

# Williams GeoAdventures

New Zealand - 2017

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### Day 1: Wednesday 06 December 2017

Transfer from Auckland Airport from flights from the U.S. to Auckland accommodation.

Group Welcoming Dinner at the Orbit Restaurant, Skycity Hotel - 3 Course Dinner

Trip orientation, meet Paul Ashley, and distribute field guide.

The President Hotel is walking distance to the Skycity Hotel.

*Accommodation at President Hotel Auckland*

### Day 2: Thursday 07 December 2017

Morning visit in Auckland to see a geologically young volcano at Mount Mangere, south of the city center.

This site has historic significance for the Maori people and a great view.

Drive to Rotorua via Waihi including public lookout view of the famous Martha Au-Ag mine (large epithermal deposit) and visit the public lookout over the Waihi gold mine. What we do from there will depend on the weather, how jetlagged we are, and how adventurous we feel. Among the options are Hot Water Beach or do the walk up the gorge to the Karangahake historic gold mine area.

*Accommodation at Sudima Hotel Rotorua*

### Day 3: Friday 08 December 2017

Day trip to White Island via Whakatane

White Island Tours with PeeJay gives you an in-depth guided tour of one of the world's most interesting volcanoes. The trip out to the island is approximately 80 minutes, depending on conditions,

so there is plenty of time to take in the scenery and marine life.

Upon arrival it is time to start your exploration of New Zealand's only live marine volcano. Trained Maori tour guides will take you through the remains of the old sulphur mining factory and up close and personal with the bright yellow sulphur crystals. Venture right up to the main craters edge. It's all here, the hissing, roaring, eerie steam rising from the crater lake. After feeling the awesome power of Mother Nature, sit back, relax and indulge in one of our delicious lunches on board PeeJay. On our trip home, we might even be lucky enough to spend some time with the dolphins.

**SUITABILITY OF TOUR:** There are minor physical challenges on the tour. Getting on and off the island involves a transfer via inflatable boat to an original concrete wharf. Once there, there is a short ladder to climb to get on to the jetty, a steel platform to cross which spans a gap in the jetty and then a series of boulders to walk over. There are no difficult hills to climb, however, the island surface can be uneven in some areas. Passengers will need to be reasonably agile and prepared to be on their feet for up to two hours. There is about a one in three chance of not being able to land and White Island also has an element of risk, as it is an active volcano (e.g. hydrothermal or magmatic eruptions are possible, with little or no warning).

*Accommodation at Sudima Hotel Rotorua*

### Day 4: Saturday 09 December 2017

A half day trip to the Whakarewarewa geothermal area on the outskirts of Rotorua and a visit to the Maori village cultural center, then have the remainder of the day for rest or sightseeing in Rotorua.

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Group Dinner at Tamaki Tours Ltd Rotorua – Pickup will be from your accommodation.

The Chronicles of Uitara – Journey of Ages

Experience an evening of ceremonial ritual, amazing re-enactment, powerful cultural performance, storytelling & hangi feasting as we relive significant events within our Pre-European history! Share in the Powhiri - our traditional ceremony of welcome before you are invited into the Pre-European village nestled within the ancient Tawa forest. With bonfires blazing, here you will witness time honored crafts and past-times of the Ngati Tama people. At the heart of the Village, enter our Meeting House for a powerful and entertaining Cultural performance. Witness the lifting of the 'Hangi' then celebrate with our people, as you dine on a mouth watering feast, cooked beneath the ground on hot rocks. An amazing 3.5 hour evening re-enactment, based on historical events, with real characters, authentic arts, crafts and powerful song and dance.

*Accommodation at Sudima Hotel Rotorua*

### **Day 5: Sunday 10 December 2017**

Travel from Rotorua to Tongariro National Park area. Tour Wai-O-Tapu geothermal area, the Wairakei geothermal area and possible power station visit. Lake Taupo and approach to the volcanic region in Tongariro National Park.

Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland

A Wonderland of stunning geothermal activity. Visitors can walk at their own pace and absorb the unique features including the world famous champagne pool, geysers, bubbling mud, steaming ground, expansive vistas, huge craters and sinter terrace formations.

Wai-o-tapu is worth the visit as it is one of the world famous geothermal sites from a geological perspective. There is a large array of geothermal features and it is actually an ore deposit (epithermal precious metal type) in the process of being formed. It is an easy walk around the site. After Wai-o-tapu, we will visit the Wairakei geothermal field (public access) and it might be possible to visit the geothermal power station.

Then stop at Lake Taupo (south of the town of Taupo) and examine some of the roadside exposures of the Taupo Pumice, formed in the mega-eruption ~ 1800 years ago.

Group Dinner at Distinction The Park Hotel – 2 course dinner

*Accommodation at Distinction The Park Hotel, National Park.*

### **Day 6: Monday 11 December 2017**

Hiking in Tongariro National Park until early to mid afternoon.

Hike the southern end of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing track. Walk up the Mangatepopo Valley to the saddle between Tongariro and Ngauruhoe and beyond. It climbs to Red Crater at 1886 meters, then drops down to the vivid Emerald Lakes. The length of the hike will depend on the weather and levels of interest and fitness. We then travel to Palmerston North.

*Accommodation at Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North*

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### Day 7: Tuesday 12 December 2017

Leave Palmerston North and travel to Castlepoint on the southeast coast of the North Island to view spectacular folded fossiliferous Miocene-Pliocene strata and collect some fossils. Approach Wellington following a short winery visit in the Martinborough district of the Wairarapa. Drive to Wellington and, if weather is suitable, go to the Mount Victoria lookout to observe the city, its geomorphological setting and discuss aspects of the Wellington Fault and potential earthquake hazards.

*Accommodation at Rydges Wellington*

### Day 8: Wednesday 13 December 2017

At 0700 coach driver will transfer you to Wellington Airport for you to catch a morning flight from Wellington to Dunedin (Air New Zealand flight at 0830). New driver and bus will be met at Dunedin airport and transferred to central accommodation by about 1100. Remainder of the day free to explore the city. Some may choose to go on the optional Taieri Gorge Train Trip.

#### Taieri Gorge Railways - OPTIONAL TOUR

Optional tour on the Taieri Gorge Railway (the timetable for December 2017 has not been released yet for the Taieri Gorge. Subject to next seasons timetable). Likely to be an afternoon trip leaving at 1430 for 4 hours.

The Taieri Gorge Limited train is Dunedin's prestige tourist train operating from the historic Railway Station. Departing daily it takes you on a journey through the rugged and spectacular Taieri River Gorge, across wrought iron viaducts and through tunnels carved by hand more than 100 years ago. With full commentary, photographic stops, comfortable heating in winter and on board

refreshments the train offers year round, all-weather entertainment.

*Accommodation at Wains Hotel Dunedin*

### Day 9: Thursday 14 December 2017

Drive to Oamaru from Dunedin, visiting coastal scenery and geological sites including parts of the Dunedin Volcano (at Purakanui and/or Aramoana), Moeraki Boulders, Kakanui mineral breccia, Oamaru Limestone and the pillow lavas at Cape Wanbrow.

Speights Brewery Alehouse Tour & 2 Course Evening Meal

The 90 minute guided tour takes you back in time to the cobblestone streets of the past and the origin of the Speight's' brewery in 1876. Visitors not only get to see, smell, touch and taste the ingredients that make "The Pride of the South" but will learn about the antiquity of beer from Babylonian times through to the introduction of beer in New Zealand and the story of our very own Speight's Brewery. After the tour enjoy a 2 course evening meal at the brewery and complimentary beer of your choice. **Covered footwear must be worn when doing the tour.**

*Accommodation at Wains Hotel Dunedin*

### Day 10: Friday 15 December 2017

Coach trip from Dunedin into Central Otago and return. Examination of the Otago Schist (that occupies a significant part of the South island), overview from public lookout of the Macraes gold mine ("world class" orogenic gold system), then to St Bathans, a historic gold mining village with a possible opportunity to do gold panning from the alluvial

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sediments. Examination of the tectonics and geomorphology of the Central Otago basin and range region.

*Accommodation at Wains Hotel Dunedin*

### **Day 11: Saturday 16 December 2017**

Drive to Invercargill via Nugget Point (dramatic folded Triassic-Jurassic sedimentary strata) and great coastal scenery, then drive along the Catlins road with possible visit (tide dependent) to Cathedral Caves and Curio Bay Jurassic age fossil forest and adjacent sedimentary rocks. Also a quick visit to Bluff to examine the Permian age norite. Bluff and Curio Bay are about as far south as you can get in “mainland” New Zealand.

*Accommodation at Kelvin Hotel Invercargill*

### **Day 12: Sunday 17 December 2017**

Drive to Te Anau, with visits to various coastal locations showing Permian volcanic rocks (pillow lavas) at Riverton, plutonic rocks of the Median Batholith (Wakaputa Point, Monkey Island), Eocene age limestone at Clifden, finally with the spectacular approach to the Fiordland mountains backing on to Te Anau. Depending on the weather, a side trip on the Borland Road into the Fiordland mountains (gneiss, granitic rocks) is possible.

Group Dinner at Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau - Buffet Dinner

*Accommodation at Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau*

### **Day 13: Monday 18 December 2017**

Day trip to Milford Sound and return to Te Anau.

“World class” glacial scenery. Examination of a “granite factory” at Homer tunnel. Optional tour for a cruise on Milford Sound. The group would need to leave Te Anau by 0730 if there are people who want to attend the option cruise.

Milford Sound Nature Cruise (1030-1245) -  
OPTIONAL TOUR

An extended and leisurely two and a-half hour cruise of Milford Sound on board the Milford Mariner or Milford Wanderer. These modern vessels, purposely built for operating in a fiord environment, have been designed along the lines of a traditional trading scow, and have real character. These relaxing cruises have special appeal for the independent traveller. An on board nature guide provides detailed interpretation in English only, via roving microphone. There is plenty of time available to explore points of interest and to view the stunning scenery, including waterfalls, rainforest and the towering peaks. Keep a look out for wildlife. Delicious lunch options and complimentary tea and coffee are available during the cruise.

Optional hike up to Key Summit from The Divide on the Milford Road, if the weather was fine and there was a level of interest from the fitter members of the group (approximately 10 km return, 450 m climb). Superb glacial geomorphology and scenery.

*Accommodation at Kingsgate Hotel Te Anau*

### **Day 14: Tuesday 19 December 2017**

Travel to Wanaka via Queenstown. Examine Otago Schist at Lake Wakatipu.

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Short period of free time in Queenstown and/or Arrowtown tourist centres. Option of the Shotover JetBoat Ride. Great opportunity to examine the great array of diverse river pebbles at the Shotover River whilst waiting. Great views crossing the Crown Range on the way to Wanaka.

Shotover Jetboat Ride - OPTIONAL TOUR

A breathtaking ride through the spectacular Shotover River Canyons.

*Accommodation at Mercure Oakridge Wanaka*

### **Day 15: Wednesday 20 December 2017**

Travel from Wanaka to Christchurch via Lindis Pass, Twizel, Lake Tekapo. Great scenery on eastern side of Southern Alps. Possible side trip to Mount Cook (Aoraki) if time and weather were suitable to view close-up New Zealand's highest mountain. Glacial finger lakes and outwash plains, finally approach Christchurch across the Canterbury Plain, a Pleistocene age outwash deposit.

Group Farewell Dinner at Sudima Hotel - Buffet Dinner

*Accommodation at Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport*

### **Day 16: Thursday 21 December 2017**

Either walk or use the airport hotel transfer to Christchurch Airport to catch a late morning flight to Auckland. Travel from Auckland back to the U.S.