

Indigenous Perspectives, Regenerative Agriculture, and Outdoor Leadership in New Zealand

Week 1: Arrival and Program Orientation in Whaingaroa (Raglan)

After making the transpacific journey, the group will arrive in Auckland, transiting to the beautiful Whaingaroa/Raglan region. The group will explore the local beaches and town while engaging in 4 days of group orientation, team building activities, establishing a group culture, and setting the foundation for the upcoming journey.

Weeks 2-3: Indigenous Perspectives and Maori Culture

Remaining in the Whaingaroa region of Aotearoa (the Maori name for New Zealand), there is a progressive movement toward environmental activism, closely linked with the Maori emphasis on stewardship of the land. The group will stay at several sites, including a traditional marae (common space). Diving into two weeks of exploring traditional Maori culture, students will learn about (and practice!) Maori performing arts (Waiata and Kapahaka) and language. You'll engage with local activists who are on the forefront of environmental movements, as well as participate in local initiatives that have garnered national attention for progressive practices in recycling and trash reclamation. In celebration and acknowledgement of our time, the group will stay with Rob and Rangimarie, a couple with Indigenous connections to the U.S. They'll host the group on their own land, and will conduct a traditional sweat lodge ceremony in completion of our time there. Harnessing the new perspectives gleaned from this amazing activist community, and sharing our gratitude with our hosts, the group will head to the east coast of Aotearoa.

Weeks 4-5: Regenerative Agriculture

Taking 3 days to enjoy and explore the beauty of the Lake Rotorua and Taupo region, the group will travel to the Hart Family (Mangarara) Farm, a site of progressive regenerative farming practices. The group will stay in their incredible lodge, overlooking a pond rich with flora and fauna. We'll learn about the complexity of food systems, the importance of organic farming practices, and the latest practices in sustainable/regenerative agricultural. We'll gain firsthand experience by engaging in activities such as shearing sheep, harvesting vegetables, milking cows, and planting trees. We'll learn to make yogurt and bake homemade bread. And all the while, we'll enjoy fresh organic food that is either directly from the farm, or grown locally.

Weeks 6-7: Outdoor Adventure and Education with Whenua Iti

The group will take a couple of days to explore the capital of New Zealand: Wellington. Discover the Te Papa museum (a world class museum dedicated to Maori history and culture), take a walk up Mt. Victoria and witness an epic in a sunset, and enjoy a brief urban interlude. Next, your group will take the ferry across the Cook Strait, en route to the South Island and the town of Nelson; a wonderland of lush forests, rugged mountains, and ocean beaches. Here your group will spend time with the amazing guides at Whenua Iti. You may hike the Abel Tasman trail, one of New Zealand's "Seven Great Walks", or take a longer sea kayak excursion, camping on remote beaches each night. Along the way, our local partners offer workshops in Maori culture, myth, and legend; knowledge of local flora and fauna; and introductions to Rakau (traditional fighting sticks), Rongoa (traditional Maori medicine), and haka (a traditional Maori dance of both war and peace). Additional activities may include rappelling, ropes courses, and open water paddling in a traditional waka (Maori Canoe).

Week 8: Student Directed Travel

Having established a cohesive group culture, and experiencing many facets of New Zealand, students will collaborate to develop a week of Student Directed Travel. While your Overseas Educators will be there to assist and guide, the group will handle the budget, logistics, and determine activities for the upcoming week. New Zealand's South Island is legendary for outdoor adventure and beauty, and there are endless opportunities for exploration. Hop in the vans, get out your maps, and head out to some of the most incredible scenery this planet has to offer!

****Carpe Diem reserves the right to make changes to the program at any time, and indeed has the responsibility to do so in some instances; changes may be required to provide the best possible experience, protect the safety of participants, or respond to changes in weather or political conditions.***