

# American Celebration of Music in New Zealand

## Standard Tour #1 (8 nights/11 days)

### Day 1

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Depart via scheduled air service to Auckland, New Zealand

### Day 2

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#### In Transit

In transit

### Day 3

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#### Auckland

(D)

Arrive in Auckland

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a sightseeing tour of Auckland with its spectacular views of sparkling waters and the Harbour Bridge which shows you why Auckland is known as the City of Sails

Afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant

Venture up Auckland's Sky Tower, which is the tallest man-made structure in New Zealand and offers breathtaking views (weather permitting)

Return to your hotel for overnight

*The Auckland region is an antipasto of environments laid out on a huge platter to make one amazing city, boasting three harbours, two mountain ranges, 48 volcanic cones and more than 50 islands. Auckland's population has just reached 1.5 million, making it by far the largest city in New Zealand, with one third of the country's entire population*

### Day 4

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#### Auckland

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

#### **Morning masterclass**

Lunch on own

Time at leisure to venture to the nearby quaint seaside township of Devonport, or explore the many Museums and Art Galleries, enjoy a Harbour Cruise on the Pride of Auckland yacht or partake in some retail therapy

#### **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand**

Evening dinner and overnight

### Day 5

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#### Auckland / Hamilton / Rotorua

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

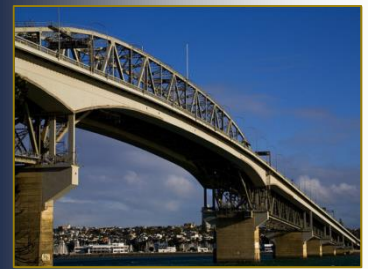
Travel south to Hamilton, New Zealand's richest dairy farming area. Time is available in Hamilton to explore the local shops/mall

Lunch on own

Onwards to Rotorua! Our journey meanders through fertile countryside, up over the forested Mamaku Ranges and into the Rotorua basin, an area of natural beauty and rich in cultural heritage

#### **Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand**

Evening dinner and overnight



**Music Celebrations International**  
*Concert Tours With Integrity*

*Rotorua is New Zealand's most dynamic thermal area, home to spurting geysers, steaming hot springs and exploding mud pools. The Maori revered this place, naming one of the most spectacular springs Wai-O-Tapu (Sacred Waters). There is nowhere else like Rotorua where you can experience the Maori culture and enjoy the scenery*

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**Day 6** **Rotorua** **(B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

First we head up the Skyline Gondola to a high point on Mt Ngongotaha for a fun filled ride on a three-wheel cart known as the "Luge". Self-drive down over one mile of mountain side on concrete track with tunnels, spirals and awesome views over the city and lake. Next we visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park with its Bird Show and Big Splash

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure to partake in optional activities. Options include soaking in natural mineral pools where the goodness of the earth soaks into the body and sooth the soul, alternatively there is shopping, OGO, Agrojet, Swoop and Shweeb or just relax in our hotel

Tonight we enjoy a step into the past and partake in a traditional Maori 'Hangi' (feast) and concert; this includes traditional song and dance followed by a 'Haka' (war dance) and viewing the Glow Worms



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**Day 7** **Rotorua** **(B,D)**

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Breakfast at the hotel

Morning at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Lunch on own

Afternoon visit to Hell's Gate; for a Mud Bath and Sulphur Spa experience which features the geothermal mud baths that replicate the historic mud baths of 150 years ago and still uses the silky smooth geothermal grey mud from the geothermal park; and the sulphur spas that use the sulphur water from the 'Hurutini' pool

Evening dinner and overnight



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**Day 8** **Rotorua / Taupo / Wanganui** **(B,D)**

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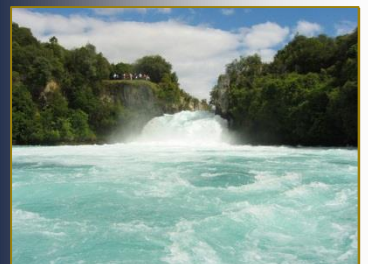
Breakfast at the hotel

En route to Taupo we stop at the Waitotapu Mud Pools and Aratiatia Dam to view the flood gates opening. On our descent into Taupo we stop to see the mighty Huka Falls with optional jet boat rides available (at an additional cost)

Lunch on own

Continuing south, we journey alongside New Zealand's largest freshwater lake, Lake Taupo before entering New Zealand's oldest national park, Tongariro with its World Heritage status. This is a place of extremes and surprises, from a desert-like plateau to active volcanoes - Tongariro has it all. New Zealand's world renowned film Director, Sir Peter Jackson, chose Tongariro as a major filming site for the shooting of the *Lord of the Rings*. Then it is off to Wanganui City for dinner and overnight

*Wanganui is a raggedy historic town on the banks of the wide Wanganui River. The local arts community is thriving; old port buildings are being turned into glass-art studios, and the town centre has been rejuvenated. Under Victoria Ave's leafy canopy is a wonderful place to take a stroll*



**Day 9****Wanganui****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Today is a relaxing day in preparation for tonight's concert. Prominent buildings in the city which you may consider exploring are the Sarjeant Art Gallery and the Royal Wanganui Opera House which was built in 1901. Wanganui is a musical city with a strong brass band influence and a strong male choir. Wanganui is also home to the famous Collegiate School that HRH Prince Edward attended for several years and then returned as a house master. The Collegiate Chapel is well worth a visit subject to availability

Lunch on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand***

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 10****Wanganui / Wellington****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Wellington, the capital city

Lunch on own

Upon arrival, we visit key points of interest including Parliament Buildings, Mount Victoria and the Botanical Gardens and ride the Cable Car. We will also pay a visit to Te Papa, the National Museum

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in New Zealand***

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

*Wellington is compact, cultured, full of character and rich in political history. It is set between a magnificent harbour and rolling green hills. It is also a compact city where funky shops, exciting galleries and great restaurants are within easy walking distance*

**Day 11****Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Depending on your flight times there may be an opportunity for a little retail therapy to search for that little memento to take home for family and friends. Additionally we could visit the Weta workshops, the special effects creators for the LOTR and Hobbit movies en-route to the Airport

Transfer to Wellington airport for return flight



***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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