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New Zealand



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13th - 19th November 2021

Spring Escape - Western North Island

The ultimate exploration of the far reaches of the central North Island's West Coast and beyond.

There's something for everyone on this perfect spring escape. Reacquaint with nature after the cold of winter, and revel in the beautiful scenery and colourful landscapes, feast on a diverse range of delicacies from gourmet teas to freshly shucked oysters, and travel in comfort via coach, train and boat. This tour really has it all!

DAY 1

Sat 13th Nov.

Home - New Plymouth



If departing from Whanganui meet at the Whanganui Racecourse for an 8am departure, and head north into south Taranaki. The first stop will be at the informal and intimate **Holland Gardens** where you have a chance to enjoy some of the huge variety of native and exotic plants, while enjoying a home baked morning tea.

We then head to the coast to travel the surf highway around the impressive Mount Taranaki. If time permits, we will duck off the beaten track to view the Cape Egmont Lighthouse before continuing around to encounter the mystery of **Pukeiti Gardens**. Here, we have a guided tour where you will be able to experience one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of rhododendrons and other exotics, creating an explosion of colour among lush, native rainforest and mountain streams. We have a lovely lunch organized at the Rainforest Eatery nestled in the heart of Pukeiti before continuing on our way.

Next stop is Port Taranaki where we are welcomed aboard Rescue III, a 1950's wooden rescue boat, at **Chaddy's Charters**. We head out to explore the coast to learn about the extensive history and visit New Zealand fur seals.

It is then into the CBD of New Plymouth to our great waterfront accommodation with panoramic views of the Tasman Sea. Overlooking Len Lye's Wind Wand and the Coastal Foreshore Walkway, this is the perfect place to stretch our legs before meeting for our first group dinner on site.

Accommodation: MILLENNIUM HOTEL WATERFRONT (06-769 5301)



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DAY 2

Sun 14th Nov.

New Plymouth - Raglan



After a scrumptious breakfast, we continue our way up the coast passing through small settlements such as Urenui and over Mount Messenger to the beautiful little coastal settlement of **Tongapōruntu**. We will pass the colourful Kiwi-classic baches lining the river, and if conditions are right we will get to view the Three Sisters and the Elephant Rock.

From here, it is a short drive to Mokau which is situated at the mouth of the famous whitebaiting Mokau River. Here we will enjoy a whitebait morning tea locally caught before heading deep into the rolling hills of King Country.

Our next stop is the small village of Waitomo where we will enjoy lunch at the discovery centre before experiencing the magic of the **Waitomo Glowworms Caves**, one of NZ's best natural attractions. It is known for its extensive underground cave systems where thousands of glow-worms light up the Glowworm Caves, and we will be guided through part of the cave system which is an extremely educational experience.

Then we continue west towards the coast getting well off the beaten track until we reach the highlight of this scenic drive, **Mangapohue Natural Bridge**. It is a short walk through an impressive limestone gorge that passes underneath a 17m high natural arch which spans the Mangapohue Stream. It is all that remains of an ancient cave system, and well worth the little effort getting there.

Returning to more familiar roads we weave our way north around the Pirongia Forest Park and head out to the lively surf town of Raglan. This small town is both a surfing mecca and a dramatically scenic area of black sand coastline.



Upon arrival we head down to the harbour to board 'Wahinemoe', a purpose built catamaran, for a relaxing **Sunset Dinner Cruise**. As we enjoy our Fish & Chip meal we explore the harbours' hidden bays and get deep into the upper reaches of Whaingaroa (Raglan Harbour).

Back on dry land, it is a short drive to our accommodation to rest our heads for the night.

Accommodation: SUNSET MOTEL (07-825 0050)

DAY 3

Mon 15th Nov.

Raglan - Waiuku



Bags packed ready for another day of exploring we head to the spectacular 55-metre-high **Bridal Veil Falls**. It is an easy 10 minute walk through native bush, following the Pakoka River to two viewing platforms at the top, both providing stunning vistas and ample photo opportunities of the plunging white falls flanked by grey rock and green bush.

Heading north, we take the back roads up through Huntly and on to Mercer where we have a great lunch lined up. With tummies full we follow the mighty Waikato River to the mouth where it empties into the Tasman sea at Port Waikato. We head down to Sunset Beach to take in the beautiful surroundings before continuing north to the Āwhitu Peninsula which extends from the north from the mouth of the Waikato River to the entrance to Manukau Harbour.

Our next destination is the historical **Manukau Heads Lighthouse**, jutting out from the tip of the peninsula. With vast panoramas and sweeping



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coastlines - the journey is as good as the destination. Here we take a tactile tour of the lighthouse, absorb the magnificent panorama, and take a walk through time with the tragic tale of the HMS Orpheus, New Zealand's worst shipwreck disaster.

We then venture back down the peninsula to Karioitahi Beach where we will be spending the night at the spectacular Castaway Resort situated on the wild coastal cliff tops. You will have time to stretch your legs along the beach before meeting for another great group dinner.

Accommodation: CASTAWAY RESORT (09 236 5041)

DAY 4

Tues 16th Nov.

Waiuku - Matakana



After another hearty breakfast, it is just a short drive inland to the historic **Glenbrook Vintage Railway**, Which was founded in 1970 to preserve, rebuild, and operate the old Waiuku Branch Railway between Glenbrook and Waiuku. On the return journey to Glenbrook, the train will stop for 15 minutes at the Pukeoware Workshops for you to inspect the restoration projects and to get a closer look at the locomotive.

After this historic journey we continue north taking the western route around Auckland to Helensville. Here, we board the M.V. Kewpie Too vessel to cruise the mighty **Kaipara Harbour**. As we explore the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, we will enjoy a picnic style lunch taking in the informative commentary and great views.

It is then time to leave the West Coast and head over to the East Coast taking the back road through Warkworth to the lovely village of Matakana. We head



to the world-class tourist attraction, **Sculptureum**. With three sculpture-filled gardens, six art galleries, and a vineyard, there is something for everyone.

A short drive sees us arrive at our accommodation in the centre of the village with time for some R & R before heading out for dinner at a highly rated restaurant.

Accommodation: MATAKANA MOTEL (09-422 7497)

DAY 5

Wed 17th Nov.

Matakana – Manakau



This morning, we head out to a cafe for a delicious breakfast before meeting for our first adventure for the day.

We board the **Discovery River Cruise** leaving from the heart of Matakana. This boutique cruise is tailor-made for peak relaxation. Sit back, relax and learn from Captain Phil as he gives us an informative, amusing commentary on the way down the Matakana River, showcasing the history and tidal environment of mangroves, native bush and farmland. We turn around where the green of the upper fresh meets the vibrant blue water of Sandspit Basin.

We then head south for the short drive to Scott's Landing, nestled in the Mahurangi Harbour to board New Zealand's only **Oyster Farm tour** cruise. We cruise to the Historic G Browns Bay which is rich in history, as the first area oyster farming started in New Zealand. The bay still thrives with Oyster farms growing the popular Pacific Oyster species.



We will collect fresh oysters straight from the water, the skipper will teach you how to open them, while you have a go yourself. He will even cook some on the BBQ, or fresh of course, for those who would like to indulge.

After this great morning of cruising fantastic waterways, we head down into the beach-side town of Orewa where you will be given some free time to grab yourself some lunch, browse the shops, or relax on the beautiful beach.

Our final visit of the day allows us to stretch our legs and explore some of the 64 hectares of beautiful gardens and native forest at the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**. This will be self guided so you can see and do as much as you desire.

It is then a short drive to our accommodation for the night near the Manakau city centre which is where we also dine this evening.

Accommodation: RAMADA SUITES (0942-6000)

DAY 6

Thur 18th Nov.

Manakau - Taumarunui



Ready for another day of exploring, we pack up the coach and head to the Papakura train station to catch New Zealand's longest running passenger service train. We board the **Northern Explorer** down to Hamilton where the coach will be waiting to collect you.

You will then be taken out to enjoy the ultimate in luxury at **Zealong Tea Estate**, with their own unique blend of New Zealand hospitality. Widely regarded as a Waikato icon, Zealong Tea Estate is the only commercial tea estate in New Zealand, producing 100% organic award-winning tea, and a



world-leading destination for tea, art, and hospitality. Here, we will partake in a great tour which includes tea tasting and a High Tea culinary experience like no other.

We then head south down to the kiwiana town of Otorohanga where we visit the **Otorohanga Kiwi House & Native Bird Park**. We will have our own personalised guided wildlife experience as we get up close with the large collection of NZ birds and reptiles, which includes walking through New Zealand's largest free-flight dome aviary and seeing the unique tuatara.

Final leg of the day will see us journey down to Taumarunui, set within rugged terrain on the upper reaches of the Whanganui River. After checking into our accommodation, we head out for our final group dinner.

Accommodation: TWIN RIVERS MOTEL (07-895 8063)



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DAY 7

Fri 18th Nov.

Taumarunui - Whanganui



An earlier start to the day, but it will all be well worth it as we head to discover the Forgotten World with **Forgotten World Adventures**.

Prepare to marvel at the determination and hardship that was endured as you travel 40km by **Rail Cart** into the Forgotten World through 10 hand dug tunnels and over 25 bridges. We will enjoy a lovely Ploughman's lunch in Tokirima and stop over at Lauren's Lavender Farm.

We then continue our way south into New Zealand's oldest national park, Tongariro National Park which is a dual World Heritage area. We drive up the Bruce Road to experience New Zealand's most unique gondola experience. We journey up to the clouds on the new **Sky Waka** which travels 1.8km through one of the North Island's most rugged and spectacular landscapes on Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu.

We have afternoon tea at New Zealand's highest dining experience, Knoll Ridge Chalet, taking in the spectacular views and sharing stories of this fantastic tour before making our way back down the mountain and home to Whanganui.



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Total cost

Departing from Whanganui:
\$3,495

\$500 deposit due by August 30th 2021.

Final payment due by 18th October
2021.

Payment methods

- Cheque
- Cash
- Eftpos
- Online

Send online bank deposits to:
BNZ 02-0792-0090015-00

Please use your name and trip name
as code and reference.

What's included?



Transport

- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.



Accommodation

- Great twin share accommodation.
(*single supplement available*)



Food and drink

- Includes 2 course dinner every night.
- All lunches except on day 5.
- Mixture of cooked and continental breakfasts.



Activities

- All 18 activities as stated in **bold** in the itinerary.



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How to book

Be quick to secure your seats!



Call us

06 3447465

Freephone: 0508 482269



Email us

info@takeiteeasytours.nz

Thank you,

The Take It Easy Team

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Terms and Conditions

Cancellation policy

If after your booking has been confirmed and you wish to cancel, the following cancellation fees will apply:

- For cancellations after 30th August 2021 – loss of deposit.
- For cancellations after 18th October – 75% of total fare will apply.
- For cancellations within 14 days prior to travel – 100% of total fare will apply.



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Disclaimer

Take it Easy tours will make every effort to provide on time service. It does not guarantee its departure and arrival times, which may be delayed by various factors including weather, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems and any other conditions Take it Easy tours can't control. Take it Easy tours are not liable for any inconvenience or expense caused as a result of such delay. Take it Easy tours assumes no liability or responsibility for property, delay or expense arising from or caused by weather conditions, acts of God, accident, government restrictions or regulations, from an act or omission of any individual, traffic, road conditions, mechanical problems, or any other cause or condition beyond its control. Take it Easy tours reserves its right to cancel or change any tour, advertised schedule, or route without notice and assumes no liability or responsibility for any conditions beyond its control that may interrupt or cancel any tour.

COVID - 19 cancellation policy for New Zealand travel

COVID - 19, has created uncertainty for us all, therefore for cancellations directly related to COVID - 19, we have updated our "normal cancellation" policy to the following:

If the New Zealand government imposes travel restrictions that impact our ability to deliver your booked tour before departure, our ideal preference would be to reschedule the tour when travel is permitted.

If this is not possible, passengers will receive a full credit, less any applicable airline or supplier cancellation fees that Take It Easy Tours has been charged.

If travel restrictions are imposed while on tour, we will seek credits on any unused portions on the itinerary from all suppliers. All applicable credits to be returned, will first be applied to any costs that have been incurred on our passenger's behalf. For example, if alternative accommodation or transportation has been required to repatriate the passenger to their home.

Any remaining refunds will be credited to the passenger for use for future bookings.

Passenger's personal situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

