

Wetlands, wildlife and wonderlands

A pre-conference tour for delegates of INTECOL 2021

Delegates of INTECOL are invited to join the Chair and Executive Officer of the National Wetland Trust of New Zealand on a four-day boutique tour through the North Island. Explore 3 of New Zealand's unique Ramsar sites. Visit wildlife sanctuaries, geothermal wetlands and wetland restoration projects. Experience a traditional Māori welcome and stay at the marae of the Māori king.

See



Three of NZ's Ramsar wetlands



The National Wetland Centre project



Unique and ancient Gondwanan species



Estuarine, Geothermal, Peatland, Swamp & Riverine wetlands

Highlights

- ✓ Peatland, geothermal and estuarine ecology
- ✓ Wetland restoration science
- ✓ Wise wetland use
- ✓ Ramsar site management
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Wetland education initiatives
- ✓ Scenic flight over three Ramsar sites
- ✓ Iconic NZ fauna – chance to see tuatara, takahē, kiwi, glow worms
- ✓ Trans-equatorial migratory shorebird viewing
- ✓ Cultural experiences, marae stay
- ✓ Guided tour of the planned National Wetland Centre at Rotopiko
- ✓ Networking with indigenous communities, wetland managers and scientists from leading research institutions and wetland management agencies

Your Itinerary

Wednesday 6 October Day 1

Meet us at the Ibis Hotel at Auckland airport at 2pm (or other pre-arranged pick up). We will travel to and along the scenic Seabird Coast to Miranda on the shores of the Firth of Thames Ramsar site. After dropping bags at the [EcoQuest Education Foundation](#) (our accommodation), we will head to [Pūkoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre](#) for a talk with renowned ornithologist Keith Woodley, and take a guided walk to the bird hides of the adjacent Ramsar site. Keep an eye out for bar-tailed godwits and red knots arriving from their Arctic breeding grounds - an 11,000 km journey! Your accommodation will be in twin share rooms, with bedding provided – rustic but comfortable, and right next to a Ramsar site. ✂ D

Thursday 7 October Day 2

We will have a leisurely breakfast and after packing we'll take a short drive around the coastline to Thames airport, and enjoy a scenic flight over three of New Zealand's Ramsar sites – the Firth of Thames, Whangamarino wetland and the vast Kōpuatai peatland. We will meet representatives from Ngāti Hako (the local indigenous people) and the Department of Conservation to talk about the Ramsar sites and their work to manage them. In the afternoon we will drive to Tūranga-wāwae (the home base of the Māori King) via Kōpuatai and Whangamarino wetlands. After a cultural welcome, enjoy a traditional Maori meal and settle into thick mattresses in your shared whareniui (big house) – a truly unique experience. ✂ B, L, D

Friday 8 October Day 3

We will drive to Hamilton for a short visit to an urban wetland restoration site, then on to the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere to meet some of New Zealand's leading scientists - and try out their virtual lake dive! Following lunch we will visit Rotopiko, the site of the planned [National Wetland Centre](#), and explore their interactive discovery trail. Then it's off to [Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari](#) to experience "[Predator-Free New Zealand](#)" right now at the world's largest inland reserve free of introduced predators. Take an afternoon walk among tuatara – an ancient reptile that boasts its own Order – and see rare takahe birds in Tautari wetland. Dinner at our rural lodge accommodation, will be followed by a kiwi walk to listen for and perhaps even see this most iconic New Zealand species. ✂ B, L, D

Saturday 9 October Day 4

After breakfast we will take a scenic drive along the mighty Waikato, New Zealand's longest river, and hear of the many wetland restoration projects funded through its hydroelectric generation scheme. After crossing the river over the majestic Whakamaru Dam we will head to the vibrant geothermal system of Orakei Korako ('Place of Adorning') and explore geothermal wetlands and the famous Mirror Pool. After lunch we will drive north for a short walk to the scenic Blue Springs along a crystal-clear stream. We will then head towards Hamilton with drop-offs at your self-arranged accommodation (Cambridge or Hamilton). ✂ B, L

See www.waikatoz.com/accommodation/ for local accommodation options.

***Disclaimer and Cancellations:** We will make every effort to present the trip as stated, but reserve the right to amend the itinerary if unforeseen circumstances arise. Early bird rate applies until 30 June. NZ \$2850 1 July to 30 August, NZ \$2950 after 30 Aug. Places strictly limited and will be filled on first booked basis. Delegates have preferential booking, partners will be accommodated if space permits – contact us offline if you want to register a partner for the waitlist (enquiries@wetlandtrust.org.nz). A 50% refund is available for cancellations made prior to 14 August 2021, sorry but we can't give refunds for cancellations after that date due to non-refundable third-party deposits.



NZ\$ 2750 Early bird (to 30 June 2021)*

Includes: breakfast, lunch, dinner as indicated for each day (✂), three nights' accommodation, all transport from Auckland pickup to Hamilton drop-off, 1-hour scenic flight, all listed activities. Excludes alcoholic beverages and personal snacks/ additional meals.

Gratuities: Not applicable. Tipping is not part of the New Zealand culture. For more advice on visiting to NZ see www.newzealand.com/int/facts/

Accommodation

This is a small group tour (max 20 participants) with shared accommodation providing unparalleled networking opportunities in outstanding locations. Bedding and towels will be provided.

Meals

Let us know if you have any dietary requirements. enquiries@wetlandtrust.org.nz

Transport

Transport will be via mini vans driven by your guides.

Guides and Language

Your 24-hour tour guides will be the Executive Officer, Chair and Trustees of the National Wetland Trust. Local experts will meet us at selected spots. All presentations will be in English.

Connecting flights

We will pick up delegates from Auckland airport. International arrivals will need to meet NZ Ministry of Health Covid-19 requirements. These may include pre-booked managed isolation and/or pre-flight Covid test and /or vaccinations. We will deliver you to your preferred accommodation near Hamilton airport at the end of the tour. Air New Zealand has four direct flights to Christchurch on 10 October 2021 (subject to change). www.airnewzealand.co.nz/