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Tourism opportunities in New Zealand before and after the Conference

There are many opportunities for travel within New Zealand before or after the GA2015. You may choose to come to New Zealand some time before the GA, or stay on here later, to experience some of the beautiful and varied New Zealand countryside. There is so much to see in New Zealand, as our scenery and terrain vary widely in short distances.

You may choose to travel with Servas. We have published an updated Servas New Zealand Host List, and this has now been uploaded to Dolphin as "Host List for 2016". This New Zealand Host List is available in electronic format from the key Servas people in your home country.

Servas New Zealand has more than 255 Servas hosts, though these are mainly in the larger cities. Many hosts in smaller towns are very interested in receiving travellers. You can see the location of all these hosts in our Servas New Zealand webpage: <http://servas.org.nz> Look for the "Where are our Hosts?" orange tab left side of home page, and you can click on items to find more detail.

You can also visit the Tourism New Zealand website: www.newzealand.com
or visit: www.tourism.net.nz/tours

For Lord of the Rings/Hobbit tours, and other short tours to interesting areas in the Auckland region, visit: www.redcarpet-tours.com

New Zealand does not have a good train system, though long-haul buses run between many centres. The bus services are comfortable, safe and on time.

You can visit: www.intercity.co.nz for timetables and bookings.

Some longer distance train services operate - visit: <http://www.kiwirailscenic.co.nz>

A popular way to travel in New Zealand is by rental car or campervan. To find the rental companies, please Google for "rental cars New Zealand".

In planning your trip, it is likely to take you a lot longer to drive between centres than you might expect. The only motorways are short sections near the four largest cities, and highways are rarely more than one lane each way. Do not try to cover too much distance, as the driving on unfamiliar roads can be very tiring, and create a risk of accidents.

You can use: www.google.co.nz/maps or www.accommodationz.co.nz/driving-times-distances.shtml to help plan your travel.

New Zealand has a range of accommodation for tourists. These include hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfast, hostels, backpackers, and motor camps. Motels are self-contained units where you can cook your own meals. Motor camps have camping facilities available, with power points for campervans, as well as basic cabins, studio units, and motels.

You can visit: www.motorcamps.com or www.kiwiholidayparks.com

Climate in New Zealand varies from mild maritime in the north to cooler in the south. New Zealand consists of small islands in the Southern Ocean, and our weather (both temperature and rainfall) is subject to rapid variation. We have a saying: "You can get all four seasons in one day in New Zealand". Areas further inland can be both hotter and colder than the coastal areas. There is no particular rainy season or dry season. For weather



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forecasts, you can listen to radio or TV reports, read the newspapers, or visit: www.metservice.com or www.weatherzone.co.nz

Wishing you a pleasant trip and visit

The SICOGA 2015 Organizing Team

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