

New Zealand - VIP Travel Club special interest tour



Escorted by Dave Reneke and featuring the amazing Mt John Observatory 9 Day Stargazer's Spectacular

GRAND PACIFIC TOURS IS DELIGHTED TO OFFER TRAVELLERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT New Zealand and enjoy an amazing stargazer's experience as you take in some of the clearest night skies in the world.

Available for the first time ever, this 9 Day Astronomy Tour is designed for those who are keen to learn more about the fascinating skies above.

Grand Pacific Tours' product team have combined with leading Astronomer Dave Reneke to develop an educational and interesting program which will enlighten your knowledge and awareness of the night skies. You don't need to be an Astronomy expert to join this tour. We will be presenting a number of unique activities that will be enjoyed by people of all levels. So if you have always wanted to learn more about what goes on above, don't miss this inaugural New Zealand Astronomy Tour.

Exclusive Departure
12 - 20 June 2011

Australian Tour Prices inc airfares & taxes

Departure Point	Tour including Airfare	Pre Paid Taxes**	Total Twin Share Per Person
Sydney	\$3299 + \$120	=	\$3419
Melbourne	\$3299 + \$120	=	\$3419
Brisbane	\$3299 + \$120	=	\$3419
Gold Coast	\$3299 + \$120	=	\$3419
Canberra	\$3529 + \$114	=	\$3643
Cairns	\$3549 + \$132	=	\$3681
Adelaide	\$3599 + \$123	=	\$3722
Hobart	\$3599 + \$110	=	\$3709
Launceston	\$3599 + \$110	=	\$3709
Perth	\$3849 + \$115	=	\$3964

Land Only	\$2899
Single Supplement	\$800

New Zealand Dollar Land Only Price

Twin share per person	\$3499
Single Supplement	\$950

Stay a little longer

City	Twin Share	Single
Christchurch	\$90	\$180
Wellington	\$100	\$200

Extra night rates are per person in Australian Dollars, based on room only. New Zealand dollar extra night rates are available on request.

Documentation Pack

Your tour price includes a stylish array of travel goods including a durable travel bag, ticket wallet, toiletry wet pack, New Zealand travel diary, luggage label, personal name badge, personalised itinerary, Optional Tours Directory, postcard, customs required resealable plastic bag and touring map.

**Prepaid taxes are correct at time of print, but are subject to change. Exact amounts will be confirmed to your travel agent at time of booking.

TOUR HIGHLIGHT A guided tour of Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, where the guides will explain the relevance of 'Matariki', a cluster of stars known as Pleiades that also marks the Maori New Year.

ONE LOW PRICE INCLUDES

PRE PAID ATTRACTIONS

- International Antarctic Centre
- Christchurch Tramway Pass
- Canterbury Astronomical Society & R.F. Joyce Observatory*
- Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre & Planetarium
- 4WD tour to Tasman Valley*
- Mt John Observatory
- MacKenzie High Country property
- Cruise on the Interislander Ferry
- Zealandia By Night Tour*
- Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum*
- Wellington Cable Car
- Carter Observatory
- City sights tours of Christchurch & Wellington

*Denotes a guided tour is included with 1 guide per 24 travellers.

TOURING

- Return airfares from your homeport
- Luxury coach travel with 2 door access, restroom,

reclining seats and panoramic windows

- Professional Coach Captain
- Fully Escorted by Astronomer Dave Reneke
- Personalised Meet & Greet on arrival
- Return airport transfers in New Zealand
- 8 nights deluxe hotel accommodation
- Three 2 night stays
- Hotel portage
- 3 Observatory Visits
- Astronomy Presentations throughout the tour
- 1 cruise
- All sightseeing and pre paid attractions
- GST (New Zealand Goods and Services Tax)
- Comprehensive documentation pack

MEALS

- 8 cooked breakfasts
- 8 sumptuous dinners including 3 specialty dinners: Welcome Dinner - Christchurch, Zealandia - Wellington, Exclusive Carter Observatory Farewell Dinner - Wellington
- 3 lunches including 2 specialty lunches at Mt John Observatory and a Mackenzie High Country property

Note: Dinner on Day 1 not included for anyone arriving later than 8pm.

ITINERARY

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. (SD) Specialty Dinner.

DAY 1: Homeport - Christchurch (SD)

Fly from your homeport to Christchurch. On arrival you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. This evening meet your fellow travelling companions for a welcome dinner and presentation by Dave Reneke, your Astronomy Guide for the tour. **Hotel** Copthorne Durham Street (2 nights)

DAY 2: Christchurch (B,D)

Travel to the International Antarctic Centre to discover how life in Antarctica survives through a series of fun and interactive exhibits. You will also enjoy an amazing ride on a Hagglund, an all terrain amphibian vehicle. Enjoy the sights of Christchurch on a city tour before some free time this afternoon. You will receive a Christchurch Tramway pass which is the best way to visit all the "Must See" sights. This evening after dinner you will travel out to the R.F. Joyce Observatory which is run by the volunteers of the Canterbury Astronomical Society.

Enjoy an introduction to the spectacular southern night sky by 'Astro Dave' before viewing it for yourself on the various telescopes available.

DAY 3: Christchurch - Mt Cook (B,L,D)

Travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo to see the brilliant turquoise water, the Church of the Good Shepherd and view the Sheep Dog Statue. Marvel at the spectacular mountain ranges including Aoraki Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. Time and weather permitting enjoy a scenic flight (optional). This afternoon enjoy some time at leisure in the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, a museum dedicated to the history of climbing and transport in the Aoraki Mt Cook region. You will then move into the 'state of the art' theatre for a 3D Space movie followed by some 'free flying' in the 360 degree Dome Planetarium presented by 'Astro Dave'. Mt Cook has some of the darkest skies in New Zealand, the perfect spot for viewing the night sky! Using the naked-eye, high powered binoculars and telescopes, you will tour the Milky Way and beyond.

Hotel Hermitage Hotel



Tour Guide Dave Reneke 'Astro Dave'

With over 40 year's experience, Dave Reneke will lead the tour and share his intimate knowledge with you. Dave is a respected editor and writer for a number of publications including Space News Magazine and the Australasian Science Magazine. Other achievements include teaching astronomy at college level, guest speaking at several astronomy conventions and a science correspondent for the ABC and various commercial radio stations attracting a huge following of listeners weekly.

Dave is an experienced astronomy and space presenter who has entertained and educated many tens of thousands of people with his engaging shows in venues all around Australia. Dave has developed a style of presenting Astronomy and space discovery to the public that is not only interesting but incredibly unique as well. He also produces a range of educational CD-ROMS on all matters associated with astronomy and space exploration for beginners. As part of this tour Dave will conduct a series of presentations that tie in nicely with the day to day activities and he will be on hand to answer all your questions.



Tekapo: The first Starlight Reserve

Astro Tourists are coming to Tekapo to see why this tiny town is seeking approval from UNESCO to be the first "Starlight Reserve". Come and see for yourself what makes this place so awesome. As one visitor commented: "I mean it's like beyond words, you see so much you aren't aware of . . . because half of the world is light polluted". It's estimated that about one fifth of the world's population cannot see the Milky Way from their homes. Already, about 1.4 million people visit Tekapo each year.

DAY 4: Mt Cook - Tekapo (B,L,D) ✈

This morning enjoy a guided 4WD tour up the Tasman Valley where you will be amazed by the awesome mountain scenery. After a short coach ride, transfer to mini buses for the scenic drive up to Mt John, the University of Canterbury's astronomical observatory. At the top witness spectacular views of the glacial lakes and Southern Alps. Enjoy lunch at the Astro Café before you are guided through this fully functioning observatory where astronomers from around the world are conducting leading-edge research. Travel to your hotel for some relaxation time. After dinner it's back to Mt John where the local astronomy guides will help you navigate the southern night sky using powerful telescopes and binoculars. A world renowned astrophotographer will help you capture the beauty of the night sky with tips and techniques.

Hotel Pepper's Bluewater Resort (2 nights)

DAY 5: MacKenzie Country (B,L,D) ✈

Pre dawn the Lunar Eclipse will be visible. You may wish to travel up to Mt John to view this phenomenon (optional). Today travel out to a MacKenzie High Country property where you will enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch. Return to Tekapo for some free time for optional flights or a soak in the hot pools at the Alpine Springs and Spa (optional). This afternoon join 'Astro Dave' at your Resort for an entertaining talk on astronomy and space. After dinner you will have a second opportunity to go to the summit of Mt John to view the wonders of the night skies and hear about the plans to make this region a 'Starlight Reserve'.

DAY 6: Tekapo - Kaikoura (B,D)

After breakfast today depart the MacKenzie Country for travel north to the coastal town of Kaikoura. The township is located on a rocky peninsula and the waters that surround it are rich in marine mammals and seabirds. Fur Seals are often seen resting on rocks and Sperm Whales can be seen at different times of the year.

Hotel White Morph Hotel

DAY 7: Kaikoura - Picton - Wellington (B,SD)

An early morning scenic flight may be available (conditions permitting) to experience a whale sighting (optional). Travel to Picton where you board the Interislander Ferry for your journey through the Marlborough Sounds and across Cook Strait to Wellington. This evening you will enjoy the Zealandia by Night Tour. The tour commences in the exhibition that takes you 1,000 years back in time. This special nocturnal experience then takes you into the valley where your guide will search for the elusive Kiwi and glow worms so bright, you won't need a torch. Dinner follows at the Rata Café.

Hotel James Cook Grand Chancellor (2 nights)

DAY 8: Wellington (B,SD) ✈

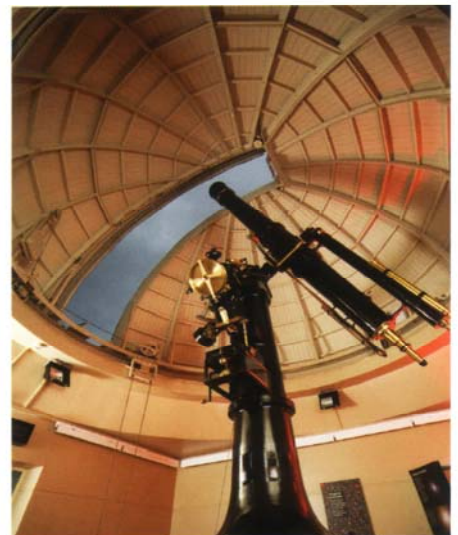
This morning enjoy an extensive city tour which explains the history and culture on show in New Zealand's capital city. A highlight will be a guided tour of Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, where the guides will explain the relevance of 'Matariki', a cluster of stars known as Pleiades that also marks the Maori New Year. Enjoy free time this afternoon at leisure.

Exclusive Farewell Dinner

This evening your final night will be a key highlight of your tour. Board the Wellington Cable Car up to the Carter Observatory. This amazing facility has recently had a \$5 million refurbishment and is very impressive. After a tour around the exhibition with time to view the night skies through the Thomas Cook Telescope, you will move into the digital planetarium where a spectacular farewell dinner will be set up. This will be a memorable experience and provide a fitting farewell.

DAY 9: Wellington - Homeport (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand Holiday.



TOP: At the International Antarctic Centre enjoy an amazing ride on a Hagglund, an all terrain amphibian vehicle. ABOVE: The newly refurbished Carter Observatory includes a multimedia exhibition all about the Southern Skies, a 9m digital full-dome planetarium and heritage telescopes.

We only have one exclusive departure date for this 9 day Stargazer's Spectacular

Depart
12 June 2011

Return
20 June 2011

WE WON'T CHARGE YOU THE EARTH TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

The Australian Travel & Trading Co

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