

White House Fellows Trip Itinerary *AOTEAROA (New Zealand) - 2019*



Day 1 - Friday, February 22: Fly overnight to Auckland, New Zealand (AKL) from San Francisco, Los Angeles or Houston. Contact info@thriveadventures.com for help with flight booking or to add nights at your hotel before the core trip begins.

**Sponsored flight (guided by Trip Lead) will depart from Los Angeles.*

Day 2 - Saturday, February 23: Lose this day over the International Date Line (IDL). If it's your birthday you stay a year younger!

Day 3 - Sunday, February 24: Arrive in Auckland and get acquainted. Ki'a Ora, Mate! Enjoy an introductory dinner together at the Orbit 360 rotating restaurant atop the Sky Tower. Brave souls can do the SkyWalk (\$80 USD) or SkyJump (\$117 USD)! Contact info@thriveadventures.com to book. Advanced booking is necessary for either the SkyWalk or SkyJump.



Accommodation: Hilton Auckland

Day 4 - Monday, February 25:

- Enjoy a warm introduction to New Zealand with the authentic Maori Sunrise Experience and a speaker over breakfast at the Orakei Marae.

- **Topic (tentative): 5-year China strategy, Asia-Pacific**
- Explore Orakei Domain and the Michael Joseph Memorial before walking down to the Mission Bay Boardwalk. Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium is also an option.
- Lunch along Mission Bay and transfer to the Viaduct Harbour to board the America's Cup winning sailboat for a 2-3 hour tour of Auckland Harbour.
- Dine at the princess wharf and walk the city to finish off a full day.

Accommodation: Hilton Auckland

Day 5 - Tuesday, February 26:

- Fly to Wellington (WLG) (1hr). Enjoy lunch and a speaker at the National Museum of New Zealand: Te Papa coupled with an exclusive behind the scene tour with exhibits not available to the public.
- ***Potential Speaker Topics (tentative): Election cycle and finance***
- Take the historic Wellington Cable Car up the mountain for views of Wellington Harbour and a stroll through the Wellington Botanic Garden will get us out and about for the afternoon.
- Transfer to Boomrock Resort overlooking the dramatic New Zealand coastline for dinner and "variety of challenging and thrilling experiences."

Accommodation: Intercontinental Wellington

Day 6 - Wednesday, February 27:

- Take a private tour of New Zealand's parliamentary complex, the "Bee Hive."
- Agenda remains open for engagements with White House Fellows contacts.
- Optional afternoon attractions: Mount Victoria Lookout, Zealandia Eco-sanctuary, Weta Film Studio (Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit, Narnia, etc.)

Accommodation: Intercontinental Wellington





Day 7 - Thursday, February 28:

- Fly to Queenstown (1hr 20mins).
- Enjoy lunch and discussion at a premier local farm.
- ***Potential Speaker Topics (tentative): Conservation and environment***
- Choose from extensive afternoon activity options (e.g., group Jet Boat ride on the remote Dart River, pinot noir wine tour, horseback riding, biking, white water rafting, skydiving, spa).

Accommodation: St Moritz, Queenstown

Day 8 - Friday, March 1:

- Drive the stunning Milford Sound Highway through Fiordland National Park and through the Homer Tunnel with multiple scenic stops.
- Cruise the sound and 3,000ft cliffs, waterfalls and wildlife (seals, dolphins, penguins).
- Return to Queenstown via scenic flight or via coach (either is included in trip cost)
- *Option with added cost: Longer scenic flight through Fiordland up to Mount Cook and back to Queenstown with possible glacier landing.*
- If it's good weather Winnies Gourmet Pizza might open the roof for us!



Accommodation: St Moritz, Queenstown

Day 9 - Saturday, March 2:

- Enjoy free time to explore the endless possibilities in Queenstown, scenic walking, spa/massage, boating, biking, rafting, river surfing, canyon swinging, canyoneering, paragliding, hang gliding, and acrobatic flights to name a few. Pre-booking can be important depending on the activity.
- End the day in style on top of the Skyline Gondola and enjoy a few luge rides (one is never enough) and a celebration dinner with a stunning view.



Accommodation: St. Moritz Queenstown

Day 10 - Sunday, March 3:

- Depart from Queenstown airport (ZQN) back to the US, crossing over the International Dateline and arriving the same day. Contact info@thriveadventures.com if you would like to extend your hotel stay after the core trip ends (accommodation not included on this day).

Pre- and Post-Trip Extension Outlines

**Note: Extension itineraries can be customized and multiple options may be possible. Details and costs are TBD and will depend on preferences and number of travelers. All Pre- and/or Post-Trip Extensions will be coordinated separately with Thrive Adventures.*



Pre-Trip Extension Dates and Itinerary:

Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, February 24, 2019

- 6 additional days in New Zealand
- Equates to 5 additional days away from the U.S. (a total of two weeks in combination with the core trip)

Day 1: Saturday, February 16 – Fly overnight to Auckland, New Zealand (AKL) from San Francisco, Los Angeles or Houston

Day 2: Sunday, February 17 – Lose this day over the International Date Line (IDL)

Day 3: Monday, February 18 – Arrive & Acquaint

Arrive at Auckland international airport. Check into your accommodation and freshen up, but don't nap! Walk the city's waterfront, get an early dinner and a good night's sleep.

Accommodation: Auckland

Day 4: Tuesday, February 19 – Coromandel Peninsula

Oceanside scenic drive to Whitianga. Stop for a fresh seafood lunch at the Muscle Kitchen, then enjoy a short hike to a secluded beach on the way to your accommodation.

Accommodation: Whitianga

Day 5: Wednesday, February 20 – Cathedral Cove & Hot Water Beach

Spend the morning on a short hike to Cathedral cove, a stunning rock archway right on the beach. Walk or wade through the tunnel - depending on the tide. We will monitor the tide times to reach Hot Water Beach, where a natural hot spring seeps up through the sand. Dig your own personal hot tub, relax, and watch the waves come in.

Accommodation: Whitianga

Day 6: Thursday, February 21 – Mt Manganui-Gondola & Luge

Mt Manganui is a unique surfside town dwarfed by the dormant volcano. Kiwis affectionately call "The Mount." With the bay and the ocean only blocks apart, there is plenty to explore. Continue to Rotorua and catch the gondola to the top of Mt. Ngongotaha for a stunning view of Rotorua's lakes and geothermal areas. Take a leisurely luge ride through the fern trees to the bottom.

Accommodation: Rotorua

Day 7: Friday, February 22 – Whakarewarewa Redwood Forest-Canopy Boardwalk-Geothermal Park-Cultural Encounter & Feast

The redwood and fern trees in the Whakarewarewa forest can be enjoyed on foot or on bike. The canopy walk gives you a whole new perspective on the New Zealand forest. Spend the afternoon exploring the many geothermal sights around the area, take in the Government Gardens, or walk the local shops. Save your appetite for a traditional feast and spend an evening learning the unique culture, dance, and tribal traditions of New Zealand's native Maori people.

Accommodation: Rotorua

Day 8: Saturday, February 23 – Waitomo Glowworm Caves-Black Water Rafting

Start the day with the classic walking and boat tour of the famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Then, explore the underground labyrinth of the Ruakuri Cave. Walk through limestone caves, splash through small underground waterfalls, and float down a very tame underground river lit from above by bioluminescent glowworms on the vaulted ceilings. This is a truly unique Kiwi

experience. Finish the day at the Ruakuri Caves & Bush Scenic Reserve, one of the best short walks in all of New Zealand.

Accommodation: Waitomo

Day 9: Sunday, February 24 – Hobbiton-Auckland

Drive to Auckland to meet the larger WHFFA group, stopping along the way at the famous movie set from the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies.



Post-Trip Extension Dates and Itinerary:

**Note: Extension itineraries can be customized and multiple options may be possible. Details and costs are TBD and will depend on preferences and number of travelers.*

Sunday, March 3 - Saturday, March 9, 2019

- 6 additional days in New Zealand
- Equates to 5 additional days away from the U.S. (a total of two weeks in combination with core trip)

Day 1: Sunday, March 3 – Fly to Nelson-Tidal drive to Marahau-Dinner on the estuary/ocean

Fly down to the South Island and head to Marahau, the mouth of Abel Tasman National Park. Enjoy a beautiful dinner and watch the tide in Sandy Bay rise and fall by up to 15 feet to cover and reveal an abundance of sea and bird life.

Accommodation: Marahau

**Day 2: Monday, March 4 – Abel Tasman Remote Coast Ocean Kayak Adventure-
Anchorage Bay**

Water taxi into this pristine coastal paradise with kayaks and gear. As the tide rises and fills the estuaries, spend the day exploring sunlit lagoons and exploring the coast. Circle the New Zealand fur seal colony at Tonga Island and enjoy a picnic lunch on the beach. Lock the boats together and harness the wind with a sail towards Anchorage Bay where your wilderness hut awaits. Enjoy a slice of the wilderness with amenities like flush toilets, bunk beds, and potable water to make things easy.

Accommodation: Wilderness Hut at Anchorage Bay

**Day 3: Tuesday, March 5 – Beach Time-Cleopatra's Falls-Torrent Bay Estuary-Pitt Head
Lookout-Te Pukatea Bay**

Short hikes will bring us to Cleopatra's Pool, Pitt Head Lookout, and secluded Te Pukatea Bay. Crossing the Torrent Bay estuary at low tide is also a highlight in this area.

Accommodation: Wilderness Hut at Anchorage Bay

Day 4: Wednesday, March 6 – Abel Tasman Coastal Track

Hike the famous Abel Tasman Coastal Track back to civilization: one of the most popular hikes in all of New Zealand. Once you trek it, you'll see why. Fern trees and lush vegetation on the trail give way to spectacular coastal views.

Accommodation: Marahau

**Day 5: Thursday, March 7 – East Coast-Pelorus Bridge-Cullen Point-Ohau Falls & Seal
Colony-Kaikoura**

Drive the scenic east coast to Kaikoura, stopping along the way to see the seals at Ohau Point and follow the stream to Ohau Falls.

Accommodation: Kaikoura

Day 6: Friday, March 8 – Dolphin Encounter-Peninsula Walkway

Outfitted with a buoyant wetsuit, fins, and snorkeling gear, ride a catamaran to find pods of 300-600 wild dusky dolphins. Jump in, swim, and be amazed as hundreds of these friendly, intelligent creatures swim and play around you. If you are not a swimmer, you will still have a great view and find this a highly memorable experience. In the afternoon, explore the rocks exposed at low tide on the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway and observe seabirds and seals in their natural habitat. Then, make the short climb to views of the coast with the Kaikoura mountain range as a backdrop.

Accommodation: Kaikoura

Day 7: Saturday, March 9 – Fly Home

Fly from Christchurch airport and arrive in the U.S. the same day, crossing back over the International Date Line.