

# New Zealand: Art, Culture, and Natural Beauty Tour

## February/March 2018

*Graeme Priddle's two-week (on the ground) insider's tour of New Zealand provides a variety of experiences, including artist studio visits, museum tours, beautiful scenery, and an exploration of craft. Our group (maximum of 18 travelers) will travel by luxury coach to a number of sites on the North Island, beginning in Auckland and ending in Wellington.*

### **Monday, February 19 – Tuesday, February 20: US – NEW ZEALAND**

Depart US (when flying to NZ you will lose Tuesday, February 20 in the air)

For those traveling directly from the US to start the tour, we recommend LAX to Auckland on an Air New Zealand flight departing at 9:45pm. (Airfares are not included in the tour price.) Those who wish to arrive and spend some time in NZ prior to the tour should plan to have checked in at the Sofitel Auckland and meet the travel party at the group dinner on Wednesday, Feb 21.

### **DAY 1 – Wednesday, February 21: AUCKLAND (D)**

Arrive Auckland International Airport at approximately 7:30am. Clear customs: this can take 1-2hrs depending on the number of arriving flights. Graeme will meet the group at the arrival lounge near the customs exit beginning at 8:30am. Once the group has gathered, we will proceed to the [Auckland Sofitel Hotel](#) for check in. For those arriving at different times there are hotel and private shuttle buses and taxis available from the airport. We meet later that evening for cocktails and a group dinner (dinner included, cocktails own expense).



### **DAY 2 – Thursday, February 22: AUCKLAND (B,L,D)**

We spend our first tour day at the spectacular [Gibbs Farm Sculpture Garden](#) with our private tour guide [Chris Booth](#), one of NZ's most renowned environmental installation sculptors. Lunch to follow at [Brick Bay Matakana](#). After lunch we travel by bus to [Carrington Unitec Whareniui](#) (Traditional Maori Meeting House) where we will be greeted with a powhiri (traditional Maori welcome) followed by a guided tour by master carver and NZ Arts Laureate [Dr. Lyonel Grant](#). Lyonel is considered one of NZ's finest carvers and has worked for over 4 years on this magnificent house, the first Whareniui in nearly a century where the carvings provide the structural elements of the house. Dinner will be at Sky City Hotel where we will be joined by Dr. Grant and his wife.

### **DAY 3 – Friday, February 23: AUCKLAND – TUTUKAKA (B,L,D)**

Today we travel to Whangarei, Graeme's hometown, to spend the afternoon at the [Quarry Arts Centre](#) where he started his artistic career and to meet local artists and craftspeople. Dinner that evening will be at the popular [Schnapper Rock Cafe](#). This evening we check into the [Pacific Rendezvous](#) situated on the [Tutukaka Coast](#), 25 minutes from Whangarei City.



### **DAY 4 – Saturday, February 24: TUTUKAKA (B)**

With its exquisite rocky shores, pristine white sand beaches, and stunning coastal bush walks, the Tutukaka Coast is one of New Zealand's treasures. Here we will visit [Donn Salt](#), a nephrite jade carver whose work, initially influenced by Maori artifacts, has developed beyond that over the years. Or, this can be a day of relaxation as you lounge by the hotel pool, picnic at the beach, go big game fishing, diving charter, or kayaking. (Activities to be self-booked and are not included in costs.) <http://www.tutukakacoastnz.com>. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

### **DAY 5 – Sunday, February 25: TUTUKAKA – WARKWORTH (B,L,D)**

Today we experience the [Waipoua Forest](#) to see giant Kauri trees. We then travel to Matakoho where we spend the afternoon with [John Ecuver](#), who embellishes his vessels with extraordinary surface design. We will have lunch along the way. From John's we journey to Warkworth in the late afternoon to the [Bridgehouse Warkworth Hotel](#), where we check in and enjoy a group dinner.

### **DAY 6 – Monday, February 26: WARKWORTH – WAITOMO (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we depart to visit [Gordon Pembridge](#), whose intricately carved wood vessels often include remembered imagery from his youth spent in the Kenyan bush. We will have lunch at *O Café* in Otorohanga. In the afternoon we visit the [Kiwi House](#), a bird sanctuary. We are staying in nearby [Waitomo Caves Hotel](#) in Waitomo. Group dinner at the [Huhu Cafe](#).



**DAY 7 – Tuesday February 27: WAITOMO (B)**

Today is a choose-your-own adventure day with self-booked tours and activities. Graeme suggests the [Spellbound Tour](#) through an underground cave where millions of glowworms have attached themselves to the cave walls and provide an eerie light that is a must-see natural phenomenon in this part of the world. For more caves and thrill-seeking check out [Blackwater Rafting](#). Lunch and dinner are on your own.

**DAY 8 – Wednesday, February 28: WAITOMO - TAUPO (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we travel to Taupo and stop at the Huku Falls for a spectacular view. From the falls we check into the [Hilton Lake Taupo](#) with spectacular lake views. Group dinner at the hotel.

**DAY 9 – Thursday, March 1: TAUPO (B,D)**

The morning is at your leisure, with lunch on your own. In the afternoon we bus to Rotoura to experience this geothermal area. It is the home of the Maori national woodcarving and weaving schools where we will have tours, a cultural evening, and traditional hangi dinner to learn about the Maori way of life. <http://www.tepuia.com/>

**DAY 10 – Friday, March 2: TAUPO – NAPIER (B,L,D)**

We check out of the Hilton Lake Taupo after breakfast and travel to Napier, the Art Deco capital of NZ and one of NZ's oldest established winery areas. We have lunch enroute and dinner at [Clearview Estate Winery](#). We'll stay at the [County Hotel Napier](#).

**DAY 11 – Saturday, March 3: NAPIER (B)**

After breakfast at the hotel we take a 1½ hour privately guided walking tour of Napier's Art Deco architecture. The town of Napier lost much of its architecture during an earthquake in 1931. Afterwards the town experienced a massive rebuilding boom—all in the then-popular art deco style of clean lines and decorative touches. These buildings have been lovingly preserved by the [Art Deco Trust](#) that continues to protect Napier's distinct built heritage. We will also visit the design gallery of [David Trubridge](#). David's designs are deeply inspired by his degree in Naval Architecture (boat design) from Newcastle University in England and the experiences he, his wife, and their two boys had during their ten-year sail throughout the Caribbean and Pacific during the 1980s.

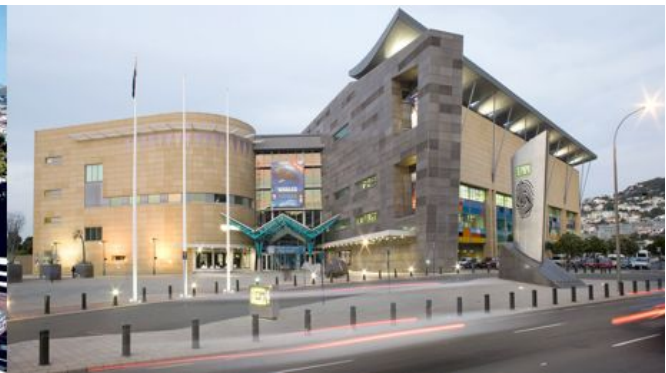


#### **DAY 12 – Sunday, March 4: NAPIER – WELLINGTON (B,L,D)**

After breakfast we depart for Manakau via Manawatu Gorge with its lush indigenous plants and trees. We lunch with [Rolly Munro](#) and then visit his studio. Rolly is an internationally known wood sculptor, teacher, and tool designer who lives in a beautiful coastal area on the North Island's east coast. His works are inspired by sea creatures of various types and influenced by the arts of Oceania. After our visit we will drive to Wellington where we will check into [Hotel Intercontinental Wellington](#) for our final three days. We will plan a group dinner at one of the many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

#### **DAY 13 – Monday, March 5: WELLINGTON (B,L)**

After breakfast we visit with [Tim Wigmore](#) who lives and designs in the heart of Wellington, New Zealand's capital—a city that fuses funky culture with rugged landscape. Tim's innovative furniture is acclaimed for pushing the boundaries between interior design, installation art, and exhibition design. After a group lunch we will have an afternoon visit with [Veranoa Hetet](#) whose passion for weaving and love of teaching her craft were learned from her highly regarded Maori artist parents whose work reflected traditional Maori cultural and weaving traditions. We return to the hotel for dinner on your own.



#### **DAY 14 – Tuesday, March 6: WELLINGTON (B,L,D)**

We will gather after our hotel breakfast for a tour of the [Weta Workshops](#), the award-winning group of artists who create special effects and scenery for the film industry across the globe. After lunch we will have a special tour by one of the curators at the [Te Papa National Museum](#), New Zealand's national museum that houses highly unusual biological and man-made treasures. Later we will gather for our final group dinner and farewells at our hotel.

**DAY 15 – Wednesday, March 7: DEPART WELLINGTON/NEW ZEALAND (B)**

You are on your own from here! Stay in NZ longer, especially if you'd like to see the spectacular scenery of the South Island, which is a short flight or a 4-5hr ferry ride across Cook Strait. Or, fly back to US direct from Wellington or via Auckland.

*Itinerary is subject to change.*

Inclusions:

B – Breakfast

L – Lunch

D – Dinner

TRIP WILL INCLUDE:

- Accommodations as indicated or similar
- Meals as indicated, with soft drinks, coffee/tea included
- Private transport
- Entrance fees
- Special visits
- Taxes and services in hotels and restaurants

NOT INCLUDED:

- Any meals not specified
- Travel insurance
- International airfare
- Items of a personal nature (telephone, laundry, wi-fi, alcoholic beverages, etc.)

The trip cost (excluding airfare) is USD \$7,950 per person for double-occupancy and \$2,740 for a single supplement. Costs are subject to exchange rate variations. This price includes a \$500 tax-deductible donation to Penland School of Crafts. To reserve your spot on this trip, please complete the reservation form and send it with a \$1,000 deposit by July 19, 2017 to Penland New Zealand Trip, Penland School of Crafts, PO BOX 37, Penland, NC 28765.