

Wellington on the Train, Delightful Martinborough & Hawkes Bay Galore. - itinerary

DAY ONE

D

This morning we'll leave Tauranga behind and head to the quaint town of Otorohanga to board the Northern Explorer Train to Wellington. The Northern Explorer Train journey across New Zealand's North Island is a mesmerizing experience, offering passengers a visual feast of scenic landscapes, from rolling hills and majestic mountains to shimmering rivers. This extraordinary rail adventure immerses travellers in the diverse and captivating beauty of the North Island, creating lasting memories of the breath-taking natural wonders encountered along the way. As the train glides through New Zealand's picturesque countryside, passengers can indulge in a delicious food from the onboard cafe, while marvelling at the ever-changing scenery. Upon arrival in Wellington, we'll be shuttled to the esteemed Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay, our home for this leg of the journey. Nestled in a prime location with breath-taking views of Oriental Bay, the hotel provides a comfortable sanctuary. Get ready to immerse yourself in Wellington's cultural treasures and vibrant atmosphere to create some wonderful memories.

DAY TWO

B, D

Today we'll embark on a sensory journey in Wellington with our breakfast, setting the stage for a day of exploration. Let's traverse the Mount Victoria Tunnel and then revel in panoramic views at the Mount Victoria Lookout. From here we make our way into the CBD and catch the iconic Cable Car, with an entry on Lambton Quay, offering breathtaking cityscapes. For those seeking spontaneity, you can take the cable car back into town and reunite with the group at the Beehive by 2 pm. Otherwise lunch becomes a personal affair at Picnic Cafe, within the enchanting Begonia House in the Rose Garden. The day unfolds with a guided tour of Parliament House, visiting notable locations such as the Banquet Hall, Beehive

theatrette, and the Legislative Council Chamber. To conclude our day, we'll dine onsite at the hotel's restaurant, capping off a day filled with the wonders of Wellington.

DAY THREE

B, MT,D

As dawn breaks over Wellington, our day starts with breakfast at our onsite accommodation, gearing us up for an adventure-filled day. Our first stop is a guided tour of Old St Paul's, a historic architectural marvel. Next, we visit Katherine Mansfield House & Garden for a morning tea and tour, diving into the legacy of the famous New Zealand author. For those keen on further cultural discoveries, Te Papa Museum awaits, offering a deep dive into New Zealand's history, art, and natural wonders, with the option to enjoy lunch at the café or explore the museum further. Our journey continues to the Wētā Workshop Tours for an extraordinary Wētā Experience. This off-premises tour, a short distance from the Wētā Cave, is led by seasoned Wētā Workshop crew members. It's an immersive experience showcasing the practical effects and craftsmanship behind iconic movies like *The Lord of the Rings* and *Avatar*, highlighted by a private screening of a Wētā behind-the-scenes documentary. After returning to the hotel, guests can unwind and possibly enjoy a happy hour at the onsite bar before dinner at the hotel's restaurant, wrapping up a day filled with cultural enrichment and unparalleled experiences.

DAY FOUR

B, L ,D

Begin the day with breakfast in Wellington, then drive to Featherston, where you can visit Funky Loco Coffee & Book Store or C'est Cheese Artisan Cheese & Deli. Next, join a guided tour at Fell Museum to learn about New Zealand's locomotive history. Head to Martinborough for shopping, scenery, or visit C'est Cheese Deli. Enjoy wine-tasting and lunch at Palliser Estate Winery. In Greytown, choose from boutique shopping, Cobblestones Museum, Schoc Chocolates, or relaxation. Finish the day at Copthorne Hotel Masterton with dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

DAY FIVE

B, L, D

We start the day with breakfast at our onsite hotel, preparing ourselves for an exciting day of exploration. Departing from the hotel, we embark on a guided tour at Stonehenge Aotearoa in Ahiaruhe, where Kay Leather shares her knowledge and insights about this remarkable celestial observatory. From here we will make our way to Ngaiwi and Palliser Bay Lighthouse along the way we take a break and make a comfort stop at The Land Girl Cafe and country store to refresh yourself with a cup of tea or coffee and perhaps indulge in a delectable treat from their selection of baked goods. From here we'll continue our journey towards Ngaiwi and Palliser Bay Lighthouse. Prepare to spot some seals as you explore the beautiful coastal area. Marvel at the rugged landscapes and the charming lighthouse that stands as a beacon in the distance. After our rugged coastal experience, we'll head to Lake Ferry Hotel for a catered lunch, here we can relax and enjoy some good old-fashioned hospitality and enjoy the coastal views whilst dining. After lunch we'll meander our way back to the hotel giving you time for some rest and relaxation and an opportunity to explore the hotels facilities. We'll meet again for our dinner onsite at the hotel, for those who would like to you may want to meet for a social hour prior to dinner.

DAY SIX

B, L, D

We start the day with breakfast at our onsite hotel, preparing ourselves for a day of exploration and discovery. Departing from the hotel our first stop takes us to Norsewood, where there is a chance to stretch our legs in this charming location. Continuing our journey, we arrive at the magnificent Gwavas Garden Homestead for a guided tour located in Southern Hawke's Bay is a captivating historic estate adorned with meticulously manicured gardens, offering visitors a glimpse into the region's past and a serene retreat amidst natural beauty. A light catered lunch awaits us, allowing us to indulge in the tranquil surroundings. Next, we visit Havelock Shops, where the group has free time to explore the village and its charming shops. Strolling through the streets, we can soak up the local atmosphere and perhaps find a special memento or two. In the afternoon, we head

to Church Road Winery in Taradale, Napier, for a memorable wine-tasting experience. Here, we sample the region's finest wines, savouring their distinct flavours and enjoying the serene ambiance of the winery. As the day comes to a close, we arrive at our accommodation, Te Pania Hotel, where warm hospitality and comfort await. Dinner will be onsite at the Hotel.

DAY SEVEN

B, L, D

This morning we'll meander our way down the coast to Clifton Bay to enjoy the pretty combination of countryside and coastline. From here we'll continue on our scenic drive below the majestic Te Mata Peaks through the lovely valley of vineyards. Our journey then continues through to charming Birdwood's, gallery where, artisanal delights, and scenic sculptures await in Havelock North take your time to look around this wonderful venue. Next, we will make our way to another iconic vineyard for a delicious lunch, offering elegant, classic surroundings and magnificent views makes Mission Estate one Hawkes Bay premier venues. Following lunch, we'll make our way back to our hotel in Napier. You can either relax at the hotel or stretch your legs and explore Napier Township at your leisure. Tonight, we'll enjoy our final night dining at the onsite restaurant.

DAY EIGHT

B, L

Today is the last day of our tour, we'll enjoy a lovely breakfast at the hotel in Napier before departing for Taupo. After a scenic drive, we will stop for a catered lunch in Taupo, where you take in the picturesque surroundings, enjoying our last meal together. You may want to stretch your legs after lunch and take a walk along the lake front to town where we will begin our journey homeward. Continuing, we will reach Rotorua and then arrive in Tauranga, where the tour concludes with drop-offs. As we bid farewell to fellow travellers we will carry cherished memories of the diverse landscapes, cultural experiences, and delightful flavours sampled throughout this unforgettable journey.