AWG New Zealand Rocks! 2020 Itinerary and Accommodations
February 26 – March 12, 2020

Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Group to assemble in Auckland after flights from USA. Included welcoming dinner at the Orbit Restaurant at the SkyCity Hotel in Auckland. Overnight at President Hotel in Auckland.

Thursday, February 27, 2020: Full buffet breakfast at hotel included. Pick up by 33-passenger coach with driver. Overview of volcanoes in Auckland (e.g. Mt Eden visit), then travel to Karangahake and Waihi (mine overview), then to Rotorua via Tauranga. Overnight at Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park.

Friday, February 28, 2020: Rotorua area geology and geothermal aspects, includes visit to the Whakarewarewa geothermal area and Maori village. Could include visit to Ohakuri Dam (fossil hydrothermal alteration zone and maybe a visit to the operating zeolite quarry near Ngakuru (Blue Pacific Minerals). Tamaki Maori Village Concert and included Hangi dinner. Overnight at Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park.

Saturday, February 29, 2020: Early start. White Island trip - drive to Whakatane and return. Depends on weather. A fall-back plan is needed in case the weather/sea conditions are poor and do not allow the boat trip to proceed. Should know the night previously. A fall-back plan would be to have more examination of the local geology around the Rotorua caldera. Could visit Maungakakaramea geothermal zone near Wai-o-tapu. Overnight at Rotorua Top 10 Holiday Park.

Sunday, March 1, 2020: Drive south from Rotorua - visit Wai-o-tapu (or Waimangu) geothermal area. Visit Wairakei geothermal power area (lookout), go via Lake Taupo and examine the 130 CE Taupo Pumice, northern side of Mt Tongariro 2012 eruption site, and along western side of Tongariro-Ngauruhoe-Ruapehu volcanoes. Overnight at Ohakune Top 10 Holiday Park.

Monday, March 2, 2020: Tongariro National Park. Hiking depends on weather conditions. Bus could drop group off at Mangatepopo track-end and we could hike a portion of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. If weather poorer, go to visitor centre, Mt Ruapehu ski village area, Desert Road. Overnight at Ohakune Top 10 Holiday Park.

Wednesday, March 4, 2020: Express breakfast at hotel included. Deposit bus and driver at Wellington airport. Included flight with Air New Zealand to Christchurch. Pick up new coach and driver. Travel to Akaroa to view Banks Peninsula Miocene age shield volcanoes. Christchurch earthquake story. Overnight at Christchurch City Park Motel.

Thursday, March 5, 2020: Cooked breakfast at hotel included. Drive northwest from Christchurch over Canterbury Plain (fluvial-glacial outwash) to Southern Alps (Torlesse graywacke, Miocene limestone), cross Arthurs Pass, go to Greymouth and short trip to north along the spectacular coast road to Punakaiki. Overnight at Greymouth Top 10 Holiday Park.

Friday, March 6, 2020: Early start. Travel southwest along West Coast highway through Hokitika (greenstone/jade tourist location) to Whatarea. Participate in Alpine Fault commercial tour to observe Alpine Fault (Pacific Plate over-riding Australian Plate). Drive to Franz Josef or Fox Glacier (maybe observe one or the other - weather and time dependent). Then drive south to Haast, with possible stop at Bruce Bay (heavy mineral sands) en route. Overnight at Heartland World Heritage Hotel in Haast.
Saturday, March 7, 2020: Buffet breakfast at hotel included. Travel from Haast along Hwy 6 up the Haast River, cross the Alpine Fault, grand mountain scenery (if weather cooperates), Haast schist at the Gates of Haast bridge, Haast Pass and Blue Pools, Lakes Hawea and Wanaka. Travel to Cromwell and Lake Dunstan in Central Otago (Basin and Range topography), with Pleistocene to Recent fluvioglacial sequences. If time permits, could visit historic gold workings at Bendigo. Overnight at Cromwell Top 10 Holiday Park.

Sunday, March 8, 2020: Visit Clyde Dam, with the possibility of a dam/hydropower tour. Travel from Cromwell through the Kawarua Gorge (tectonics, schist), to Arrowtown, Queenstown (Shotover Jetboat option). Thence drive to Te Anau; More schist and glacial/fluvioglacial scenery. Overnight at Te Anau Lakeview Holiday Park.

Tuesday, March 10, 2020: Travel from Te Anau across Southland to Nugget Point. Alternatively, could go via Tuatapere (Clifden bridge), Monkey Island, Wakapatu beach, Riverton (Howells Point pillow lavas), Invercargill and Catlins road (South coast igneous rock exposures, Mesozoic rocks in Southland Syncline at Curio Bay and in Nugget Point area). Drive to Dunedin. Overnight at Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin.

Curio Bay Jurassic Petrified Forest

Wednesday, March 11, 2020: Cooked breakfast at hotel included. Examine aspects of Miocene age Dunedin Volcano (Port Chalmers, Aramoana, Purakanui) and travel via Karitane to observe underlying Miocene sedimentary sequence, north along coast to Moeraki Boulders. Return to Dunedin. Speights Brewery Alehouse Tour and included farewell dinner in Dunedin. Overnight at Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin.

Thursday, March 12, 2020: Cooked breakfast at hotel included. Group disperses from Dunedin airport. Included flights to Auckland or Christchurch with Air New Zealand.