



WEIR TOURS
NEW ZEALAND



East Cape

13th – 20th February 2025

Come and explore the easternmost point of the North Island of New Zealand, where you will truly be “off-the-beaten-track”. For sheer natural beauty, magnificent scenery and many places of historical significance the Ōpōtiki and East Cape District is unparalleled. Along with the unique attractions of the Cape, we will also explore surrounding regions over this fantastic 7- night tour.

DAY 1 – Thursday 13th (MT, L, D)
Wanganui – Taranaki - Cambridge

With bags packed, we board the coach and make our way north up SH3 to the small town of Mōkau, located at the mouth of the Mōkau River. Here we enjoy a lovely home baked morning tea while we get to know our fellow travelers.

Continuing onwards, you can enjoy the spectacular scenery on the way to our lunch stop at Waitomo Homestead.

This afternoon we head to the Waipa District of the Waikato region, to 'the town of trees and champions', Cambridge. Our first stop is the **Grassroots Trust Velodrome**, where we are treated to a guided tour, including an exclusive behind the scenes look at New Zealand’s high performance track cycling set up. Grab yourself a spot in the stands and watch New Zealand’s track cyclists train, if you’re lucky you might even spot some of New Zealand’s Olympic heroes hanging around.

We then travel on into the heart of this beautiful heritage town, to our outstanding hotel nestled next to Lake Te Koutu. You will be given some free time to explore the area, you'll find boutique shops and entertainment right next door to the hotel. Tonight, we dine onsite at the highly rated restaurant.

➤ **Accommodation: Hidden Lake Hotel (07 282 1593)**

DAY 2 – Friday 14th (B, L, D)

Cambridge – Whakatane

A leisurely start to the day before we head out on a scenic drive to one of the most famous filming locations in the country.

This morning, we will experience the real Middle-earth at the **Hobbiton Movie Set**, here you can step into the lush pastures of the Shire, as seen in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies. During the guided tour you will get to glimpse into the interior of a humble Hobbit's home and have a beverage at the world-famous Green Dragon Inn. We conclude our time here with a delicious buffet lunch in the Party Marquee.

This afternoon we make our way down to the vibrant town of Whakatane, the Bay of Plenty's best kept secret. This is where we spend the next two nights, so we make our way to our accommodation to get familiar with the surroundings before we head out for dinner.

➤ **Accommodation: Awa Motel (07 308 9500)**

DAY 3 – Saturday 15th (B, L, D)

Whakatane

This morning we head out to Awakeri to experience the **Awakeri Rail Carts**. Travel along a piece of New Zealand's rich rail history and experience the natural beauty and adventure from the comfort of a rail-cart, cleverly adapted to be self-driven along the rail tracks. During the outing you will be guided on a bushwalk and then stop for a relaxing morning tea at a trackside bush restaurant.

After the morning's activity, we then head out for a spot of lunch at a favourite of the locals, the Red Barn Café and gift shop.

We then head back to the Whakatane wharf for a real treat as we board our cruise to one of New Zealand's little-known treasures, **Moutohorā/Whale Island**. The island is a pest-free oasis that is home to a number of New Zealand's rare and endangered plants, birds and reptiles. On this scenic cruise we will hear about the island's history and see views of White Island.

Tonight, we again head out for dinner before resting our heads in preparation for exploring the East Cape.

➤ **Accommodation: Awa Motel (07 308 9500)**

DAY 4 – Sunday 16th (B/L/D)

Whakatane – Hicks Bay

Time to leave Whakatane behind as we head over the hill to one of New Zealand's most loved beaches. You will have time for a quick stroll along Ohope beach before the short drive down to Port Ohope Wharf, where we will embark on a captivating **Ōhiwa Harbour Cruise**. This cruise is tailor-made for explorers seeking to uncover the rich cultural tapestry of the harbour, with the guided history tour unveiling its storied past. We will also gain insights into the iconic **Ōhiwa Oyster Farm**, offering a glimpse into the art of oyster cultivation.

Back on board the coach we head around the harbour to Opotiki where we join the famous **SH35**. Over the next two days we will explore the 334 km stretch of highway with the first stop being at the historic village of Te Kaha. Here we enjoy a delicious lunch at the Te Kaha Beach Hotel while taking in the coastal views.

A 30-minute drive around the coast you'll find one of the most photographed places on the East Cape. Built in 1984, the **Anglican Church of Raukokore** is a must see. You will have time to take photos and enjoy this peace of East Cape history.

Just up the road is **Waihou Bay** which was made famous by the Taika Waititi film, Boy. The final leg of today's journey will see us arrive at Hicks Bay Lodge where we will rest our heads tonight. We aim to allow time this afternoon for you to take in this historic and botanically protected Maori Reserved Land, with the option of a bush walk to Onepoto Beach. Tonight, we will dine onsite overlooking natural waterways & breath-taking Pacific Ocean vistas.

➤ **Accommodation: Hicks Bay Lodge (06 864 4880)**

DAY 5 - Monday 17th (B, L, D)

Hicks Bay - Gisborne

Today we will explore the remaining section of SH35 and start with just a short drive to **East Cape Manuka**. Here we are welcomed with an introduction talk on their manuka oil and honey, followed by honey and tea tasting. You will be given time to look at their excellent range of products before another short drive down to **Te Araroa**. Here we will view one of the country's oldest pōhutukawa trees, thought to be 600 years old.

We now leave the coast as we travel to Tikitiki to visit **St Mary's Church**. Inside the conventional-looking church is a spectacular interior, featuring traditional Māori carvings, and woven panel ornamentation.

Next stop is an east coast icon and where we will be having lunch today. Sitting on the water's edge, looking over beautiful Tokomaru Bay is the **Te Puka Tavern**, which has provided hospitality to travellers and locals alike since it was established in 1873.

Continuing south to the beautiful Tolaga Bay, here we have the chance to stroll down the much-loved local landmark of the historic **Tolaga Bay Wharf**, notable for being 660 metres long and for its robust concrete design, it is still standing nearly 100 years later – a testament to its skilled engineers and the resilient community it once served.

The final visit of the day is a world-famous interactive marine experience with Stingrays and other sea life at Dive Tatapouri. The interactive **Reef Ecology tour** is sure to be a highlight for most as we get dressed into waders and head to the shallow waters where friendly stingrays will greet you and you have the opportunity to hand feed them. The guides will share facts with you, and you will have a chance to ask questions and learn all there is to know about these famous marine animals. If you prefer to stay on the shore, you are welcome to grab a drink and watch from the comfort of your beach chair

It's just then a short drive into Gisborne where we spend the next two nights.

➤ **Accommodation: Captain Cook Motor Lodge (06 867 7002)**

DAY 6 – Tuesday 18th (B, L, D)

Gisborne

We start the day with a drive through the only city in the East Coast region on the way out to the **Eastwoodhill Arboretum**.

Here we have a guided vehicle tour through the immense collection of trees, they have been internationally recognised and awarded the inaugural 'Arboretum Distinguished for Merit' by The International Dendrology Society in 1978. The Homestead Garden has also been rewarded and was recognised as a 'Garden of National Significance' which is where we will have our lunch today.

This afternoon, as we don't want to give away all our exciting activities, we have decided to keep it as a mystery, but what we can say is that it will involve a historic mode of transport.

We finish the day heading out for dinner at a highly rated local restaurant.

➤ **Accommodation: Captain Cook Motor Lodge (06 867 7002)**

DAY 7 – Wednesday 19th (B, L)

Gisborne - Rotorua

It's now time to leave the East Coast as we embark on the beautiful **Waioeka Journey**. Situated on State Highway 2 between Opotiki and Gisborne, the highway follows a route carved by rivers through the steep forested hills of the Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve.

We have our lunch stop in Opotiki before travelling SH30 to the majestic Lake Rotoiti. We meet the team from Pure Cruise at Okawa Bay and board the **Rotoiti Explorer** catamaran for an informative scenic cruise of the lake.

We will explore the southern geothermal bays with a stop in at hot water beach for those who would like to twist their feet into the hot sand beach there. Next cruising north we see some old Māori food storage caves carved into the cliff sides all from the comfort of the boat while enjoying a light afternoon tea.

It is just a short drive into Rotorua from here, where we head into our accommodation for the night and enjoy our final group dinner onsite.

➤ **Accommodation: Rydges Rotorua (07 3481 189)**

DAY 8 – Thursday 20th (B, L)

Rotorua - Home

A relaxed start to the day and with bags packed we start making the journey back home. We will stop in Piopio for a great finger food style lunch then continue down the coast getting you home later that afternoon.

Tour Costs Include

- 7 nights' quality accommodation, twin/double rooms (*Single rooms available with surcharge*)
- All **tour admissions** and **activities** as per Itinerary
- Tour photos
- Experienced Tour Leader
- Comfortable 5-star tour coach
- Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), dinners (D), Morning and Afternoon Teas (MT/AT), where indicated on the itinerary.

Tour payments per person

- Twin/Double share **\$3960pp**
- Single Supplement **\$4476pp**
- Deposit due at time of booking **\$600pp**

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

Balance of tour payment due 60 days prior to departure –

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 Wellbeing 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)