



The Wonders of New Zealand

A NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND ADVENTURE **February 15-27, 2026**

Join Professor Dan Perlman on this exclusive Brandeis Travelers adventure, discovering the best of New Zealand's North and South Islands. This program features encounters with unique wildlife, lessons on Māori culture, tastings of local cuisine and wines, opportunities to interact with locals, and unforgettable excursions in the most spectacular landscapes, including Milford Sound.

Begin with two nights in Auckland, exploring this "City of Sails," and Tiritiri Matangi Island, a wildlife sanctuary, before heading to Rotorua, the heartland of Māori culture and New Zealand's geothermal wonderland. Then fly to the South Island and travel across the stunning Canterbury Plains for the turquoise waters and starry skies of Lake Tekapo. Take in views of Tasman Glacier in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, where Sir Edmund Hillary trained, and sample wines in Gibbston Valley, before arriving in Queenstown, on stunning Lake Wakatipu, set against the dramatic Southern Alps. Continue south for two days exploring the vast glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park, including a cruise on Milford Sound, before returning to Queenstown for a final night.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ◆ Hotel accommodations
- ◆ 23 meals
- ◆ Full program of excursions, briefings, and lectures
- ◆ Airport transfers
- ◆ On-tour air economy class from Rotorua to Christchurch
- ◆ Baggage handling
- ◆ All gratuities
- ◆ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners
- ◆ Expert local guides throughout the program



ITINERARY

Sunday–Tuesday,
February 15–17
**Home/Auckland,
New Zealand**

Wednesday,
February 18
Auckland
(Tiritiri Matangi)

Thursday,
February 19
**Auckland/
Waitomo/Rotorua**

Friday,
February 20
Rotorua

Saturday,
February 21
**Rotorua/
Christchurch/
Lake Tekapo**

Sunday,
February 22
**Aoraki/Mount Cook
National Park**

Monday,
February 23
**Lake Tekapo/
Gibbston Valley/
Queenstown**

Tuesday,
February 24
**Queenstown/
Te Anau**

Wednesday,
February 25
**Milford Track &
Milford Sound**

Thursday,
February 26
**Te Anau/
Queenstown**

Friday,
February 27
Queenstown/Home

**Itinerary is subject to change*



BRANDEIS FACULTY LEADER: Dan L. Perlman



Dan L. Perlman is professor of biology at Brandeis, where he has taught a wide range of courses, including ecology, conservation biology, animal behavior, and introductory Environmental Studies. During his tenure, he has served as associate provost of innovation in education and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. Professor Perlman has co-authored three textbooks on conservation biology and ecology: "Conserving Earth's Biodiversity: With E.O. Wilson," "Practical Ecology for Planners, Developers, and Citizens," and "Biodiversity: Exploring Values and

Priorities in Conservation." He developed the website EcoLibrary.org, where he freely distributes his teaching materials for ecology and environmental studies. He received his B.A. from Yale, and Ph.D. from Harvard. Professor Perlman has led six Brandeis Travelers trips to Alaska, the Galapagos Islands, Australia/New Zealand, the Amazon, the Canadian Rockies and Kenya.

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Per person, sharing accommodations..... \$8,590

Single supplement..... \$1,590

**Pricing is subject to change*

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Brandeis | TRAVELERS

Please contact Criterion Travel directly with trip inquiries and to make a reservation. Note that Criterion Travel will require each tour participant to review and sign a detailed responsibility and terms and conditions statement prior to departure. Criterion will provide these forms to participants upon registration and they are available in advance, by request.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Walk a section of the Milford Track, described as "the Finest Walk in the World," before a scenic cruise in Milford Sound surrounded by towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls.
- ◆ Soak in geothermal waters while stargazing beneath the southern night sky in New Zealand's only UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve.
- ◆ Immerse in Māori culture during a special day with members of the Ngati Manawa Tribe, and walk the trails of Waitapu, a colorful geothermal wonderland.
- ◆ Spend the day on Tiritiri Matangi Island, a wildlife sanctuary and conservation success story brimming with wildlife rarely seen on the mainland.
- ◆ Venture into Mount Cook National Park home to the highest mountains and longest glaciers in New Zealand and a playground for legendary mountaineers, including Sir Edmund Hillary.
- ◆ Sample award-winning wines at Kinross Winery, nestled in the heart of Gibbston Valley, New Zealand's premier wine region.
- ◆ Experience the wild beauty of Fiordland National Park on a journey along the Waiau River to Lake Manapouri aboard a privately chartered jet boat.