

**INDEPENDENT SELF DRIVE TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND**  
**Especially prepared by Pacific Pathways for**  
**KNITTERS**

Please note: Local knitting groups generally meet once a week. We can arrange for you to attend meetings when they coincide with the day/evening you will be in the area. Where group meetings are not an option we may be able to arrange a meeting on an individual basis.

**Day 01**            **DEPART SAN FRANCISCO OR LOS ANGELES** in the evening. 12.5 hour flight. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. Cross the International Dateline during the night.

**Day 03**            **ARRIVE AUCKLAND TO CHRISTCHURCH** Arrive Auckland about 5:30am and transfer to your onward flight to Christchurch arriving there about 8:00am. After clearing customs you will be met and all documents and vouchers will be explained to you. Pick up your rental car and drive into the city to your accommodation. Christchurch justly deserves its title of "Garden City" of New Zealand as it is blessed with an abundance of parks and gardens. Suggestions for your time here include:

- *Visit the creative fibre galleries and yarn stores in the Arts Centre*
- *Tour the Museum and Botanical Gardens*
- *Walk through Cathedral Square*
- *Take the tourist tram on a loop ride of the downtown area*

All the above are located in the center of town.

**Day 04**            **AT CHRISTCHURCH** Today if the date works we will arrange for you to attend a local knitters' gathering. Other suggestions for your time here include:

- *A drive out to Akaroa, an early French settlement at the end of Banks Peninsula, now a popular area of boutique shops and cafes.*
- *Visit an Alpaca Farm to learn about alpacas, browse in the shop for alpaca yarn and garments*
- *Visit the Antarctic Centre to experience Antarctic conditions, see penguins and learn about research taking place on the southern continent.*

**Day 05**            **TO DUNEDIN** ( About 4 hour drive) Drive south from Christchurch onto the Canterbury Plains to Ashburton home of the Ashford Spinning Wheel manufacturers. We suggest a stop here for coffee and a browse through the gift shops before you continue south on Highway 1. At the turn off to Geraldine we suggest you follow the signs to The Tin Shed for some excellent shopping values before continuing to Timaru and Oamaru where, if possible we can arrange a meeting with local knitters. Then continue south to Dunedin stopping to view strange boulders on the beach at Moeraki en route.

- Day 06**      **AT DUNEDIN** If possible visit a Dunedin Knitting group this morning, also check out the yarn shop on the Octagon and in the afternoon drive out Otago Peninsula. Visit Clifton Wool N Things a specialty shop selling quality naturally coloured yarn and fleece. Then tour **Penguin Place** where you will be able to get close and personal with yellow eyed penguins as they return from the sea to their nests. In spring and summer there will be chicks in the nests. Also stop at the Royal Albatross Colony to look for these huge birds (wingspans of 9 feet!) as they circle the cliffs at the end of the peninsula.
- Day 07**      **TO TE ANAU** (About 4 hour drive) Drive south of Dunedin to Balclutha then west across the pastoral countryside of Southland. This is an area of sheep, deer cattle and dairy farms. At Gore stop if possible to visit some very enthusiastic local knitters before continuing to Te Anau for overnight. In the evening, possible visit with local knitters or an optional tour across Lake Te Anau to visit the glowworm caves where you will ride on an underground river into caves lit from the light of these tiny worms.
- Day 08**      **TO MILFORD SOUND/QUEENSTOWN** This morning we suggest you make an early start, pick up a picnic lunch and drive into Fiordland National Park. The scenery is stunning with lofty mountains, glacially carved valleys, waterfalls, streams and rainforest. Though the distance is only 76 miles you need to allow plenty of time for stops at all the view points and short walks en route. On arrival at Milford board your cruise which will take you close to towering cliffs and waterfalls out to the Tasman Sea. Fur seals are often seen, also dolphins and the tiny crested Fiordland penguins. After your cruise retrace your steps through the Holyford and Eglinton valleys to Te Anau and on to Queenstown an alpine village nestled alongside Lake Wakatipu and beneath the Remarkables Range. Besides its picturesque location, Queenstown is noted as the “Adventure Capital” of New Zealand and arguably, the world! This is where commercial bungee jumping originated but you can also enjoy thrilling rafting and jet boat trips, parapenting, paragliding, sky diving, in short all the adrenalin rushes you can take. Or, you can enjoy relaxing lakeside walks, golf, lake cruises, wine tours of the famous Otago wineries, shopping (including the yarn store in the Arcade) and perhaps a tour of Lord of the Rings movie sites. If possible we will arrange for you to meet with local knitters during your stay here.
- Day 09**      **AT QUEENSTOWN** Free day to enjoy the tours and activities of your choice. Your ticket for a gondola ride to **Bob’s Peak** to enjoy the fantastic views of the area is included. We also suggest at some time you take the short (20 minute) drive to the old gold mining village of Arrowtown for shopping and to enjoy the cafes and restaurants. Or you may like to drive along the lakeside to the tiny settlement of Glenorchy for lunch or coffee in the little café there.
- Day 10**      **TO ROTORUA** Return your rental car this morning at the airport and fly to Rotorua. Pick up another car and drive into town. Rotorua is the center for Maori culture and thermal activity. It is located among a number of very beautiful lakes. During your stay here we will arrange a meeting

for you with local knitters if possible. You might also want to take a drive to one of the nearby lakes.

**Day 11 AT ROTORUA** Today first visit the **Agrodome** to learn about the different breeds of sheep in New Zealand, watch sheep shearing and sheep dogs working. Also visit the Woolshed and demonstration woolen mill and gift shop. Visit **Rainbow Springs** to see the giant trout, native birds including the kiwi. Tour **Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve** and **Te Puia** Maori crafts center and attend a Maori cultural event and **hangi feast**.

**Day 12 TO AUCKLAND** (About 4 hour drive) Departing Rotorua cross the Mamaku Ranges into the fertile Waikato Valley. We suggest stops in Tirau and Cambridge for coffee or lunch and a browse through the antique stores and, if possible a meeting with local knitters before continuing to Hamilton on the Waikato River. Visit a large wool shop here and possibly the Hamilton Knitters group before driving on to Auckland.

**Day 13 AT AUCKLAND** Enjoy your final day in New Zealand's largest city, if possible meeting with local knitters at some time during your stay here. Entrance to **Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Experience** is included. Other suggestions for your day include:

- Visits to yarn shops
- Browse the boutique stores at Parnell
- Take a ferry across the harbour to Devonport for coffee or a glass of wine and explore the shops there
- Visit the War Memorial Museum

**Day 14 DEPARTURE** Free day until time to return your rental vehicle at Auckland airport before checking in for your return flight to the US. Flights depart in the evening. Arrive back in Los Angeles or San Francisco the same day, in fact earlier in the day due to re-crossing the dateline!