

Use our general accessibility guide to see resources for all of our programs. [Click here](#)

If you're looking for specific country information, see below.

New Zealand



Helpful information about your country destination and planned activities

Check the website for examples of past syllabi

<https://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/international/about-forest-conservation-malaysian-borneo>

Table of Contents

- Travel
- Physical Activity (Program plan)
- Lodging
- Food
- Environment
- Culture
- Country Rules
- Academics

Traveling to the program site

Participants depart [Portland International PDX](#) (or home airport) in transit to New Zealand.

Prior to your travels to New Zealand, you will need to apply for the **New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA)** which will allow you to travel to New Zealand without applying for a traditional visa. US citizens will be able to apply for this pass and it should take about 72 hours max to process. Please complete this process and upload proof of issuance in Canvas (see NZeTA upload assignment)

Hikes/Physical Activity

After receiving an overview of New Zealand ecosystems, conservation and protected areas in and around Rotorua, we will visit nearby Maori-managed protected areas.

We will then travel to the South Island for more focused research into urban proximate protected areas and then onto forest ecosystems and protected areas surrounding a field station located west of Christchurch in low-elevation mountains near the Southern Alps foothills. We will visit high mountain passes like Arthur's Pass National Park and coastal systems on both the North and South Island.

Be aware we may experience a range of conditions, and it's likely to be wet and cold at various times as September is the end of the winter in New Zealand.

Oregon State University students will participate in activities including forest tours, trail hiking, boat tours and kayaking, and group presentations. The tentative itinerary is listed below. Course parameters are subject to change if needed.

Lodging

[Settlers Hotel Whangarei](#)

- All rooms are well-appointed with private bathrooms, satellite TV and tea/coffee making facilities. Heating and ironing facilities are provided. Wireless internet access is available.

[ibis Rotorua](#)

- Accessible rooms have doorways that provide 32" of clear width
- Service animals are welcome
- Accessible:
 - Restaurant
 - Public entrance
 - Route from accessible public entrance to accessible guestrooms
 - Public restrooms
 - Accessible parking spaces for cars in self-parking facility
 - Route from hotel's accessible public entrance to restaurants
 - Route from accessible public entrance to registration area
 - Registration desk
 - accessible parking spaces for vans in self-parking facility

[Hotel GIVE](#)

- Rooms accommodate 3-4 people, and bathrooms will be shared. There is a kitchen where breakfast can be prepared.

University of Canterbury's [Cass Field Station](#)

- We'll be cooking our own meals there and sharing communal spaces, so we'll want to be good community members and leave the field station in a good condition!

University of Canterbury's [Westport Field Station](#)

Food

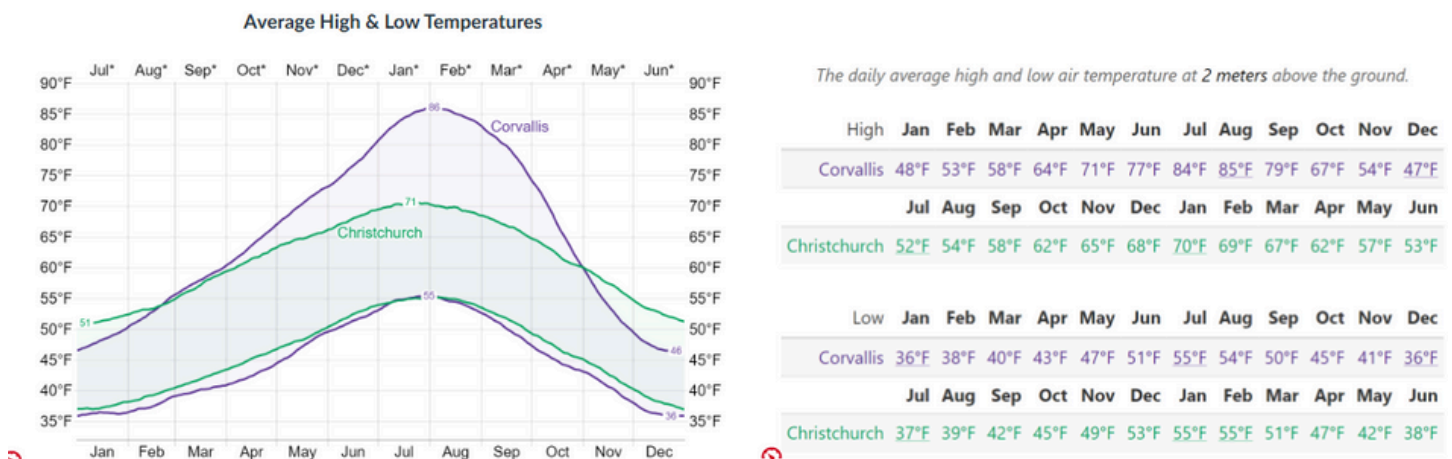
We should be able to accommodate most dietary needs. Please be aware that dietary restrictions are different in each country and may affect the group experience. You will be given a logistics questionnaire where you can list only necessary requirements, not preferences.

While vegan and vegetarian options may be available, it is wise to confirm arrangements with group leaders.

Environment

September in New Zealand is the end of their winter, meaning it can be wet and rainy. The charts below show how Christchurch, NZ compares to Corvallis, OR. You can likely find similar graphs for wherever you live!

While average monthly lows have a similar trend for both Christchurch and Corvallis, Christchurch has less variability in its highs. Christchurch's average highs reach about 71°F, whereas Corvallis has average highs up to 86°F.



There is not as much monthly fluctuation of precipitation in Christchurch as there is in Corvallis, which is characterized by dry summers and wet winters. As you can see in the chart below, Christchurch has about a 20-30% daily chance of precipitation across the year.



If your hometown is in the northern hemisphere and you want to compare New Zealand’s weather with that of your hometown, remember to compare January through June for the other place, as they are located in different hemispheres.

Culture

New Zealand’s culture is a rich blend of indigenous Māori traditions and the influences of European settlers, with further contributions from Pacific Island and Asian communities. This creates a unique cultural landscape where Māori Language, arts, and customs are celebrated alongside Western customs and values

Recent immigration from various parts of the world has added to New Zealand’s cultural diversity. This includes significant populations from Pacific Islands, East Asia, and South Asia.

New Zealanders are known for their friendly and relaxed attitude, with a strong emphasis on egalitarianism and *manaakitanga* (hospitality). There’s also a growing recognition and appreciation for Māori culture and its contributions to the nation.

While English is the dominant language, Māori is also an official language, and there is a growing effort to revitalize and preserve the Māori language and culture. New Zealand Sign Language is also an official language.

<https://www.iglta.org/destinations/australia-pacific/new-zealand/>

<https://www.flashpack.com/us/solo/travel/destination-guides/solo-travel-guide-new-zealand/>

<https://www.vegantravel.com/destinations/oceania/new-zealand/>

<https://www.bemytravelmuse.com/solo-female-travel-new-zealand/>

<https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/inclusive-tourism/>

Country laws

New Zealand's legal system is a blend of English common law, statutes enacted by Parliament, and the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Key aspects include parliamentary sovereignty, the rule of law, and the separation of powers. The country's constitution is not codified in a single document but is found in various statutes, including the Constitution Act 1986, the Bill of Rights Act 1990, and the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.

<https://gg.govt.nz/office-governor-general/roles-and-functions-governor-general/constitutional-role/constitution/constitution>

Keep your passport on you, and in a safe place, such as in a security pocket or belt. Keep a copy of your passport, International Certificate of Vaccination, and itinerary in your carry-on bag.

Carry extra with you to maintain energy levels and avoid dehydration from long travel.

Bring only the credit cards you will be using. Bring a small amount of cash (US and currency of the country(ies) you will visit, if available). May need to order 1-2 weeks prior. Cancel credit cards if stolen or lost.

Academics

You'll use Canvas, Zoom, and Word/PPT.

Students will be exposed to multiple perspectives, requiring them to listen and observe carefully, think critically, and reflect deeply on the complex web of issues facing New Zealand ecosystems. Through this immersive learning experience, students will be able to critically analyze conservation, ecotourism, and protected area management challenges in their own home countries.

Oregon State University students will participate in activities including forest tours, trail hiking, boat tours and kayaking, and group presentations.

Each student will prepare a course portfolio documenting their learning experience and outcomes.

Over 10 days, students will be part of an intensive investigation of conservation and natural resource management in a wide range of New Zealand parks and protected areas.

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.