

2024 Baylor in New Zealand: Literature and Film

Itinerary Highlights

Day 1 Welcome to New Zealand!

Waitomo Caves tour

Explore the extensive underground cave system inhabited by a species of glowworm unique to New Zealand. Marvel at thousands of these tiny creatures as they radiate their luminescent light in the caves.

Welcome orientation and group dinner

Day 2 – 3 Rotorua

Hobbiton movie set tour and Green Dragon Inn lunch

Enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton set from the Lord of the Rings film trilogy. Hear about how it operates as one of the world's most famous film sets yet remains a working sheep and beef farm. At the conclusion of your tour, you'll enjoy a buffet lunch in the Green Dragon Inn.



Redwoods Treewalk

Redwoods Nightlights features 34 lanterns designed by world-renowned designer and sustainability champion David Trubridge. Floating between 9-20 metres above the forest floor, this award-winning, eco-tourism walk is 700 metres long, spans across 28 suspension bridges and 27 platforms and takes about 40 minutes to complete.



Waimangu guided walk and boat cruise

Explore the world's youngest geothermal valley. See spectacular volcanic craters, enormous hot water springs, beautiful geothermal features, rare and unusual plant life, brilliantly colored microbiology and a wide array of birds.



Huka Falls stop in Taupo en route to Wellington

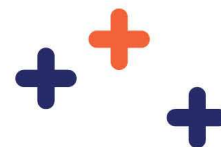
Just north of Lake Taupo the Waikato River enters a shallow ravine of hard volcanic rock triggering a great movement of water: the Huka Falls. Usually 100m wide, the Waikato is squeezed through a 20m wide gorge over a 20m drop leading to a massive 220,000 litres of water passing every second.

Day 4 – 11 Wellington



Full-day tour of Weta Workshop and Lord of the Rings film locations

On this guided day trip you will head north into 'River Anduin' and take in the sights of 'Helms Deep', before stopping at the 'Gardens of Isengard'. The next stop is Rivendell and the Legolas Tree before heading back to Wellywood. Then it's on to the Weta Cave in Miramar where the 'Weta Experience' tour will take you behind the scenes and show you film props and weaponry, with the artists themselves describing how the artefacts were created. You also get an insight into the world of miniatures and modelmaking.



Roxy Cinema Presentation

Visit the Roxy Cinema in the heart of “Wellywood.” Your host will present a short film show reel, then you will hear about the history of the surrounding area, the cinema, and its place in the film industry.



Zealandia: the world's first fully fenced ecosanctuary

Enjoy spectacular views on the 5-minute cable car ride to the top of the Botanic Gardens. From there, Zealandia is a short walk or shuttle ride. This 225-hectare ecosanctuary is a ground-breaking conservation project that has reintroduced over 20 species of native wildlife.



Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Explore Te Papa's five collection areas to discover more about New Zealand and the South Pacific region: art, history, Pacific, Māori, and the natural environment.



Katherine Mansfield House

Enter the 1888 home of a fashionable colonial family and discover the world and writing of Katherine Mansfield, an internationally acclaimed New Zealand writer.

Day 12 Kaikoura

Interislander ferry from Wellington to Picton

The sailing between the North and South Islands of New Zealand is renowned for being one of the world's most beautiful ferry journeys—sit back, relax, and enjoy the view.



Whale watching excursion

In the magical world of Kaikoura, where the mountains meet the sea, you will go on a whale-watching cruise with an award-winning company owned and operated by the indigenous Ngati Kuri people. Giant sperm whales are the stars of the show and are year-round residents, in addition other species that may be passing through.

Seal colony walk

Walk the magnificent peninsula coastline and visit the fur seal colony. Information panels located along the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway introduce the history, geology, flora, and fauna of the area.

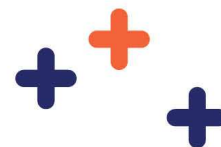
Day 13 – 28 Christchurch

Weekday class sessions including guest lectures on topics such as:

- History of New Zealand
- Iconic New Zealand authors
- Antarctic explorers and travel writing

Christchurch city walking tour

Your guide will take you on a walking tour through central Christchurch, past the city's most iconic buildings and sites, including The Arts Centre, the Botanic Gardens, Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial, and the badly damaged Christchurch Cathedral. Learn about the general history of Christchurch, the devastating earthquakes of 2010/11, and the rebuild progress made since. You will also see some of the city's best street art and 'gap fillers'.



Te Reo Māori language lessons

Learn the basics of Te Reo Māori, the indigenous language of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Your Māori educators will teach you about Te Reo language pronunciation, including some everyday words, key greetings and phrases.

Marae visit

Your Te Reo Māori teachers will accompany you to Rehua Marae (meeting house). Your visit will include a pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony), snack, and history of the marae.



Waka on Avon paddle

Experience the excitement of paddling a hand-crafted waka down the river Avon and learn about the importance of the waka to Māori culture.



Margaret Mahy playground

Named after the much-loved local children's author, Margaret Mahy, the park is a celebration of the carefree, uncomplicated, physical fun that childhood is meant to be all about. What is even better though is that grown-ups can get in on it too! A key feature of the playground is the Story Arc—a ring of stories etched into granite at center.

Day trip to Hanmer Springs

Enjoy a group lunch in Hanmer Springs and then soak in the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools, which are composed of 22 outdoor geothermally heated pools featuring cascades, relaxing rock pools, soothing sulphur pools, and a cooler lap pool and lazy river.



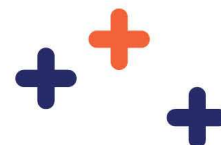
International Antarctic Centre

The coolest experience in Christchurch! Learn about the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of Antarctica, the history of Antarctic exploration and the human impact on this fascinating continent. Brave an Antarctic storm, experience the thrill of an off-road Hägglund ride, and meet huskies and penguins.



Matariki public holiday

Matariki marks the start of the Māori New Year in New Zealand and is signified by the Matariki (Pleiades) cluster of stars that appear in the night sky. It is a national public holiday and a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future.



Day trip to Castle Hill and Arthur's Pass

Enjoy a walk and packed lunch amongst the spectacular and sacred limestone formations at Castle Hill, which was used in the filming of the Chronicles of Narnia. Then, take a few stairs to feel the full force and sound of fresh mountain water falling 131 m down one of New Zealand's most stunning waterfalls. The Devil's Punch Bowl is one of the best short walks in Arthur's Pass National Park.



Sign of the Kiwi and Ngaio Marsh House – LIT group

Enjoy lunch at an iconic Christchurch café with fantastic views over Christchurch City. From there you will take a short scenic walk to a landmark on the crest of the Port Hills. Gain an understanding of this important New Zealand writer's life, by peeking into her private world. Her home remains much as she left it. Discover the family treasures and antiques she collected from around the world, see where her most famous works were composed.



Watch this Space Urban Art Tour – FILM group

'Art in the streets tells a story of what a city is, what it was, and what it could be...' Explore and learn about Ōtautahi Christchurch, on a guided journey of street art, murals and graffiti art of all sizes. Your guide will explain the history of urban art, the city's emergence as an urban art destination, and insights into the artists and inspirations behind each work.



Day 29 Aoraki Mount Cook

Dark Sky Reserve

Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve is the world's largest Dark Sky Reserve. If the weather is clear in the evening, your astronomy guides will join you to explore the night sky.

Mount Cook and Hooker Valley hike

Your faculty leader will take you on a three-hour hike through the alpine vegetation and glacial landforms of Aoraki Mount Cook National Park on a well-formed track.

Day 30 – 33 Queenstown

Free time in Queenstown

Queenstown sits on the shore of Lake Wakatipu and is surrounded by dramatic alpine ranges. It is a very popular holiday destination with both local and overseas tourists. There is plenty to see and do with a host of adventure activities, walking tracks, scenic attractions such as the gondola ride, shopping, and dining experiences.



Day 34 Depart for USA

Transfer from accommodation to Queenstown Airport