



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



## Chatham Islands

7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

*You'll take a step back in time when you explore the Chatham Islands. Situated in the latitude known as the "Roaring Forties", you'll be surrounded by the pristine waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean. The natural beauty and distinctive spiritual energy of the islands is something that must be experienced. We take the time to immerse ourselves in the unique ancestral cultures, special environment and way of life. By the time you leave you will start to understand the true magic of the Chatham Islands.*

Please note that the following itinerary is a preliminary itinerary. Due to weather conditions, tide times, and other varying factors, activities and visits may not necessarily take place in the written order. Weir Tours and the local operators will endeavour to execute and fulfil the entire itinerary, however activities may be cancelled or added at the guides discretion on the day, this ensures everyone remains safe and comfortable. Welcome to life in New Zealand's most remote communities.

**DAY 1: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March (MT, L, D)**

**Home - Auckland**

We welcome you on board as we make our way north to the small town of Mōkau. Here we enjoy a lovely home baked morning tea while we get to know our fellow travellers. As we continue on enjoy the spectacular scenery to our next stop at the Waitomo Homestead where we will be having our lunch today.

This afternoon we make our way north to our Auckland airport accommodation, where you can have a bit of R&R before meeting for our first group dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **JetPark Auckland Airport (09 255 4145)**

## **DAY 2: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Auckland – Chatham Island**

After breakfast we take the short drive to the airport to check in to our flight to the largest island of the Chatham Islands group, **Chatham Island**. During our flight over you might like to put your watches forward, the Chatham's are 45 minutes ahead of NZ time, but it seems like you are travelling back 20 years.

On Arrival we will be met by our local tour guide who will introduce us to the island and take us for a quick stop at the **Red Bluffs**. Here you will have an opportunity to take some photos before carrying on to our accommodation where we will be staying for the next 7 nights. Situated in central Waitangi, just metres above Hotel Chatham, your room offers luxury, space and views for your ultimate Island holiday

You will have some time to freshen up before meeting at the hotel where you can mix with the locals before our welcoming Chatham Island dinner.

➤ Accommodation: **Hotel Chathams (03 3050 048)**

## **DAY 3: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

After a delightful continental breakfast, we board the bus to set out on our first day of exploring the island.

We head out to **Splatter Rock**, which is a fascinating rock formation located at the western end of Wharekauri Beach. The farm we travel through is **Wharekauri Farm Station**, 28,000 acres and there are 40 miles of fencing, 12,000 sheep and 260 acres under crop.

From here we continue to **Ocean Mail Scenic Reserve**, where we take the boardwalk and wander through this wetland area, before arriving at **Hapupu Historic Reserve**. Here we discover a unique archaeological site. Carved into the bark of kopi (karaka) trees within the reserve are **Moriori tree carvings** – known as dendroglyphs. They are among the little evidence of pre-contact Moriori culture remaining on the island. The last remaining tree died during 2015 – 2017.

We also visit **Broughton Landing** - an old Mission and Whaling Station, and the farm '**Mission Station**' owned by Jim Muirson. Jim has 1,400 hectares, running 3,000 Ewes and 350 Cows. This is where we will be able to view the remains of a wrecked RNZAF Short Sunderland and a newly arrived Fokker Friendship in the process of preservation. This Sunderland aircraft provided an aviation lifeline to the island until it was holed by a rock while taking off from the Te Whanga Lagoon in 1959.

From here we can also access the huge **seal colony** at Point Munning before returning to the bus to head back to the hotel for another group dinner and to rest our heads for the night.

## **DAY 4: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

After breakfast you have the opportunity to partake in some excellent optional activities (weather permitting).

You have the chance to head over to *Pitt Island*, the second largest island in the Chatham Archipelago, A jewel in the Chatham Islands crown with stunning landscapes, plentiful birdlife and the iconic Woytek sculptures.

Pitt Island Day Trip: \$450pp (8 to 10 pax) by Cessna Depart approx 9.30am, returning approx 4.30pm. Please be mindful; if you go to Pitt Island you forgo a day's activities on Chatham.

The other option is to go on a *fishing charter* aboard the hotels own boat, the 40 ft Nancy Kay. Up to 12 people at a time can enjoy 2-3 hrs of Chatham Island deep sea fishing, hand lining for Blue cod and Hapuka. This option is complementary. All fish generally comes back to the hotel and can be frozen in packs for people to take home on the last day. Extra, fresh "free flow" blue cod can be bought at \$65 per 2 kg to bring home. The hotel will arrange the fishing trip the night before.

For those who have chosen not to go out fishing take this time to relax.

After the others return from their fishing charter, we depart for our journey out to the South-east and fishing settlement of **Owenga**. A fishing village including a working fish factory, plus the remains of The Anglican Church of St Barnabas. First stop is the **Moriori Kopinga Marae** sited on the hilltop at Te Awatea. This is the only Moriori marae in New Zealand. Kopinga Marae, shaped like an albatross when viewed from the air, continues to amaze visitors. Learn the culture and the History of the first inhabitants of the Island. Panoramic views across Lake Huro to Waitangi and across Te Whanga to its entrance at Te Awapatiki.

**Tommy Solomon Statue** at Manakau, Owenga, Tommy Solomon, (7 May 1884 – 19 March 1933) is believed by most to have been the last full blooded Moriori, which were the indigenous people of the Chatham Islands.

We will drive to the Wind Farm and enjoy a short walk across the Preece farm to where the Millennium celebrations took place. The first place in the world to see the sun this century. Rangaiki Cliffs, 200-250m sheer drop cliffs, on a clear day it is an amazing viewing point to Pitt and Mangere and surrounding Islands, it is also the best place to sight the seldom seen 44's looking east out to sea. A walk across farmland north of Te One Township to see **Moriori Rock Carving**.

Back to the hotel to meet the rest of the group and enjoy another three-course evening meal in Hotel Dining Room

## **DAY 5: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

This morning, we journey down to the southwestern part of the island where we visit **Awatotorā Reserve**. This is an area of regenerating native bush, and home of the Chatham Island wood pigeon (parea), which we hope to spot.

Its then to the shores of beautiful **Te Whanga lagoon**, near **Blind Jim's Creek**, careful fossicking is likely to be rewarded by the discovery of fossilised shark teeth. Around 30 million years old, these incredibly ancient objects are almost as scarce as hen's teeth but can be found in the Chatham Islands. To find a tooth from a creature that was eating fish long before the first primate – let alone the first human – walked the earth is amazing. I am sure that by the time you leave Te Whanga Lagoon, you will all be in possession of one or many of these prized ancient fossils.

From there it's just a short drive to **Nikau Reserve**, a 19-hectare reserve located 1.5 km north of Blind Jim's. It conserves broadleaf forest with a fine stand of nikau palms, the best on the island. This is the only palm native to the Chatham Islands, an even more impressive sight when flowering and bearing fruit.

Along the way we enjoy a BBQ picnic lunch and a cup of tea or coffee before driving the Tuku Road which provides views of rich farmlands and shoal coastal waters. The stunning Tuku Reserve lies in the valley, a great place for viewing parea, the Chatham Island pigeon, and other bird life.

Another delicious meal served by the hotel before resting our heads for the evening.

## **DAY 6: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

Today we set out to explore the Wild West as we travel over part of the **Waitangi West Station** consisting of 3,412 hectares carrying 10,000 sheep. Recently bought by a Chinese buyer for \$5m.

Always a must see is the **Stone Cottage & Maunganui Bluff**. The cottage was built between 1866 & 1868 for the Moravian Missionaries who arrived in the Chathams in 1843. These German missionaries made no converts but had a significant input into the history and lifestyle of the Chathams, introducing large-scale horticulture, sheep farming, ship building and literacy. The cottage is built largely of local stone and wood, which reflects the missionaries' attitudes. They were committed to the idea of being self-reliant in their own lives, and as an example to others, hence using only local materials.

We then visit the safest fishing harbour with the most shipwrecks on the island, at **Port Hutt**. Our next stop is the amazing **Basalt Columns** at Ohira Bay. Over farmland down to Ohira Bay lie massive olivine basalt columns, part of lava flows dated nearly 80 million years ago. They comprise an interesting geological formation – a series of pentagonal-shaped volcanic rock columns on the shoreline. They are not found anywhere else on the island and in only two other places in the world – Giant's Causeway, in Northern Ireland and one in Scotland.

## **DAY 7: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

A relaxed start to the day before we visit **Admiral Farm**, named after the abundant butterfly. This is a fourth-generation Chatham's property, owned by the Croon family, with a gorgeous garden featuring the eerie skeletons of dead kopi trees and great drifts of the stunning Chatham Island forget-me-not.

From here it's to **Kopi Farm** where we enjoy a few hours with Bridget and John Preece. They have a lovely bush walk and will talk you through their journey to build a TV1 Grand Designs house.

On the way back to the hotel we visit the **Henga Scenic Reserve**. Walking tracks pass through regenerating coastal forest to sand dune vegetation and hidden in the bushes are spectacular limestone formations.

Some R&R before meeting at the hotel for a pre-dinner tipple and a great dinner.

## **DAY 8: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island**

Today we visit the **Museum, Old Radio Station, Tiki Tiki Hill** and view over the newly built Waitangi Wharf Drive to the South Coast, where we can admire a reforestation area and endemic birds.

We return to town and enjoy lunch at River Onion Gallery. Local photographer and artist Celine Gregory-Hunt, recently renovated and invested in her beautiful property on the side of Waitangi beach to showcase her artwork inspired by the natural beauty of Chatham and Pitt Island. Close by you can purchase souvenirs at Chatham Cottage Gift Shop & locally made jewelry at Dough & Go general store.

Tonight, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel where we share stories of our adventures and cheers to a great tour exploring this fascinating island.

## **DAY 9: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March (B, L, D)**

### **Chatham Island - Auckland**

A very relaxed start to the day for a last chance to take in the lifestyle of the Chatham's. After lunch we will be making our way back to the airport to catch our flight back to Auckland arriving late afternoon. It's just a short drive to our hotel for the night where we will enjoy our final group dinner of the tour.

➤ Accommodation: **JetPark Auckland Airport (09 255 4145)**

**DAY 10: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March (B, L,)**

**Auckland - Home**

After breakfast we start making our way south with a stop at the Base Shopping Centre, one of New Zealand's largest shopping centres, based in Te Rapa. Here is a chance for the keen shoppers to snap up a bargain, or you may prefer just to enjoy some morning tea.

We have lunch organised before the final journey into Taranaki and home.

**Total cost of the Chatham Islands Tour 2025:**

**Tour payments per person**

- Twin/Double share:       **\$5995pp** ex New Plymouth/Hawera/Wanganui
- Single Supplement:       **\$6495pp**
- 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 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Tour cost covers:**

- All visits as stated in itinerary.
- All other activities/attractions stated in bold.
- Return Auckland – Chatham flights.
- All bus travel as stated in the itinerary.
- Three course or buffet dinners every night.
- Breakfast every morning (continental and/or cooked on occasions).
- Lunch every day.
- Morning & afternoon teas as stated in itinerary.
- Twin share accommodation (single supplement available – contact office).
- Experienced Tour Leaders.
- Door to door service (conditions apply).
- Tour photos.

To book: **06 278-5858**     or     [weirbros@xtra.co.nz](mailto:weirbros@xtra.co.nz)



# **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 cancelation, 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 form 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)