



Environment
& Sustainability Series

7 Day South Island
Environment & Sustainability Experience



Overview

Our South Island Environment and Sustainability tour highlights progressive and innovative approaches to the environmental challenges faced by the Canterbury region. Here, climate, geology, topography, industry and agriculture interact to create unique scenarios that require intelligent collaborative responses. Our journey covers urban, rural and coastal sustainability and includes the unique issues faced by Christchurch as it rebuilds after the destructive earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

With the benefit of excellent proximity to Christchurch, travelling is kept to a minimum, resulting in a full and exciting programme and tremendous value for money. Activities have been designed around providing a wide variety of stimulating and thought-provoking scenarios.

As with all Gefen programmes, we offer flexibility and are happy to discuss tailoring itineraries to your curricular requirements or student needs.

Availability: Year Round
Itinerary Flexibility: Medium to high
Minimum Group Size: 10

All trip prices include:

- 7 days accommodation, meals and domestic transport, fully detailed in final quote and itinerary

Ask us how teaching staff can travel **FREE** of charge!

Key Learning Areas

- Conservation
- Community engagement
- Recycling and waste prevention
- Declining biodiversity
- Water quality
- Deforestation
- Revegetation
- Resource consumption
- Urban, rural and coastal sustainability
- Energy, pollution and atmospheric change



DAY 1 Itinerary Overview

Marine Adventure

Location: Kaikoura

We begin our journey with a drive through the fascinating North Canterbury rural landscape toward Kaikoura, our destination for the day. Kaikoura was the first community in New Zealand and the second in the world to achieve Environmental Benchmark status through the Earthcheck Environmental Certification scheme and has implemented a number of successful initiatives.

The town has also been economically rejuvenated by the sustainable business of whale watching and we will experience the excitement and exhilaration of the very special whale-watching tours, that have made Kaikoura an essential destination. We also hope to see seals, dolphins and a huge variety of sea birds including albatross.

Guest speakers and experienced guides can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- Sustainable towns and community engagement
- Eco- tourism and sustainable economic development
- The relationship of indigenous peoples to the land and the sea
- Threatened species management
- Marine reserves

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available



DAY 2 Itinerary Overview

Urban Focus

Location: Christchurch

Day 2 sees a more urban focus as we spend the day understanding the environmental challenges and opportunities posed by the Christchurch earthquakes. We begin in the central city with a walking tour of the rebuild zone and an understanding of the Urban Development Strategy. We have the opportunity to meet contributors passionate about urban sustainability, public transport, water quality and revegetation.

In the afternoon we extend our understanding of the earthquake's impact and shift our focus toward conservation and management of a significant wetland in an urban environment, with the added cultural and environmental factors such as the proposed extension of the wetland into abandoned residential land. The challenge will be to rehabilitate threatened and rare habitats and create a predator-proofed, eco-sanctuary.

Guest speakers and experienced guides can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- Wetland rehabilitation and management
- Biodiversity
- Recycling and reconstitution
- Waste management
- Urban waterway management

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides



DAY 3 Itinerary Overview

Wind Farm

Location: Little River - Banks Peninsula

Today we have a relaxing day trip to spectacular Banks Peninsula. During the course of the morning we have the option to visit an innovative accommodation development designed and built using ecologically friendly and sustainable systems and materials. If time permits before lunch we can also view the latest in wind-farm innovation, before heading over the hills to stunning Akaroa.

In the afternoon we visit an incredible coastal nature reserve where we learn about the efforts to protect and conserve several threatened species including dolphins, penguins, lizards and even insects. Students can actualise their classroom learning in an experiential and stimulating way as well as visiting unique and beautiful locations and meeting inspirational and committed hosts.

Guest speakers and experienced guides can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- Sustainable buildings
- Sustainable waste management
- Wind generated power generation
- Threatened species management
- Marine reserves

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available



DAY 4 Itinerary Overview

Sustainable Food Production

Location: Christchurch - Mt Cook

Day 4 sees us venturing south and experiencing some of the amazing landscapes that New Zealand is so renowned for. Crossing magnificent rivers and fertile farmland, we visit both a highly innovative family farm and a commercial production facility where students will gain increased awareness of sustainable agricultural and aquacultural principles and practices, in harmony with the stunning environment in which they are situated.

With the global population estimated to reach 10 billion by 2083, today's focus is on the environmental, social and economic factors of sustainable food production and meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The end of the day sees us heading towards our overnight destination, Mt Cook Village which sits at the base of New Zealand's tallest peak, Aoraki/Mt Cook. In the evening there is the option to undertake some serious stargazing within this International Dark Sky Reserve.

Guest speakers can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- stewardship of resources
- sustainable dairy production
- holistic farm management
- water quality and waterway management
- revegetation
- nitrates, leeching and effluent management

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available



DAY 5 Itinerary Overview

Lake Wanaka

Location: Wanaka

On day 5 we experience the majestic landscape of the southern lakes and the peaceful environs of Lake Wanaka, where we visit a Department of Conservation scientific reserve located in the middle of the lake. Providing a safe habitat for wide variety of birdlife, reptiles and insects, this sanctuary highlights the combined efforts of government departments, local schools and tourism operators to aid conservation efforts in innovative ways.

In the afternoon we stay on the lake with a visit to a Biogrow-certified, high country sheep station which has embraced organic and permaculture principles. Not only is this a stunningly beautiful property, it is run by passionate farmers who have embraced the ethos of sustainability, environmental consciousness and alternative solutions.

Guest speakers can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- Eradicating pest species
- Revegetation
- Managing endangered species
- holistic farm management
- water quality
- carbon farming and no-tillage agriculture
- traceability

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available



DAY 6 Itinerary Overview

Cruise Lake Manapouri / Inspect Hydroelectric Scheme

Location: Fiordland

Another stunning and stimulating day awaits us as we travel to the world-renowned scenic destination of Fiordland. Here, students will take a cruise on the majestic Doubtful Sound and visit the Manapouri Hydro Electric Power Station, operated by Meridian Energy, the only electricity generator in New Zealand to commit itself to only generate electricity from renewable sources.

We then visit to a Department of Conservation Wildlife Centre where students can meet some of New Zealand's iconic kiwi, as well as many other threatened and rare species. These birds have either been injured and cannot survive in the wild, or are involved in captive rearing programmes. Knowledgeable and passionate DoC staff makes this a fitting finale to a fascinating and enjoyable day.

Guest speakers can also be organised by arrangement.

Learning Opportunities

- Renewable energy
- Hydroelectric power generation
- Underground power stations
- Survival, growth and security for critically endangered species

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available

DAY 7 Itinerary Overview

Dart River/ Te Waipounamu World Heritage Area

Location: Queenstown

After our thought-provoking and inspiring journey, our last day presents an opportunity to reflect and relax within spectacular Queenstown and its choice of entertainment and adventure. Most popular is a jetboat journey on the Dart River within the pristine wilderness of Mt Aspiring National Park. This is part of designated UNESCO World Heritage site Te Wahipounamu and is the largest and least modified of New Zealand's ecosystems. The flora and fauna is said to be the best example of the ancient biota of Gondwanaland represented in the modern world.

Other popular options for the day include a Maori cultural experience or, if a more physical undertaking appeals, kayaking, mountain biking or guided hikes, all within close proximity to town.

Now that we have reached the end of your tour, we bid you farewell and hope that students now have the experiential learning to inspire them live smarter lives, reducing their impact on the environment so that our natural resources will be around for future generations.

Learning Opportunities

- Benchmarking and best practice
- Sustainable tourism and world heritage sites
- Fair distribution of resources and opportunities
- Personal and social responsibility

Activity Information

- Fully compliant with NZ school safety guidelines
- Professional guides available

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