

# South Pacific Adventure 2006

## PH 07/14-2

**Friday, July 14**

**Depart for New Zealand**

**Day 1**

Greet your fellow Ambassadors in your departure city before boarding your international flight to Auckland, New Zealand.

**Saturday, July 15**

**En Route**

**Day 2**

Lose a day as you cross the International Date Line en route to New Zealand. During the flight prepare for the money exchange that will occur upon arrival at your destination. For security and convenience reasons, \$100.00 cash or signed travelers checks should be kept in your carry-on luggage for easy access.

**Sunday, July 16**

**Rotorua, New Zealand**

**Day 3**

On your arrival in New Zealand, clear Customs and Immigration; and exit through the large doorway. Continue straight ahead to the arrival hall. Directly to your left a People to People representative will be there to greet you and introduce you to your coach driver, who is also your delegation manager. After meeting your People to People delegation manager, a special arrangement has been made for you to convert your U.S. Dollars into New Zealand currency directly with the delegation manager. Due to timings of program schedules, please be sure to take advantage of this service, which will reduce delays for your delegation at the airport. Your People to People representative will brief and assist your delegation with this service.

Welcome to Auckland, the City of Sails! Auckland's suburbs spread generously over a narrow isthmus between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Extinct volcanic cones characterize the landscape, while an unending procession of sails on the harbor typifies the relaxed outdoor lifestyle enjoyed by its largely European and Polynesian population.

After an orientation to Auckland, continue on the Southern Motorway to Rotorua, a spa town built around the hot mineral springs, which feed its lake. Experience boiling mud, geysers and silica deposits, which are often seen in this region. This afternoon explore the Waitapu Thermal Wonderland, a picturesque and mysterious area of thermal activity featuring a series of steaming crater lakes. Waitapu is home to the Lady Knox Geyser and the magnificent Champagne Pool. Arrive at your hotel with a chance to settle in and journal your first impressions of New Zealand.

**Monday, July 17**

**Rotorua, New Zealand**

**Day 4**

Learn about New Zealand's agricultural base at the Agrodome Sheep Show. Enjoy an hour-long live show, which includes a display of the country's 19 most popular sheep breeds, working dogs, sheep shearing and a cow milking demonstration. There is also a chance to feed baby lambs and take part in a New Zealand sheep auction. As an integral part of the People to People Student Ambassador program you may receive a civic welcome at the Rotorua Council Chambers by a member of the City Council. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about local government. Then you are off to Mount Ngongataha for a bird's eye view of Lake Rotorua and Mokoia Island aboard the gondola. Hang on tight during your exciting luge ride to the bottom!

This evening spend the night in a Marae! A Marae is an authentic Maori meetinghouse and the focal point of the Maori culture. Upon your arrival, the Maori People will formally welcome you in a traditional ceremony. During the ceremony, a Maori Warrior will challenge your delegation. Who among you will be brave enough and accept the challenge? Don't forget to have a song ready, as you will be expected to respond! Dinner this evening is in the style of a Hangi. The traditional Hangi is prepared using steam or hot rocks in a pit oven. The oven is then left to steam until the meat is cooked. This evening, explore more of Maori culture through songs, stories, and dances.

**Tuesday, July 18**                      **Wellington, New Zealand**                      **Day 5**

Get ready for the thrill of your life aboard a Huka Jet Boat as you skim along and feel the water's cool spray during your ride up the Waikato River to the magnificent Huka Falls! Travel by coach past the rugged volcanic terrain of Tongariro National Park and the small settlements en route to bustling Wellington. Wellington is the picturesque capital of New Zealand, built up on the hillsides surrounding Wellington Harbour. A center for the arts, Wellington has many museums and private galleries.

**Wednesday, July 19**                      **Wellington, New Zealand**                      **Day 6**

Learn about New Zealand's system of government at the Parliament Building, known as the Beehive because of its distinctive architectural design. Continue your exploration of Wellington at the Te Papa National Museum, a fascinating museum with interactive exhibits devoted to Maori culture, natural history, modern art, as well as science and technology. This evening, meet with a representative from Capital E OnTV studio where you will have the opportunity to either develop your very own group CD in the Sound House studio or produce a group video at OnTV studio!

**Thursday, July 20**                      **Home Stay, New Zealand**                      **Day 7**

This morning you are off to the South Island! Board the Interislander Ferry for your journey across Cook Strait and through the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound. Upon your arrival in Picton, board your coach. This evening, you will meet your home stay family and get to experience two days with them. Be ready to try new things!

***Be sure to bring pictures of friends and family back home, as your host family will enjoy seeing them.***

**Friday, July 21**                      **Home Stay, New Zealand**                      **Day 8**

Your home stay continues with a chance to experience everyday life in New Zealand and meet the locals. This is your opportunity to make lifelong friends. If school is in session, you even have the opportunity to attend school and become familiar with the New Zealand education system.

***Remember to thank your home stay family, as this will be your last night with them. Don't forget to exchange address information so you can keep in touch!***

**Saturday, July 22**                      **Methven, New Zealand**                      **Day 9**

Get ready for a day packed with adventure and personal growth. Through interactive and challenging workshops led by the Full On team; you will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills, set personal goals and step outside your comfort zone. You will also conquer FEAR by

abseiling down a cliff in the rugged Southern Alps or completing an outdoor adventure course. Later, take some time to reflect upon today's activities and your personal achievements.

**Sunday, July 23**

**Christchurch, New Zealand**

**Day 10**

Join in the fun at the Christchurch Antarctic Centre a showcase for the unique international cooperation that exists in Antarctica today. Learn what it takes to plan and organize a real life journey to Antarctica from people who have worked there! Additionally, get ready for a thrilling experience and take a Hagglund "through its paces" on an adventure course! The Hagglund is the actual tracked vehicle used in Antarctica by the United States and New Zealand. Explore the Willowbank Wildlife Reserve and have the rare experience of viewing New Zealand's Kiwi national symbol, the Kiwi, in its natural habitat. The Kiwi is a flightless bird similar in size to a chicken, but their eggs are almost as big as those of an ostrich!

This evening is your final night in New Zealand so take time to reflect and journal about your experiences.

**Monday, July 24**

**New Zealand to  
Brisbane, Australia**

**Day 11**

Make sure your bags are packed, and that you have everything you need for the flight, in your carry-on. It is time to board the coach for the Christchurch International Airport for your flight to Australia. At the airport, you may have a chance to convert your currency into Aussie dollars. Otherwise, after clearing customs and meeting your delegation manager in Brisbane, you can exchange your money into Australian currency. For security and convenience reasons, \$100.00 is the recommended amount to exchange at the airport. There will be further opportunities to exchange money during the course of the program.

G'day, mate! Welcome to Australia, the land down under! On arrival in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, your People to People delegation manager and coach driver will greet you. Brisbane has become Australia's third largest city and was the second original convict settlement.

**Tuesday, July 25**

**South Stradbroke Island, Australia**

**Day 12**

Good morning, it is time for school! Today, you have the opportunity to experience the Australian education system during your visit to a Queensland School. Learn all about the subjects and the classes. Best of all; make a few international friends with the Australian students you meet! Continue onward to Runaway Bay, where you will board a ferry to South Stradbroke Island for your two-night stay at the beautiful Couran Cove Resort. Couran Cove is a remarkable achievement in technology. It is a full service resort that is also an experiment in sustainable development. While you are on the island, check out a bicycle and explore the resort.

**Wednesday, July 26**

**South Stradbroke Island, Australia**

**Day 13**

Go for a swim, learn about Australian flora and fauna during a bushwalk, explore the island on bicycle, or test your speed on the timed track! Take the opportunity to learn about the many innovations incorporated by the developers in areas such as waste management, pest control, and native plant and animal protection. You also will have an opportunity to help the natural environment by being a part of an important regeneration program.

**Thursday, July 27                      Sunshine Coast, Australia                      Day 14**

Today, you will have a close encounter with Australia's unique fauna including koalas, kangaroos, and Tasmanian devils at a wildlife sanctuary. Afterwards, learn about Australia's national gemstone, the opal, during a visit to an opal establishment where you will experience a cutting and polishing demonstration. Tonight, stay on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Stretching some 40 miles, the Sunshine Coast was given this name because the sun shines most of the time. It is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

**Friday, July 28                      Yeppoon, Australia                      Day 15**

Continue to the country town of Gin Gin, where you will have lunch. Journey along the Bruce Highway to Rockhampton. Located on the Tropic of Capricorn, Rockhampton is considered the capital of Australia's beef industry, producing about 18 million head per year. Next, through musical and dance performances at the Dreamtime Aboriginal Cultural Centre, learn about Aboriginal culture, an integral part of Australian history and heritage. The Aborigines are believed to have arrived 40,000-60,000 years ago via Asia. Afterwards, you will also experience boomerang and spear-throwing demonstrations before you head towards the coast to beautiful Yeppoon, your home for tonight.

**Saturday, July 29                      Long Island, Australia                      Day 16**

Venture on towards Airlie Beach, the gateway to the 74 Whitsunday Islands named by Captain James Cook in 1770. On the way, explore Mackay, a major center for the sugarcane industry in Australia, and learn about sugar farming. In the afternoon, have your questions ready about the Great Barrier Reef, as you will be meeting with a representative of OUCH (Order of Underwater Coral Heroes). The representative will brief you on the reef, a fascinating formation and the world's largest living organism. Next, take a ferry to Long Island. This beautiful island is home to wallabies and the unusual curlew bird with its long legs and mournful cry.

***Don't forget to pack your day bag for tomorrow with sunscreen, sun hat, swimsuit and towel. An underwater camera will capture those magic moments on the Reef!***

**Sunday, July 30                      Long Island, Australia                      Day 17**

Cruise to the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, one of the greatest natural phenomena the world has to offer. Stretching over 1250 miles and covering an area of over 135,000 square miles, the reef is the only living thing visible from the Moon! The Great Barrier Reef is rich in marine life, including 1500 species of fish. Observe this fragile ecosystem and snorkel in the pristine aquamarine water. Be amazed by the diverse colors and variety of the live coral. Play with the fish as they dart in and out of their watery wonderland. Semi-submersible boat rides are available to view the thousands of varieties of colorful fish and coral without getting wet. Witnessing life throughout the reef is truly a magical experience!

**Monday, July 31                      Sydney, Australia                      Day 18**

Say goodbye to Queensland as you board your flight to Sydney. The largest city in Australia and the capital of New South Wales, Sydney is uniquely set on the natural harbor of Port Jackson. Next, have a rockin' and rollin' good time at the Hard Rock Café, amidst its fascinating collection of music memorabilia. Later in the day, take a guided orientation of the majestic Sydney Opera House complex. The visually intriguing structure houses an Opera Theater, Concert Hall, Playhouse, and one of Sydney's finest restaurants. It has become one of the city's most internationally recognized landmarks. Tonight, its dinner with the fish at Sydney's own Aquarium at Cockle Bay.

**Tuesday, August 01**

**Sydney, Australia**

**Day 19**

This morning divide into small groups and to discover Sydney. You have the option of spending your time at Darling Harbour, the Pitt Street Mall, or both! The Darling Harbour waterfront area includes Sydney's Chinese Gardens, complete with a traditional Chinese teahouse. Close to the mall are Hyde Park, Macquarie Street, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Continue the day on a high when you and your guide climb to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge for breathtaking views of the city! During a dinner cruise this evening, with Sydney Harbour as your spectacular backdrop, see the city's highlights and learn about its amazing history.

*May we suggest comfortable walking shoes for your time in Sydney?*

**Wednesday, August 02**

**Sydney, Australia to USA**

**Day 20**

After packing your suitcase for the last time, make sure you have everything you need for the flight, in your carry-on. Board the coach to the airport for your return flight to the United States.

**IMPORTANT PREPARATORY INFORMATION:**

- The South Island of New Zealand will be **cold**. Please be sure to bring a warm hat, gloves, clothes for layering, and a medium to heavy weight coat that is water-resistant.
- Activities on this program, particularly on the South Island will include hiking over rugged terrain. Comfortable, broken-in hiking boots or cross trainers are highly recommended for participants on this program.

***PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary may change at any time without prior notice. Revised Schedule of Activities will be posted on your Student's OnBoard Web Site.***