

NEW ZEALAND 2027

**FOR BOLLES STUDENTS
GRADES 9-11**

Travel Dates

June 7-June 18, 2027
*Travel to Nelson, Abel Tasman
National Park and Golden Bay*

Cost

\$5900-\$6070
Includes accommodations,
flights, excursions and meals

Contact

Allison Chandler
ChandlerA@bolles.org
Kristina Escudero
EscuderoK@bolles.org

**APPLICATION & \$550 DEPOSIT
DUE OCTOBER 14, 2026**



AOTEAROA: THE GREAT OUTDOORS OF NEW ZEALAND THROUGH THE MĀORI WORLDVIEW

Students will explore the top of the South Island while learning the Maori perspectives of connection to the natural world and community. The program begins and ends in the small city of Nelson. A few highlights include hiking in the Abel Tasman National Park, traveling the waterways and inlets in a waka (traditional Maori canoe), and visiting Wharariki Beach in the Golden Bay. Students will see two major environmental restorations projects, the Wharariki Ecosanctuary and Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, and learn about efforts to bring back native wildlife. The group will spend one night in a marae, a Maori communal space. June is the beginning of winter in New Zealand. The weather is typically sunny but cool with high temperatures in the 50s.

For more info and to pay deposit, visit
Bolles.org/global-learning-and-engagement/travel-programs

Program Design: Bolles School

Program Aim:

This program is designed to provide a journey through the environments of Te Taihu (Top of the South Island, NZ) to introduce new perspectives and understanding of wellbeing and a connection to the natural world (te taiao) from both a Western and indigenous lens.

The program will support students to explore their own identity and strengthen the connection between themselves and the environment, and with one another, through a series of shared outdoors and cultural excursions.

The program will be scaffolded around nature connection and wellbeing, providing both opportunities to explore these concepts from Western and indigenous perspectives through set reflection times during, and on completion, of the program.

Core Themes:

- Wellbeing & Personal Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Te Ao Māori Cultural Exploration
- History and Culture of Aotearoa



Program Design: Bolles School

Learning Objectives

- Develop strong social connections, connection to self and a sense of belonging.
- Build resilience to overcome mental, physical and emotional challenges within a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Enhance cultural awareness and new ways of thinking while exploring Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view).
- Learn about traditional Māori approaches to conservation, relationships, health (physical and mental health).
- Develop an enhanced connection to nature and understand the relationship between nature, personal wellbeing and environmental sustainability to promote environmental stewardship.
- Deepen a sense of gratitude for te taiao, nature
- Develop sense of self.

Ko au te taiao, te taiao ko au

I am nature, nature is me

Day 1: Welcome | Nau Mai

On arrival, the ExpedNZ team will welcome you and transfer you into Nelson, where you'll spend the day exploring the region and getting a feel for your new surroundings.

Take time to discover Nelson's vibrant city centre, waterfront and local highlights.

Later in the day, transfer to the ExpedNZ / Whenua Iti Outdoors base for welcome processes, introductions and setting the scene. You will take part in a mihi whakatau, a traditional welcome to our site.

Accommodation:

Overnight at ExpedNZ base (camping) or a local holiday park (cabins)

Likely Activities:

Mihi Whakatau – welcome process
Nelson explore

Information links:

[Whenua Iti Outdoors](#)

Day 2: Team Building | Whanaungatanga

Morning

Prepare and depart early for a waka journey in a traditional Māori canoe from Kaiteretera beach. This is a unique cultural experience to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon back at base. The focus will be on a fun afternoon of teamwork development for the adventures ahead. Students will experience a number of adventure elements at our base and prepare for their journey the following day.

Accommodation:

Overnight at our base (camping) or at a local holiday park in cabins

Likely Activities:

Waka (Māori canoe)

ABL games (Adventure Based Learning)

High ropes / tower climb

Information links:

[Waka Abel Tasman](#)



Days 3-4: Abel Tasman National Park

Base yourself in Marahau, the gateway to Abel Tasman National Park, and spend two days exploring its golden coastline.

Enjoy one day hiking the Abel Tasman Coast Track, using a water taxi to access different sections of the park, and one day sea kayaking, exploring sheltered bays, beaches and local wildlife.

Alternatively, choose two days of hiking, with different day trips from Marahau.

The Abel Tasman is culturally significant for Māori – there are a number of conservation projects with iwi to restore and protect the park.

Return to the ExpedNZ base and prepare for your Marae stay.

Accommodation:

Overnight 2 nights at a local holiday park in cabins

Likely Activities:

Sea Kayaking
Environmental Education
Hiking

Information links:

[Abel Tasman National Park](#)



Day 5: Cultural Immersion

Take part in a formal cultural welcome at a local marae (if available). Your ExpedNZ cultural educators will guide you through ceremony protocols.

Your welcome will involve taking part in a Pōwhiri – a traditional Māori welcome ceremony. This involves a gradual process of manuhiri (visitors) and the tangata whenua (home people) coming together. Sharing of kai (food) is an important part of the ceremony.

Over the next day and night, deepen your cultural learnings with extensions of the workshops and learnings touched on throughout the program. Learn about the hītori (history) and hear the kōrero (talk) of the local area and the deep connection Māori have with the taiao (environment).

NB. If the marae is unavailable, the workshops can take place at our base.

Accommodation:

Overnight 1 night at a marae (if available)

Likely Activities:

Cultural workshops

Information links:

[Powhiri](#)

[Mau rākau](#)

[Harakeke weaving](#)

[Rongoā](#)

[Taonga Puoro](#)

[Te Whare Tapa Whā](#)



Days 6-8: Golden Bay Explore

Explore Golden Bay

Drive over the Tākaka Hill until you reach beautiful Golden Bay.

Take in Waikoropupu Springs, the largest freshwater spring in NZ. This wāhi tapu (sacred place) is considered a taonga (treasure) by local Māori.

Visit Wharariki Beach – part of The Wharariki Ecosanctuary – now home to a three-hectare predator proof fence, as well as a number of successfully reintroduced endangered and threatened species as part of a large environmental restoration project.

Accommodation:

Overnight 2 nights in Golden Bay at local accommodation (cabins)

Likely Activities:

Nature walks
Swimming

Information links:

[Waikoropupu Springs](#)

[Health Post Nature Trust](#)

[Golden-Bay-Sustainable-Living-Centre](#)



Day 9: Nelson Explore

Spend your last day in the heart of Nelson City immersing yourself in nature, culture, history and sustainability.

Take a deep dive into the region's rich history and discover stories of its Māori and European heritage. Gain insights into how Māori values, such as *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship), shape the region's connection to the environment.

Visit the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, a haven for native wildlife and conservation efforts. Explore the lush, predator-free forest, and learn about the vital work being done to protect Aotearoa's native species. You may have the opportunity to learn about the tuatara, a remarkable reptile often called a "living dinosaur," which plays a vital role in the country's natural heritage. This immersive experience will deepen your understanding of sustainability and the delicate balance of ecosystems in this unique sanctuary.

Accommodation:

Overnight at local accommodation (cabins)

Likely Activities:

Nature Walk
Visiting Wildlife
Museum

Information links:

[Brook Sanctuary](#)
[Nelson Provincial Museum](#)

Day 10: Haere Rā - Farewell

Take part in a Poroake (traditional farewell) and say goodbye to ExpedNZ educators.

Extend and reflect on your learning and time in Aotearoa - New Zealand what learnings will you take home with you?

Pack-up and transfer to Nelson for the start of your journey home.

Our ExpedNZ team will transfer you to Nelson local airport to begin your journey home.



Program Notes

Programs are tailored to align with program learning objectives provided and program needs identified during the program design phase. On confirmation of this Program Concept the availability of accommodation and Marae can influence the order and number of days at different locations.

- **Please note the order and type of program activities can change depending on weather and other logistical factors while on program.** Your ExpedNZ lead educator will keep you up to date with any changes.
- **Extra days** can be added to any section of the program, allowing students to extend their learning in alignment with the program focus and the learning objectives identified during the design process.
- **An environmental service component could be added to complement the program learning.** We have a number of established education partnerships with local environmental organizations that can provide further program depth and context.
- **The accommodation options suggested are subject to availability.** Suitable alternative accommodation can be recommended. Please note: our local marae are preferentially used for cultural ceremonies, kaupapa Māori programs and tangi (funerals) and therefore cannot be guaranteed.



Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua.

Care of the land, care of the people, go forward