



---

## New Zealand Anyone?

It's a magical land and the "Kiwis" have discovered pickleball. Julie and I recently returned from a three-week tour of the South Island of New Zealand.

*Links to photography:*

*South Island visit in 2025*

<https://www.martensgallery.net/Photo-Galleries-/Photo-Gallery-2025/New-Zealand-2025>

*North Island visit in 2024*

<https://www.martensgallery.net/Photo-Galleries-/Photo-Galleries-2024/New-Zealand-2024>

When we talk about our trip, many people respond that they would love to go to NZ, or that it is on their "bucket list."

Quite by coincidence I have been contacted by Chris Kinman with Next Level Pickleball NZ, who is offering pickleball and sightseeing tours to NZ, and specifically in the region of Rotorua, on the North Island, the mecca of NZ pickleball. <https://www.nlpa.co.nz/welcome/>

This is an inquiry to see if you might be interested in a once-in-a-lifetime trip to combine your passion for pickleball with travel to this beautiful country. It's a long way from Florida. A 4-hour flight to LA and then a 12-14 hour flight to Auckland and then a 3-hr drive to Rotorua or a short flight.

The cost from Daytona Beach via Delta is approximately \$2700 coach fare and \$17,000 business class round trip. You may find less expensive fares on other carriers and by departing from Sanford or Orlando. The cost for 7-days room, meals, and guided sightseeing adventures is US\$4500.

If you go all that way, I recommend you add at least another week and travel to the South Island on your own. I can recommend a fantastic itinerary. The exchange rate is favorable: one US dollar is worth \$1.75 NZ.

The available camps are:

- **1st to 7th Dec 2025** (Mon-Sun)
- **11th to 17th Jan 2026** (Sun-Sat)

- **15th to 21st Mar 2026** (Sun-Sat)

These dates are during NZ's summer and early fall months when the weather is glorious.

On behalf of Kinman's Next Level Pickleball guided adventures I'm wanting to see what interest there may be in a group from Pictona playing pickleball and sightseeing in New Zealand. If we have sufficient interest, I'll share with you a detailed itinerary. There is no financial incentive to Pictona or to Julie and me. We just want you to share the joy we have had in visiting New Zealand. Let me know your interest ([rainer@pictona.org](mailto:rainer@pictona.org)).