



Irrigation Leader

New Zealand Education and Trade Tour
14-21 February, 2026

DAY 1: SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2026

Focus for the day: arrival and acclimation

Arrive into Christchurch, New Zealand on the east coast of the South Island - Te Wai Pounamu

Group dinner at Mr Brightside Rooftop Restaurant and Bar

Accommodation at the Carnmore Hotel.



DAY 2: SUNDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2026

Christchurch city, Canterbury

Focus for the day: Acclimation, exploration, introduction to NZ culture

A free day in Christchurch to explore the city and do some sightseeing.

In the afternoon, we travel 20 minutes to the rural town of Lincoln.

Breakfast and the Carnmore Hotel, dinner at The Famous Grouse

Accommodation at the Lincoln Motel.



DAY 3 : MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2026

Lincoln, Canterbury

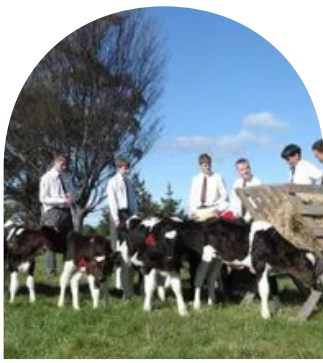
Focus for the day: the nitrate issue and its control

The day in Lincoln meeting researchers from Lincoln University and the New Zealand Bioeconomy Science Institute and seeing their infield work. This includes a focus on managing nitrate leaching and understanding the effects of on-farm mitigation actions.

Breakfast at The Store @Tai Tapu, dinner at The Lab

Accommodation at the Lincoln Motel.





DAY 4: TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026

ŌAMARU, NORTH OTAGO

Focus for the day: farm management and ag education

In the morning we travel three hours' south Ōamaru in North Otago. We will have lunch at a multi-award winning restaurant on a fully irrigated dairy farm, visit a world-record breaking arable farm, and Waitaki Boys' High School, the only fully irrigated school farm in New Zealand.

Breakfast at the [Lincoln Pantry](#), lunch at [Riverstone Kitchen](#), dinner at [Scott's Brewing](#)

Accommodation at the [Brydone Hotel](#)

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026

THE WAITAKI VALLEY

Focus for the day: irrigation and pasture management

In the morning we will visit the offices of Aqus, a company managing several irrigation schemes in North Otago. We will then visit their intake and pump shed to learn about their automation and distribution systems.

We then travel to Kokoamo Farm to learn about modern dairy systems in New Zealand, pasture management, and domestic deer farming. Lunch at [River-T vineyard](#).



After lunch, we visit Keeling Dairies, to learn about shelter belts, fencing, pivot and paddock configuration, and the challenges of farming next to a braided river.

Breakfast at [Tees St](#), dinner at the [Criterion Hotel](#)

Accommodation at the [Brydone Hotel](#)

DAY 6: THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2026

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Focus for the day: on-farm environmental planning

We travel to Timaru to visit [Irricon Resource Solutions](#), to learn about the services they provide to farmers and irrigation schemes across the South Island. We then visit some of their client farms to see what they do on the ground.

Lunch at the award-winning [Fairlie Bakehouse](#), to experience New Zealand's best pies.

Breakfast at [Milligans Cafe](#), dinner at [The Phat Duck](#)

Accommodation at the [Hotel Ashburton](#)



DAY 7: FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2026

MID-CANTERBURY AND CHRISTCHURCH

Focus for the day: irrigation scheme and water management

We spend the morning in and around Ashburton with [MHV Water](#), a large irrigation scheme on the Canterbury Plains.

We then travel northwest to visit the [Sentinel Ag](#) trial site near Hororata. We end the day in Christchurch with a farewell dinner on the iconic [Christchurch Tramway](#).

Breakfast at the Hotel Ashburton

Accommodation at the [Carnmore Hotel](#)
