

Hanmer Springs and Molesworth Station - itinerary

30% Deposit Required on Booking.

DAY ONE

D

On our first day of adventure, we fly from Tauranga to Christchurch. Once we arrive, we'll make our journey over to Hanmer Springs, a resort town in the Canterbury region of the South Island. It's known for Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa, with its mineral waters. The surrounding mountains are home to trails and seasonal ski slopes. The nearby Conical Hill and Heritage Forest has a trail winding to a lookout point. To the south, rugged Waiau Gorge is known for its white-water rapids and abundant salmon and trout. This popular destination will be our base, over the next few days. Upon arrival, take time to settle into your room or enjoy a three minute stroll to the hot pools for a relaxing soak before dinner.

DAY TWO

B, MT, L, D

Today we are in for a brilliant day touring through the iconic Molesworth Station. We'll visit century-old cob Homesteads, Historic sites and learn of the history and characters that made this high-country farm famous worldwide. This high-country station is a place of extremes in altitude, temperature, weather, animals and people. You will be in for an unforgettable experience discovering this amazing area and rugged beauty. Molesworth Station is arguably New Zealand's most famous high country station. It is an area which is rich in history, has outstanding natural features, and a stunning and dramatic landscape. At 180,476 hectares (approx. 500,000 Acres) and roughly the same size as Stewart Island it is New Zealand's largest farm. Today it is owned by the Department of Conservation and the farming operation is managed by Landcorp. Sit back, relax and let one of Molesworth Tours professional tour guides take you on a journey into this remote and stunning part of New Zealand in 4x4 off-road bus which is fully air conditioned and has large windows for fantastic viewing. Throughout the tour you will enjoy a fun and informative commentary from one of our Kiwi guides.

DAY THREE

B, MT, L, D

Today we will begin the day with breakfast, before embarking on a journey to explore the stunning Rainbow Station. The Rainbow Station Tour offers a unique opportunity to experience New Zealand's beautiful alpine landscapes and gain an understanding of the history and traditions of high-country farming. The stunning landscapes, fresh air, and tranquil atmosphere provide the perfect backdrop for a relaxing and invigorating day out. After a day of exploring, guests will return to their accommodation, where they can relax and unwind while reflecting on the memorable experiences of the day. Overall, the Rainbow Station Tour is an exceptional opportunity to connect with nature and learn about New Zealand's rich cultural heritage. Tonight, we dine offsite at one of the local restaurants.

DAY FOUR

B, MT, L, D

Our day begins with a scenic drive from Hanmer Springs to Waiau, where we'll stop for morning tea and explore the local museum and historic buildings, including an old church and cottage. We'll then make our way to Woodchester Station, where we'll meet Rebekah Kelly, who will share her experiences of living and working in the area and the damage caused by the 2016 earthquakes. We'll see the major slip and new lake formed and enjoy a picnic lunch in the gardens. Afterward, we'll visit the Cheviot Reserve, the grounds and gardens of one of the area's historic farming estates and explore the foundations of the homestead built by Ready Money Robinson in the 1860s. We arrive back in Hanmer Springs at approximately 3.30pm, allowing plenty of time to explore the shops or head to the hot pools before dinner.

DAY FIVE

B, L

On our final day, we'll embark on a backcountry drive through the rugged landscape, along the way we encounter breathtaking vistas before arriving at our first destination, the Iron Ridge Quarry. Here, we marvel at the incredible natural formations carved by millennia of geological activity, as towering cliffs and deep canyons stretch out before us in a majestic panorama. After building an appetite we are off to lunch and the opportunity to indulge in Waipara's fine wines.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end as we make our way back to Christchurch Airport for our flights back home.