

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

10 Day New Zealand – Nature, Culture & The Arts



ESCORTED ITINERARY – PRE-SET DATES – NON-FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS

A Celebrity Escorted Tour

Detailed Itinerary: Included meals are shown with the letters B, L and D. 6350DBL

Thursday March 14: Arrive Wellington

We suggest you book a flight that arrives in Wellington in the mid-afternoon. It is a short taxi ride from the airport to our downtown hotel. Meet your fellow tour participants and the tour leader in the hotel bar in the early evening before walking to a restaurant in nearby Courtenay Place for our welcome dinner. Overnight Wellington (D)

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Friday March 15: Wellington heritage

A walking tour from the botanic gardens above the city down to the waterfront introduces us to the history of Wellington from its Maori origins to its establishment as a profit-making colony by Edward Gibbon Wakefield and later the national capital. In the afternoon we visit the impressive Te Papa Museum, across the road from the hotel. A museum specialist takes us through the galleries of Maori heritage and the early colonial exhibitions, to give us a sense of the country's earliest years. There is also an excellent ANZAC gallery to visit. The later afternoon is free to call in at the small National Portrait Gallery or visit other exhibitions. There may be the opportunity to catch a show at the excellent Circa Theatre, adjacent to our hotel. Overnight Wellington (B)

Saturday March 16: Wairarapa

We farewell Wellington by visiting the summit of Mount Victoria, overlooking Cook's Strait and Wellington Harbour. We then make the spectacular crossing of the Rimutaka Mountains north to Martinborough, in the heart of the Wairarapa district. The pinot noir produced in Wairarapa has an international reputation and we will get a chance to sample it at a local outlet. Our lunch stop is at the Puhaka Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre, where we can see Tuatara, Kiwi and other native New Zealand fauna. In the afternoon we travel north through classic New Zealand sheep country, arriving in Napier in the early evening. Dinner is at Mint Restaurant, a local favourite. Overnight Napier (B, L, D)

Sunday March 17: Art Deco and Hawke's Bay

Napier, on New Zealand's Pacific coast, boasts a remarkable architectural heritage. An earthquake in 1931 destroyed most of the city centre, but it was rebuilt immediately in a consistent Art Deco style. Today Napier is recognised as one of the densest concentrations of small scale Art Deco architecture anywhere in the world. This morning a local guide takes us on a walking tour of the city centre. After some free time to visit the regional art gallery and stroll the seaside promenade (also Art Deco), we head by coach to the Art Deco residential suburb of Marewa and the nearby National Tobacco Factory, and onto Hastings, built mainly in the Spanish Mission style. Hastings is at the heart of the Hawke's Bay wine district. With a climate similar to that of Bordeaux, the area is known for its sauvignon blanc and syrah varieties, which we have the opportunity to evaluate for ourselves at a wine tasting. Overnight Napier (B)

Monday March 18: Lake Taupo

A morning's coach travel takes us across the Kaweka Range to Lake Taupo. Here, we visit the small but interesting local history museum, and take a short boat cruise to see some impressive contemporary Maori rock carvings on the lake shores. We continue to Rotorua, stopping briefly at the dramatic Huka Falls on the way. This evening we visit the Te Puia hot springs and geyser

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park, observing this natural spectacle and learning about local Maori history and culture. Overnight Rotorua (B, D)

Tuesday March 19: Rotorua

We spend the morning exploring the Waimangu 'volcanic valley' with a local guide. The valley was formed through dramatic volcanic activity in 1886. We first take a path past craters, lakes and hot springs before joining a short cruise on Lake Rotomahana, with fumaroles and other evidence of the 1886 eruption. The afternoon is free and you can choose to visit the excellent Rotorua Museum, be pampered in a hot spring or take the helicopter ride to White Island, an active stratovolcano in the Bay of Plenty. Overview Rotorua (B)

Wednesday March 20: The Bay of Plenty & Ayrli's garden

This morning we head north to the shores of the Bay of Plenty and the attractive town of Tauranga. After calling in at the local art gallery, we continue north to the southern end of the Coromandel Peninsula and on to Ayrli's Garden at Whitford, on the outskirts of Auckland. The garden and its founder, the octogenarian Beverley McConnell, featured in the TV series *Around the World in 80 Gardens* with popular British broadcaster Monty Don. The 15-hectare garden began life in 1964 and today it is rated a Garden of International Significance by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. We continue to Auckland in the early evening. Overview Auckland (B)

Thursday March 21: Gibbs Farm

In 1991 Alan and Jenny Gibbs purchased a stunning estate overlooking Kaipara Harbour, about 50km north of Auckland. Over a period of 20 years they commissioned large site-specific sculptures from some of the world's leading artists, including Andy Goldsworthy, Sol LeWitt, Anish Kapoor and Richard Serra. A visit to Gibbs Farm, open to the public just four days per year, is a wonderful experience and the combination of coastline, rolling green hills and truly world-class art is an intoxicating one. We return to Auckland in the afternoon, with the intention of catching an orchestral concert or play this evening. Overnight Auckland (B, picnic L)

Friday March 22: Auckland Gallery and Waiheke

Auckland has a vibrant visual arts scene, and we spend the day exploring it. Our first stop is the Auckland Art Gallery, home to a celebrated collection of 19th-century Maori portraits as well as more contemporary works. We go behind the scenes, visiting the gallery's well-regarded conservation department. In the early afternoon we take the 45-minute ferry ride across Auckland Harbour to Waiheke Island. This idyllic island has wineries, secluded beaches and a number of art centres. We visit the Connell's Bay Sculpture Park on the eastern tip of the island, where the owner takes us on a walking tour of their excellent collection. We end the day with a

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sunset dinner at the Mudbrick Vineyard, enjoying the spectacular views back to Auckland. We return to Auckland in the evening. Overnight Auckland (B, D)

Saturday March 23: Auckland Museum and Departure

After a late check out, we head through some of the city's best suburbs to visit the Auckland Museum and its excellent collection of Maori history and art. We then head to Auckland airport. We suggest you book a return flight to Australia after 4.30pm. Overnight Auckland (B)



Celebrity Host: Dr Kathleen Olive

Has a PhD in Italian Studies, speaks fluent Italian and lectures on the art, history and culture of Europe. Kathleen has an outstanding knowledge of Italy.

Dr Kathleen Olive is a literary and cultural historian with close to 15 years' experience leading tours to Italy, Spain, France, Turkey, Japan and the United States. She has a strong personal interest in the visual arts, interior design, fashion history and contemporary fiction.

Kathleen holds a BA with first class Honours and a PhD, both from the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Sydney. For a number of years she worked as a lecturer at the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney, teaching Italian language, literature and history. Kathleen continues to teach, as a national lecturer for the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), and in adult education courses in Sydney. In 2015, her edition of the *Codex Rustici* (a 15th-century commonplace book that Kathleen worked on with Nerida Newbigin, for her doctoral studies and for publication) was presented to Pope Francis on his first official visit to Florence.

Kathleen's historical and artistic knowledge stretches from the Middle Ages through to the early 20th century. In Italy she has led numerous tours focusing on the medieval and Renaissance periods. In Spain she has a particular concentration on the "Convivencia" of Islamic, Christian and Jewish cultures in the south, and on the medieval pilgrimage routes of the north. Her tours of the USA's north-east have focused on American collectors and their Gilded Age reinventions of European glory days, and in Japan she is particularly interested in contemporary design, from fashion to architecture. Kathleen speaks fluent Italian, is conversant in Spanish and understands French.

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Kathleen was first involved on a tour to Italy in 2003 and it sparked her passion for on-the-spot communication of art and history. Since 2010 she has worked exclusively for Academy Travel, leading 6 tours a year. She has designed a number of our popular tours, from the Florence residential, to surveys of the courts of Renaissance Italy and of central Italy's villas and gardens, as well as "twin city" tours to Palermo and Naples and to Florence and Rome. Closer to home, Kathleen is leading Academy Travel's inaugural tour to Japan and our popular tours to Tasmania.

We asked Kathleen, what do you enjoy most about leading a group tour?

"I really enjoy travelling with groups who share interests in the history, culture and even food of a destination. It means that those personal connections are there right from the beginning, just waiting to be made."

"There's nothing I enjoy more than finding out the particular interests of my fellow travellers – an artist, a dish they love eating, their memories of a particular place – and finding a way to make an experience happen for them. That might mean recommending a particular wine bar, directing them to a museum that features artists they already like, or suggesting the best time of day for a view over a town. It's so satisfying to be involved in making these kinds of memories for people."

"Many of the people I travel with comment on my passion for the places I visit. It's not just that I know my names and dates – it's that I really enjoy bringing out the connections between history and art, for example, or between landscape and food. I never grow tired of injecting this kind of life into 'dry' academic knowledge."

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!