

Brandeis | TRAVELERS



The Wonders of New Zealand

A NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND ADVENTURE

Featuring *Dan L. Perlman*,
Professor of Environmental Studies, Brandeis University

February 15-27, 2026

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join Brandeis Travelers for a spectacular 13-day adventure through the breath-taking landscapes of New Zealand. From glacial fjords and snow-capped peaks to geothermal marvels and pristine beaches, along with vibrant Māori culture and rare wildlife.

Begin with two nights in Auckland, the vibrant “City of Sails,” featuring an excursion to the wildlife-rich Tiritiri Matangi Island sanctuary. Then travel to Rotorua, where you’ll walk the surreal geothermal trails of Waioatapu, soak in thermal pools beneath UNESCO-designated dark skies, and enjoy an immersive cultural day with members of the Ngāti Manawa tribe.

Next, fly to the South Island and traverse the stunning Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo, known for its turquoise waters and pristine night skies. Continue to Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park to admire the mighty Tasman Glacier. Enjoy sampling award-winning pinot noir at Kinross Winery in the scenic Gibbston Valley, and continue to Queenstown, the country’s adventure capital.

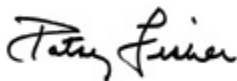
Spend two nights at the tranquil Lake Te Anau and explore the dramatic, glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park. Highlights include a guided walk along the famed Milford Track and a scenic cruise on Milford Sound. Conclude with a final night in Queenstown.

In partnership with local guides and experts, our tour will be led by Dan L. Perlman, Professor of Environmental Studies at Brandeis, who will enrich and inform the journey with his deep knowledge of animal behavior, conservation biology, environmental studies, and ecology.

Join us for a unique Brandeisian experience — one that offers stimulating conversation, camaraderie, and connection with other intellectually-curious alumni and friends.

We expect this small-group tour will fill up quickly as space is limited. Reserve your space today by calling our tour operator, Criterion Travel, at 888-328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com.

Sincerely,



F. Patricia Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations

Scan me with your smart phone
or tablet to register online



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 Waioatapu, 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.

Brandeis Faculty Leader: Dan L. Perlman



Dan L. Perlman is Professor of Environmental Studies 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 numerous Brandeis Travelers trips to Alaska, the Galapagos Islands, the Amazon, the Canadian Rockies, and Kenya.





ronment. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the island before returning to Auckland by ferry in the late afternoon. This evening is free to dine at one of Auckland's excellent restaurants and to experience the city firsthand. MSocial Hotel (B,L)

Thursday, February 19 Auckland/Waitomo/ Rotorua

Travel south through the southern suburbs of Auckland, over the Bombay Hills, and through the lush Waikato Valley to Waitomo. The Waitomo region is renowned for its distinctive limestone landscape and underground cave systems. Depart on a guided tour into the Ruakuri Cave and gently descend a large spiral walkway to the bottom of the cave. Pass through the specially constructed Drum Entrance tunnel and into the cave, journeying down to the softly folding shawl-like limestone formations and crystal tapestries. Hear the distant thunder of the subterranean waterfalls and observe the cavern glow-worms carefully. From Waitomo, travel across the bush-clad Mamaku Ranges to Rotorua, in the heart of New Zealand's famous thermal region. Check into the Pullman Rotorua hotel situated on the banks of Lake Rotorua and dine at a local restaurant in Auckland. Pullman Rotorua (B,L,D)

ence with the Ngati Manawa Tribe. Begin with a special powhiri (welcome) ceremony including tea with elders from the tribe in their marae, traditional meeting house. Learn about the tribe's history and traditions and see the oldest Māori rock carvings in New Zealand. After a traditional hangi lunch, return to Rotorua, stopping enroute at the one of the world's most colorful geothermal areas, Waiotapu. Here find the Artist's Palette, where different minerals from areas on the pool surface, view the tiny bubbles surfacing in the Champagne Pool, and walk down alongside the silica terrace to see the Bridal Veil Falls. Return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure with the option to soak in the nearby Polynesian Spa. There will also be an option to join a short walk to Rotorua's lively "Eat Street," for dinner at one of the many Kiwi-inspired restaurants lining both sides of the street. Pullman Rotorua (B,L)

ITINERARY:

**Sunday-Tuesday,
February 15-17**

Home/Auckland, New Zealand

Depart home on an overnight flight to Auckland, located on New Zealand's North Island and affectionately nicknamed the "City of Sails." Lose one day crossing the international dateline. Auckland is a vibrant cosmopolitan city with a busy nightlife, world-class restaurants, bush-clad mountain ranges, and diverse neighborhoods. Upon arrival, transfer to the MSocial Hotel located downtown on the waterfront. This afternoon, take an optional guided walking tour of the inner city. Gather this evening for a welcome orientation and introductory lecture at the hotel, followed by dinner on the waterfront. MSocial Hotel (D)

Wednesday, February 18

Auckland (Tiritiri Matangi)

Following breakfast board a morning ferry for an 80-minute cruise through Tikapa Moana/Hauraki Gulf to the island sanctuary, Tiritiri Matangi. Explore this wildlife sanctuary and community-based conservation success story during guided walks, with chances to see rare and endangered bird species in a pristine, predator-free envi-

Friday, February 20

Rotorua

Venture to the picturesque town of Murupara for an immersive Māori cultural experi-



Saturday, February 21

Rotorua/Christchurch/ Lake Tekapo

Following a morning lecture, visit the Redwood Forest for a short walk on the Redwood Memorial Grove, dedicated to the memory of the New Zealand Forest Service. On this popular trail meander through breathtaking Sequoia sempervirens planted at the turn of the 20th century. Standing over 200 feet tall, these trees create a wonderful shelter for a diverse range of native plants and birds. Following an early lunch, transfer to the Rotorua airport for the short, direct flight to Christchurch, on New Zealand's South Island. Upon arrival, travel to the shores of the glacier-fed Lake Tekapo, a remarkable, turquoise-colored lake surrounded by the mountainous drama of the Southern Alps. This evening visit the home of Tekapo locals and farming experts, Angie and Stan Taylor, who will share their secrets of making pavlova, New Zealand's national dessert, followed by a hosted dinner. Peppers Bluewater Resort Tekapo (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 22

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

Today experience a full day in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, home of the highest mountains and the longest glaciers in New Zealand, and an alpine landscape in the purest sense - with skyscraping peaks, glaciers, and permanent snow fields. Join a guided walk on the Hooker Valley Track, affording incredible views to Hooker Lake and back. In Mount Cook Village visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Center, a tribute to one of the world's greatest mountaineers. For an additional fee, witness the spectacular Tasman Glacier from a ski plane. Return to Lake Tekapo for dinner at leisure, and later soak in hot mineral pools while learning about the night skies above. Picturesque by day and daz-



zling by night, Lake Tekapo is part of a UNESCO Dark Sky Reserve, making it an ideal site for stargazing. Peppers Bluewater Resort Tekapo (B,L)

Monday, February 23

Lake Tekapo/Gibbston Valley/Queenstown

The educational program continues before traveling to Queenstown by way of Gibbston Valley, the "Land of the Vines," and the most famous wine region in New Zealand. Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at the award-winning Kinross Winery, elevated in 2024 to the short list of top restaurants in the South Island. Continue to Queenstown, New Zealand's "Adventure Capital," set against the remarkable Lake Wakatipu. Take a guided walking tour of the Botanical Gardens before checking in to the Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Hotel, ideally situated in the heart of the city. The evening is free to dine at one of the delicious restaurants in town, including the famed Ferburgers. Novotel Lakeside Queenstown (B,L)

Tuesday, February 24

Queenstown/Te Anau

Depart Queenstown this morning and journey along the eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu to the lovely Southland countryside where sheep, cattle, and deer farming predominate. Stop at a former sheep farm turned dairy for a visit, where the owner will share his expertise and host lunch in his private home.

Continue to Te Anau, the base for the glacier-carved wilderness of Fiordland National Park. Embark on a lakefront Fiordland Jet Pure Wilderness experience in Te Anau. Cruise the quiet waters of the Waiau River to the deserted shores of Lake Manapouri, one of New Zealand's most beautiful lakes. Disembark to wander the native bush beyond the beach, and learn about local flora and fauna at the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Cruise back to Te Anau and check in to the Distinction Luxmore, conveniently located in the heart of downtown. Savor dinner together at a local restaurant in town. Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 25

Milford Track & Milford Sound

Begin with an early morning two-hour scenic drive to Milford Sound. Take a short water taxi to Sandfly Point on the Milford Track. Meander alongside the cascading Arthur River through a lush rainforest to Giant Gate Waterfall. Next view Milford Sound's awe-inspiring scenery by boat, cruising the full length of the fiord. Relax while admiring the grandeur of Mitre Peak with its mountains and endemic wildlife. Return to Te Anau in the early evening with dinner upon arrival at the hotel. Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau (B,L)

Thursday, February 26

Te Anau/Queenstown

Following the final lecture of the program, return to Queenstown and check in to the Crowne Plaza Queenstown Hotel, offering superb panoramic views of Lake Wakatipu. This afternoon tour Queenstown independently. Gather for a festive farewell dinner in one of Queenstown's top restaurants to celebrate the journey. Crowne Plaza Queenstown (B,D)

Friday, February 27

Queenstown/Home

Following breakfast, join group transfers to Queenstown airport this morning and board connecting flights home. (B)



PROGRAM RATES:

Per person, sharing accommodations	\$8,590
Per person, single accommodations	\$10,180

WHAT TO EXPECT:

This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times both physically demanding and busy and requires participants to be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Some of the walking will take place over uneven and unpaved terrain, on muddy or sandy trails, and on moderate inclines/declines. Some historic buildings do not have elevators, and you'll sometimes encounter steps without handrails. Sturdy, well-fitting, waterproof, broken-in hiking boots with ankle support are essential.

Travel on land will be by modern, air-conditioned motorcoach on roads ranging from modern highways to winding mountainous roads in remote locations. Long drives will be broken up with rest stops and site visits. In addition, there will be an on-tour flight from Rotorua to Christchurch on February 21st, enabling us to travel quickly and comfortably from the North Island to the South Island. Busy days will be offset with opportunities to explore independently and relax at the hotels.

Note: This tour is not recommended for guests with neurological conditions that affect stability, mobility, and decision making. It is also not suitable for those with recent knee injuries, recent surgery, moderate to severe joint issues and moderate to severe heart conditions. Finally, this tour is not suitable for those who may wish to physically extend themselves by going further or faster than the average person, or for those who are not interested in participating in a group activity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE:

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • On tour air economy class from Rotorua to Christchurch • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, pilots and drivers • Entrance fees • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Expert local guides • Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS:

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

GROUP SIZE:

This program is exclusive to Brandeis Travelers and can accommodate 22 participants.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour

options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone and internet charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Brandeis Travelers partners exclusively with Meyer and Associates to offer trip insurance for our tours. Please inquire about trip insurance options once you've made your reservation to meet any time-sensitive requirements. For more information, please call Meyer and Associates at 800-635-7801 or email info@meyerandassoc.com.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space online visit https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/BRAN/260215_NEZ_BRAN/tour [account.criteriontravel.com] or email Criterion Travel at res@criteriontravel.com. You may also return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560- 6400.

Balance of payment is due Monday, November 17, 2025. After November 17, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Brandeis Travelers and Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After Monday, November 17, 2025 final payment deadline: All payments regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither Brandeis Travelers nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Brandeis Travelers and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Brandeis Travelers and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER:

Brandeis University is not responsible for any tour operator policies or for any refunds. Criterion Travel is the operator of this program and solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities associated with it. Additionally, Brandeis University, as a sponsor, has no financial or legal responsibility for the program. Further documentation, including applicable Terms & Conditions associated with participation in this program, will be sent to confirmed participants. California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

The Wonders of New Zealand
A NORTH & SOUTH ISLAND ADVENTURE

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RESERVE
ONLINE

For more information, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com.

You may also complete and return this reservation form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax the completed form to (650) 560-6400.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL #1 ADDRESS

E-MAIL #2 ADDRESS

PAYMENT

Please charge the \$1,000 per person deposit to my credit card (circle one): VISA / MC / AMEX / DISCOVER

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve _____ place(s) for The Wonders of New Zealand – A North & South Island Adventure

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*)
OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

_____ **OR**

☐ I'd like to know about roommates *I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 17, 2025 I will pay the single rate.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE



Brandeis University
Institutional Advancement, MS 124
415 South Street
Waltham MA 02453-2728



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