



Maori Culture and Conservation

Here is your chance to truly experience “The Land of the Long White Cloud” in every way- through its people, culture and land. New Zealand has a rich history of over a thousand years of human settlement with Maori, Pacific, Asian and European cultures all coming together in this truly unique place. It’s a culture that celebrates this diversity and uses it as its greatest strength.

The land of New Zealand is as diverse as its people. It is a country that ranges from spectacular alpine glaciers and massive mountain ranges to rolling green farmland and sandy beaches. New Zealand has mild temperatures, high rainfall and lots of sunshine. One of the greatest advantages of New Zealand is that all of these different landscapes, environments and ecosystems are so close to each other. It is easy to understand why this amazing land was used as the backdrop of the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

About the program

The Maori Culture and Conservation is comprised of a two-week course at Wellington Business School followed by volunteer work at a non-profit organization. The course is the ideal opportunity to learn about the “Tanga Te Whenua” – the people of the land. It is conducted in English and includes, among other things, trips to places of interest as well as a lesson in the Maori Language and the chance to learn a haka – the Maori dance, which was made internationally famous by the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team! The course takes around 22 hours of trips and classes and finishes with 2 full days and 1 night on a Marae (total 50 hours). Due to the nature of the activities, the course may involve some afternoons and/or evenings rather than a strict timetable at the school. The course is open to native English speakers or non-native speakers who are at an advanced level. On the first day an orientation meeting is conducted to ensure all students know their way around the Lower Hutt area. Accommodation arrangement for our students for the duration of the Maori Culture course is board and lodging with a homestay family. Every student has his/her private room.

Additional activities include:

- Welcome with powhiri
- Lesson in Te Reo Maori – to learn your whakapapa
- Trip to the beach to collect paua shells
- Lesson in jewelry making
- Trip out on Waka canoes
- History talk – explanation of the marae and carvings
- Waiata and learn the haka
- Make pois and learn to use them
- Learn flax weaving and make something to take home
- Visit to the Kohanga Reo
- Trip to Te Papa – the national museum to learn about Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Help prepare hangi for evening meal
- Trip to Somes Island – to see NZ’s historical places
- Lesson in Maori protocol
- Finish with certificate ceremony and shared meal with tutors and host families and performance by students

Maori language meanings:

- Te Reo – The Maori Language
- Whakapapa – A persons roots. This is a list of places and ancestors which place a Maori in context. Students will be taught to say their Whakapapa in their native tongue and in Te Reo.
- Somes Island – In Wellington Harbor. Used first by Maori as a home, then by early European settlers as a Quarantine Island and lastly as a nature reserve.
- Waka’s – traditional Maori Canoes. Maori first arrived in NZ on large versions of these. Students will (weather permitting) get to go out in a modern waka and learn the sailing techniques used.
- Te Papa – NZ’s national museum
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The treaty of Waitangi NZ’s founding document. The very controversial treaty signed by representatives of Queen Victoria and Maori Chiefs
- Waiata – songs – an important part of the Maori culture
- Haka – “war dance” made famous by the All Black rugby team. In fact there are many types of haka not just war challenges.
- Marae – Maori meetinghouse. A place within the Pa (village) which was the communal area. Highly decorated with carvings of ancestors. Used for meetings or gathering points today.
- Powhiri – A traditional Maori welcome
- # Pois – balls of flax on the end of ropes used in dance and song
- Kohanga Reo – Maori language nest. A preschool option in which only Maori is spoken
- Hangi – An underground oven or food cooked in an underground oven. Traditional way of cooking food. Very healthy!

After finishing the Maori Culture course, students will continue with their volunteer work project, which can be chosen by the student and is arranged by the Wellington Business School. The length of the volunteer work can be individually arranged with the project organizers and minimum duration and work hours depend on the individual projects. Please see the list below for the type of volunteer work places. Some volunteer work may require certain qualifications or abilities. During the volunteer phase accommodation will be provided by the volunteer project organization, but volunteers may need to purchase their own food depending on the individual project policies. Travel to the volunteer project is the volunteer's responsibility.

Volunteer projects include:

- Replanting of native forests
- Weed control (mainland and off-shore islands)
- Stream quality monitoring
- Trail construction
- Maintenance in parks
- Trash removal
- Monitoring of NZ wildlife (birds, dolphins, penguins, fur seals etc.)
- Predator control

Support

In addition to GeoVisions per-departure information, emergency support network and medical insurance, the program also includes:

- Airport pick-up and orientation meeting
- Ongoing assistance and support (for example help in finding a room or other alternative)
- Accommodation following the homestay accommodation, booking of tours or trips in NZ etc.)
- Free use of school PCs (and internet) during the whole enrolment period at WBS
- Wellington Business School (WBS) will be available as an emergency contact for family and friends, throughout the whole length of stay in New Zealand (up to a year)
- Safe keeping/storage of personal belongings and mail of students, even when students/volunteers travel in NZ (conditions apply)