



Gather a breathtaking look at the country and the dairy sector – a sector that has traditionally been defined by its all-grass, low-cost production systems.

See firsthand why some New Zealand dairy farmers are modifying their businesses to capitalize on high global prices by shifting to higher input, higher-cost management systems. Along with the traditional dairy industry, you will have ample opportunity to experience tourist sites, and experience the culture and beauty of both islands.

Our itinerary covers the traditional and highly developed regions such as the Waikato, North Island, but also includes the newer rapidly developing regions of the South Island – Canterbury.

And all along the way, New Zealand's varied and beautiful landscape forms a stunning backdrop to your stimulating tour – an experience for both the heart and mind!

DISCOVER

FEBRUARY 1 - 13, 2016

NEW ZEALAND

THE COUNTRY, COWS & CULTURE



**PD
PW**

13 DAYS AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Fly Madison – Los Angeles – Auckland, NZ

Our group assembles for our flight to Los Angeles, where we board Air New Zealand's B-747 non-stop flight for Auckland.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Cross the International Dateline – this day is lost in transit

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3

Arrive at Auckland Airport in the morning and begin your adventures.

Start the day with a city tour and an opportunity for a short walk up Mt Eden for 360° views of the breathtaking city and where we see both the Tasman Sea and the South Pacific Ocean.



Cruise on the **Waitemata Harbour**. See Rangitoto Island, the iconic volcanic island that is featured in many photographs of Auckland city, and get up close and personal with the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

AUCKLAND

is affectionately known as “The City of Sails”, having the highest per capita ownership of yachts of any city in the world and is the largest marina in the Southern hemisphere.

Auckland is regularly ranked in the top 5 cities of the world on Quality of Life indexes.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Visit a 470 NZ-Friesian cow, 200ha dairy farm at Karaka, south of Auckland. This is a System-5 farm. The system number denotes the level of supplementary feed input with 1 = all grass feeding and no supplements; 5 = high proportion 25-55% of diet fed as supplements. This property has spring & autumn calving, a 50-bail rotary shed, and is in a productive farming region, with very high land values.

Tour an avocado orchard in nearby Glenbrook. Enjoy a quick visit to Hamilton Gardens – a popular attraction where you can see a wide range of themed and traditional gardens, well-positioned along the Waikato River.

The **WAIKATO** region is the traditional New Zealand “dairyland” due to its reliable rainfall and productive soils.

Despite the growth in dairying all over New Zealand, the Waikato still has 30 percent of NZ's dairy farms and 25 percent of the nation's dairy cows.

Hamilton, the main urban center in the Waikato, has a population of 145,000, and has grown from being an agricultural service town to a city with a diverse economy. Education and research are important components in the city's economy with 50,000 students.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Experience the **HAMILTON** area. A dairy experience wouldn't be complete without a visit to LIC, a co-operatively owned A.I. business that also provides milk yield/testing services and farm management assistance.

Spend time with a leading share-milking couple in the **Hinuera area**, close to Hamilton. The System-3 farm includes 450 Kiwi-cross cows milked in a double-30 herringbone shed.

We will also tour a 1,200-cow farm using a high level of inputs (System-5) feeding fresh-cut alfalfa, silage and concentrates to achieve high per hectare production levels. We will learn about how they manage feed storage sites and utilize their rotary parlor.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Overlooking the international rowing venue of **Lake Karapiro**, our group will tour an organic kiwifruit orchard growing both the green and gold fruit. This iconic New Zealand export product currently faces a severe challenge from the recently arrived disease, Psa (*Pseudomonas* sp.).

We will explore the popular **Waikato Glowworm Caves** and see thousands of tiny luminescent creatures glowing in darkened limestone caves. This is a spectacular experience giving the impression of a starry night sky.

A trip to New Zealand won't be complete without seeing **Te Puia Whakarewarewa** and meeting members of the local Maori tribe, Te Arawa. While you view the geothermal area with steaming geysers and boiling mud-pools, we will enjoy a Maori cultural evening, including a formal welcome onto the Marae – the focal point of a Maori village.

For dinner, we will indulge in the ‘hangi’ - traditionally cooked meat & vegetables.

ROTORUA is on the shores of Lake Rotorua. It is the center of Maori culture and an active geothermal region.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

You will enjoy your free time to wander in central Rotorua. You can grab a late morning visit with the family owners of a sheep and beef property overlooking Lake Rotorua and watch a sheep-dog display. It is here in central Rotorua that we will discuss the local environmental issues like groundwater quality and others facing farmers.

Afternoon flight to **Christchurch**, city tour in route to the hotel.

CHRISTCHURCH is the South Island's largest city, with a population of 365,000. It is situated on the edge of the level plains of Canterbury, which attracted the original Church of England settlement in the 1850's, following Maori settlement 600-700 years earlier.

The city had retained much of the English tradition that surrounded its creation, but the 2010-11 earthquakes, the strongest ever recorded globally in an urban area, have led to the demolition of much of the Gothic architecture that gave the city its special character.

The city is currently in the midst of a building boom, with 10,000 houses having to be re-built and 100,000 in the wider region needing to be repaired. Almost the entire Commercial Business District, or around 1,300 commercial buildings, have been demolished, so a very different and potentially exciting city is re-emerging.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Travel to **Akaroa**, a small French-influenced coastal village popular both with the locals as a weekend retreat, and with visitors from the 70+ cruise ships that visit each summer.

Take a wildlife cruise on the harbour with the opportunity to see the dramatic scenery, varied bird and animal life including New Zealand seals and the rare Hector's dolphin.

Optional: Farm Home Stay

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Visit Lincoln University – the oldest agricultural university in the British Commonwealth.

Visit Lincoln University Dairy Farm, a highly regarded farm run on a fully commercial basis aiming to be in the top 5% production and profit-wise. This farm is a key extension tool in showing best-practices in pasture-based dairy systems.

Visit a large-scale irrigated dairy operation with 7,000 cows on a cluster of five farms, owned by a talented young couple and a financial partner. This property is a great example of the large-scale developments commonly found on the Canterbury Plains.

Continue south via the foothills before entering the Mackenzie Country – a high, dry inland region of austere beauty, punctuated by large aqua-blue glacier-fed lakes. The Southern Alps, including NZ's highest peak Mt Cook/Aoraki provide a dramatic backdrop to this area.

*** Harvest Travel International and its New Zealand supplier of travel services reserves the right to alter or amend the schedule of activities if circumstances warrant.**

TWIZEL is a small village of around 1,000 permanent residents, situated in the Mackenzie Basin. It was developed in the late 1960's to house workers for the large Upper Waitaki Hydroelectricity Scheme constructed in the region.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

We continue south towards the Otago region, where we visit a canal-based salmon farm for discussion about this family-owned business and to taste some of their product.

Further south, lunch at Glen Dene homestead with the owners, in a stunning location overlooking Lake Hawea. Glen Dene Station is a 6,000ha alpine livestock farm with fine-wool Merino and meat producing sheep, beef cattle and deer. Game hunting of trophy stags also takes place on the Station.

Depart for wine-tasting at Gibbston winery. The region is known for its pinot noir.

QUEENSTOWN is surrounded by majestic mountains, "The Remarkables", and is nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu. Dwarfed by the surrounding mountains, there are amazing views in all directions.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Depart for Milford Sound, a large World Heritage area once described by Rudyard Kipling as 'the eighth wonder of the world'.

Cruise onto the Sound with towering mountains on both sides, virgin forest, and waterfalls dropping over high cliffs directly into the sea.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Free time to explore **Queenstown** and enjoy some of the many adventure activities and shopping opportunities available.

Gather for a special farewell dinner on Bob's Peak, high above Queenstown, with stunning view of the town, the Remarkables, and Lake Wakatipu.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Flight **Queenstown to Auckland** and beyond.



**TAKE A BREAK
CELEBRATE THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME VENTURE WITH PDPW
LET US PAMPER YOU
EXPERIENCE BOTH OF NEW ZEALAND'S BREATHTAKING ISLANDS
LEAVE WINTER AND YOUR WORRIES BEHIND**

LIFE IS SHORT.

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PDPW INTRODUCES A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

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and extraordinary dairy sector.*

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