



**WEIR TOURS**  
**NEW ZEALAND**



## **The Great Rail Trail NZ**

### **4<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Discover the joy of travelling by rail as we take you on this magnificent Rail Expedition. You'll see the country in style while aboard world-famous scenic train journeys. With time to enjoy panoramic vistas that go beyond the beaten path. With both historic and unique train rides included in this 12 day tour, you will see it all - sparkling cities to volcanic hinterlands, shimmering oceans, soaring mountains, and geological wonders...This is a tour not to be missed!

#### **DAY 1: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April (MT, L, D)** **Home – Hamilton**

All aboard! We start the tour on one of our favourite modes of transport, the bus, where we head north, up the west coast of the Taranaki region to Mokau. Here we stop for morning tea and some home baking. This is also a great chance to meet your fellow travellers. From here we travel on through rural Waikato until we reach our lunch destination.

This afternoon is a short drive into Hamilton as we visit the famous **Hamilton Gardens**, where we enjoy a guided tour through the gardens which explores the context, history and meaning of gardens through time, and from around the world.

Its then onto our accommodation for the night where we also will dine and prepare for the first train journey of the tour.

➤ Accommodation: **Distinction Hamilton Hotel (07 849 0860)**

**DAY 2: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April (B, D)**  
**Hamilton - Wellington**

After breakfast we load the coach and head to the train station where we will board the first train, the **Northern Explorer**. We journey through the rural heart of New Zealand's North Island on this inspired journey to Wellington. Travelling by train enables you to see the scenic wonders of Middle Earth, soar over towering viaducts, go across the high plains of the volcanic plateau, and beneath three mighty volcanoes.

Arriving in Wellington you are met by our coach and transferred to our central accommodation where we enjoy dinner and a recap.

➤ Accommodation: **Ryldges Wellington (04 499 8686)**

**DAY 3: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)**  
**Wellington - Blenheim**

A relaxed start to the day with a chance to stroll downtown Wellington before we head to the **Cable Car**, here you will be offered a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the technology that powers this iconic Wellington landmark. Upon our welcome we receive a brief history of the Cable Car before taking the famous ride, stopping at Talavera to observe and discuss how the passing loop works, and then continuing up to the Cable Car summit. After visiting the current winding room at the top of the hill. We stop for a spot of morning tea before making our way back down.

The Ferry Terminal is our next stop, where we will catch our ferry to the South Island. On board you will have plenty of time to get yourself some lunch and sit back and enjoy the famous crossing over to Picton.

It is then just a short drive to Blenheim where we check in to our accommodation and enjoy another group dinner on site before resting our heads.

➤ Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Marlborough (03 520 6187)**

**DAY 4: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)**  
**Blenheim – Christchurch**

First up today sees us head down to Beaver Station to board the **Riverside Railway**. This narrow-gauge railway traverses along the picturesque Taylor River and meanders its way through the middle of the town. On this journey you get an insight into the changing landscapes and an understanding of the history and diversity of the town of Blenheim.

From here it is just a short drive to **Wither Hills Winery** where we will have a delicious lunch and the opportunity to sample some of their award-winning wines should you choose to.

This afternoon we embark on one of the most picturesque journeys on New Zealand's railways as we head to Blenheim railway station to board the **Coastal Pacific**.

As we head south, we voyage through the vineyards of Marlborough, meander along the Pacific Coast with its rugged coastlines, and between mountains and sea. This is truly a timeless journey of breathtaking beauty.

As we reach the idyllic Canterbury countryside, we are nearing our destination, the Garden City of Christchurch. Again, our coach will be waiting to take us into town to our central accommodation for the next two nights.

➤ Accommodation: ***Distinction Christchurch Hotel (03 377 7000)***

**DAY 5: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)**

**Christchurch**

You are on your own schedule this morning as you have tickets to board the **Christchurch Tram**, which is just next to the hotel. This unique experience combines history and sightseeing on board one of the city's best loved attractions. Your ticket allows you to hop on and off the restored heritage trams to explore the central city, and enjoy the live commentary from your local driver who will offer fascinating insights.

We meet back at a designated time then head out to the **Christchurch Gondola** to take in the spectacular panoramic views of the city, Lyttelton Harbour, Pacific Ocean and beyond.

Take in the views on your gondola ride to the summit station. Once at the top, you can experience the area's history on the **Christchurch Discover Ride**, before sitting down for lunch.

We then return to the hotel for some R&R before we head out for a unique luxury dining experience on a heritage tram. The **Tramway Restaurant** offers curated seasonal dining combined with an evening sightseeing in central Christchurch for a truly unique experience aboard New Zealand's only dining tramcar.

➤ Accommodation: ***Distinction Christchurch Hotel (03 377 7000)***

**DAY 6: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April (B, D)**

**Christchurch - Punakaiki**

An earlier wake up is required today but it will all be worth it as we get set to explore the Southern Alps aboard the **TranzAlpine train** - one of the world's great train journeys, covering 223 kilometres. Today we travel coast-to-coast, trekking into the mountains from Springfield through the 'Great Divide' before experiencing the tranquility of Lake Brunner and raw beauty of the West Coast.

Arriving at Greymouth our coach will collect us, and we head north up the **Great Coast Road** which was named one of the Top 10 Coastal Drives in the world according to Lonely Planet.

We stop in Charleston, which is where we board the **Nile River Rainforest Train**, a short interpretative train ride in open carriages through primeval rain forest. Recreating a bygone era where bush trams once prevailed, this memorable journey provides visitors with an interpreted experience of the spectacular wilderness landscapes, set in the Nile / Waitakere River Canyon in the South Island's Paparoa National Park.

Heading back south to Punakaiki we stop to admire the **Punakaiki pancake rocks and blowholes**, where columns of water shoot skyward from rocks that resemble giant stacks of hotcakes.

Just down the road is our spectacular beach front hotel with stunning beach, ocean & rainforest views. Tonight, we dine in the onsite restaurant while the sun sets on a fantastic day.

➤ Accommodation: **Scenic Hotel Punakaiki (03 731 1168)**

#### **DAY 7: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)**

##### **Punakaiki - Christchurch**

Waking up to the sound of waves you will have time for a morning beach stroll before we continue back south to one of New Zealand's premier cultural and heritage attractions, **Shantytown Heritage Park**. We spend the morning at this recreated 1900s pioneer town, born out of, and stimulated by, the great West Coast gold rushes of the 1860s.

Step back in time and experience the thrill of riding on one of the historical trains of New Zealand – **The Heritage Train**, a short journey which takes you through the lush native rainforest along the Infants Creek Tram line, this is a treat for nature lovers and history buffs alike. You'll get to travel on the original sawmill tram track from the late 19th century.

After you try your luck at **Gold Panning**, you have time to enjoy the two village streets filled with shops and buildings to explore, you'll find fascinating stories of life in the early years of colonization both on the West Coast and New Zealand. We then enjoy a lunch before making our way back to the Greymouth train Station.

We catch the TranzAlpine back over to the East Coast but today will be extra special as we are booked on the **TranzAlpine Scenic Plus dining experience**. While you ease back and enjoy the views in the exclusive Scenic Plus carriage you will be served a seasonal menu inspired by the mountains and rivers of our world-famous TranzAlpine train journey.

Inclusive drinks and dining service are included throughout the journey as you enjoy the panoramic windows, spacious carriage, and specialist table service & storytelling. After being wined and dined you arrive at Christchurch where the coach is waiting to transfer you to the hotel for the night to rest your head.

➤ Accommodation: **Sudima Christchurch Airport (03 358 3139)**



#### **DAY 8: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April (B, L D)**

## Christchurch – Dunedin

After breakfast we load the coach and hit the road heading south down SH1. The first stop today is at the **Pleasant Point Railway**, rated as one of New Zealand's best preservation railways. We are welcomed and shown through the museum before riding the steam engine along a section of Fairlie branch line. We are then treated to a picnic style lunch before carrying on south.

After exploring some attractions along the way, we arrive in one of New Zealand's most scenic and historic cities, Dunedin. We head into our central accommodation where you will have some time to yourself before meeting for dinner

➤ Accommodation: ***Scenic Hotel Southern Cross (03 477 0752)***

### DAY 9: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)

#### Dunedin - Queenstown

Today we again experience an iconic rail journey as we head to the Dunedin Railway Station, one of the city's most prominent architectural landmarks. This morning, we board the world-famous **Taieri Gorge Train Tour** and experience the epic rail journey over white water rapids, towering viaducts and historic tunnels along the remote Taieri Gorge.

Our journey ends at Pukerangi where we disembark and board our awaiting coach. We drive north through the magnificent Mānīatoto plain to our lunch destination in Ranfurly. The lovingly restored Art Deco buildings from the 1930s make this small town a paradise for architecture lovers.

This afternoon we take in the sights of Central Otago as we make our way to Queenstown stopping at different attractions along the way. Getting into our accommodation with time for some R&R before meeting for another group dinner.

➤ Accommodation: ***The Heritage Hotel (03 450 1535)***

### DAY 10: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (B, D)

#### Queenstown

A nice and relaxed start to the day before we take the short drive down to the historic town of Arrowtown to visit the markets and wander the town.

After you have got yourself some lunch, we then set off down SH6 to Kingston to journey aboard New Zealand's popular Steam Train, the famous **Kingston Flyer**. Take a step back in time on the historical vintage steam train powered by the mighty Ab795 Steam Locomotive to Fairlight in Southland and return. Enjoy the views while chatting to the friendly train staff, listening to the sounds of a working steam engine or enjoying the onboard historical commentary.

We then travel by coach back up the shoreline of Lake Wakatipu to our accommodation where we will dine tonight.

- Accommodation: ***The Heritage Hotel (03 450 1535)***

### **DAY 11: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April (B, L, D)**

#### **Queenstown**

Today we have decided to keep the day as a **mystery day**, but we can tell you we will be joined by a local with extensive tourism experience and knowledge. The scenery, locations and dining will be some of the best that New Zealand has to offer.

- Accommodation: ***The Heritage Hotel (03 450 1535)***

### **DAY 12: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Queenstown - Home**

All good things must come to an end so after we have packed our bags for the final time you will have some free time to explore Queenstown itself before making our way out to the airport to catch your flight home.

Total cost of the The Great Rail Trail 2025:

#### **Tour payments per person**

- Twin/Double share: **\$7995.00pp** ex New Plymouth/Hawera/Wanganui
- Single Supplement: **\$9470.00 pp**
- Deposit due at time of booking **\$1000pp**

***Please note your seat is not secure until deposit has been paid!!***

Balance of tour payment due 60 days prior to departure –

#### **Tour cost covers:**

- All amazing train trips stated in itinerary.
- All other activities/attractions stated in **bold**.
- Queenstown – New Plymouth flight.
- All coach travel as stated in the itinerary.
- Interislander Ferry travel.
- Two course or buffet dinners every night.
- Breakfast every morning (continental and/or cooked on occasions).
- Lunch on day 1,4,5,7,8,9 & 11.
- Morning & afternoon teas as stated in itinerary.
- Twin share accommodation (single supplement available – contact office)
- Experienced Tour Leader.
- Quality tour coach.
- Tour photos.



# WEIR TOURS NEW ZEALAND

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS....**

(Applicable for New Zealand Tours 01 July 2024 – 30 June 2025)

### **Acceptance Of Terms & Conditions**

If you have booked a tour with us and pay your deposit, you are deemed to have accepted these terms. We may ask you to sign a copy of these terms when you join a tour to provide a record that you have accepted these terms.

### **Itineraries**

The Itinerary for your tour package was correct at the time of date and printing, however it is subject to change without notice. Your itinerary could change due to road or weather conditions, changes imposed by other tour operators or a range of other factors beyond our control. You agree that we have no liability to you for changes to your itinerary.

### **Price Amendments**

Prices were correct at the time and date of printing; however, Weir Bros Tours reserves the right to amend the price subject to any changes in price imposed by other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary or increases in government or other levies.

### **Health & Fitness**

All passengers are required to acknowledge they are in reasonable health and are considered fit to travel and are not traveling contrary to any medical advice. By acknowledging their health and fitness to participate passengers are indemnifying us from all actions, claims and demands arising out of any lack of health and fitness.

### **Health & Safety Information including COVID-19**

At Weir Bros our first priority is your safety and enjoyment while you are travelling with us. While we have always maintained a high standard of cleaning on our coaches. We have increased the frequency of cleaning when we are traveling on tours to help ensure your safety. Hand sanitiser will be provided, and we ask that you maintain government standards in terms of hygiene practices, this includes washing or sanitising hands frequently. For the health and safety of all passengers and staff on tour, any passengers showing symptoms of illness (such as fever, coughing or difficulty breathing) will not be accepted onboard the coach unless they can provide a negative

Covid-19 test result received within the past 24 hours.

Should any passenger start to feel unwell on arrival or while on tour, they must immediately advise their Tour Manager and may be required to visit a medical practitioner/medical centre/hospital. To continue the tour the passenger must provide a negative Covid-19 test and be deemed fit and well to participate fully on a coach tour. Any costs incurred will be at the passenger's own expense.

### **Payments, cancellations & Amendments**

A deposit of 20% is required to Weir Tours at the time of booking to confirm your reservation and acknowledges your agreement to our terms and conditions. All balance payments must be received by Weir Bros prior to or on the date specified for final payment. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure. If the full tour price is not received by this date, we reserve the right to cancel your booking. Payments can be made with Cash, Eftpos / Credit or Direct Debit via the account number supplied on the payment form. Please note if paying via credit card you will incur a fee of 2.5% on top of the original price. Weir Bros reserves the right to amend or reschedule the tour due to the result of circumstances outside the company's control. Weir Bros also reserves the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient numbers and in this instance a substitute date may be offered, or a full refund will be made available. Tour Prices exclude drinks, travel insurance or items of personal nature.

Weir Tours is not liable for any cancellation or change cost or penalties incurred via third party travel arrangements, including air travel, that may be affected thereby. All additional costs incurred are not liable by Weir Tours and will be passed onto you. Please ensure you have sufficient insurance to cover any costs incurred for unforeseen disruptions. Weir Tours is not responsible for other travel arrangements that you or your party have made outside of those made by Weir Tours and which are affected by our cancellations or amendments.

### **Force Majeure**

Force Majeure Event means any event or circumstance beyond the control of Weir Tours, which has the effect of preventing, restricting or changing the nature of the products and services sold to you including but not limited to: (a) an act of god (such as earthquake, flood, fire, explosion, landslide, lightning, action of the elements, force of nature, washout, typhoon, hurricane cyclone, tsunami, storm or storm warning of natural disaster); (b) industrial disputes, work ban or other labour dispute or difficulty; (c) acts of terrorism, political unrest, war or threat of war, riots or civil strife; (d) failure or delays to scheduled transportation and the closure of airports or ports; (e) Pandemic, epidemic or health risk including Covid-19; (f) all governmental and administrative actions, guidance and measures in any territory (including closure of borders and travel warnings and restrictions) Weir Tours have the right to cancel amend or reschedule your packaged tour during or following any force Majeure and if we do so you agree that we have no liability to you for any direct or indirect consequences of the cancellation, amendment or rescheduling.

### **Travel Insurance**

Weir Bros strongly advises all passengers to purchase travel insurance when booking a tour. A comprehensive travel insurance policy gives peace of mind for unexpected issues or emergencies that may arise prior to or during a tour. Weir Tours cannot be held responsible for your failure to obtain Insurance which is appropriate, and we recommend you purchase your insurance at the time of, or soon after, booking your trip. Weir Tours will not be held liable for any costs incurred resulting from your failure to obtain adequate travel insurance.

### **Luggage**

Although every effort will be made to will be made to handle guests' luggage carefully, we cannot be responsible, assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal effects due to breakage, theft or fair wear and tear through hotel, airline, and group carrier handling. Therefore, it is important for protection that passengers make certain that they have adequate travel insurance to cover such eventualities.

### **Our Responsibilities**

Weir Tours are responsible for booking and packaging goods and service provided by other operators such as hotels, attractions, and transportation companies to create your packaged tour. We take all practicable steps to ensure the safety and comfort for all involved in this packaged tour.

### **Your Responsibilities**

You agree to behave reasonably throughout the tour and not to be a nuisance to other passengers. You agree to comply with our reasonable requests and the requests of other operators. You indemnify Weir Tours for any liability, costs, damages or other expenses we suffer or incur as a direct or indirect consequence of your behaviour while part of your package tour.

### **Removal From Your Package Tour**

For the Well being of all passengers on your packaged tour, Weir Tours reserve the right to remove you from the tour and cancel your booking with us if you breach any of your obligations under the terms provided that, except in the case of a serious breach ( as determined by Weir Tours) we will give you notice of your breach and a reasonable opportunity (which will be no more than 2 days ) to remedy the breach before exercising our cancellation right. In the case of a serious breach, we can exclude you from the tour and cancel your booking by immediate, verbal, or written notice to you. In the event of such cancellation, you will be responsible at your cost for arranging any accommodation or travel costs and other matters as required as a direct or indirect consequence of the cancellation. In the event of removal from a tour no refund will be given.

### **Cancellation Policy**

Cancellation fees depend on when Weir Tours receives notification of a cancellation.

Bookings cancelled more than 60 days before departure incur 20% of tour cost.

Bookings cancelled between 59 and 45 days before tour commencement will forfeit 50%

31-44 Days Prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 75%

0-30 Days prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 100% of your tour price (No Refund)