



ADVENTURE TRAVEL
VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE

Spectacular New Zealand: a cultural hiking adventure

March 1 – March 17, 2019 (trip# 1901)



Milford Sound, Fiordland National Park, South Island, New Zealand

Come join us in discovering and experiencing the intriguing history, culture, and breathtaking scenery of New Zealand’s North and South Islands during summertime “down under”. Our itinerary takes in the splendid scenic and cultural highlights of Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, the Milford Track and Lake Wanaka. We have arranged comfortable well-located accommodations in each of these destinations.

The trip’s highlight is the trek along the Milford Track, which Rudyard Kipling described as “the finest walk in the world.” We’ll experience its glaciated mountains, spectacular waterfalls, and lush forests. We will be accompanied by expert ‘kiwi’ guides who, besides leading the trek, will give us exceptional insight into New Zealand’s unique culture, history, geology, flora and fauna. Rather than camping out or carrying sleeping bags and cooking equipment, we will have the benefit of well-appointed lodges and appetizing meals.

In addition to the Milford track, we will climb Ben Lomond and Roy peaks, explore the beginning of the Routeburn Track, immerse ourselves in Maori culture, participate in a wine tasting, and much more. By trip's end you will have experienced all facets of spectacular New Zealand.

DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP is January 31, 2018. Lodge accommodations on the Milford Track are in extremely high demand; for a group our size they need to be made one year in advance of trip date. We expect the trip to fill far in advance of this deadline.

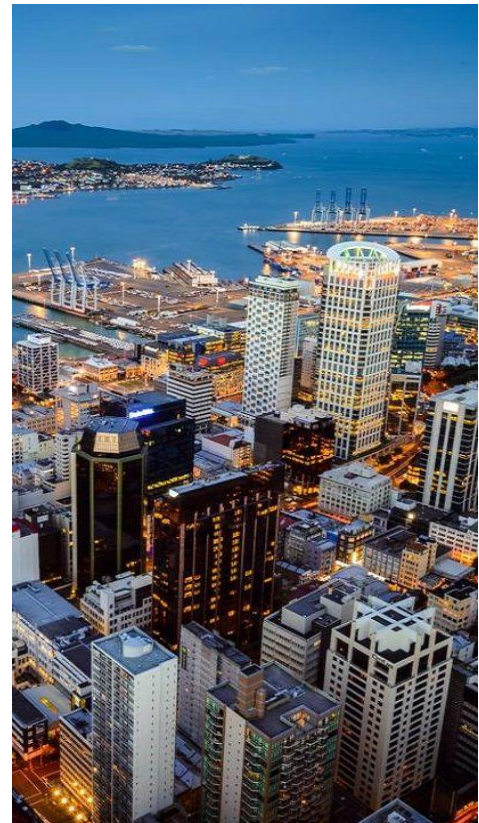
Here is our detailed itinerary:

Friday, March 1: Depart the west coast of the US for New Zealand

Saturday, March 2: Cross the international dateline

Sunday, March 3: Arrival in Auckland and walk around downtown

Morning arrival in Auckland after our overnight flight which crosses the International Date Line. We are transported to Auckland, where we stay for two nights. Auckland is perched on a narrow piece of land with the South Pacific Ocean to the east and the Tasman Sea to the West. It has many fine beaches and beautiful parks and gardens. After getting settled we'll walk through Auckland Domain, Auckland's oldest park. It contains the entire explosion crater of the Pukekawa volcano. We will also visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Here you'll have the opportunity to be introduced to the people of the Pacific and New Zealand and the remarkable flora, fauna, and geography of this unique country. Then we'll stroll through Parnell Village, a restored Victorian section of Auckland, and the Parnell Rose Gardens – a delight of color and scent with some 5,000 rose bushes. First night welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant.



Monday, March 4: A hike on Rangitoto Island

We will take a ferry from downtown Auckland to Rangitoto Island. This island is volcanic in origin with the last eruption only 200 years ago. It is in the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park. It is the largest of the 50 volcanic cones and craters in the Auckland area. We will do an easy tramp to the crater lookout and around the rim to the 850 ft summit which provides fabulous views. There are many ferns, flowers and trees on the island. Group dinner is included at the Orbit Restaurant in the Sky Tower, the Southern Hemisphere's tallest building with magnificent views. Overnight in Auckland.

Tuesday, March 5: Transfer to Rotorua and a Maori experience



We will depart Auckland at 9:30am by bus and arrive in Rotorua at 1:30pm for two nights. A coach service will meet us at the hotel at 3:30pm in time to participate in an indigenous evening experience at Te Puia - the premier Māori cultural centre in New Zealand. After having a traditional Maori dinner feast, our evening concludes with a visit to the illuminated Te Whakarewarewa Valley and the awe inspiring Pohutu geyser.

Wednesday, March 6: A hike in a geothermal area

During our second day in Rotorua we'll explore the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, take an ecology-focused walk, and witness some of the most amazing geothermal activity on the planet. As you walk through the youngest eco-systems in the world you will view a range of thermal springs, native plants and bird-life. In the afternoon there may be time for you to visit the Rotorua Museum on your own. It can be reached by a nearby public bus. Dinner as a group, and overnight in Rotorua.



Thursday, March 7: Transfer to Queenstown and preparation for our trek

Shuttle to airport in Rotorua. Fly from Rotorua to Queenstown on the South Island. Shuttle to hotel. Queenstown is a popular and beautiful resort town, surrounded by mountains and Lake Wakatipu. You'll find plenty to do and all the comforts of civilization: a pedestrian mall with cafes and shops, massage therapists, the Queenstown Gardens, and walking trails. It is also known as the "Adventure Capital of the World" with bungee jumping, jetboating, white-water rafting, and paragliding. You'll have some free time to explore the town. Some possibilities at additional cost to the participant are: a ride on gondolas of the Skyline Gondola which takes you up to Bob's Peak or the Kiwi Birdlife Park & replica Maori hunting village, which is adjacent to the base of the gondola. Here, you can view kiwis in their natural habitat in the nocturnal house and all sorts of birds in park-like surroundings Note there will also likely be some free time in Queenstown for these activities when we return after our trek.

In late afternoon, we will attend a pre-track briefing regarding our trek on the Milford Track. Here we will receive a complete outline of what to expect, purchase last minute items, ask any questions that you may have. Group dinner and followed by overnight in Queenstown. We will leave our excess luggage there while we're on the Milford Track.

Friday, March 8: Begin the Milford Track

Start the Milford Track staying overnight in comfortable,



private backcountry lodges with hot showers, and the opportunity to hike with a daypack rather than a backpack. After breakfast on your own, all meals while on the Milford Track are included. At 9 am we are transported along with a guide from Queenstown to Te Anau Downs, stopping for lunch at the lakeside village of Te Anau. After lunch, we drive to Te Anau Downs boat harbour for the launch to take us up to the northern end of Lake Te Anau. From the wharf, we start the Milford Track with a short, 1 mile (1.6km) easy walk to historic Glade House, where we stay our 1st night of the Track.

Saturday, March 9: Day 2 on the Milford Track

We start the day by crossing the emerald green Clinton River and wandering through the unique beech forest to Hirere Falls, where we have lunch. After crossing the Prairie, the track gets a little steeper as we climb up to Pompolona Lodge. Today's highlights include distinctive beech forest, all sorts of spectacular plants and stunning views up the ice-carved Clinton Canyon toward MacKinnon

Pass. We stay at Pompolona Lodge. 10 miles (16km).

Sunday, March 10: Cross MacKinnon Pass on the Milford Track

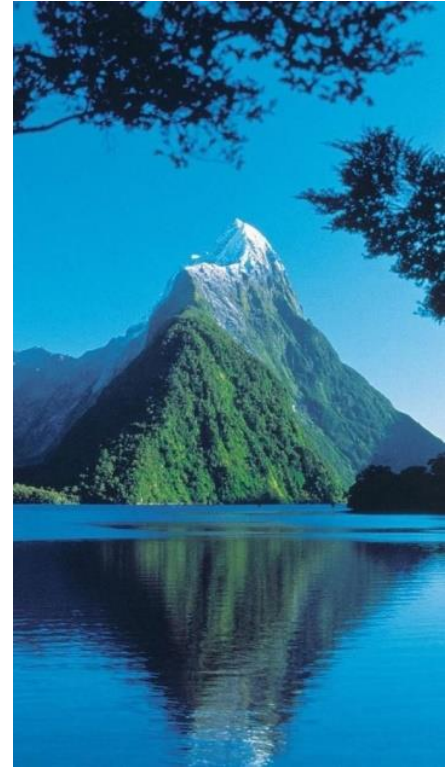
Today is the most spectacular and demanding 3rd day of the Milford Track! We climb a series of switchbacks to cross MacKinnon Pass. From the top of the pass, we will have magnificent views of the Arthur Valley and the surrounding peaks. We'll lunch at Pass Hut, then head down the pass to Quintin Lodge. Once we have arrived, those who wish to can hike [90 minute round trip] to see the Sutherland Falls, the fifth highest waterfall in the world. We stay at Quintin Lodge. 9 miles (<15km) and approximately 1600+' of elevation gain and about 3200' descent.

Monday, March 11: Last day on the Milford Track

This is our last day on the Track; it's 13 miles (21km) of varied terrain, slightly downhill through the Arthur Valley, with no significant climbing. The small waterfalls to be found just off the track make for a delightful day. We'll be picked up at Sandfly Point this afternoon for a short cruise to the jetty, and arrive at the renowned Mitre Peak Lodge. Here we will enjoy a celebratory dinner while relaxing with the knowledge that the hard part is now behind us while the magnificence of Milford Sound awaits us.

Tuesday, March 12: Milford Sound Cruise; return to Queenstown

After breakfast we will experience a magical cruise on Milford Sound, a fiord. Watch for dolphins and fur seals and pray for rain, as you've only seen Fiordland at its most incredible when the waterfalls are in full flow. We take a coach from Milford Sound to Queenstown arriving mid-afternoon. Enjoy the rest of the day, unwind, and explore Queenstown. See text of Thursday, March 7th for some things to do. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Queenstown.



Wednesday, March 13: Day Hike on Routeburn Track to Routeburn Hut, 6 hours return, 11 miles, 1,848 feet elevation gain.

Today we will have a long day that starts with an early transport to Routeburn Shelter (2 hours away), where we will day hike to the Routeburn Falls Hut. (This is the first day of the longer Routeburn Track). We will go over two swing bridges, through a red beech forest, the Bridal Veil Falls, and Routeburn Gorge with deep pools and dramatic views. Once we get to the Routeburn Hut, depending on time availability, we will see the Routeburn Falls, and then descend back to the place where we began the day. Late afternoon transport to Queenstown, where we have dinner as a group. Overnight in Queenstown.



Thursday, March 14: Day hiking Ben Lomond peak, 1748 m/5765 ft

We begin and end our day with a ride on the Skyline Gondola. It takes us to our starting



elevation of 2,485 feet where our hike will begin. We will hike about 7 miles round trip and elevation gain of approximately 3,200 feet, 6-8 hours return, as we go through a douglas fir forest to reach the Saddle in 3 hours, and then enjoy spectacular views of “the Remarkables” Mountains overlooking Queenstown and the Wakatipu Basin. After the saddle, the trail goes through private lands and becomes very steep. We return the same way to the Gondola which brings us back to Queenstown. Wine tasting (choose from over 75 New Zealand wines!) then dinner on your own.

Friday, March 15: Travel to Wanaka, Day hiking Roy’s Peak

Today we take the InterCity bus at 8:00 am from the bus terminal to Wanaka, from where private transport will bring us to the trailhead of Roy’s Peak (1,578 m/5,200 ft) for a 6-7 hour day hike, totally 10 miles, that will have us climbing (and descending) 4150 ft. The views are beautiful all along the countless switchbacks on the easy trail, some of which goes through private lands. The day’s highlight will be the all-encompassing panorama which includes most of Lake Wanaka, the surrounding peaks and Mount Aspiring/Tititea. Late afternoon transport will bring us to our local motel for an overnight. Dinner as a group.



Saturday, March 16: Day hiking in Wanaka, and Return to Queenstown

In the morning, we take a group transport to the trailhead for Diamond Lake and Rocky Mountain for a moderate loop hike (6 mi, 1,400 ft elevation gain) to the peak at 2,550 ft. Along the way, we are treated to stunning panoramic views of the lake and town below. An alternative individual option is to do a level lakeside hike or a shorter hike to Mount Iron (800 ft over 2.8 mi loop). Regardless of which option is chosen, today’s breakfast and lunch will be on your own. Our goal will be to catch the bus at 2:40 pm that brings us back to Queenstown, in the late afternoon. We will have our group farewell dinner later in the evening. Overnight in Queenstown.

Sunday, March 17: Transport back to Airport

Shuttle transport to the airport. Fly to Auckland to connect with flights back to home. It’s time to leave our splendid adventure behind and enjoy wonderful memories of this enchanting country for many years to come. This will mark the official end of the AMC Adventure Travel trip for those who are continuing on with other plans.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND EXPECTATIONS

You should have a keen interest in adventure, natural and cultural explorations, and enjoy moderate to strenuous hiking. On an average day, we will walk for 5-8 hours and cover 7-11 miles. Typical daily elevation gain ranges from 800' to 3200'; one day's hike elevation gain is 4,150 feet. On some of the day hikes, there may be a time constraint due to daylight and transportation schedules. Even though hiking trails in New Zealand tend to be less covered with rocks and roots than those in New England such as in the White Mountains, a slower hiking group may have to turn around at a designated time regardless of how far that group has gone or wishes to go. You should recognize that you may find yourself in closer quarters or be less comfortable than you are used to at home. You should make it a priority to help others on the trip and contribute to their having a great time. If you do that, you will all have a great time.

SAFETY AND RISKS

Participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including, but not limited to, adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips, and transportation in vehicles or on foot. Aside from any personal medical problems, participants should be aware of the possibilities of bug bites, dehydration, sun burn and other heat- or cold-related problems. You should regularly use sun screen, take care to be adequately hydrated and bring water on all day trips. Please carefully read and sign the AMC Participant Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement.



TRIP LEADER Steve Cohen leads three season hikes for the Hiking/Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Since 2012 Steve has planned and led eleven hiking/trekking-oriented Adventure Travel trips to such destinations the Haute Route (from Chamonix, France to Zermatt, Switzerland), the Alta Via II through the Italian Dolomites, the tour of the Jungfrau region (Switzerland), Patagonia, the high mountains huts of Austria, etc. He lived in Europe for four years and has a good command of both the French and

German languages. Steve is currently chair of Adventure Travel.



TRIP CO-LEADER Samir Patel has been a member of the AMC since 1992. He leads for the Boston Chapter's hiking/backpacking committee. He has traveled to many parts of the world with AMC Adventure Travel, including New Zealand, the Dolomites in Italy, Patagonia, Japan, Mexico, and many national parks in the U.S. and abroad. When not climbing high peaks, he is a practicing physician in the Boston area.

Cost, Registration and Cancellation

Our adventurous and well-paced itinerary is suitable for couples and singles. The trip size is limited to 14 participants. The trip price is \$4895 per person which includes: lodging, ground transportation, most dinners and all meals while on the guided Milford Track, and planned tour/guide fees. The leaders plan to arrange a group airfare on Air New Zealand from LAX or SFO for ~\$1,600 that includes the New Zealand internal flight. Air New Zealand can also arrange connecting flights from the east coast. If at all possible, we recommend that you do this as there is a distinct advantage to you in having the entire flight itinerary on one ticket.

The trip fee includes the following:

- All group ground transport
- Milford Track (guided hike, 4 nights lodging and all meals)
- Double occupancy hotel accommodation in Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown and Wanaka
- Entrance fees as listed in the above itinerary
- 13 dinners, a wine tasting, as well as four breakfasts and five lunches on the Milford Track
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance

All other expenses such as Airfare to/from NZ and the internal flight from Rotorua to Queenstown, any optional trips/activities, other meals (breakfasts and lunches not on the Milford Track and three dinners), and alcoholic beverages are not included. Some of the leaders' expenses for the trip and administrative costs to support the trip are included in the trip costs to be shared by the participants. This is a non-profit excursion conducted by the leaders on a volunteer basis. Any unforeseen increases in costs will be shared by all participants. Any funds remaining after all expenses are paid will be divided among the participants in accordance with AMC Adventure Travel rules.

A registration deposit of \$1000 is due with the application. You must submit the following completed and signed forms: trip application, the confidential health questionnaire, the optional supplemental medical form, and the signed AMC acknowledgement and assumption of risk and

release. An optional confidential supplemental medical questionnaire should be submitted if appropriate. Here is a link to those documents: [Application Documents](#)

You will not actually be accepted, and your check will not be deposited, until the leader has determined by telephone conversation with you that you and the trip are a good match. Prior to your acceptance as a participant in this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities.

A second payment of \$2100 is due by January 1, 2018. After this date, any new participant deposit must include both payments (\$3100). The final payment of \$1795 is due September 1, 2018. ***Please make checks payable to “Appalachian Mountain Club” and mail with your completed application to: Steve Cohen, 2802 Arbor Drive, #2, Madison, WI 53711.***

Cancellations prior to confirmation that the trip will run as scheduled will be entitled to a refund on money deposited with the AMC less a minimum administration charge of \$200.00. Cancellations after the trip is confirmed will be subject to a \$500.00 cancellation charge, and refunds will only be made to the extent that the cost of the trip for other participants is not affected. Trip cancellation insurance is advised and information about it will be supplied to all participants. Late cancellations are likely to result in no refund.

This trip is likely to fill quickly with the limited group size (14 participants + 2 leaders). If you are interested, please register as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call us so that we can discuss them.

Single Applicants: The price of the trip is based on double occupancy of the rooms (with the exception of Milford Track which shared accommodation of 4-6 persons in a bunkroom). In some locations singles may share a triple. We will accept reservations from single applicants and the leaders will help find a same gender roommate for you. The leaders reserve the right to change roommates.

Trip Requisites:

A) Health: Participants must be in good health and able to do moderate to strenuous hiking. Medical facilities in New Zealand are known to be of high standard. It is advised that participants bring with them any prescriptions and medications needed for the duration of the trip.

B) Physical conditioning: This trip involves a moderate to strenuous amount (in terms of distance, time, and elevation gain/loss) of hiking on maintained trails. Trails in New Zealand are generally well maintained; however, they can be rocky and uneven. Some will consider the hikes over McKinnon Pass on the Milford Track to be strenuous. Likewise, there are day hikes in the itinerary that will be considered strenuous due to elevation gain or time constraints. You should be in good physical condition in order to hike up to 7 miles with 4150' elevation gain carrying a day pack. A participant may choose to opt out of this strenuous day hike, and hike only part of the way up on each of the two longer day hikes.

C) Adaptability: An important criterion for this trip is the ability to be flexible. Please note that the itinerary may be modified due to transportation and weather details. Safety will always take priority in the leaders' decisions.

D) Understanding of trip purpose: This trip is designed for everyone to experience the natural wonders of New Zealand through shared participation in an organized group environment. Participants are expected to arrive promptly for scheduled activities. AMC trip participants are known for their cooperative efforts, and expectations are that all participants be considerate of others sharing this AMC Adventure Travel experience.

E) Being a team player: We will be more than just a group; we will be a team. As a member of our team, you will be responsible for yourself as being a part of the group. Being a team player also means proper communication as to your whereabouts and your personal health. Although we are all adults, the trip leaders have a responsibility for the overall safety of the group and part of that is knowing where everyone is. Especially when traveling in a group and in a foreign country, you should tell someone about your intentions. Similarly, you should tell one of the leaders if you become ill or do not feel you are physically capable of safely participating in any of the activities.

F) Safety, Risks and Hazards: As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with the leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips, and transportation via foot or vehicles. Please carefully read and sign the *AMC Participant Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement* and contact us if you have any questions. Participant's understanding of these risks and adherence to our policies and procedures can contribute to making this experience rewarding.

G) Leader's discretion: It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or of the individual. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant's being unable to perform one or more activity. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

Entering New Zealand: Tourists to New Zealand from the United States will find that visiting the islands for periods up to three months is relatively easy. US citizens will not need a visa but are required to produce a **valid passport that does not expire within three months of the planned date of departure.**

Trip Extensions: New Zealand is far away and expensive to reach. While some of us will come directly to the trip and go directly home afterward, we expect that others may take this opportunity to travel to other places, on their own, outside the sponsorship of the AMC. Those doing so are acting on their own, and must recognize and acknowledge that such an extension is outside the AMC-approved trip, and as a result, the AMC takes no responsibility related to that travel and the associated risks. The official trip dates are March 1 to 17, including travel days for those coming and going directly to and from the trip. Be aware that the AMC-included medical

and evacuation insurance coverage is only valid while you are participating in the AMC trip. You should consider purchasing additional insurance if you will be participating in a non-AMC-sanctioned extension.

The attractive possibilities in the region are extensive. You may wish to explore other parts of North or South Islands, as the AMC trip is only sampling the many wonders of New Zealand. Some may choose to also visit Australia. These suggestions are intended only to help you in planning your activities, and must be read in the context of the first paragraph of this section.

Climate: We will be visiting during New Zealand's late summer season. Weather will be subtropical in the North Island and temperate in the South Island. Lightweight cottons and linens are worn in North Island most of the year and layered clothing is best on the South Island. Non-cotton synthetic clothing is essential for hiking days. Rainwear is essential when visiting South Island's rainforest areas and on the Milford Track.

Currency: 1 NZD approximately equals 0.73 USD (January 2017)

Major credit cards are widely accepted at many types of establishments throughout and this should help prevent travelers from exchanging large sums of hard currency to finance your stay. American Express, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. ATMs accepting cards on the Plus/Electron and Cirrus/Maestro networks are available. Debit cards used at an ATM are usually the cheapest way to obtain local currency.

Website Resources:

www.newzealand.com

www.nz.com for New Zealand Tourism and Travel Guide

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/new-zealand.html>

<http://www.worldtravelguide.net/new-zealand>

www.airnewzealand.com

www.kiwibird.co.nz

www.aucklandmuseum.com

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/auckland/auraki-gulf-islands/rangitoto-island-scenic-reserve/

www.skycityauckland.co.nz/Attractions/Skytower.html

www.tepuia.com

<http://www.waimangu.co.nz/>

www.skyline.co.nz

www.ultimatehikes.com

www.whakarewarewa.com/

QUESTIONS and REQUESTING APPLICATION MATERIALS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve or Samir. Steve can be reached at (617) 997-6861 before 9PM eastern time zone or at scohen1234@gmail.com. Samir can be reached at (978) 270-0714 before 9PM eastern time zone or at sam5670@yahoo.com

We look forward to having you join us!

Samir Patel and Stephen Cohen