one-fourteenth the population. Filling in the gaps are the sublime forests, mountains, lakes, beaches and fiords that have made NZ one of the best destinations on Earth.

DEPART CANADA ON THE 24th February 2019- overnight flight

Lose a day due to time zone (25th February 2019)

DAY 1: ARRIVE QUEENSTOWN February 26th 2019 (D)

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Queenstown. The remainder of the day is at leisure to recover from your international flight. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at your hotel

Accommodation: Rydges Hotel, Queenstown

DAY 2: QUEENSTOWN (B, L) February 27th 2019

This morning is at leisure to explore the delights of this alpine resort. You can either sit back and relax or your Coach Captain will happily advise on the many sightseeing activities available. We recommend the famous Shotover jet boat ride, take a Gondola to the skyline high above, a tour to the gold mining area of Skippers Canyon, or for the adventurous – white water rafting. Alternatively browse in the many shops and galleries.

This afternoon combine a TSS Earnslaw cruise and farm tour with a barbecue lunch in the beautiful garden setting at the Colonel’s Homestead. Sit back on the lakeside terrace and savour the enticing aromas as the chef cooks a selection of food on the barbecue. Fresh salads and crusty bread perfectly complement the food sizzling on the grill. After lunch, there is plenty of time to view the farm animals, join a walking tour of the farmyard and explore the extensive lakeside gardens.

Coach to meet at Steamer Wharf and transfer to Hotel/ dinner on your own & free evening

Accommodation: Rydges Hotel, Queenstown
DAY 3: QUEENSTOWN / MILFORD SOUND DAY CRUISE (B, L, D) Feb 28th 2019

Travel south along the shore of Lake Wakatipu to Kingston and across the Five Rivers to Mossburn. Arrive into Te Anau then on around the lake to the spectacular mountain scenery of the National Park. Follow the Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys – native forest, lakes, rivers, waterfalls and towering peaks, pass through the Homer Tunnel and descend through the Cleddau Canyon to Milford Sound, dominated by Mitre Peak.

A launch cruise takes you to the open sea and the Bowen and Stirling Falls (a picnic lunch on board is included). Travel back along the winding Milford Road to Te Anau

7pm: Group Dinner at your hotel

Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel

DAY 4: MILFORD SOUND / ARROWTOWN / WANAKA (B,D) March 1st 2019

Travel back towards Queenstown and on to the historic and charming village of Arrowtown, where you will have free time for lunch (own expense) try the bakery meat pies for lunch and even perhaps for a visit the old Chinese Miners Settlement nearby. Travel onwards to Wanaka here you will spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner included tonight

Accommodation: Mercure Oakridge, Wanaka

DAY 5: WANAKA (B, L) March 2nd 2019

Visit Criffel Station, Wanaka, NZ. In 1993 Jerry and Mandy converted the station into a deer breeding and finishing farm.

Over the years as irrigation systems have been established, pastures improved and more and more land deer fenced, the property has been developed to the point where it offers 1850 effective hectares, including:

350 ha of finishing pastures on the flats and terraces with 315 ha irrigated, 1500 ha of breeding/hill blocks on the steeper tussock country. These days the farm runs predominantly Eastern European red deer – to enable increased growth rates and earlier calving.

The farming business is comprised of a: Commercial herd – 1900 hinds, Elite herd of red deer – 210 hinds, Velveting herd – 450 including sire stags. Young finishing stock both bred on Criffel Station and trading stock – varies, up to 2000 finishers

The property is effectively run as three entities – hill breeding, venison finishing and a stud operation. The stud operation measures breeding values with a primary focus on venison growth to 12 months utilizing DNA technology to produce top quality breeding hinds and stags. The genetics are passed directly to the commercial operation and other commercial buyers.

600 dairy calves are grazed from December through for 18 months.

Criffel Station has an emphasis on a balanced environment for the people, land and animals. This encompasses future generation sustainability – to allow ongoing enhancement and enjoyment of the property.

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy Wanaka on your own, dinner on your own

Accommodation: Mercure Oakridge, Wanaka
DAY 6: CHRISTCHURCH (B,D) March 3rd 2019

Travel over the winding Lindis Pass today and continue on your journey to arrive into stunning Tekapo to view the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd. Built in 1935, this lovely church and the Collie Dog statue nearby both overlook the powder blue waters of Lake Tekapo itself, allowing for some spectacular photo opportunities. You will have some free time here to explore and purchase your own lunch if you choose. Travel through the MacKenzie Country, an area famed for its history of sheep farming and its sparsely populated beauty, before descending onto the vast patchwork of Canterbury Plains to reach Christchurch.

Check into hotel and group dinner in hotel

Accommodation: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch

DAY 7: CHRISTCHURCH (B, D) March 4th, 2019

Visit to Lincoln University Agricultural College - visit the Farm research centres

Lincoln is New Zealand’s third oldest university.

Founded in 1878 as a School of Agriculture, the institution was linked to Canterbury College, welcoming its first intake of students in 1880.

In 1896, with agriculture now well established as the mainstay of New Zealand’s exports, the School of Agriculture separated from Canterbury College and became Canterbury Agricultural College, with its own governing body and the ability to award degrees through the University of New Zealand.

Cropping Research Farm: The 125ha arable farm is located near the Lincoln campus and is currently leased to Plant and Food Research.

Ashley Dene Farm: Ashley Dene has been owned by the University for over 100 years and is used for research and teaching. It covers 355ha and is located about 15kms west of the Lincoln campus. Currently it is used for both sheep and dairy support, with two major research themes being dryland pastoral systems and dairy wintering systems. Around 200ha is irrigated.

Afternoon cropping farm visit—to be confirmed

Group Dinner at The Bealeys Speight’s Ale House

Accommodation: Ibis Hotel, Christchurch
DAY 8: KAIKPURA /MARLBOROUGH March 5th, 2019 (B,L)

Head north and enjoy a kaleidoscope of scenery across fertile Canterbury farmland through the Hundalee Ranges. Follow the Pacific coastline, with the Kaikoura Mountains forming a rugged backdrop to the west. Time permitting—stop off in Kaikoura for a break and coffee, and the opportunity to wonder the boutique shops on the main street.

Visit Te Mania Angus - www.temia.co.nz

With over 800 females to select from, Te Mania Angus is one of the largest fully performance recorded registered Angus herds in country. We have one of the largest on-farm bull sales in New Zealand which offers a comprehensive selection of performance driven genetics that will enhance the profitability of our clients’ business. BBQ Lunch at Te Mania - opportunity to chat with the owners & ask any questions you may have.

Free evening—dinner on your own

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel, Marlborough

DAY 9: MARLBOROUGH/ WELLINGTON / PALMERSTON NORTH, March 6th, 2019 (B,D)

Drive to Picton Ferry terminal, nestled on the shores of the Marlborough Sounds, to board the Interislander Ferry.

(10:45am—2:00pm) Sail through picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound, viewing the stunning sheltered waterways, remote bays ad isolated holiday homes. Travel across Cook Strait and into Wellington Harbour for spectacular views of New Zealand’s Capital City.

A brief city tour will incorporate the summit of Mt Victoria for panoramic views of the city and harbour, the Houses of Parliament and the distinctive ‘Beehive’, Wellington Cathedral, city centre and Oriental Bay.

Later travel to Masterton, check in to hotel and relax

Group dinner tonight

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Masterton Solway Park
DAY 10: MASTERTON/PALMERSTON NORTH  March 7th, 2019 (B, L,D)

8:30am: Farm visit to Maungaraki Cattle Co hosted by  Peter and Sue McWilliam

We are predominantly Gelbvieh and Angus seed stock breeders and also have a small herd of pure Pustertaler-Sprinzen cattle from South Tyrol [a rare European alpine breed that is almost extinct]

• Gladstone Angus Stud. First registered calves in 1996 and has now built up to a herd of over 80 breeding females
• Gladstone Gelbvieh Stud. The first Gelbvieh cattle were introduced in 1989 numbers quickly built up to 60 breeding females by the use of extensive ET and AI programmes.
• Maungaraki Simmental Stud. Established by William and Lauren in 2010, after the dispersal of the Wai-iti herd.
• Maungaraki Pustertal Stud. We have an elite herd of one of the worlds rarest beef cattle breeds. First importation of embryos in 2009
• Semen and Embryos Are available for sale from all our breeds both locally and for export overseas to most countries.

12pm Lunch on farm
1:30pm finish lunch/ farm visit ends

1:30pm Transfer to Waigroup Angus Operation—hosted by Willie Falloon

Waigroup consists of two of the original studs Pinebank and Glanworth. Both herds still contain large proportions of pure New Zealand bloodlines however we are using outside genetics to help benchmark our own cattle’s performance. All of the cattle are treated the same and are expected to perform under commercial conditions.

All Waigroup cows must get in calf as a yearling, and every year thereafter. Calve unassisted and wean a good calf. Along with being structurally correct and well-tempered.

• 2 yr bulls are sold privately on-farm in July.
• 1 yr bulls (both beef & dairy) are sold privately on-farm from October.
• Semen for sale from top bulls both modern and progeny tested at any time. Semen bulls changed yearly.

4:30pm: Farm tour finishes and transfer to Palmerston North

Continue to Palmerston North , check into hotel Free evening

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel, Palmerston North
DAY 11: PALMERSTON NORTH March 8th, 2019 (B,D)

Morning visit Feilding Livestock Auction
The first sale was conducted by Mr Jack Stevens and Colonel Gorton on 24th May 1880 in the Denbigh Hotel Sale yards. This was the same site as the sale yards now occupy. At the first sale 100 head of cattle were sold. Regular fortnightly sales followed and were later expanded to weekly sales with four firms involved.

In earlier times the Sale yards were considered to be one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere with 489 pens covering 3.7 hectares, selling 100,000 cattle and 600,000 sheep annually. Now the Feilding Sale yards remain of important significance to the Region. They still occupy 3.7 hectares and have 350 sheep pens, 140 cattle pens and 45 deer pens. These days around 50,000 cattle and 450,000 sheep are sold annually.

The group will have a guided tour with a retired local farmer, after the guided tour you can stay and look around at your own leisure or wonder to the town centre of Feilding to look around the shops or to grab a bite for lunch.

Afternoon visit to Massey University Research Centre or farm visit—to be advised
Massey University is one of the top agricultural universities in New Zealand. Massey is world-ranked and New Zealand’s No 1 university in agriculture. Our proud record dates back to 1927 when we offered New Zealand’s first degrees in agriculture and horticulture.

The group will be visiting the Agricultural Precision Research Centre.
New Zealand Centre for Precision Agriculture (NZCPA) creates practical land management solutions through the use of leading-edge precision technology tools. Whether you are an individual farmer or a large corporation or government agency, we offer relevant, leading research and site-specific consultancy to help enhance the economic and environmental performance of your land.

Group Dinner

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel, Palmerston North
DAY 12: PALMERSTON NORTH TO ROTORUA March 9th, 2019 (B,D)

Travel from Palmerston North to Lake Taupo - Stop off at the Huka Falls for a great photo opportunity.

Free time for lunch in Lake Taupo. Enjoy a break from driving in this beautiful lake side town.

Continue onto Rotorua—check into hotel and freshen up before special dinner this evening

This evening you will discover the Tamaki Maori Village. You will be greeted by imposing warriors who will perform the Powhiri (traditional Maori welcome) before you walk through a forest of pine trees and learn about some of the traditional Maori arts. Later enjoy the Maori hangi (traditionally prepared meats and vegetables) which has been slow cooked beneath the earth using hot stones, as well as enjoying a selection of more conventional dishes. Be inspired by a concert and cultural performance featuring stirring Maori songs, haunting chants and the famous haka.

Accommodation: Sudima Hotel, Rotorua

DAY 13: ROTORUA March 10th, 2019 (B)

Sunday: Free day to explore Rotorua on your own.

We will send you a list of popular sightseeing and activities and your guide will be happy to assist you in making any bookings or providing other suggestions to fill your day.

Accommodation: Sudima Hotel, Rotorua
DAY 14: Rotorua to Hamilton March 11th, 2019 (B,L,D)

Morning visit to Lake Farm Beef & Meat pie operation

Lake Farm is on the shores of Lake Karapiro, 15 minutes drive south of Cambridge. It is farmed by Colin and Keryn Brown. Our goal is to provide beef hitting three tenets – TENDER, TASTY and HEALTHY. To do this we are crossbreeding mostly Angus and Hereford cattle with a special Italian breed – Piedmontese. You know how good Angus and Hereford beef is! Add heathiness and tenderness, and we believe we have the ultimate recipe.

Through selective breeding we continue to develop an elite herd of Angus and Angus/Hereford cross cows. We crossbreed these cows with pure Piedmontese bulls to produce the ultimate beef carcass.

NZ Lamb and Beef run an annual competition to find the best steak in New Zealand. The competition is called the “Steak of Origin” competition, and it is unique in the world. We have reached the final 20 four times in the last six years. Last year, 2014, we were awarded the very top prize – “Supreme Grand Champion” We entered four animals into the competition – and three out of the four also made the semi finals. So don’t take our word for it – its official – Lake Farm Beef is the best beef in New Zealand!

Meat Pies: A wonderful kiwi classic – the NZ hand-held pie can be found all over New Zealand from service stations while filling up your car to local bakeries and corner stores the traditional meat pie is a kiwi classic.

Our pies are slightly more expensive than traditionally made gourmet pies – but for good reason. Using trusted, award winning beef means making no compromises.

See how Lake Farm Beef produce this popular kiwi favorite and taste for yourself!

After Lake Farm visit—we will transfer to Auckland

On arrival check in and freshen up, free time to explore Auckland’s waterfront—cafes, shops, restaurants, bars etc.

7pm: Meet in the hotel lobby ready to walk to dinner.

7:30pm: Dinner: Sky Tower
This evening after checking into your hotel you will be transferred to the iconic Auckland Skytower to enjoy a delicious dinner at the Orbit Restaurant for spectacular views and a fresh food.

Accommodation: Citylife, Auckland
DAY 15: AUCKLAND, March 12th, 2019 (B,L)

Transfer to Auckland wharf where you will board a ferry cruise to Waiheke Island through the glorious Hauraki Gulf. Arrive at Matiatia where you will be greeted on the wharf by Ananda Tours. The tour will commence with a drive along the scenic northern route, taking in spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf and beyond to the Coromandel Peninsula. Next enjoy a tasting at Peacock Sky, who produce Rosé Méthode Traditionelle, Chardonnay, Rosé, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot Malbec wines. The wines are all carefully matched with morsels of tempting food created daily by the vineyard owners. Peacock Sky’s 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon won a Gold Medal at the 2011 Upper North Island Wine Challenge.

After your tasting stay on for lunch in their vineyard restaurant. (Beverages during lunch own expense.) Next visit Stonyridge Vineyard for wine tasting. Founded in 1982, Stonyridge is a world-class producer of Cabernet blends and is the home of one of New Zealand’s cult wines, Larose (not included in tasting). You will taste their Church Bay Chardonnay, Merlot/ Cabernet Franc as well as the Fallen Angel Sauvignon Blanc. Depart Oneroa and travel back to the ferry, sailing via Davenport to Auckland. You will then be transferred back to your hotel where the rest of the afternoon will be for you to spend at your leisure.

Free afternoon & evening in Auckland

Accommodation: Citylife, Auckland

DAY 16: AUCKLAND to BAY OF ISLANDS March 13th 2019 (B)

The Bay of Islands is a New Zealand enclave encompassing more than 140 subtropical islands next to the country’s North Island. It’s known for its undeveloped beaches, big-game fishing and Maori cultural artefacts. It’s also home to the 19th-century whaling port of Russell, whose waterfront promenade is lined with remnants from its days as the country’s first colonial capital.

Morning drive north to Paihia in the Bay of islands. Here we meet our local Maori guide, who will provide an insight and history of the Bay of Islands before a visit to New Zealand’s birthplace, Waitangi. Visit the Treaty House, the Maori Meeting House and war canoe.

The remainder of day at leisure in Paihia to explore this beautiful town.

Accommodation: Paihia, Bay of Islands
DAY 17: BAY OF ISLANDS March 14th 2019 (B,L,D)

Overnight Cruise Bay of Islands

Board your boat at Opua where you cruise through the picture perfect sheltered waters of the Bay of Islands. Simply soak up the scenery on the sundeck, or enjoy a leisurely stroll on a secluded beach or try snorkelling and kayaking – the choice is yours.

Enjoy a buffet dinner on board.

Accommodation: Overnight on board the cruise boat

Day 18: AUCKLAND March 15th, 2019 (B, D)

Journey south from the Bay of Islands through Whangarei and Warkworth passing the satellite tracking station. Auckland city and harbour will come into view, transfer to Auckland hotel.

Farewell Dinner at hotel / free evening on your own

Accommodation: Citylife, Auckland

Day 19: AUCKLAND March 16th 2019 (B)

Morning at leisure / transfer to Auckland International Airport

End of tour!

New Zealand Package Pricing - Feb 24th to March 16th 2019

*Please note: Flights pricing has not been released for Feb 2019

20-25 Passengers minimum: Twin Rate: $7899 Land Only

25-30 Passengers: Twin: $7399 Land Only

Single Travellers: Please add extra $1759

Leader Tours Inc.

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