



WEIR BROS

PH. 06 278 5858 HAWERA



THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL 12TH -17TH OCTOBER 2022



Day 1 – Wednesday 12th October 2022 (D)

New Plymouth to Picton

Up with the early birds today as we depart New Plymouth at 6am collecting our fellow travellers before stopping in Whanganui for some lovely home baked morning tea. We continue south stopping for a quick stop in Levin before making our way to the **Interislander Ferry** terminal for our 1pm sailing. Enjoy some of the locally sourced food and beverages as you sit back and relax taking in the breath-taking views as we cross the Cook Strait.

Once we arrive in Picton we board the coach for a short drive to our hotel for the night which has spectacular vistas over the Marlborough Sounds. You have some time to stroll into town or to the waterfront before meeting at the hotel restaurant for our first group dinner together.

Accommodation: **Picton Yacht Club Hotel (03-573 7002)**

Day 2 – Thursday 13th October 2022 (B,L,D)

Picton to Christchurch

A relaxed start to the day and after a hearty breakfast we board the coach and make our way down SH1 to sunny Blenheim where we will board our first train of the tour. The **Blenheim Riverside Railway** is a narrow-gauge railway which traverses along the picturesque Taylor River and meanders its way through the middle of the town. On this fantastic journey you get an insight to the changing landscapes and while crossing streams and the Taylor River, one gets an understanding of the history and diversity of the town of Blenheim.

The first station we arrive at is Omaka Station where you will be given some time to wander the **Omaka Classic Car Museum** before re boarding the train. Next stop is **Brayshaw Heritage Park** which is dedicated to the collection, restoration, and display of Marlborough's heritage. We are welcomed into the **Marlborough Vintage & Farm Machinery** Museum which showcases the rural history of Marlborough before enjoying a home baked lunch at the **Marlborough Vintage Car Club**.

After lunch you will have some free time to wander the impressive **Marlborough Museum** before boarding the coach to be transferred to the Blenheim railway station where you then climb aboard one of the most picturesque journeys on New Zealand railways, the **Coastal Pacific**.

Meandering along the Pacific coast between Picton and Christchurch you will journey along rugged coastlines, across remote beaches, between mountains and sea, on a timeless journey of breath-taking beauty.



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You will voyage through the vineyards of Blenheim, dripping with New Zealand's premium crop. Explore the stunning Kaikōura Coastline, famous for its marine life and whale watching, where the roaring Pacific Ocean meets the rising Kaikōura mountains. As we canter amidst the idyllic Canterbury countryside you will be served dinner before reaching the Garden City of Christchurch. Our coach will be waiting to transfer you to our luxury accommodation, ideally positioned in the heart of the city only a few minutes' walk from the famous city attractions amongst the buzz of the rejuvenation of Cathedral Square.

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

Day 3 – Friday 14th October 2022 (B,L,D) Christchurch to Punakaiki

After another scrumptious breakfast we board our coach for the short drive to the Christchurch train station to experience one of the world's greatest train journeys aboard our **Tranz-Alpine train**. Soak in the South Island's striking natural landscape by taking the train between Christchurch and Greymouth. Along this journey you'll see epic vistas, travel the edges of the ice fed Waimakariri River, traverse the Southern Alps, and see miles of native beech forest.

The Tranz-Alpine is one of the world's great train journeys covering 223 kilometres (139 miles) one-way, taking just under 5 hours. You'll traverse the majestic Canterbury Plains, to the backdrop of the mighty Southern Alps - the journey of a lifetime!

In Greymouth you will be met by our coach, and we then travel SH6 north with spectacular views of the Tasman Sea through to Charleston where our next train ride awaits us. We enjoy a delicious afternoon tea before bringing things back to basics as we board the **Nile River Rainforest Train**. This journey recreates a bygone era where bush trams once prevailed. The Train provides visitors with a fantastic way to experience the spectacular wilderness landscapes of the Nile River Canyon in the South Island's Paparoa National Park.

We then head back down the coast to our outstanding hotel for the night, the Ocean View Retreat in Punakaiki. You will have some time for some R & R or to take a walk down the beach before meeting for a great dinner as we watch the sunset on this exceptional day.

Accommodation: **Ocean View Retreat (03-731 1168)**

Day 4 – Saturday 15th October 2022 (B,L,D) Punakaiki - Christchurch

Waking up to the sound of the waves we enjoy another great breakfast before having the chance to experience the famous **Pancake rock & blowholes**. These are the most visited natural attraction on the West and were formed 30 million years ago accessible by a short, paved track making it easy to explore the limestone landscape.

Back on the coach we head back down the coast to **Shanty Town Heritage Park** where we will board a vintage train and take short trip through lush native rain forest along the Infants Creek Tram line which follows an original sawmill tram track of the 1800's. On the return trip we stop at the Infants Creek Sawmill where you will disembark and take a short walk to our gold claim and sluice area where you will be tutored you to find your own gold! You will be given some time to enjoy the other great attractions such as the Hologram Theatre Experience and the historic village.

We then head to an icon of the West Coast, the **Monteith's Brewery**, where we experience a walking, talking and tasting tour through the original home of Monteith's. We'll be taken backstage to learn all about the family of beers and ciders, from the history and how it's made, through to pouring the perfect glass, direct from the tap. We are also treated to a great lunch before making our way back to the Greymouth railway station for our return leg on the **Tranz-Alpine** back to Christchurch. We retrace our path back to the East Coast viewing in a different light and will arrive back at the Christchurch railway where again we are met by our coach who will return us to our superb central accommodation.

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



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Day 5 – Sunday 16th October 2022 (B,L,D) Christchurch

No need to pack your bags today as we enjoy a relaxing Sunday taking in the highlights of the beautiful garden city. This morning you will be given tickets to the **Christchurch Tram city tour** which you can do at your own leisure. The tram offers a unique experience combining history and sightseeing. The beautifully restored heritage trams are one of the city's best loved attractions and the all-day hop-on hop-off ticket allow you to visit the central city sights at your own pace. You may just choose to stay on board and listen to the friendly and knowledgeable drivers who will keep you updated about the latest city changes in their informative live commentaries.

Or you can explore the best of the central city from the 17 stops enroute: the Canterbury Museum & Botanic Gardens, Turanga and Margaret Mahy Playground and the many retail stores, bars and eateries at The Terrace, Cashel Street & Riverside Market, Arts Centre and New Regent Street offer fantastic shopping for all.

We will then all meet back at a designated time to board the coach and head out to an unmissable experience, the **Christchurch Gondola**, which offers stunning unique views of the city, Lyttelton Harbour and beyond from the summit station situated atop the Port Hills. Here we enjoy lunch taking in the spectacular 360-degree views and see the city from a different perspective: gaze at the snow-capped Southern Alps, sprawling Canterbury Plains and the sparkling waters of Pegasus Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Back on the coach our next destination is the award-winning **International Antarctic Centre**. There are many great attractions here, but a highlight will be when we are aboard the **Hägglund**, an amazing all-terrain amphibious Antarctic vehicle that's been built to conquer the rough terrain on the ice. This unique tracked machine delivers an incomparable passenger experience. You'll feel what it's like for scientists in Antarctica as they travel across the ice, up and down hills, over crevasses and through water. It's a highly authentic journey. You can ride safe in the knowledge

that our expert Hägglund drivers navigate the obstacles within a fun, thrilling, but ultimately safe environment. You will be given some time to enjoy the other experiences such as the Storm Dome, Penguin Rescue, 4D theatre or the Antarctic Gallery.

Time now to return to the hotel and just as you think we have done it all we have saved the best to last as tonight we dine on the **Christchurch Tramway Restaurant**. As New Zealand's only restaurant tramcar, it's truly a unique way to view the inner city of while enjoying a delicious evening dinner.

Experience the luxury of the heritage dining tram and be treated to premium local cuisine and beverages along with attentive and friendly service. Incorporate fabulous dining with sightseeing showcasing Christchurch's inner-city vibrancy and heritage – truly a mix of the old and the new. The Christchurch Tramway Restaurant dinner tour is a unique dining experience not to be missed!

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

Day 6 – Monday 17th October 2022 (B) Christchurch - Home

After enjoying our last scrumptious breakfast together is time to load up the coach for the final time this tour as we make our way to the airport to catch our 8.45am flight back to New Plymouth and beyond. There will be a coach and driver waiting at New Plymouth Airport to deliver people back home.

Tour Costs Include

- 5 nights' accommodation, twin/double rooms (Single rooms available with surcharge)
- Tour Admissions as per Itinerary
- Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and dinners (D) where indicated on the itinerary.

Tour payments per person

Twin/Double share \$3590.00
Single Supplement \$4130.00
Deposit due at time of booking \$1500.00

Balance of tour payment due 12th September 2022



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Terms & Conditions

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. The final tour cost will be guaranteed not to change once the full and final payment has been received.

Health & Fitness

Passengers should be in good health and be able to walk moderate distances to fully participate and experience the sightseeing opportunities in the itinerary provided. All passengers are required to acknowledge they are of reasonable health and are considered to be fit to travel and are not traveling contrary to any medical advice.

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, due to Covid 19 we have increased the frequency of which we do this when we are traveling on tours to 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 & Refunds

A deposit is required due on the date specified at the time of booking to confirm your seat. All Balance payments must be received by Weir Bros prior to or on the date specified for final payment. Payments are available to be made by Cash, Cheque or Direct Debit via the account number supplied on the payment form. 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.

Travel Insurance

Weir Bros advises all passengers to purchase a travel insurance policy when booking a tour. A comprehensive policy gives peace of mind for unexpected issues or emergencies that may arise prior to or during the tour.

Cancellation Policy

If after you're booking has been made and you wished to cancel:

25-30 Days prior to tour commencement you will forfeit your deposit

14-25 Days Prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 60% of the tour price (40% refund) plus any applicable supplier cancellation fees.

0-14 Days prior to tour commencement you will forfeit 100% of your tour price (No Refund)