

Warbirds Over Wanaka 2012



Wanaka, New Zealand

marlin  **travel**™
The place in your mind. We'll get you there.

With Ron Kusch and Sue Archer

of Nanaimo Flying Club

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30 March 2012

Arrival Transfer

Today your guide will meet you at Auckland Airport and transfer the group to the hotel.

30 March-01 April 2012

Two nights at the Mercure Auckland

Situated in the heart of Auckland's shopping and business district the Mercure Hotel Auckland sports great views overlooking the bustling city and spectacular Waitemata Harbour. A wealth of shopping, restaurants, theatres and the casino are nearby. **Breakfast** is included daily at the hotel.

31 March 2012

Tour to the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT)

Today, board your chartered transfer to visit the MOTAT. As a country that is synonymous with ingenuity and innovation, New Zealand has long since had a fascination with technology. MOTAT creates an environment that celebrates New Zealand technology and transportation by creating an interactive and visually stimulating experience for all visitors. MOTAT is proud to have in its possession over 300,000 items covering everything from fire engines to World War II planes, steam trains to a fully functioning tram line. Your visit includes: Guided tours, special interest talks on the Pumphouse and the Pioneers of Aviation Pavilion, film viewing in the Oxford Theatre, an interactive workshop, a historic tram ride, afternoon tea at the Araroa Tearooms in Cropper House and guided tours of 'I Am The Last Tram' 1950s Auckland exhibition (max 30 per group).

01 April 2012

Departure Transfer

Today you will be transferred to Auckland Airport for your flight to Blenheim.

01 April 2012

Marlborough Winery Tour

Be met at Blenheim Airport and start your tour of New Zealand's most famous wine growing region, Marlborough. Marlborough can lay claim to starting the modern New Zealand wine industry. Here in the late 1970s, Marlborough produced Sauvignon Blanc, among other varieties, which led to confidence that New Zealand could produce interesting wine. Today, the Marlborough wine region represents 62% of total vineyard area in the country. The king varietal here is Sauvignon Blanc, closely followed by Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The area is widely considered by many critics to produce the world's best Sauvignon Blanc. One wine critic said that "no other region in the world can match Marlborough, the northeastern corner of New Zealand's South Island, which seems to be the best place in the world to grow Sauvignon Blanc grapes. Enjoy some tastings at the local cellar doors and conclude your day with a **dinner** at the famed Drylands Restaurant.

01-03 April 2012

Two nights at the Heartland Hotel Blenheim

Heartland Hotel Marlborough in Blenheim is just a few minutes walk from the city centre, one kilometre from the train station and only 20 minutes from the Picton Ferry Terminal. The hotel provides facilities for both business and leisure guests, offering 54 rooms. Smoking rooms are available. **Breakfast** is included daily at the hotel.

02 April 2012

Tour to Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre houses a display like no other and you don't have to be an aviation buff to enjoy it! Human stories from the Great War come to life in a theatrical treatment, which is innovative and visually stunning. Captivating scenes depict the aircraft in context, some recreating actual incidents. The rare memorabilia is worthy of any national collection and ranges from beautifully crafted 'trench art' through to personal items belonging to the famous Red Baron himself. Your tour includes Knights of the Sky guided tour of the Great War in the Air exhibition

03 April 2012

Blenheim to Christchurch

Transfer from your hotel to the **train** station for the **TranzCoastal to Christchurch**. Once on the train, pass by Lake Grassmere with its saltworks to the Pacific Coast. For over 100 kilometers the line runs along a thin ledge of land pinned between the Pacific Ocean and the rugged Kaikoura ranges. Pass through Kaikoura, which offers unique whale, seal and dolphin watching experiences, to the horticultural area and farmland of North Canterbury. Travel over the braided Wamakariri River to the suburban gardens of Christchurch. Upon arrival in Christchurch, you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel.

03-05 April 2012

Two nights at the Ibis Christchurch

Situated in the very heart of this historic garden city, Hotel Ibis Christchurch is located adjacent to Cathedral Square, one of the most recognised and visited tourist attractions in picturesque Christchurch. Hotel Ibis Christchurch opened mid 2007 offering 155 guest rooms as well as a modern bar and restaurant and small meeting room. All rooms also feature broadband internet access. **Breakfast** is included daily at the hotel.

04 April 2012

Tour to the RNZAF Museum

The **Air Force Museum of New Zealand's** mission is to preserve and present the history of New Zealand military aviation for commemoration, learning, inspiration and enjoyment. The museum holds the national collection of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. The collection includes objects covering the early days of New Zealand military aviation both prior to World War I and during this major conflict, the interwar years which saw the formation of the RNZAF in 1937, New Zealanders who fought in the RAF and in other Allied air forces during World War II, the RNZAF's campaign in the Pacific, and the post-war period to the present day. The collection also includes objects from former enemy forces, aircraft, aircraft components, aircraft engines, large objects, textiles, art and memorabilia as well as an extensive paper and photographic archive. All of the 40 aircraft held by the Museum are significant in the way they relate to New Zealand military aviation. Some are the only remaining examples of their type in the world, for example the Avro 626 and Vickers Vildebeest biplanes. Others are the only aircraft of their type in New Zealand (Bleriot, Sopwith Pup, Cessna O2A, and Dauntless) or the only example held in a public collection.

05 April 2012

Christchurch to Wanaka

Today you will be picked up from your hotel for the journey to Wanaka. Driving south from Christchurch is a straight run across the chequer-board Canterbury Plains to Rakaia, known for its fertile, alluvial soil, which has been washed or blown across the plains. From Rangitata head inland through gently rolling countryside which was once well-endowed with superb native forests. Pass through Geraldine to Fairlie and over Burke Pass, when the landscape changes dramatically from rolling farmland to the rugged high country of the Mackenzie Basin. Descend to Lake Tekapo, with views of Mt Cook in a fine day. Pause to visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and the sheep dog memorial. It is a short journey from Tekapo to Lake Pukaki, fed by the glacial waters stemming from the ice and snowfields of Mt Cook National Park. The colour of the water is caused by the powdered rock held in suspension. You will also visit **Richard Pearse Memorial**. According to witness statements given many years afterward, Pearse flew and landed a powered heavier-than-air machine on 31 March 1903, some nine months before the Wright brothers flew their aircraft. The documentary evidence to support such a claim remains open to interpretation, and Pearse did not develop his aircraft to the same degree as the Wright brothers, who achieved sustained controlled flight. Pearse himself was not a publicity-seeker and also occasionally made contradictory statements which for many years led some of the few who knew of his feats to offer 1904 as the date of his first flight. The lack of any chance of industrial development, such as spurred the Wrights to develop their machine, seems to have suppressed any recognition of Pearse's achievements.

05-09 April 2012

Four nights at the Grand Mercure Oakridge Resort

Wanaka is an all-year-round tourist destination in Central Otago in New Zealand's South Island. With its wonderful climate and its proximity to all that the region has to offer, Lake Wanaka and the mountain scenery are a drawcard for New Zealand families on holiday and visitors from all around the world who know of its attractions. Grand Mercure Oakridge Resort sits perfectly in the midst of all what Wanaka has to offer, providing several options for accommodation with a restaurant and pool and spa facilities. **Breakfast** is included daily at the hotel.

06-08 April 2012

Warbirds over Wanaka

For **3 days** over **Easter** Wanaka becomes the centre-stage of a world-famous Warbirds Airshow. In 1988 aviation entrepreneur Tim Wallis presented an airshow and country fair that attracted 14,000 visitors to Wanaka Airport. Delighted with this success, he decided to expand on the theme and hold a **biennial event over the long Easter weekend**. As the show grew so did its support and now around 65,000 people make the pilgrimage to Wanaka for their weekend of excitement. Now acclaimed as the **largest Warbird Airshow in the Southern Hemisphere**, this is the one event not to be missed. Details are not yet out for 2012 but here's a taste from the 2010 show. Warbirds Over Wanaka 2010 was the second Airshow held under the Warbirds Over Wanaka Community Trust. The star attraction for 2010 was the A6M3 Japanese Zero, one of only three Zeros flying in the world. Deployed in battle on Guadalcanal it was amongst 353 aircraft launched from aircraft carriers during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. The Spitfire, Corsair, P40 Kittyhawks, Mustangs, Harvards and Catalina along with the Yak 3 and Lavochkin LA-9 provided a brilliant display of Warbirds during the airshow. For the second time since the end of WWII the crowd heard the sound of the Kittyhawk's six x.50 inch machine guns in action. Peggy Krainz, German wing walker and stunt woman, was brought especially from Germany with husband Friedrich and their Boeing Stearman E75 to perform wing walking feats, sometimes upside down to thrill the crowds. The program featured stunning aerobatics from Yurgis Kairys in his Yuka, the Harvard Formation Aerobatics, Yak 52's Soviet trainers, the Vampires and L39 Albatros. Helicopter displays by the RNZAF and Eurocopter New Zealand delighted the crowds. The Airfield was under siege with fireballs lighting up the sky from a sneak attack by enemy airborne troops and light bombers. Our defending fighters scrambled to protect the airfield assisted by local militia forces. The Royal Australian Airforce's four F/A-18 Hornets provided two outstanding displays each day with their speed and maneuverability. On the ground the military Warhorses, static aircraft displays, aircraft for sale and Aviation Trade stands provided plenty of activity for those wanting a break from the aircraft above.

GOLD TICKETS: Your Gold Tickets include stand seating, marquee with CCTV, food/alcohol for purchase in marquee, gold cap, badge, airshow program, priority parking and ride to stand for elderly and disabled, celebrity pilots mingling/autographs.

09 April 2012

Wanaka to Queenstown

Today get picked up from your hotel for the short trip to Queenstown. From Wanaka follow the Clutha River, which discharges the largest volume of water of any river in New Zealand (650 m³ per second), and is the country's second longest (338 km). The road reaches the western shores of Lake Dunstan, a man-made lake on the Clutha. At the southern end of this lake is the township of Cromwell. Drive through the rugged Kawarau Gorge, in which region the successful Central Otago wineries can be found - Bannockburn, Rippon, Gibbston and Chard Farm amongst others. Pass by pretty Lake Hayes enroute to Queenstown.

09-11 April 2012

Two nights at the Rydges Lakeland Resort Queenstown

An excellently located hotel directly on the lake shore and only a five minute walk to the cafes, shops and restaurants of the town centre. The newly refurbished Restaurant overlooks the lake and surrounding mountains and has magnificent views. **Breakfast** is included daily at the hotel.

10 April 2012

Tour to Milford Sound

Today, cap off an amazing trip to New Zealand with a visit to the Milford Sound, recently voted the world's best destination! Depart Queenstown on the road between eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables and Hector Mountains to Kingston at its southernmost end. Travel over the tussock-grassed high plains to Fiordland. Drive alongside Lake Te Anau, then turn inland behind the Earl Mountains for the scenic drive past the Mirror Lakes and through the Eglinton River valley to The Divide, with views down the Hollyford Valley, then on to the Homer Tunnel. Descend the Cleddau Canyon to Milford Sound. Milford Sound is one of the best known and grandest fiords that indent the coastline of the Fiordland World Heritage Park. It is surrounded by steep, forest-topped cliffs, with waterfalls dropping vertically into the sea. Rising sheer from the sea on the south side of the sound, dominating the inlet, is the 1,683m high pinnacle of Mitre Peak. Embark on a **full length cruise of Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea**, (lunch included) stopping at various points of interest for viewing waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Complimentary tea and coffee on board. After your cruise, return to your Queenstown hotel.

11 April 2012

Depart Queenstown

Your transfer is included today for your departure from Queenstown.

*** you may opt to visit Australia next or possibly back to the North Island before heading home to Canada

Inclusions

12 nights accommodation *** 12 breakfasts *** 1 dinner at Drylands Restaurant *** lunch on Milford Sound cruise

Coach transportation throughout South Island

Entrance fees included for:

Warbirds Over Wanaka GOLD Ticket
Omaia Aviation Heritage Centre
Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT)
RNZAF Museum Christchurch
Tranz Coastal Train from Blenheim to Christchurch
Milford Sound Cruise
Marlborough Winery Tour

Pricing

Share twin per person	\$2799 CAD
Single room supplement	\$ 799 CAD
Share triple per person reduction	\$ 45 CAD

***** Space is limited for this very unique Warbirds Over Wanaka tour reserve your space as soon as possible!**

***** NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT of \$500 CAD per person required to hold your place. Final payment required in early 2012. Travel insurance highly recommended.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding NOT included airfares

**** Airfares for Canada to New Zealand not yet available for quotations *** airfare can be quoted from any Canadian departure gateway city

**** One way airfare from Auckland to Blenheim not yet available but will be included in the quotation with the International airfare

**** You may wish to visit Australia and/or the North Island after completion of the special Warbirds Over Wanaka tour --- these arrangements can be handled and may require additional costing beyond the regular return air flights